

At the Fringe

Couple write, act a winner

Tuesdays & Sundays

Venue: Victoria Conservatory
of Music

Rating: ★★★★★ 1/2 (out of five)

A terrific little play that's deservedly winning bagfuls of awards on the fringe theatre circuit. Daniel Arnold and University of Victoria grad Medina Hahn not only wrote *Tuesdays and Sundays*, they star in it.

Based on a true story, this pocket drama tells of two young lovers who first meet New Year's Eve, 1887. Their steamy adolescent romance is fleeting, and quickly goes awry with calamitous results. In a neat twist, the pair recollect their tale from a state of eerie purgatory. *Tuesdays and Sundays* possesses an unearthly dark beauty reminiscent of southern gothic yarns à la Flannery O'Connor or Carson McCullers.

The writing is tremendously accomplished. Arnold and Hahn's recollections are delivered in ecstatic outbursts and dreamy reveries, like the fast and slow eddies of a river. Non-naturalistic devices such as having the characters repeat key phrases like "a gentleman caller on a Sunday evening" emphasize the play's inherent poetry and strangeness.

The pair perform the play superbly, with Hahn in particular exuding a heart-breaking joie de vivre that's terribly poignant. The direction is sharp and sympathetic. The set is simple and effective — a cluster of platforms resembling rocks, and a dozen tiny lamps hanging down from above.

Do not miss this wonderful production.

Continues Aug. 30, 31 and Sept. 1.