

SOUTHERN COMFORTS

Kathleen Clark's amiably unsentimental play concerns the late-life romance between two independent-minded retirees, a honey-voiced Tennessee grandmother, Amanda (played with vivacious charm by Penny Fuller), and a taciturn Yankee widower, Gus (brought to crusty life by Larry Keith). Flirtatious by nature, Amanda is a lonely risk-taker who quickly torpedoed Gus's defenses. Clark portrays their desultory courtship in believable tones, showing how a lifetime of accrued possessions—and defensive habits—can be an impediment to living happily ever after. Judith Ivey acquits herself well as the director of this sweetly perceptive piece. (59E59, at 59 E. 59th St. 212-279-4200. Through Nov. 4.)