

Man of La Mancha Reviews

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Man of La Mancha

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6970 N. Glenwood Chicago

The musical Man of La Mancha holds significant importance to one of our theatre's key backers, Michael James (his father was the original producer). Now come see what a production of Man of La Mancha means in the 21st Century!

Presented by Theo Ubique

Thru - Dec 20, 2009

Price: \$30-\$35

Show Type: Musical

Box Office: 800-595-4849

www.heartlandcafe.com



BOOK
Dale Wasserman

MUSIC
Mitch Leigh

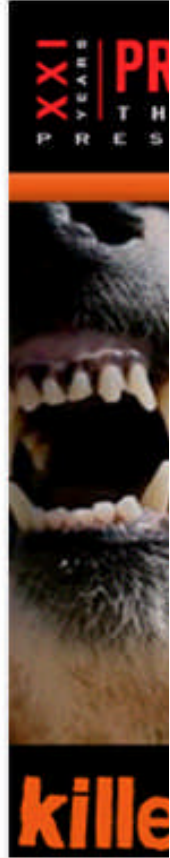
LYRICS
Joe Darion

DIRECTOR
David Heimann

MUSIC DIRECTION
Ethos Boone

Review Round-Up

Chicago Tribune - Somewhat Recommended



Man of La Mancha Reviews

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ow or Theatre--

Go

OR

Search by date:

dd/yy

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Review Round-Up

Chicago Tribune - Somewhat Recommended

"...You certainly can't accuse director David Heimann and his cast of lacking creativity, imagination or a commitment to high stakes. However many times you may have this title, you will never have seen it done quite like this, all within arm's length to boot. And as far as I could tell, the three-piece orchestra plays every last note of Mitch Leigh's score."

[Read Full Review](#)

Chris Jones

Chicago Sun Times - Highly Recommended

"...This 1965 musical, with its glorious score by Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion, and a book inspired by Cervantes' classic novel Don Quixote, is one of those stories-inside-of-stories pieces that can be confusing on first acquaintance. Yet director David Heimann has added a new layer to the tale and made the whole thing clearer and more meaningful than ever."

[Read Full Review](#)

Hedy Weiss

Time Out Chicago - Highly Recommended

"...Ubique's ensemble of misfits and lunatics plows through the 1965 musical with irrepressible, sometimes creepy glee, capitalizing on a score generous enough to give even the smallest player a showcase moment. Standouts include Kyle Greer as the chorus's finest chameleon and Sarah Hayes, who plays distrustful wench Aldonza with white-hot rage. But the show belongs to Danielle Brothers. Her take on the titular hero, which could have been stunt casting, is inspired. By the time she reaches "Dulcinea," she is completely Quixote and totally heartbreaking. Someone please cast her as Caiaphas in Jesus Christ Superstar."

[Read Full Review](#)

Caitlin Montanye Parrish

Joe Darion

DIRECTOR

David Heimann

MUSIC DIRECTION

Ethan Deppe

CHOREOGRAPHER

Maggie Portman

CAST - [View Roles](#)

Anthony John Lawrence Apodaca

Danielle Brothers

Trisha Hart Ditsworth

Kyle Greer

Sarah Hayes

Michael Herschberg

Kent L. Joseph

Tom Moore

Maggie Portman

Daniel Waters

Jennifer Young

LIGHTING

Kylw Land

SCENIC DESIGN

Kyle Land

COSTUME DESIGN

Carrie Colden

STAGE MANAGER

Christopher Pazdernik

killer jo

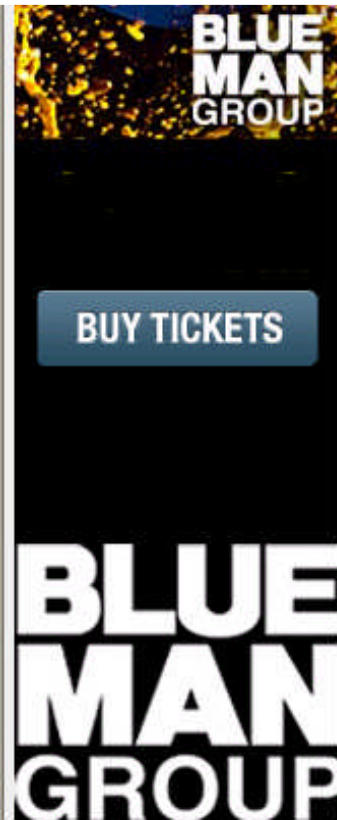
by tracy letts

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Man of La Mancha Reviews



Chicago Reader - Highly Recommended

"...Director David Heimann has made a number of daring choices in staging Dale Wasserman, Mitch Leigh, and Joe Darion's 1965 Tony Award-winning musical based on Don Quixote--not the least of which is his seemingly quixotic decision to cram it into Theo Ubique's cabaret-style theater. But the result is a show at once more powerful and intimate than any Broadway-style production could be."

[Read Full Review](#)

Jack Helbig

NewCity Chicago - Somewhat Recommended

"...the most unsatisfying aspect of this otherwise admirable, conceptually strong and darkly entertaining evening of musical theater, and it's a biggie--the music. Well, not all of the music. The four-piece band sounds tight and strong, with flutist Chris Skrable really shining in Mitch Leigh's lovely sounding score, and the large ensemble numbers show off musical director Ethan Deppe's good work blending the vocally mixed bag of strong-looking ensemble types. But it's Danielle Brothers in the title role (yes, Danielle is female) who is paid the biggest disservice by this production. I wouldn't say she's miscast because a woman in the role works--it's textually supported and makes for some tongue-in-cheek textual moments. But the part, musically, was written for a baritone male voice, and Ms. Brothers--I believe--is an alto."

[Read Full Review](#)

Fabrizio O. Almeida

Windy City Times - Somewhat Recommended

"...If the ensemble's collective performances were rooted in truth rather than mugging, the concept could work. When Miguel Cervantes is committed to the asylum, it makes sense. He believes himself to be someone he is not. He thinks windmills are dragons. Clearly, he's delusional. Heimann deserves credit for imagination and verve. If only he'd reigned in the Looney Tunes schtick and cast a Don Quixote with the requisite vocal prowess."

[Read Full Review](#)

Catev Sullivan



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Man of La Mancha Reviews

Chicago Free Press - Recommended

"...In a bold stroke of cross-gender casting that never calls attention to itself, the phenomenal Danielle Brothers disappears into the twin role of Cervantes/Quixote, delivering a subtle performance that earns every ounce of the audience's unanimous empathy. While the entire ensemble sounds marvelous—from the stirring opening duet, "Man of La Mancha," through the humorous "I'm Only Thinking of Him" to the full-throated finale—Brothers must anchor the show, which she does without any flash. Her luscious take on "The Impossible Dream" forgoes any bombastic vocals; she sings to our souls, not our ears, finessing its inherent grace—one that sweetly infuses this entire production."

[Read Full Review](#)

Web Behrens

Talkin Broadway - Somewhat Recommended

"...This is a solid, mostly well-sung production that provides a fresh take on the classic, even if that take would be unnecessary other than to support the casting of a woman in the lead male role. Musically, that casting choice plus the sometimes thin accompaniment from the four-piece orchestra, make for a not entirely satisfying performance of Mitch Leigh's music, one of the best Broadway scores of the '60s."

[Read Full Review](#)

John Olson

Centerstage - Somewhat Recommended

"... Mr. Heimann's changes are not all satisfactory. The blocking, although difficult in this tiny space, is sometimes confusing or unfocused. Many of the actors lack involvement with Cervantes's characters while trying too hard to portray the crazy inmates. Sometimes the lovely musical accompaniment simply overwhelms the actors and, particularly with Aldonza and Quixote, the actors are either singing far above or below their range. The always excellent Danielle Brothers is dramatically flawless in the leading role, although the absence of Quixote's rich baritenor was jarring. While the supporting ensemble all have moments of brilliance, only Maggie Portman as Antonia and Michael Herschberg as the Innkeeper (sporting a hand puppet as his wife) consistently shine."

[Read Full Review](#)

Man of La Mancha Reviews

Chicago Theater Blog - Recommended

"...Instead of going in a Victor/Victoria direction – a woman believing she is a man believing she's a different man – this production of Man of La Mancha introduces Danielle Brothers (Cervantes/Don Quixote) as simply a man. Brothers does an excellent job of sustaining that illusion. With a formal elocution, she portrays a man of chivalry and honor from days gone by. There are only sporadic moments of ...oh right, Brothers is a woman... during some of the songs. Singing in a range not her norm, Brothers hits the notes but loses a little power on the projection."

[Read Full Review](#)

Katy Walsh

Chicagoist - Somewhat Recommended

"...We love storefront theater. There are no daunting crowds; the actors are right there; and you can usually enjoy a beer during the show. Chicago thrives on these theaters, and Rogers Park's No Exit Café numbers among the best of 'em. And while we also love Theo Ubique and applaud their gutsiness in Man of La Mancha, we felt a little too close to this production."

[Read Full Review](#)

Suzy Evans

Edge - Recommended

"...Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre has staged a daring new production of this classic musical doing what they do best: rebuilding it from the ground up, with intimacy and immediacy front-and-center. The result? A conceptually heavy reimagining of this beloved show that is sometimes brilliant and sometimes overdone - but always entertaining."

[Read Full Review](#)

Robert Bullen

ChicagoCritic - Highly Recommended

"...surlly Man of La Mancha resets on the power of Quixote to win our



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100%

Man of La Mancha Reviews

Robert Bullen

ChicagoCritic - Highly Recommended

"...surlly Man of La Mancha resets on the power of Quixote to win our hearts. Danielle Brothers so truthfully lands the "Man of La Mancha" and the wonderful "Dulcinea" before her anthem to all quests and all dreamers—"The Impossible Dream." Brothers moved many to tears. I believe David Heimann's production succeeded and fulfilled his 'dream.' Kudos to him, to Theo Ubique and the cast for rendering a most heart warming production of a Broadway classic. This is wonderful Chicago storefront musical theatre. They prove that less is more if the director has the vision and follows his dream."

Tom Williams

Steadstyle Chicago - Recommended

"...The cast is composed of some wonderful voices, but of greater import the acting ability shines. Each character has something to add to the storyline and they do so with great ability. While Sarah Hayes as Aldonza does not have the richest of voices, what she lacks in voice is more than compensated for by the emotion and feeling she brings to this role. In the ending scene, she will bring a tear to your eye. The other players are equal in strength of character..."

[Read Full Review](#)

Al Bresloff

This show has been Jeff Recommended*

*The designation of "Jeff Recommended" is given to a production when at least ONE ELEMENT of the show was deemed outstanding by the opening night judges of The Joseph Jefferson Awards Committee. The entire production is then eligible for nomination for awards at the end of the season.



Internet

