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24K

Livonia-Redford Guild
Adjusting To 'Fantasticks'

"The Fantasticks" story and lyrics by Tom Jones, music by Harvey Schmidt. Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild production directed by Penton Calhoun. Stevenson High School auditorium, Six Mile Creek Road, Livonia. Tickets \$2.50. Call KE 7-1109. Curtain 8:30 p.m. Performances May 10 and 11.

THE CAST
(in order of appearance)
The Mute (Jim Gotsch)
El Gallo (The Narrator) Paul Duffaut
Luisa (The Girl) Mary Macintosh
Belmont (The Boy) Brian Miller
Father (The Old Man) Hal Waller
Father (The Old Man) Ernie Wendt
Mother (The Old Woman) David Hivrela
Mother (The Old Woman) David Hivrela
Mother (The Old Woman) David Hivrela

When you've made peace with that fact, there's the note in the program telling you that "The Fantasticks" is a parable. A musical parable of love, to be exact.

Now, love is a very confusing subject without the added allegory found in "Fantasticks", but if you're in the right frame of mind and ready for something very different in theater, this offering by the Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild is a pleasant change from "Barstow to the Park" or television reruns.

SHOULD YOU discover mid-way through the play that you are not on the same intellectual wave-length as Tom Jones, and that it is possible for a boy to fall in love with the girl next door, they sing "There Were You" beautifully and tenderly.

THE PAIR OF fathers is funny. Hal Waller's "Bellamy" and Ernie Wendt's "Hucklebee" epitomize the type of father who thinks he has figured out how to handle his offspring.

Though both love gardening, they are equally confused and afraid of what they have "planted" in the way of children.

The evening's sustained laughter, however, is accorded the pair of "actors," Henry (David Hivrela) and Mortimer (Harold Jurkiewicz).

who wrote the words for this "Fantasticks", you absolutely cannot leave the Stevenson High School auditorium muttering bad things about the cast—they WERE "fantastic."

As El Gallo, the narrator, Paul Duffaut must quickly gain a rapport with his audience—an audience which is less intimate than its Greenwich Village counterpart in New York where "Fantasticks" is still pulling them in off Broadway.

Duffaut does a good job as Belmont between audience and actors, aided by his rich baritone voice, gallic good looks and a remarkable job of acting in a difficult role.

WITH THE LAST strains of the lead song, "Try To Remember" fading away, you are confronted with "pairs" of people.

There are a pair of lovers, a pair of fathers and a pair of actors.

The pair of lovers, Mary McIntosh as Luisa, and Brian Miller as Matt, are excellent in duet.

When they at last discover that the world is not a scene from "Alice in Wonderland" and that it is possible for a boy to fall in love with the girl next door, they sing "There Were You" beautifully and tenderly.

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