Entertainment

Thursday, January 23, 1986 O&E

'Fantasticks' has heart



Corl Carrier (left) is Luiss, Anthony D. Lord is Malt, Buckner Gibbs is El Gallo, John Michsel Manfredi is Mortimer and Wallace F. Smith is Henry in the Actors Alliance production of "The Fantasticks," the world's longest-running musical.

Actors Alliance does musical hit

Performances of "The Fanta-sticks," presented by the Actors All-ance Theatre Company, continue weekends through Sunday, Feb. 23, in Southfield. For ticket informa-tion call 642-1326.

By Cathle Breidenbach

The FANTASTICKS by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt is the world's longest-running musical or longest-running for longest-running for longest-running for longest l

trivolity with a mellow dollop of seriousness.

Anthony Lord as Matt, the young
mar in love, sings with a fine, rich baritone and moves superbly on stage. As
a dancer, he must have felt somewhat
hemmed in by the limited choreography in the production.

The young lovers, Matt and Lulsa,
must meet secretity over a wall that
runs between their backyards. In the
Actor's Alliance production, the lovers
tamely step up one step to speak to
each other over the invisible wall.
Shouldn't they scramble up and down
ladders or some other invention to
show the high-energy sillness of the
roung lover's bach excess is a dealistlate of the stage of the speak of the stage of the should be shown
that goes with being young and dealistlate of the stage of the speak of the speak of the stage of the

A MUSICAL calls for song and-dance, Director Krista Manfredi under-

review

plays dance in this otherwise nicely staged production set against a back-drop of two outstretched parachutes.

The mute acts as an onstage properson who never says a word. She can add whimsical color and graceful transitions when aher's allowed to float or dance around the edges of the story. Manifred underplays the mute (Maggie Wysocki) in this production by dressing her in dark, nondescript clothes and restricting her movements.

Although the director akings on manifering the director of the credit at bringing out the humor in the play and uses well such small comic touches as the flick of El Gallo's neck scarf.

Buckner Gibbs as the gallant narractor, El Gallo, has a fine voice and an imposing presence. His El Gallo is wise, tender and all manner of good things. It's a prejudice, I admit, to want El Gallo to be an authority on the ways of the world and to be mysteriously excite, too. An accent would help, almost any, would do If it carries with it the aura of romantic places like Spain, France, or an island of the Carribean.

The accent's not crucial, but the romance is, Gibbs' all-American ways and his midwestern accent don't exude the same romanic worldiness of other El Gallos in the long list of talents who have played the role. His winning way with a scarf brings humor — but not mystery to the part.

Big Bird stars in Sesame Street Live stage show

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by Patrick Hamilton

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"People in Your Neighborhood" and act by clapping their hands, stomping their feet, annswering questions and singing along to various numbers."



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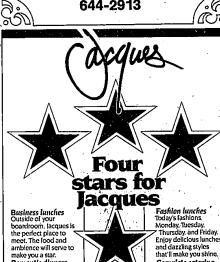
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