

**The Letters.** In 1931, a Soviet bureaucrat (Norman Snow) summons a nervous underling (Julia Fletcher) to his office with good news – a promotion over her fellow censors in the archives department. Then the other shoe drops, as it becomes apparent that one of her comrades has been very, very bad in Stalinist terms and that she is expected to provide key evidence against the man who has been her off-hours lover. John W. Lowell's 80-minute, real-time dialogue twists and turns down sinuous and sinister alleys as the two assess each other's defenses. I didn't find the ending completely credible, but I won't give it away, because Anne McNaughton's direction for Andak Stage is too fascinatingly nuanced to spoil. NewPlace Studio, 10950 Peach Grove St., North Hollywood. (866) 811-4111. Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. \$20. Closes Sun., April 19.

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