

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Produced by SALOC at the Tucson Music Hall

Reviewed November 1, 1993 on

KGTV Radio's Crystall Gazing

Hi ... I'm Joe Crystall and today we're going to review a play. Thursday evening SALOC came as close to perfection as ever imagined with its production of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. Perfect casting ... a perfect marriage of voices and orchestra ... dancers who could really dance ... a chorus of blended voices, male and female, that knew where they belonged and why they there ... simple sets that reflected the times and conditions of the Russian town of Anatevka in the early 19 hundreds ... and the professional direction by a man who had obviously inspired every member of the large cast to do his best. It had all the ingredients for approaching perfection.

I've seen FIDDLER performed in Tucson several times before ... with Tevye played by Armen Dirtadian before but never with so much heart and understanding and voice. Dirtadian's complete performance in this production will rank among the all-time great local ones and should not be missed by anyone. It's the best director who gets the best out of his cast, in which case special applause is deserved by Dennis Courtney, who not only gets credit for direction but for the sharp and exciting choreography, too.