

RAVING RICHARD RADIO REVIEW, FOR BROADCAST ON FEBRUARY 17, 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, WITH MY REVIEW OF THE PLAY I PREVIEWED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO--"THE FANTASTICKS," AND WHAT A PERFORMANCE IT WAS, AND STILL IS THROUGH THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 7. EVEN IF YOU HAVE SEEN THIS ELSEWHERE, YOU SHOULD TREAT YOURSELF TO THIS PRODUCTION AS PERFORMED HERE BY LANDMARK MUSICALS. IT'S SUPERB IN EVERY RESPECT, WITH DIRECTION BY LAURIE FINNEGAN, AND FEATURES AN OUTSTANDSING CAST, BOTH IN SINGING AND ACTING.

ACCOLADES HAVE TO START WITH KURTIS ROBINSON'S RENDITION OF "TRY TO REMEMBER" AS THE LEAD-IN SONG. WHAT A SHOW STOPPER, AND THAT WAS ONLY THE SHOW'S INTRODUCTION! I DARE SAY, YOU'LL NEVER HEAR IT SUNG ANY BETTER, OR AS GOOD, AND HIS ACTING IS COMPARABLY AS PROFESSIONAL. HE'S FROM NEW YORK, AND IT SHOWS.

OTHER PRINCIPALS INCLUDE GAITELEN SCHNEEBERGER, WHO'S AS DELIGHTFUL AN INGENUE AS LAURIE FINNEGAN COULD HAVE SELECTED--AGAIN, BOTH AS SINGER AND ACTOR--PLUS, MY CLOSE FRIENDS PAT ROBINSON AND MICHAEL FINNEGAN. IT WAS GREAT TO SEE THEM GOING JAW-TO-JAW, THEN THE NEXT MOMENT THEY ARE SINGING A DUET! JUST PART OF THE CRAZINESS WHICH TYPIFIES THIS POPULAR SHOW, WHICH STARTED OFF-BROADWAY 50 YEARS AGO.

RICK WILES AND THE OTHERS FITTED IN SUPERPLY IN THEIR SUPPORTING ROLES. AS WITH THE LEADS, EACH WAS PERFECTLY CAST. MUSICAL BACKGROUND WAS AS IT SHOULD BE, SUBTLE, YET RIGHT ON CUE.

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL THE VSA ARTS CENTER, 798-9036. SUNDAY'S PERFORMANCE WAS SOLD OUT, SO I SUGGEST YOU DON'T DELAY IF YOU WANT TICKETS. THE ADDRESS IS 4904 4th, WITH PLENTY OF FREE PARKING.

THANKS FOR LISTENING TO THESE COMMENTARIES ON LIVE THEATRE, HEARD ON KKIM 1000 A.M., CHRISTIAN RADIO FOR NEW MEXICO, AND SIMULCAST ON 94.7 F.M., SANTA FE--ALSO SEEN ON THE INTERNET AT MYKKIM.COM. DON'T MISS "THE FANTASTICKS," IT'S FANTASTIC!