

This evening's offerings contain 15 cast members and four directors performing in a space with only 42 seats and rightfully so. These brief one-acts are fitting for an intimate space. Directed by Sabin Epstein, *The Proposal* (1888) concerns an argument over ownership of a property and a marriage battled between Ivan Vassilyevich Lomov (Arye Gross), Natalya Styepannovna (Emily Bergl), and her father Styepan Styepanovitch Chubukov (Martin Ferrero). Thereafter, Michael Michetti directs *The Anniversary* (1891) where Kuzma Nnicolayevich Khirin (John Apicella), an accountant, attempts to prepare a final report for Andrei Andreyevich (JD Cullum), the Russian Mutual Bank director. However, unexpected guests – Nastasya Fyodorovna Merchutkina (Anne Gee Byrd), Tatyana Alekesyevna (Laura Russell), the Leader of the Deputation (Philip Proctor), and a clerk (Jeremy Lawrence) are constantly interrupting Khirin throughout the evening causing chaos.

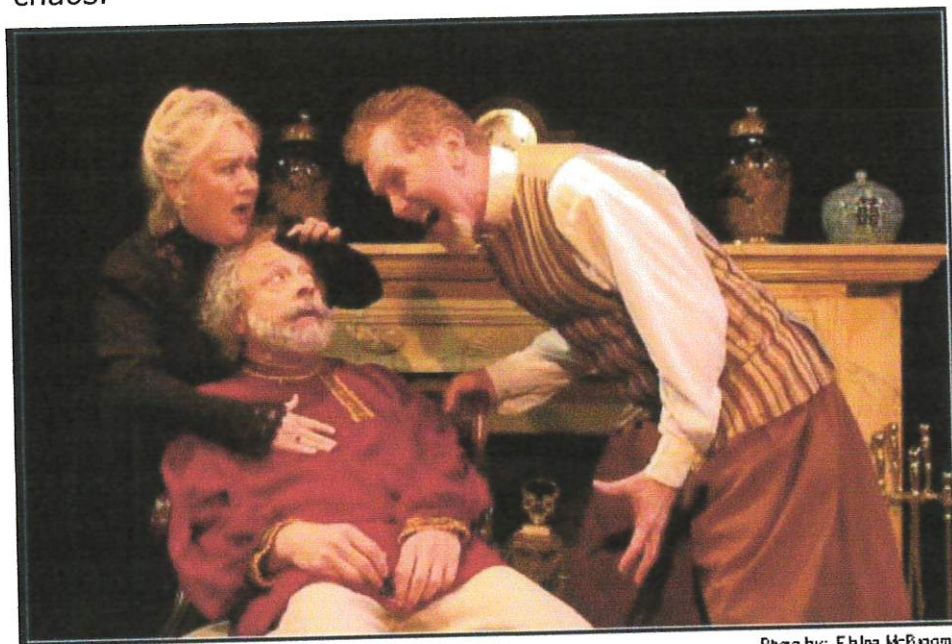


Photo by: Eblina McElaon

Dawn Didawich as Yelena Popova, Jeremy Lawrence as Luka, and Harry Groener as Smirnov in Antaeus Company production of *Chekhov's 4 – A Scene from Anton Chekhov's The Bear*

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The second half brings one of the comedic highlights of the evening *The*

*Bear*. Stephanie Shroyer directs three wonderful cast members executing their roles with precision and comedic timing to include the fabulous Harry Groener as Grigory Stepanovich Smirnov, his real life wife Dawn Didawich as Yelena Ivanovna Popova, and Jeremy Lawrence as Luka. Written in 1888, *The Bear* results in Smirnov collecting funds owed for the oat farm by Popova. The evening's finale, the *Swan Song* (1887) sets itself away from three previous comedic one-acts and transforms into a serious glimpse at the rise and fall of a theatre veteran Vasily Vasilyich Svyetlovidov (Lawrence Pressman) reminiscing the yesteryears with Nikita Ivanich (Arye Gross).

Eugene Alper entertains the audience with his guitar and Russian folk songs as the stage crew changes scenes for each act. Vaughan Edwards and Tuesday Conner created period sets and costumes with Leigh Allen intricately lighting each act.