

Take Ivan Vassilyevich Lomov (Arye Gross), for example, in *The Proposal*. He has finally overcome all doubts and has decided to propose marriage to Natalya Stepanovna (Angela Goethals), the prickly daughter of a neighboring landowner (Martin Ferrero). But before he can get his proposal out, he is engaged in a heated argument over whose hunting dog is better or who owns a disputed plot of land. Or how about the manager of a bank (JD Cullum), in *The Anniversary*, who on the day of his bank's jubilee must contend with a disgruntled employee (John Apicella), a demanding petitioner (Anne Gee Byrd), and his own wife (Laura Russell)?

In *The Bear* a grieving widow (Dawn Didawick) who makes the most of her mourning, is besieged by her husband's creditor (Jeremy Lawrence), who of course quickly falls in love with her. And in *Swan Song*, the most serious piece of the evening, an aging actor (Lawrence Pressman) turns a triumphant performance into an excuse not only for self-pity but also a very moving piece of reflection.

Directors Sabin Epstein, Michael Michetti, Stephanie Shroyer, and Andy Robinson not only bring the best out of this company but also deliver a rare consistency of vision to the evening. Although there are a number of standout performances—including those of Gross, Goethals, Apicella, Byrd, Cullum, Harry Groener, Didawick, Lawrence, and Pressman—the high level of talent and consistency of the entire ensemble is the hallmark of the evening.