

**Strawberries in January runs at the Martha Cohen Theatre until March 1**

## **ATP's Strawberries prove perfectly ripe**

Promo Théâtre

by **Lisa Wilton**  
Calgary Sun

For the four characters in Strawberries in January, the line between truth and fiction is sometimes a little blurry.

Written by Quebec playwright Evelyne de la Cheneliere, Strawberries in January is the third of four new plays being debuted at Alberta Theatre Projects' National playRites Festival.

Judging by the response of Friday's sold-out opening night audience, Strawberries looks to become a festival favourite this year.

It is a sparkling and whimsical play, featuring outstanding performances by the entire cast and superb, exciting direction from Bob White.



LOVE IN SEASON ... Kelly Daniels, left, and Kira Bradley wonder about love in Strawberries in January at ATP.

Translated from French by Morwyn Brebner, Strawberries' language is breezy and articulate, retaining much of its French spirit and style.

Despite Scott Reid's eye-catching and colourfully retro set, the play is a very contemporary piece.

Francois (Christian Goutsis) is an aspiring screenwriter, who finds inspiration in his complicated love life.

He shares his stories with university professor Robert (Ric Reid), who is intrigued by Francois' anecdotes about a young woman named Sophie (a highly entertaining Kira Bradley). As the play progresses we see Francois' stories don't always show the whole picture.

Strawberries in January is a wonderfully witty and unquestionably lovely piece of theatre, which proves why ATP's playRites has become an important national theatre event.

Sun rating (out of 5 stars)



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