

From the Bay Guardian:

Speed the Plow Off Market Theater, 965 Mission; 647-1287,
www.lveproductions.com. \$15-\$17. Fri/13-Sun/14, 8pm.

La Vache Enragee presents David Mamet's love letter to Hollywood, via the hate-mail bin - an excoriating little comedy that wrestles with the big themes of money, power, and art in the nexus of Tinseltown. Recently promoted studio exec Bobby Gould (Jeff Brecht) and erstwhile colleague turned bootlicking toady Charlie Fox (Richard Wenzel) are expansive as they contemplate the wealth and prestige that will accrue after tomorrow's meeting with the studio boss, given the script and director they suddenly have in hand. A classic plot complication gets in the way, however, in the shape of a dame, or rather a temp named Karen (Jennifer Dean), who offers Gould the chance for something greater, Director Brian Katz' sure hand guides this modestly staged, well-cast effort as Wenzel revels infectiously in Mamet's colorful crudities and Brecht settles into a nicely nuanced performance as the irrepressible Gould (held back slightly by a distracting flirtation with an unnecessary Chicago accent). But it's Dean's sharp work as the temporary seductress with the script to save Gould's soul (and the world while at it) that anchors the production. (Avila)