

On the same day, both NPR and *Rolling Stone* covered the forthcoming HBO biopic about Phil Spector, starring Al Pacino. Even on a bad day, Pacino is great (as long as he is not feigning a really bad Cuban accent—viz., *Scarface*: “Welcome to my little friend,”) and any score that includes the iconic “Be My Baby” has redemptive value, IMHO. But if you squander its use, as Mamet apparently does here, there is a circle in hell reserved for you. (And your company, as you all know, will be the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame voters who exclude Yusuf Islam and the Moody Blues, and who voted to let in ABBA.)

Mamet and Pacino are good eating, by my lights (I saw Pacino in both *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *American Buffalo*, both terrific Mamet plays), so I will watch this, no matter the reviews. Helen Mirren is always worth the watch, as is Jeffery Tambor. But the real hidden gem in this whole jumble is that the murdered Lana Clarkson played an extra in *Scarface*, dancing in a club scene behind Michelle Pfeiffer. (If you think I am making this up, see the IMDB entries for her [<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0165096/>] and the movie.) Who could make up this stuff?

Michael

<http://www.npr.org/2013/03/21/174860665/you-cant-trust-hbos-phil-spector-but-you-can-enjoy-it>
(NPR)

and:

Rob Sheffield, Al Pacino as Phil Spector: Why Do Lovers Break Each Other’s Hearts? Mamet film for HBO misses the bigger questions about producer’s career Mamet film for HBO misses the bigger questions about producer’s career, *Rolling Stone*, March 21, 2013, <http://www.rollingstone.com/movies/news/al-pacino-as-phil-spector-why-do-lovers-break-each-other-s-hearts-20130321#ixzz2OTWtOC8H>