

THE 99-SEAT BEAT

It's summer; time to fall in love

BY PHILIP BRANDES

It's summer, and love is in the air.

'Country' jaunt with Antaeus

The essentials: Russian-style summer romance, unrequited passion and provincial ennui all receive a modernist update in a West Coast premiere from Antaeus Theatre Company that slims Ivan Turgenev's sprawling 1872 dramedy "A Month in the Country" to just "Three Days in the Country." Adapter Patrick Marber's self-proclaimed "unfaithful version" retains the Chekhovian characters and flavor of Turgenev's groundbreaking play that predated Chekhov. Beneath the placid surface of a rural estate where nothing seems to happen, momentous psychological shifts are unleashed by the arrival of a handsome tutor; there's even a rueful neighborly doctor character like those in Chekhov's classics.

Why this? Director Andrew Paul directed the U.S. premiere for Pittsburgh's Kinetic Theatre Company; that production also featured Antaeus ensemble members Nike Doukas and Leo Marks, who reprise their roles as a bored housewife locked in flirtation with her hapless admirer.

Details: Kiki & David Gindler Performing Arts Center, 110 E. Broadway, Glendale. In previews; opens July 12. 8 p.m. Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; ends Aug. 26. Additional performances 8 p.m. July 12 and Aug. 23. \$30-\$34. (818) 506-1983, www.antaeus.org