



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 21, 2017

ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY REIMAGINES THE BELOVED “MAN OF LA MANCHA”

Arizona Theatre Company (David Ivers, Artistic Director; Billy Russo, Managing Director) brings a thrilling reimagined *Man of La Mancha* to stages in Phoenix and Tucson, taking inspiration from the spontaneous, raw theatricality of flamenco performance and focusing on the passion and virtuosity of the intertwined stories of Don Quixote and his imprisoned creator, Miguel de Cervantes.

Man of La Mancha runs from Dec. 2-31 at the Temple of Music & Art in Tucson and from Jan. 5-28 at the Herberger Theater Center in Phoenix. The Tucson Production Sponsors are Jim and Dolly Moran. Joanie Flatt and Michael Flatt are the Phoenix Production Sponsors. I. Michael and Beth Kasser are ATC’s Season Sponsor.

“The powerful story and deeply engaging music and songs explode in a new and even more passionate staging that captures the vibrant culture of Spain,” said ATC Artistic Director David Ivers. “Adding another dimension to the gripping passion of the entertainment is the fact that the experience will be great fun.”

Man of La Mancha is written by Dale Wasserman, with lyrics by Joe Darion and music by Mitch Leigh, directed for ATC by David Bennett and choreographed by

Kathryn Van Meter, who also choreographed ATC's award-winning production of ***Fiddler on the Roof***.

The 1964 musical is a play-within-a-play telling the story of "mad" knight Don Quixote as performed by Cervantes and fellow prisoners as he awaits a hearing with the Spanish Inquisition.

The original production won five Tony Awards during a run of 2,328 performances and is considered among the most enduring works of musical theater. Its iconic signature song, "The Impossible Dream," has been recorded by artists from Glen Campbell, Andy Williams and Cher to Luther Vandross and Susan Boyle. It received a Contemporary Classics Award from the Songwriter's Hall of Fame.

The ATC production features Broadway, film and television actor Philip Hernandez as Don Quixote and Miguel de Cervantes. He is the only man in Broadway history to play both Jean Valjean and Inspector Javert in *Les Misérables*. His TV credits include *Bull*, *Blue Bloods*, *Nurse Jackie* and *Law and Order*, among many others.

He is joined by Carlos Lopez (Sancho) and Lauren Villegas (Aldonza), whose credits include the Off-Broadway production of ***Forbidden Broadway***. Fellow cast members include Patrick Connaghan (Quito/Padre), Samuel Flores (Pace, a Percussionist), Juaquin Gallegos (Tenorio, a Guitarist), John Patrick Lowrie (Governor/Inkeeper), Ana Marcu (Antonia), Kara Mikula (Maria/Housekeeper), Amelia Moore (Fermina, a Dancer), Max Anton Protzen (Guard), Marissa Salazar (Prisoner), Michael Sharon (The Duke/Dr. Carrasco), Alexander Sovronsky (Juan/Barber), Louis Tucci (Pedro) and Jose Luis "El Niño" Uz (Jose, a Dancer). Gossard, Protzen and Salazar are students at the University of Arizona.

Single ticket prices range from \$25 to \$73 in Tucson and \$25 to \$80 in Phoenix and can be purchased at the box offices at the Temple of Music & Art and the Herberger Theatre Center or online at www.arizonatheatre.org.

Man of La Mancha will be followed by; ***Outside Mullingar*** (directed by ATC Artistic Director David Ivers), from the author of ***Doubt*** and ***Moonstruck***, in Tucson, Jan. 20-Feb. 10 and Phoenix from Feb. 15-March 4; ***Low Down Dirty Blues*** (directed by Randal Myler), in Tucson March 10-31 and in Phoenix, April 5-22; and ***The Diary of***

Anne Frank, directed by ATC Artistic Director Emeritus David Ira Goldstein, in Tucson April 21-May 12 and in Phoenix, May 17-June 3.

BIOGRAPHIES

David Bennett (Director): Credits include: *The Most Happy Fella*, *My Fair Lady*, *Miss Saigon*, *Buddy*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Sound of Music* (5th Avenue Theatre); *Buyer & Cellar* (Seattle Rep); *Now, Now, Now* (On The Boards); *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (ACT); *Torso* by Keri Healey (American Theatre Critics new play award); *Hay Fever* (Peterborough Players); *The Neverending Story* (World Premiere), *Junie B. Jones*, and *Bunnycula* (Seattle Children's Theatre); *Man of La Mancha* and *Once On This Island* (Village Theatre). Other regional: Ordway Theatre, Casa Mañana, North Carolina Theatre, Pioneer Theatre, and Portland Stage Co.

Kathryn Van Meter (Choreography): Kathryn Van Meter is a Seattle based director, choreographer and actress. She is honored to return to ATC, where she choreographed the award-winning *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Xanadu*, and *Next to Normal*. Recent credits include directing *Into the Woods* (Village Theatre) and choreographing the world premiere of *Mario and the Comet* (Seattle Children's Theatre). Ms. Van Meter is a three-time Gregory Award Nominee and winner for her work on *Mary Poppins*. Her choreography recently debuted on television with the Netflix Original Series *13 Reasons Why*, and at the Seattle Opera with *The Magic Flute*. In 2016, Ms. Van Meter worked with the US Department of Labor to develop the national definition for the occupation of "Choreographer." Next up, Ms. Van Meter will be joining Spectrum Dance Theatre playing Margaret Mead in their touring production of *A Rap on Race*. She is a proud member of SDC and AEA.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director: David Bennett

Choreographer: Kathryn Van Meter

Music Supervisor: Tim Symons

Scenic Design: William Bloodgood

Costume Design: Melanie Burgess

Lighting Design: Mary Louise Geiger

Sound Design: Abe Jacob

Flamenco Choreography: Amelia Moore, Jose Luis "El Nino" Uz

Fight Choreography: Brent Gibbs

Vocal and Dialect Coach: Micha Espinosa

Stage Manager: Bruno Ingram

Ticket Info:

Tickets for *Man of La Mancha* start at \$25 and are subject to change depending on time, date and section, and are available at www.arizonatheatre.org or by calling the box office at (520) 622-2823 in Tucson or (602) 256-6995 in Phoenix. Discounts are available for seniors and active military. A \$10 student ticket pricing is now available for all performances. Half-price rush tickets are available for balcony seating for all performances one hour prior to curtain at the ATC box office (subject to availability). **Pay What You Can** performance tickets are available for a suggested \$10 donation in Tucson on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. and in Phoenix on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. (Tickets must be purchased at the Herberger Theater Center starting one hour prior to curtain. Tickets are first-come, first served. *Cash only*. Two tickets maximum per person.) For discounts for groups of 10 or more, call (520) 622-2823 in Tucson or (602) 256-6995 in Phoenix.

Arizona Theatre Company offers accessibility services for patrons with disabilities for

select performances. American Sign Language Interpretation is presented by professional, theatrically trained ASL-interpreters for people who have deafness or hearing impairment. An ASL-interpreted performance is offered on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Tucson and Saturday, Jan. 20 at 4 p.m. in Phoenix on an LED screen as the play progresses. An open captioned performance is offered on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. in Tucson and Sunday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in Phoenix. For open-captioned or ASL-interpreted performances, patrons should request seats best suited to ASL interpretation or captioning when purchasing tickets. Large print and Braille playbills and infrared listening amplification devices are also available at every ATC performance with reservation. TTY access for the box office is available in Phoenix at (602) 256-6995 or via Arizona Relay at (800) 367-8939 (TTY/ASCII).

Tickets are available in-person at the Temple of Music & Art in Tucson or by calling (520) 622-2823 in Tucson and at the Herberger Theater Center at (602) 256-6995 or online at

www.arizonatheatre.org.

FACT SHEET

Man of La Mancha

- Book by Dale Wasserman
- Music by Mitch Leigh
- Lyrics Joe Darion
- Directed by David Bennett

VENUES

- Temple of Music & Art, 330 S. Scott Ave., Tucson
- Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe, Phoenix

- **Previews Begin:** Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. in Tucson; Friday, Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Phoenix.
- **Opening Nights:** Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Tucson; Saturday, Jan. 7 at 8 p.m. in Phoenix
- **Closing Performances:** Sunday, Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. in Tucson; Saturday, Jan. 27 at 8 p.m. in Phoenix.

Contact:

Steve Carr, The Kur Carr Group, Inc., (602) 317-3040

About Arizona Theatre Company:

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) is the preeminent fully professional theatre in the state of Arizona committed to inspiring, engaging, and entertaining - one moment, one production, and one audience at a time. Boasting the largest seasonal subscriber base in the performing arts in Arizona, ATC is the only resident company in the U.S. that is fully based in two cities providing its wide array of programming and community outreach across the region. Now in its 51st season, more than 130,000 people a year attend our performances at the historic Temple of Music and Art in Tucson, and the elegant Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. Each season of home-grown productions reflects the rich variety of world drama—from classics to contemporary plays, from musicals to new works—along with a wide array of community outreach programs, educational opportunities, access initiatives and new play programs. Designated The State Theatre of Arizona, ATC is led by Artistic Director David Ivers, Managing Director Billy Russo and a dedicated Board of Trustees.