



Pierre Lebeau and Janaina Dal Zotto Boff are bringing French drama to life.

Picture: DAVID SMITH, N160K204

## You can't trifle with a French love story

A ROMANTIC French play just wouldn't be the same staged in English.

The Melbourne French Theatre has been bringing the work of French playwrights to local audiences for 27 years.

Plays are staged entirely in French or with some English dialogue, with surtitles displayed on a projector to the side of the stage.

Local French-speaking actors Janaina Dal Zotto Boff, of South

Melbourne, and Pierre Lebeau, of St Kilda West, are set to star in the theatre's latest production — *On ne badine pas avec l'amour*.

Translating as *You can't trifle with love*, the play was penned by Alfred de Musset in 1834.

It tells the story of Perdican, who pretends to fall in love with village girl Rosette (played by Dal Zotto Boff) after being shunned by Camille.

But Camille becomes jealous and pledges her love for Perdican, who

confesses his true feelings and breaks Rosette's heart.

Lebeau plays peasant Aubergiste in the play, which will be staged at Melbourne's Coppin Hall, 313 Punt Rd, from September 7-11.

Executive director Michael Bula said the theatre was passionate about bringing French culture to Melbourne, which he described as the most European of all Australian cities. Tickets for *On ne badine pas avec l'amour* are \$15. Bookings: 9349 2250.