

KKIM, 1 Raving Richard Radio Review—for broadcast on February 3, 2010

1000 A.M., Albuquerque, and 94.7 F.M., Santa Fe

Greetings again, lovers of live theatre — it's your radio reviewer Raving Richard, only this time it's a *preview* of a show that won't even be opening until February 12.

Why such a long “heads up”? Simply because the show is “The Fantasticks,” and I want to allow you ample time to make reservations for this hit musical — a show that ran over 40 years in the theatres Off-Broadway, making “The Fantasticks” the world's longest-running musical in history. In fact, that's when I first saw this nostalgic show, back in the 40s when I was in Midshipmen School in New York City. And on that blizzardy night, little did it dawn on me I'd be raving about this or any play as a radio reviewer in New Mexico some 50 years later!

Here in Albuquerque, “The Fantasticks” is being presented by the reputable theatre company, Landmark Musicals, and will continue weekends through March 7, making a total of 12 performances. The director is the multi-talented Laurie Finnegan, along with her cohort Myra Cochnar, producer. There's an equally stellar cast, including Michael Finnegan, Tim McAlpine, Pat Robinson, Kurtis Robinson, Gaitelen Schneeberger, Dean Squibb, Nate Warren, and Rick Wyles. Talk about talented entertainers who are well-suited for this unique musical; my friend Laurie has picked the cream of the crop. Just sorry she won't be up there on stage, too, this time.

The show features a host of unforgettable songs, such as “Soon it's Gonna Rain” and of course my favorite, “Try to Remember.” Like their promo says, “you won't be

disappointed—in fact, you’ll be elevated, charmed, and delighted” — just as audiences have wowed these many years, including thousands in sold-out houses who are again enjoying “The Fantasticks” in its revival that’s now running on Broadway. Seems like this musical just won’t go away!

The theatre is in the VSA Arts Center, located at 4904 north 4th, which is ideally staged for musicals --- with comfortable, tiered seating, and plenty of free off-street parking. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30, and Sunday matinees are at 2:00. General admissions are \$15, and \$12 for seniors and students.

For reservations -- and they are really going fast -- call 798-9036, or go on-line at www.landmarkmusicals.org. Best to book early, as Landmark productions sell out in a hurry -- they’re always that good.

Thanks again for listening, and my review on this *fantastic* show (pardon the pun) will air in a couple of weeks -- so stay tuned to KKIM, Christian Radio for New Mexico, 1000 A.M., Albuquerque, or to our simulcast from Santa Fe at 94.7 F.M. -- plus a reminder is seen on the internet at MYKKIM.COM, thanks to Matt Rader. Thanks, also, Dewey, to both you and Bobby Jones, for programming this perspective on what’s happening in the theatrical community.