



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS *MAN OF LA MANCHA*

LANESBORO, MINN. — The Commonwealth Theatre Company presents *Man of La Mancha* by Dale Wasserman, Joe Darion and Mitch Leigh, June 21-October 25, with previews beginning on June 13. It is called a play by some, a musical by others, and a musical within a play by many.

Man of La Mancha opened on Broadway in 1965. The play is based on the 1615 novel *Don Quijote de la Mancha* fully titled *El ingenioso hidalgo don Quijote de la Mancha* ("The Ingenious Hidalgo Don Quixote of La Mancha"), written by Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. The play follows the adventures of the idealistic character of Don Quixote, and his idealistic notions to "right the unrightable wrongs" of the world.

The story is created and presented as if within the mind of the character/author Cervantes during his trials in the Spanish Inquisition. Like Harold Hill in *The Music Man* and Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Cervantes brings music to the lives of his fellow prisoners, even though many of them will never see the light of day.

"When the world seems darkest, we reach for those inspiring stories that make us strong and give us hope," says the show's director and Commonwealth's Artistic Director, Hal Cropp, "and we have always sought such solace in music."

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Commonweal founder, Eric Bunge will play the quixotic dreamer who tilts at windmills, leading an ensemble cast of veterans and newcomers. Three Commonweal apprentices – Bradley Kastendick, Kimberly Maas and Viterbo University alum, David Harmann – are joined by Rick Nance and David Hennessey playing multiple roles. Stef Dickens plays Don Quixote’s love interest, Aldonza and Troy Iverson is his faithful sidekick, Sancho Panza.

Twin Cities based vocal coach and performer, Stephen Houtz returns to the Commonweal as the production’s musical director, after appearing in last season’s *Uncle Vanya*. Stage managed by Jason Underferth, the show is designed by Viterbo alum, Angela Finnes (costumes) and St. Mary’s University’s Kit Mayer (sets).

There will be preview performances on June 13, 14, 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m., and June 14 at 1:30 p.m. followed by talk-backs with the cast and director. All previews are \$15.

With support from F&M Community Bank, special weekday matinee performances are available for school groups at only \$5 per person, which includes a study guide and pre-show workshop with the actors. Study guides and actor-led discussions are also available to any group of ten or more as part of Commonweal’s Theatre with Friends.

The production is underwritten by Holabird & Root. Windmills and other scenery are underwritten by EcoEnergy, bringing wind power to Fillmore County.

All performances are in the new Commonweal Theatre, 208 Parkway Avenue North in downtown Lanesboro. Ticket prices are \$25 with discounts available for students, groups and Fillmore and Houston county residents (ASL-interpreted sign language performance on Sunday September 7 with half-price tickets for the hearing impaired). Tickets are available at 800-657-7025 or 507-467-2525 or by email at tickets@commonwealththeatre.org. For more information and online reservations, visit www.commonwealththeatre.org.

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(fact sheet follows)



FACT SHEET

Man of La Mancha

by Dale Wasserman, Joe Darion, Mitch Leigh

June 21-October 25, Commonweal Theatre, 208 Parkway Ave N, Lanesboro, Minn.
Previews June 13-20

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.: June 19 (preview), September 4-25, October 2-23

Fridays at 7:30 p.m.: June 13 & 20 (previews), June 27, July 11-25, August 1-29

Saturdays at 1:30 p.m.: June 14 (preview), June 28, July 5-26, August 9-30

Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.: June 14 (preview), June 21 (opening), September 6-27, October 4-25

Sundays at 1:30 p.m.: June 22, September 7-28, October 5-19

Mondays at 7:30 p.m.: June 30, July 7-28, August 4-25

Special 1:30 p.m. performances on Friday, July 4 and Monday, September 1

ASL interpreted performance on September 7 – tickets are half-price for those needing interpreter services.

Tickets: \$25 at 800-657-7025 or 507-467-2525, by email at tickets@commonwealththeatre.org or online at www.commonwealththeatre.org/reservations.html. Discounts available for students, groups, and Fillmore and Houston County residents. Previews are \$15.

Directed by Hal Cropp

Musical Director

Stage Manager & Lighting Designer

Set Designer

Costume Designer

Production Assistant

Assistant Stage Manager

Musicians

ASL Interpreter (September 7 performance) Gail Devereaux

Stephen Houtz

Jason Underferth

Kit Mayer

Angela Finnes

Jenna Bolland

Rebecca Olson (Semester-In-Residence student)

The Cast

CAST

Cervantes/ Don Quixote

Manservant/Sancho

Governor/Innkeeper

Duke/Carrasco/Paco

Aldonza

Padre/Pedro

Antonia/Maria/Fermina/Tenoria

Barber/Housekeeper/Anselmo

Eric Bunge

Troy Iverson

Rick Nance

David Hennessey

Stef Dickens/Stela Burdt

Bradley Kastendick (Apprentice)

Kimberly Maas (Apprentice)

David Harmann (Apprentice)