

Pair pack a one-act gem with laughs and love



TUESDAYS & SUNDAYS
 Waterfront Theatre,
 1412 Cartwright on Granville Island,
 to Aug. 19
 Tickets \$20/14, at the door
 or call 778-330-4290

BY PETER BIRNIE
 VANCOUVER SUN

William and Mary meet and kiss. Like sand through an hourglass, the days of their lives start to slip away.

Tuesdays & Sundays travels back in time 120 years, to evoke the tragedy of an era when strict social standards meant that the slightest misinterpretation of a relationship could lead to disaster. As we also realize from productions of even older Shakespearean plays, such simple slips and their tragic consequences are just as likely to occur right here and now.

The world has changed a great deal since I last saw this tragedy, just days before Sept. 11, 2001. What hasn't changed is the absolute dedication of the one-acter's two-actor cast to the

unique piece they created for themselves.

Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn have toured *Tuesdays & Sundays* all over the place, from New Mexico to Prague, and in the process honed their little gem until it shines. In less than an hour they pack a play with laughs, love and one hell of a gut-wrenching ending.

Late in the 19th century on Prince Edward Island, William and Mary meet at a New Year's Eve dance. The icy evening ends with a warm kiss, the fateful kind that will echo down the days — and not many days at that, as it's all of a week before the couple canoodles under a blanket.

You can guess what follows, but it's not love and marriage. While Mary tries desperately to cling to some kind of sunshine as her girth grows, William's path becomes so dark that the story steers perilously close to

melodrama.

As director and dramaturg, Wojtek Kozlinski keeps a lid on such excess by making each moment seem as honest as possible. Both Arnold and Hahn have an ease with the quick shifts of mood that see William descend to despair while Mary seems stuck on soaring, and every one of the many emotions to play across their faces feels real.

The script is infused with a charming theatricality that has its characters speaking to themselves, to each other and to us in a rapid blur of words. Catherine Mudryk's set is simply a wooden bench and a string of sandbags, representing stepping-stones on a stream, and her lighting is just as clear — 14 little lanterns light the play's many happy and funny moments, while the glare of a spotlight drowns the darker times.

In less than an hour, *Tuesdays & Sundays* packs a punch. Don't miss it during a brief run.

Sun Theatre Critic
 pbirnie@pna.canwest.com

Medina Hahn and Daniel Arnold are Mary and William in *Tuesdays & Sundays* on at the Waterfront Theatre, Granville Island.