

**THE FAREWELL CONCERT OF IRENE AND VERNON PALAZZO**  
**by Frank Gagliano**

**WHAT IT'S ABOUT**

*—no, no don't stop playing!—even though I see you want to butt in. —Well, you can't butt in— you're not able to butt in except through your playing — so pleeeeeease butt out! —stay background! Just keep playing! —Like in the old Warner Brother's films, I want wall-to-wall, fade in to fade out, music—I want underscoring throughout this whole shebang! —Yes! I want — No! — I DEMAND! —no dead spots—in this wino riff I'm on!"*

On a snowy night in Bodoni County, the songwriting team of Irene and Vernon Palazzo attempt to finish their new and final song -- and wait for a long-lost daughter to return. Playwright Gagliano plunges Lyricist/Faculty wife Irene Palazzo, into an over-the -edge, wine-induced. monologue of rage, of regrets, thwarted expectations, self loathing, outrageous and raunchy humor, fear, guilt and pain; a tidal wave that breaks on a series of shocking discoveries; receding, finally, to a calming flow of love and reconciliation; and all underscored throughout by original and standard songs, and by the improvisations of Irene's brilliant, unable-to-speak, composer/accompanist husband, Vernon.