



### **ELIZABETH REX**

It's no small feat to write an entertaining, reasonably convincing play about a night that William Shakespeare (Scott Nogi), his acting company, and Queen Elizabeth spend together in a barn, hamming it up and having it out, but the late Timothy Findley did just that. After the actors perform for the Queen, she visits them to distract herself from thinking about the Earl of Essex, her secret love, who will be executed in the morning. As the Queen, Stephanie Barton-Farcas is both commanding and subtle; her foil, the fearless female-role actor Ned Lowenscroft, is superbly played by Michael DiGioia. The play has much to say about role-playing and gender; that it says it too loudly and too often is a quibble. The uniformly strong cast is directed by Joanne Zipay. (Center Stage, 48 W. 21st St. 212-352-3101. Through Sept. 6.)