

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Angela Lakin

941.351.9010 x 4808

[angela\\_lakin@asolo.org](mailto:angela_lakin@asolo.org)

**Asolo Rep Announces Full Cast for**  
***Man of La Mancha***

**Written by Dale Wasserman**  
**Music by Mitch Leigh and Lyrics by Joe Darion**  
**Original Production Directed by Albert Marre**

**Directed by Peter Rothstein**

**Choreographed by Cat Brindisi**

**May 10 – June 11**

(SARASOTA, FLA) — Asolo Repertory Theatre proudly announces the cast and creative team for the final show in its 64<sup>th</sup> season, ***MAN OF LA MANCHA***. **Peter Rothstein** returns to direct this reimagined musical which was written by **Dale Wasserman**, with music by **Mitch Leigh** and lyrics by **Joe Darion**. ***MAN OF LA MANCHA*** begins previews on May 10, opens on May 13, and runs through June 11, in the Mertz Theatre, located in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

Considered by many to be one of the best musicals of all time, ***MAN OF LA MANCHA*** immerses us in Miguel de Cervantes' retelling of Don Quixote and his quest. This epic and poignant journey celebrates the perseverance of one man who refuses to relinquish his ideals and who is determined to see life not as it is, but as it ought to be.

The winner of five Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, and featuring a soaring score, including "Man of La Mancha (I, Don Quixote)" and one of theatre's most beloved songs, "The Impossible Dream," this classic musical celebrates the power of theatre, the bravery of holding strong to our dreams, and the resilience of imagination.

"***MAN OF LA MANCHA*** is a celebration of the transformative power of storytelling and the transformative power of theater," says Rothstein. "The central character, Miguel de Cervantes brings

hope to a group of people who are hopeless and elevates them from a place of deep despair to a place of radical optimism. I hope our production pays homage to the lasting potency of Cervantes' epic novel and inspires us all 'to see life not as it is but as it ought to be.'”

Rothstein returns to Asolo Rep after previously directing the highly celebrated productions of *Ragtime* and *Sweeney Todd*. He works extensively throughout the country as a director of theatre, musical theatre, opera and new work and is the Founding Artistic Director of Theater Latté Da, a Minneapolis-based company dedicated to adventurous music-theatre. Rothstein was recently announced as Asolo Rep's incoming Producing Artistic Director when current Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards steps down at the end of June.

“I've always loved this show,” adds Edwards. “It is one of the most beloved American musicals in the world, not just for its signature song, but for its insistence on the transformative power of imagination and theatre itself.”

**MAN OF LA MANCHA**'s creative team includes Scenic Designer **Michael Hoover**, Costume Designer **Fabian Fidel Aguilar**, Lighting Designer **Marcus Dilliard**, Sound Designer **Justin Stasiw**, Projection Designer **Greg Emetaz**, Music Direction and Additional Arrangements **Jenny Kim-Godfrey**, Hair/Wig & Make-Up Designer **Michelle Hart** and Puppet Designer **Frank J. Paul**.

Leading the cast of **MAN OF LA MANCHA** is **Mauricio Martínez** as Miguel de Cervantes/Don Quixote, **Aaron De Jesus** as Sancho and **Janely Rodriguez** as Aldonza, all making their Asolo Rep debut. Martínez is a Mexican Emmy-winning actor and recording artist who was most recently seen on Broadway in *On Your Feet!*. His television work includes *Señora Acero* (Telemundo), over 10 telenovelas with Televisa (Univision), *Kennedy Center Honors* and *Gershwin Prize* (PBS). De Jesus has a wide range of theatre credits most recently completing a 10-year run with *Jersey Boys* where he played Frankie Valli. Rodriguez is a native of Miami, FL and has worked with a wide range of theatre companies in the Twin Cities area including Children's Theatre Company, Theatre Latté Da, Ten Thousand Things Theater Company and Artistry Theater.

The cast also features **Reese Britts** (Anselmo/The Barber), **Sydney Chow** (Antonia/Fermina), **Javier Ignacio** (Pedro), **C. Mingo Long** (The Governor/The Innkeeper), **Brian Kim McCormick** (Paco/The Padre), **Cathy Newman** (Maria/The Housekeeper), **Rodolfo Nieto** (The Duke/Jose/Dr. Carrasco) and **Edward Staudenmayer** (The Captain/Tenorio).

Additional cast includes **Peter S. Raimondo** (The Custodian/Juan), **Sydney Story** (Summoned Person) and **Jerald Wheat** (The Guard).

The understudies are **Bevin Bell-Hall**, **Christian Douglass**, **Pedro Ka'Awaloa**, **Celena Vera Morgan** and **Robert Quiles**.

**MAN OF LA MANCHA** contains mature content and sexual situations.

**MAN OF LA MANCHA** runs May 10 – June 11. Previews are May 10-12. Visit [asolorep.org](http://asolorep.org) for a full performance schedule. Orchestra and Mezzanine seats start at \$75 and Balcony seats start at \$35. Tickets are available now in person at Asolo Rep's Box Office at 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, by phone at 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388, or online at [asolorep.org](http://asolorep.org).

## CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Reese Britts\* .....Anselmo/The Barber  
Sydney Chow\* .....Antonia/Fermina  
Aaron De Jesus\* .....Sancho  
Javier Ignacio\* .....Pedro  
C. Mingo Long\* .....The Governor/The Innkeeper  
Mauricio Martinez\* .....Miguel de Cervantes/Don Quixote  
Brian Kim McCormick\* .....Paco/The Padre  
Cathy Newman\* .....Maria/The Housekeeper  
Rodolfo Nieto\* .....The Duke/Jose/Dr. Carrasco  
Peter S. Raimondo.....The Custodian/Juan  
Janely Rodriguez\* .....Aldonza  
Edward Staudenmayer\* .....The Captain/Tenorio  
Sydney Story.....Summoned Person  
Jerald Wheat.....The Guard

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Bevin Bell-Hall, Christian Douglass, Pedro Ka'Awaloa,  
Celena Vera Morgan, Robert Quiles.....Understudies

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Nia Sciarretta\* .....Production Stage Manager  
Jynelly Rosario\* .....Assistant Stage Manager

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

## **SELECT CREATIVE TEAM**

Director.....Peter Rothstein  
Choreographer.....Cat Brindisi  
Scenic Designer..... Michael Hoover  
Costume Designer.....Fabian Fidel Aguilar  
Lighting Designer.....Marcus Dilliard

Sound Designer.....	Justin Stasiw
Projection Designer.....	Greg Emetaz
Music Direction and Additional Arrangements.....	Jenny Kim-Godfrey
Hair/Wig & Make-Up Designer.....	Michelle Hart
Puppet Design.....	Frank J. Paul

## ENHANCED EXPERIENCES

### Tuesday Talkbacks (FREE)

May 16 & 23

Attendees can enhance their experience with this post-show discussion.

### PlayDate

Saturdays, June 3 and 10, 2 p.m.

These show-based workshops for young people offer a childcare option for adults attending a mainstage performance.

### OUT@AsoloRep

Wednesday, May 17

Pre-show reception

For subscription and ticket information, contact the box office.

OUT@AsoloRep is Sarasota's premier cultural event connecting local LGBTQIA+ communities with fantastic theatre.

OUT@AsoloRep is sponsored by Empath Tidewell Foundation, CAN Community Health, Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering and Project Pride.

*\*All activities are subject to change or modification based on CDC recommendations.*

## SPONSORS

Asolo Rep is able to present **MAN OF LA MANCHA** because of the generosity of its sponsors. The corporate sponsors for **MAN OF LA MANCHA** are ABC7, Scene Magazine, Residence Inn by Marriott, Michael's on East and Asolo Rep's Artistic Excellence Society.

Asolo Rep's 2022-23 Major Season Sponsors are Florida State University, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the Huisking Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, the Koski Family Foundation, Designing Women Boutique/Groundworks and The Exchange. Asolo Rep is also sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. Asolo Rep's artistic programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.

## **ABOUT ASOLO REP**

Now in its 64<sup>th</sup> season, Asolo Repertory Theatre is recognized as one of the premier professional theatres in America and one of the largest in the Southeastern United States. One of the few select theatres in the nation that performs in true rotating repertory, Asolo Rep's highly skilled acting company and extensive craftsmanship bring to life this unique performance method that gives audiences the opportunity to see multiple productions in the span of a few days. Asolo Rep presents up to 10 productions each season, including contemporary and classic works and provocative musical theatre experiences. A theatre district in and of itself, Asolo Rep is committed to expanding its reach into the community, furthering its collaboration with the best theatre artists working in the industry today and cultivating new artists through its affiliation with the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards and Managing Director Linda DiGabriele, Asolo Rep's ambitious theatrical offerings and ground-breaking education and community programming engage audiences and ensure its lasting legacy for future generations. Visit [asolorep.org](http://asolorep.org) to learn more.