Last Chance

'THE GROUNDLING' (closes on Sunday) Half comedy and half tragedy, half verse and half prose, the writerdirector Marc Palmieri's play about a Long Island landscaper who wants to stage a Shakespearean drama in his agarage begins as formulaic showbiz farce. But Mr. Palmieri, borrowing a neat trick from Shakespeare, tops off this saccharine comedy with a nicely bittersweet finish (1:35). Axis Theaeter Company, 1 Sheridan Square, West Village, 212-352-2101, axiscompany.org. (Soloski)