

**Steel Beam Theatre Starts Second Decade with
the Blockbuster Musical *The Fantasticks*, Sept. 9 - Oct. 9, 2011**

Steel Beam Theatre kicks-off its 2nd decade with a show billed as the world's longest running musical, ***The Fantasticks***. With its lush popular melodies, poetic verse, and timeless coming of age romance, ***The Fantasticks*** has delighted audiences in over 67 countries, set a record with 17,162 performances off-Broadway, and won the 1992 *Tony Honors for Excellence in Theatre* award. Steel Beam Theatre's intimate space provides an authentic setting for ***The Fantasticks***, which was originally produced at the small Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York City. Steel Beam Theatre's production of ***The Fantasticks*** opens Friday, September 9 and runs through Sunday, October 9. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00pm. There is free parking next to the Theatre, which is handicap accessible, and a variety of restaurants nearby. Single tickets are \$25 for adults, \$23 for students/seniors and \$22 for groups of 10 and over. For tickets, visit www.SteelBeamTheatre.com, or call 630-587-8521.

The Fantasticks is a love story featuring two neighboring fathers (Rob Frankel, *Highland Park* and Thom Thomas, *Wasco*) who attempt to use psychology to bring their children, Luisa and Matt (Amy Steele, *Woodridge*, and Greg Zawada, *Geneva*) together. They invent a feud, build a wall and hire a bandit to "abduct" Luisa, so that Matt will save her. The clever ruse backfires, and the couple break-up and travel the world alone. Without the meddling of their fathers, they are eventually drawn back to each other, sadder, wiser, but ready to love. As the reprise to the show's famous song *Try To Remember* explains, "Deep in December, it's nice to remember: Without a hurt, the heart is hollow. Deep in December, our hearts should remember, and follow."

The Fantasticks is directed by Chicago's Ty Perry, whose past Steel Beam Theatre credits are *Forever Plaid*, *Forbidden Broadway* and *Working*. Other past directing credits include *Godspell* (After Dark Award), *Earth and Sky*, *Eating Raoul* (Jeff Nomination), *Hair*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Murder in Green Meadows*(After Dark Award), and the controversial, *Unidentified Human Remains* and the *True Nature of Love*. Mr.

Perry has also appeared on Chicago stages performing cabaret and acting in shows at The Goodman Theatre, The Royal George and The Illinois Theatre Center.

Tom Clear of Chicago is ***The Fantasticks*** music director. Mr. Clear, a composer, arranger, pianist and performer, studied music directing at Second City, is a teacher at Accessible Contemporary Music, and is the piano accompanist at Porchlight Music Theatre. He has also served on the music faculties of Whitfield School (St. Louis, MO), and The French American International School (Portland, OR).

The Fantasticks cast includes Amy Steele, *Woodridge*; Greg Zawada, *Geneva*; Tony Lage, *West Chicago*; Thom Thomas, *Wasco*; Rob Frankel, *Highland Park*, Steve Connell and Mike Moylan, *Crystal Lake*; Ellen Chambers, *Chicago*; and Sara Monteleone, *West Chicago*.

For 10 years, Steel Beam Theatre (SBT), 111 W. Main Street, St. Charles, IL, has guided audiences and actors in shared experiences that help the participants more fully understand humanity. SBT's mission is to bring high quality theatrical entertainment, training and arts awareness to the Fox Valley community at an affordable price. Since 2001 Steel Beam productions have attracted thousands to St. Charles, and the Theatre is an anchor that adds diversity and draws visitors to the historic downtown area for any given production. Steel Beam Theatre –

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