

One of the most enduring works of musical theatre!

DAVIS GAINES

reprises his Ovation Award-winning role as Don Quixote in
La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts & McCoy Rigby Entertainment
production of

MAN OF LA MANCHA

Book by Dale Wasserman

Lyrics by Joe Darion

Music by Mitch Leigh

Musical Direction by Jeff Rizzo

Choreographed by Patti Colombo

Directed by Glenn Casale

May 5 to 7 -- Four performances only at Valley Performing Arts Center
June 2 to 25 at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts
(Press opening is June 3)

(Los Angeles, CA) April 12, 2017 – Davis Gaines reprises his Ovation Award-winning role as Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*, winner of the Tony Awards for Best Musical and Best Score, and one of the most enduring works of musical theatre.

Man of La Mancha will be presented for four performances May 5 to 7, 2017 at Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC); followed by an engagement from June 2, 2017 through June 25, 2017 (press opening June 3) at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts in La Mirada, California.

“We are delighted to welcome Davis Gaines back to VPAC surrounded by this stellar cast in *Man of La Mancha* and I can’t think of a more exciting way to have him once again grace the VPAC stage” said Thor Steingraber, Executive Director of VPAC. Tom McCoy said, “The inspirational message of hope that is at the heart of *Man of La Mancha* is never out of fashion and it is an honor to continue our collaboration with VPAC by bringing this classic of the musical theatre canon to audiences throughout the Southland.”

About *Man of La Mancha*

Man of La Mancha tells the poignant story of Don Quixote and his pursuit of the impossible dream. His dream is Everyman’s dream. His tilting at windmills is Everyman’s adventure. Celebrating life – not as it is, but as it should be – is at the heart of this inspiring and unforgettable musical. The Spanish-influenced score is a musical delight, containing the magnificent and uplifting anthem to all that is best in us: THE

IMPOSSIBLE DREAM. Remember what it is to believe in all that is noble, heroic and romantic with this rousing classic.

This La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts and McCoy Rigby production of *Man of La Mancha* with book by Dale Wasserman and lyrics by Joe Darion, music by Mitch Leigh, is directed by Glenn Casale, with musical direction by Jeff Rizzo, and choreography by Patti Colombo.

Man of La Mancha is the third full-scale musical to be presented at VPAC, the award-winning performing arts center, following this season's La Mirada Theatre-McCoy Rigby production of *West Side Story* and last season's La Mirada Theatre-McCoy Rigby production of *Dreamgirls*.

About Davis Gaines and the Cast

Davis Gaines performed the title role in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* more than 2,000 times during his run on Broadway, in Los Angeles (L.A.'s longest-running Phantom) and in San Francisco (Bay Area Critics' Award for Best Actor). Other Broadway and National Tour credits include the world premiere of Lloyd Webber's *Whistle Down the Wind*, Cornelius Hackl in *Hello, Dolly!* (with Carol Channing), *Camelot* (with Richard Burton) and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (with Alexis Smith). Gaines' Off-Broadway appearances include Des McAnuff's *The Death of Von Richthofen as Witnessed from Earth*, the Maury Yeston/Larry Gelbart musical *One Two Three Four Five*, Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*, *She Loves Me* and *Forbidden Broadway*. He made his New York City Opera debut in *The New Moon* and appeared in the concert versions of *Parade*, *Sitting Pretty*, *The Cat and the Fiddle*, *Pippin* and the Encores production of *The Boys from Syracuse*. In Southern California, he has appeared as Tito Merelli in *Lend Me a Tenor* (McCoy/Rigby), at Musical Theatre West as Juan Peron in *Evita*, Lawrence Jameson in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* (Ovation Award and Broadway World Award, Best Lead Actor in a Musical), King Arthur in *Spamalot*, Javert in *Les Miserables*, Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, Richard Henry Lee in *1776* and Mack Sennett in *Mack and Mabel*. He also portrayed Hannibal Lecter in *SILENCE! The Musical* (LA Weekly Award, Best Male Musical Performance), appeared as Fred/Petruchio in *Kiss Me, Kate* (Cabrillo Music Theatre/Ovation Nomination, Best Lead Actor in a Musical), in *I Do! I Do!* (with Vicki Lewis/Laguna Playhouse), *Parade* (with T.R. Knight/Mark Taper Forum), *Side by Side by Sondheim* (Rubicon Theatre/Pasadena Playhouse) and made his Los Angeles-area directing debut at Musical Theatre West with *Oklahoma!* In addition to his stage credits, Gaines has sung for five U.S. Presidents and performed with nearly every major symphony in the U.S. and at VPAC's Opening Gala in 2011.

The cast of *Man of La Mancha* features Nikki Crawford as Aldonza (*Immediate Family* at Mark Taper Forum, *Show Boat* at Sacramento Music Circus, *Stormy Weather* at The Pasadena Playhouse); Roland Rusinek as Sancho (Broadway: *Phantom of the Opera*, U.S. tour of *The Addams Family*, *Sweeney Todd* at New York City Opera); Rich Hebert as Padre (Broadway: *The Last Ship*, *The Life*, *Sunset Blvd.*); Michaelia Leigh as Antonia (*The King and I* at Welks Resort Theatre, *The Marvelous Wonderettes* at The Moonlight Ampitheatre); Jenny McGlinchey as Housekeeper (The Imagination Machine, various productions at South Coast Repertory); Jeff Skowron as The Barber (Broadway: *Enron*, *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* *The Lion King*); and Shannon Stoeke as Dr. Carrasco/Duke (U.S. Tours of *Peter Pan* and *Camelot*).

The cast of *Man of La Mancha* also includes Juan Abrego as Juan/The Donkey; Greg Butler as Governor/Innkeeper; Joe Komara as Tenario; Kailyn Leilani as Fermina; Rachel McLaughlan as Maria; Eric Stretch as Pedro, Head Muleteer/The Horse; Michael Stumpf as Jose; Michael Thomas-Visgar as

Captain of the Inquisition; John B. Williford as Paco/Fight Captain, understudy Donkey and Horse; and Jenna Wright as Moorish Dancer.

Tickets for Man of La Mancha

Tickets for *Man of La Mancha*, May 5 to 7 at Valley Performing Arts Center, can be purchased by visiting ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org or calling (818) 677-3000. Valley Performing Arts Center is located on the campus of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), 18111 Nordhoff Street Northridge, CA 91330-8448, at the corner of Nordhoff and Lindley.

Editors please note: Man of La Mancha is not available for review until Saturday, June 3 at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. Press tickets for review purposes will not be made available during the Valley Performing Arts Center engagement; for more information please contact David Elzer at DAVIDELZER@ME.com | 818-508-1754.

Tickets for *Man of La Mancha*, June 2 to June 25 (press opening June 3) at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, can be purchased by visiting LaMiradaTheatre.com or calling (562) 944-9801 or (714) 994-6310. La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts is located at 14900 La Mirada Boulevard in La Mirada, near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue where the 91 and 5 freeways meet. Parking is free.

Design Team

The Design Team for *Man of La Mancha* is as follows: Scenic Design by Stephan Gifford; Lighting Design by Steven Young; Sound Design by Julie Ferrin; Wardrobe Design by Leon Wiebers; Hair/Make-Up/Wig Design by Katie McCoy; and Props Design by Terry Hanrahan. John B. Williford serves as Fight Choreographer, Casting is by Julia Flores, and the Production Stage Manager is Alan Coats.

About the Creative Team

Glenn Casale (Director) Broadway: *Peter Pan* starring Cathy Rigby (Tony Award nomination Best Revival) which was filmed by A&E and garnered two Emmy Awards. Off-Broadway: *The Property Known as Garland* starring Adrienne Barbeau, and *Dragapella* at Studio 54 (Drama Desk Lucille Lortel Award nominations for Best Production). International: *Disney's The Little Mermaid; Beauty and the Beast* (Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan and Russia) *The Wiz*, Regional: *Disney's Hunchback of Notre Dame, The Little Mermaid, Ballroom; Camelot* with Rachel York and Lou Diamond Phillips. *Wrestlers* starring Mark Harmon and George Clooney; *Bingo! M, From the Top* starring Carol Burnett. Los Angeles Ovation Award-winning Best Musical *Anything Goes* starring Rachel York, Brent Barrett, Sally Struthers and Fred Willard. *Camelot* starring Michael York, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* with Jason Alexander; Television: ABC TV's "The Faculty" starring Meredith Baxter and "The Wayans Brothers".

Jeff Rizzo (Musical Director/Conductor) is pleased to be making his debut for McCoy Rigby Entertainment. He has conducted countless musicals in many US cities, Japan, and China. Most recently: *White Christmas* at the Ordway Center in Saint Paul, *H2\$* and *Mary Poppins* at Theatre Under The Stars in Houston, and *Cabaret* at the Sacramento Music Circus. Jeff experienced the 2011 Tokyo earthquake and the nuclear meltdown doing *Joseph...Dreamcoat*. He toured China in 2007 with *42nd Street*, as well as the two-year run of the 2002 US National Tour, which played Segerstrom Hall and the Ahmanson. Jeff was the audition accompanist for the film of *Dreamgirls*. He musically directed Madison Square Garden's *The Wizard of Oz* starring Roseanne, the subsequent national tour, and the Grammy nominated cast

recording starring Mickey Rooney and Eartha Kitt. He was associate conductor of the US premiere of *Sunset Boulevard* starring Glenn Close at the Shubert Theatre in Los Angeles. Jeff toured three years with *Annie*, as associate conductor of the 2nd National Tour and conductor of the 4th National Tour. He has served on the faculty of the American Music and Dramatic Academy (LA campus) for thirteen years. As a composer his work includes the scores for *Jailbirds on Broadway*, *Wanna Play?!* (published by Baker's Plays) and a new musical version of *A Christmas Carol*. With partner Eric Andrist, he co-founded the Musical Theatre Guild. Born in Utica, New York, raised in Sacramento, California, and graduated from the University of Southern California, Jeff makes his home in Valley Village.

Patti Colombo (Choreographer) Broadway: *Peter Pan w/ Cathy Rigby* (Tony nominated Best Revival). Emmy nominated choreography for A & E television production. National Tours: *Dr. Doolittle* starring Tommy Tune, *Seussical, the Musical* starring Cathy Rigby, *7 Brides* (Elliot Norton Award [Boston]), *Guys and Dolls*. International Tours: UK Tour: *7 Brides* Director/Choreographer. China & Europe: *China Goes Pop* Director/Choreographer. Regional: Paper Mill: *Kiss Me Kate*, *7 Brides*, *On the Town* (N.J. Critics Choice Award). The Pasadena Playhouse: *Mask, Can-Can* (Ovation nominated) *Radio Gals* (Ovation Award). Denver Center: *White Christmas* (Denver Critic's Choice Award). Goodspeed: *7 Brides* (Connecticut Critic's Circle Award); Oregon Shakespeare Festival: *Animal Crackers*.

About La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts and McCoy Rigby Entertainment

Winner of the L.A. Stage Alliance Ovation Award for 2012-2013 "Best Season of the Year," La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, now in its fourth decade, has been hailed by the Los Angeles Times as "one of the best Broadway-style houses in Southern California." This beautiful state-of-the-art theatre has been producing quality productions for its Southern California audiences since 1977. The theatre has produced several national tours and is the recipient of many accolades including Ovation and Emmy Awards and Tony Award nominations. Brian Kite is the theatre's Producing Artistic Director. The theatre is located at 14900 La Mirada Boulevard in La Mirada, California, near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue. Parking is theatre-adjacent and free. For further information call 562-944-9801 or visit LaMiradaTheatre.com

Celebrating its 21st Anniversary season at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, McCoy Rigby Entertainment (MRE), is one of the world's premier theatrical production companies. Headed by Executive Producers Tom McCoy and Cathy Rigby, MRE has produced over one hundred musicals, plays, and concerts featuring some of the biggest stars in the industry today. In addition, MRE has launched several Emmy Award-winning and Tony Award-nominated Broadway, international, and national touring productions including: *Peter Pan*, *Seussical the Musical*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*, all starring Cathy Rigby; Frank Wildhorn's *Jekyll and Hyde* starring American Idol contender and Tony Award nominee Constantine Maroulis along with Grammy Award nominee and R&B superstar Deborah Cox; *Jesus Christ Superstar* starring Carl Anderson and Sebastian Bach; *Camelot* starring Michael York and Lou Diamond Phillips and *Happy Days* written by Gary Marshall and Paul Williams. *Peter Pan* starring Cathy Rigby has made four stops on Broadway and received four Tony Award nominations including Best Revival of a Musical and Best Actress in a Musical. The A&E TV network premiere of "Peter Pan," starring Cathy Rigby, received one Emmy Award and four Emmy Award nominations. MRE's other credits include numerous award-winning documentaries and stadium events.

About VPAC

Now in its sixth season, VPAC's mission is to present a wide variety of performances that not only includes new and original work from the Los Angeles region, but also work from around the world that appeals to all of LA's rich and diverse communities. The Valley Performing Arts Center's 2016-17 Season signals a new era for the premiere event venue. Under the leadership of Executive Director Thor Steingraber, VPAC expands its programming and outstanding multi-disciplinary performances. Located on the campus of California State University, Northridge, VPAC's season offers a vibrant and diverse performance program of nearly 50 classical and popular music, dance, theater, family and international events that will serve to establish VPAC as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and further establish itself as one of the top arts companies in Southern California. The award-winning 1,700-seat theatre was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers and was recently cited by the *Los Angeles Times* as "a growing hub for live music, dance, drama and other cultural events."

Calendar Listing for MAN OF LA MANCHA

May 5– 7, 2017

Valley Performing Arts Center

Venue: Valley Performing Arts Center
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330

Dates: Friday, May 5 at 8pm, Saturday, May 6 at 3pm and 8 pm
Sunday, May 7 at 3pm

Tickets: **Prices:** Starting at \$43
In Person: VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard
By Phone: (818) 677-3000
Online: ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

Press Contacts: Tim Choy, Niki Blumberg, Peter Goldman Davidson & Choy Publicity
323-954-7510 | p.goldman@dcpublicity.com
Gary W. Murphy, Public Relations Consultant
310-914-0178 | gmurphypr@gmail.com

June 2 – June 25, 2017

La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts

Venue: La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts
14900 La Mirada Blvd. in La Mirada, CA 90638.
Near the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue where the 91 and 5 freeways meet.
Free, ample lot parking.

Dates: Opens Saturday, June 3 through Sunday, June 25
Preview on Friday, June 2 at 8pm
Wednesdays & Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays at 8pm;
Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm; Sundays at 2pm.

Tickets: **Prices:** \$14 - \$70
By Phone: (562) 944-9801 or (714) 994-6310
Online: www.lamiradatheatre.com

Press David Elzer, DEMAND PR
Contact: 818-508-1754 | DAVIDELZER@ME.com
Or visit www.demandpr.com
Photos and press information also available at lamiradatheatre.com