



## Mamet's 'Glengarry' no Mayberry

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COTUIT — "Glengarry Glen Ross" ranks just below "American Psycho" and just above "Wall Street" on my list of favorite stories featuring psychologically disturbed guys in suits.

The men of "Glengarry" certainly aren't homicidal à la "American Psycho"'s Patrick Bateman, and they aren't quite as sharky as the inimitable Gordon Gekko, but their particular brand of bravado stays in the psyche a bit longer.

Playwright David Mamet's real estate salesmen are, well, more real, and Cotuit Center for the Arts' actors keep that uncomfortable fact intact and create a show that will stick with audiences.

Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play chronicles the lives of half a dozen small-time real estate salesmen scrambling to sell, sell, sell — even at the cost of customers' well-being and their own sanity.

There's former sales star Shelly Levene (David Allen), who never lets anyone forget that in past years his nickname "The Machine" had real weight; snotty, strutting Richard Roma (Scott Estrella); and John Williamson (Rick Martin), the office manager with a chip on his shoulder.

It's a regular psychological circus, and the actors handle it like the world's best lion tamers.

While a bit stiff in some scenes, Allen plays Levene wonderfully, and pulls no punches in the show's second act.

Estrella is in fine form as Roma, the man who resorts to anything for a sale. But — sorry, Mr. Estrella — he's easy to hate.

In a smaller role, Chris Cooley as Dave Moss is that quintessential on-the-verge-of-aneurism businessman (albeit one with a strange way of making it to the top) and Cooley does a good job making sure Moss' stormy personality doesn't turn into an overblown hurricane.

A surprising standout comes in the form of meek, questioning George Aaronow, a man who practically sweats bullets.

In the role, Nicholas Dorr is powerful but just understated enough to bring weight to a character who could've been a throwaway.

Martin, Peter Cook (playing Roma's nervous customer James Lingk) and Larry Zalis (as a nasty police officer) all do a great job bringing their own pieces of this screwed-up reality to life.

The cast at Cotuit has big shoes to fill: Its characters have been played on-screen and on the stage by too many stars to name, in several iterations.

But they — and director Daniel Fontneau — do it admirably, with the right attitude and the knowledge that they are what separates "Glengarry" from more forgettable shows.

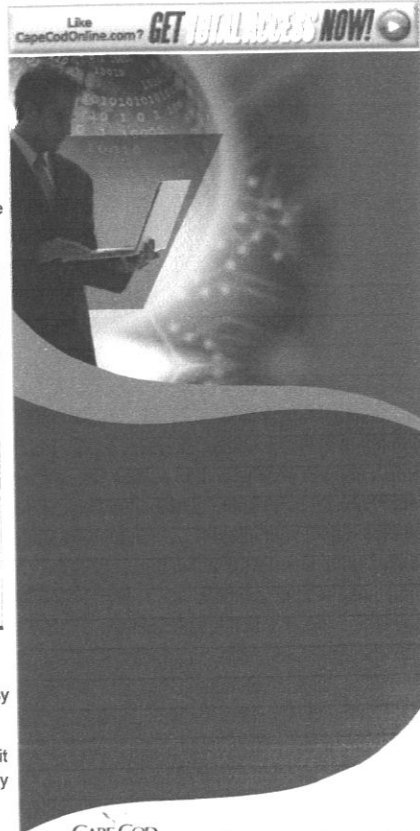
One thing that begs mentioning: Little ears, or sensitive ones, should stay away.

While well-placed and certainly expected from these characters, expletives are almost constant, and could absolutely ruin the show for someone not comfortable with that sort of language.

But, oh, that language. If you can stomach it, Mamet's words and the way the players deliver them is worth the uncomfortable feeling you get watching these men worry away their lives.

### on stage

What: "Glengarry Glen Ross"  
Written by: David Mamet  
Presented by: Cotuit Center for the Arts  
When: 8 tonight and Thursday through Saturday nights and 2 p.m. Sundays through April 17  
Where: Cotuit Center for the Arts, 4404 Route 28  
Tickets: \$20  
Reservations: 508-428-0669 or [www.cotuitcenterforthearts.org](http://www.cotuitcenterforthearts.org)



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