



Written by Dale Wasserman;

Music by Mitch Leigh; Lyrics by Joe Darion
Based on Miguel de Cervantes' classic tale,
Don Quixote



Synopsis:

Cervantes himself is a character in this story, a tax collector who is thrown into prison by the Spanish Inquisition for taxing the church. The thieves and murderers there ravage his possessions, but Cervantes holds them off by offering an entertainment and begins to reenact the story of a senile old man who declares himself Don Quixote, a knight errant. He sees the world not as it is, but as it ought to be and sets out from his home to do good deeds. Gradually, the prisoners begin to take part as Quixote jousts windmills and accosts barbers. They stumble upon a tavern where a wench, Aldonza, is serving the rough crowd of Muleteers. Quixote sees her as the love of his life and begins to romantically pursue her as his Dulcinea. Meanwhile, his rampage has embarrassed the old man's family who sends a friend to bring him home. Quixote persists in his ideology and Aldonza begins to let her guard down and dream of a better life. Together, Quixote, his manservant Sancho and "Dulcinea" encounter the Muleteers and in a hilarious bungled battle, defeat them. They seek vengeance for their defeat by brutally assaulting Aldonza. Her dreams shattered, she rebukes Quixote and the old man meets the Knight of the Mirrors whose realistic reflection of the senile old man finally breaks the Quixote spell and the old man returns to his home to die. Unsatisfied with the end of the story, the inmates reject Cervantes offering. Cervantes then immediately improvises a new ending to the satisfaction of the prisoners.

Production History:

Premiered on Broadway, 1965
Starring Richard Kiley, ran over 2300 perfs
Nominated – 7 Tony awards, winning 5
Revived in 1972, 1977, 1992
and most recently in 2003
Starring Brian Stokes Mitchell
Winning Tony and Drama Desk

Other plays by this author:

Dale Wasserman:
One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest

from the show "MAN OF LA MANCHA"

THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Lyric by
JOE DARION

(The Quest)

Music by
MITCH LEIGH

Tempo di Bolero



Special Note: The Human Race production is expected to engulf the entire stage and house area, the audience being very much included in the action. There is no interaction or confrontation with audience members. The music is classic and the close proximity of the performers should make this a breathtaking experience.

Expected Audience appeal:

All ages. This production will be part of our Theatre in Context Partnership with The Muse Machine and will serve nearly a thousand students throughout the run. It is classic American Musical Theatre that has not played professionally in Dayton since 1995, we expect it to strike the hearts of musical theatre fans across the region. RATED PG-13: The violence of the Muleteers toward Aldonza contains some sexual contact and though nothing is exposed, it may be upsetting to younger children. We recommend this for Junior High students and older.

