



[Home](#)

[Theatre Listings](#)

ANTAEUS COMPANY OPENS NEW NOHO HOME WITH *CHEKHOV X 4*

Chekhov wrote several comedies in which he often liked to point out the absurdity of people as they tried to aggrandize their positions in life, or they stubbornly held on to certain beliefs and ideas.

In these delightful four plays selected by Antaeus for the opening of their new home, we see brilliant examples of his comic genius, performed with what can almost be called a caring love by the actors.

So it is that in the first of these, *the Proposal*, which introduces us to Ivan Vassilyevich Lomov, a shy thirty-five year old bachelor who realizes its time to wed and decides to ask for the hand of his lovely neighbor, Natalya Stepanovna, the actors become the very essence of the period, as he asks the father, Styepan Styepanovich Chubukov who agrees readily. Ivan is depicted as the type of man who does not have a way with words, and tends to ramble. She is a woman of strong convictions, unusual for that period, so when he talks about his ownership of meadows that's when the Vassilyevich hits the fan. She's certain the lands belong to her family and that the ownership was settled long ago, but the argument escalates far beyond any normal discussion. With her yelling and his arguing he soon suffers a near apoplexy stroke and faints. Chekhov introduces the verbal conflict so that you wonder how these two will ever become man and wife, and the actors finish the job by creating a comic farce that has the audience laughing uproariously.