

—THE BEST OF—
M A N H A T T A N

ENTERTAINMENT

BEST-KEPT SECRET

Monday Night Magic

181 Sullivan St. (betw. Houston & Bleecker Sts.)

615-6432

Focus on the Hocus-Focus. Magic acts that are both physical and funny aren't exactly making headlines anymore. You've got your superproduced gags in David Copperfield, your street cred in David Blaine, your postmodern glee in Penn & Teller. But for a magician who can make ballet from a bluff, you've got to venture into some pretty obscure crannies these days. Specifically, into the bowels of the Sullivan St. Playhouse, where Monday Night Magic currently fills the house when *The Fantasticks* is dark. MNM has its share of contradictions. Producer Michael Chaut isn't all that earthy himself—as a veteran of Landmark's Curriculum for Living, he tends to speak a little too often of manifesting the will—yet week after week he fills his bill with the masters of shtick. And while he sends his e-mail updates to the converted with unerring regularity, his campaign to win everyone else hasn't amounted to much. Which leaves it to us to recommend MNM as a rare opportunity to catch the forefathers of modern pop culture in action.

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