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The Jewels

When: Thursdays–Sundays. Continues through April 27 2014

Price: \$15


tutato.com

The source material for this TUTA Theatre production is a brief, admirably efficient short story by Guy de Maupassant, about a Parisian bureaucrat who knows when he's got it good but has no idea why. Rene meets champagne–effervescent Emily at a party where the other male guests literally dance attendance on her. Quiet as he is, he summons up the nerve to woo her and ends up married to her. Rapturously so. Emily is loving, lovely, lively, and such an accomplished money manager that her husband's paychecks seem to stretch on and on. Of course there's something wrong. But complacent Rene doesn't ask questions—doesn't even think to formulate them—until the answers are too clear to ignore. The tale offers a wonderfully ambiguous gloss on the notion that ignorance is bliss, and adapter–director Kirk Anderson does a mostly masterful job of filling it out for the stage (although a poetic interpolation involving a girl and a bird falls flat). Anderson's stylized staging is swift and clear, and his leads—Layne Manzer as Rene, Carolyn Molloy as Emily—are so sweetly matched it's tragic.


—Tony Adler

Storefront Theater

Gallery 37 Center for the Arts, 66 E. Randolph St. **LOOP**

 312-742-8497

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 (based on 2 user reviews)

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