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**Dream the Impossible Dream
at the Clarence Brown Theatre!**

Grab a bowl for a helmet, alert your sidekick and saddle up dreamers. The iconic American musical “Man of La Mancha” by Mitch Leigh, Joe Darion and Dale Wasserman rides into the Clarence Brown Theatre on April 15. Sponsored by Schaad Companies and Pilot Travel Centers, the production features a grand and stunning set, more than 50 costumes, a cast of 34 professional, undergraduate and graduate actors, and a 16-piece orchestra.

“Man of La Mancha” inspires us to cling to our ideals, to fight for tolerance and justice in the world, no matter how hard the going may get, no matter how insurmountable the obstacles confronting us may seem,” said director Paul Barnes. “It also reminds us of the power of the imagination in the way in which the story is told, and in Cervantes’ message of hope, daring, and optimism: that even in the most dangerous, confined and hopeless-seeming circumstances, we still have the power of our imagination to help us cope with and overcome whatever obstacles with which we are faced.”

In this five-time Tony Award-winning musical, Miguel de Cervantes, aging and a failure as playwright, poet and tax collector, has been thrown into a dungeon in Seville to await trial by the Inquisition for an offense against the Church. There he is dragged before a kangaroo court of his fellow prisoners. Cervantes proposes his defense in the form of a play. The “court” agrees and Cervantes and his manservant don make-up and costumes, transforming themselves into the “mad” knight, Don Quixote, and his sidekick, Sancho Panza. They then play out the story with the prisoners taking the roles of other characters. The musical is best known for its signature song, “The Impossible Dream.”

“It’s easy to overlook the time period during which La Mancha was brought to the stage, and the subject matter which led to the song itself. Produced during the Vietnam War, close on the heels of the Civil Rights movement, there were any number of deferred dreams that seemed at the time impossible to achieve and almost entirely out of reach for thousands and thousands of people struggling to live in a free country. Wasserman and Leigh’s treatment of the centuries-old material of Miguel de Cervantes’s novel, “Don Quixote,” was fresh, relevant, and thought-provoking then, and remains so today,” Barnes said.

Cervantes composed his original novel with tongue-in-cheek satire and double entendre-filled style to avoid censure--or worse--during the Spanish Inquisition. In seeming to poke fun at the adventure-filled “knight-errant” heroic writing of the day, he cloaked his criticism of the religious and political intolerance he observed and against which he wanted to speak out. Interestingly, one of the many techniques employed to elicit confessions from accused heretics was water boarding.

“Again, it doesn’t take much time to scratch beneath the surface of the musical to discover its immediacy nearly 50 years after its Broadway debut and 450-some years after Cervantes wrote the novel,” Barnes said.

Paul Barnes returns to the Clarence Brown Theatre after an absence of two years. Previous CBT productions include “A Child’s Christmas in Wales,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “All The Way Home,” and “Major Barbara.” He has directed productions in regional theaters all across the country and is producing director of the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, Minnesota, where his credits include productions of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “Much Ado About Nothing,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “As You Like It,” and more. He makes his home in Ashland, Oregon.

Musical Director Terry Silver Alford is a member of the UT Theater faculty. He has musical directed more than 100 productions in theaters across the country and created scores for four original musicals and a variety of chamber and vocal music pieces. He most recently musically directed “The Who’s Tommy” at the CBT. He earned his master’s degree in directing from UT and his master’s degree in music from Western Michigan University. He will be directing a 16-piece orchestra in this production.

“The orchestration for “Man of La Mancha” was rather unique to Broadway at the time. Instead of a full orchestra, it focused on brass, guitar, percussion, and woodwind instruments to create a more authentic Spanish sound. We will be using the same orchestration. One of the largest orchestras we’ve had in the CBT in the past several years, it is a combination of professional musicians and UT School of Music students. And, a brand new sound system will make the sound truly and finally state-of-the-art,” Alford said.

The cast will be made up of professional, community, and UT graduate and undergraduate actors. Performing the role of **Don Quixote**, **David Kortemeier** is an artist in residence at the CBT and a member of the UT Theater acting faculty and has performed in several productions. Most recently, he was seen as Creon in “Oedipus the King.” He has performed in regional theatres across the country and has a master’s degree in acting from the University of Louisville. In his third year at the CBT, guest artist **Neil Friedman will play Sancho Panza**. A recipient of Chicago’s prestigious Joseph Jefferson Award, he has performed in several Chicago theatres. He also has performed in regional theatres across the country. Most recently, he performed in the CBT’s “A Christmas Carol.” Performing the roles of **Aldonza/Dulcinea**, **Katy Wolfe Zahn** is UT Theater’s voice teacher and has been seen locally in both opera and musical theater. Most recently, she was seen at the CBT in “The Who’s Tommy.” She performs with the Knoxville Symphony, Oak Ridge Symphony and Symphony of the Mountains. She has degrees from Belmont University and UT.

Community actors performing in this production are Steve Fitchpatrick and Curtis Pettyjohn. UT Theatre graduate students are: Matthew Charles Russell Badham, Matt Bassett, Morganne Davies, Amelia Mathews, Michael Moreno, Jessica Ripton, Matthew

Ventura, and Jonathan Visser, UT undergraduate students are: Tina Arfaee, Seth Crowe, Rebecca Haden, Ted Kitterman, Josh, Garon, James Maguire, Patrick Kimberlin, Austin Land, Chip Morris, Dana Parks, Billy Kyle Roach, Andy Rogers, Mark Gregory Rudy, Samantha Huskey, Calvin Smith, Danny Sierra, Ryan Stem, Chris Stokley, Samantha Strader, Katlyn Whittenburg, and Brady Seymore.

Members of the orchestra are: Micah Layne, Angelique Postic, Bonnie Farr, Rachel Morey, TJ Perry, George Carpten, Tom Lundberg, Jeff Mize (sub), Brian Jennings, Calvin Smith, Mitzi Hall (sub), Robert Owen, David Peeples, David Slack (sub), Chad Volkens, Harold Nagge (sub), Jonathan Mannes, Burt Elmore (sub), Jay Miller, David Knight, and Hunter Deacon.

Designers include: Christopher Pickart as scenic designer; Bill Black as costume designer; Jenn Trippe as lighting designer; and visiting guest artist Curtis Craig as sound designer. Serving as choreographer and fight director are Casey Sams and John Sipes respectively.

Preview for the show is April 15. Opening night is April 16. The show runs through May 2. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Matinees begin at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$5 to \$33. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre box office at 865-974-5161, Tickets Unlimited at 865-656-4444 or online at www.clarencebrowntheatre.com.

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Who: Clarence Brown Theatre

What: Man of La Mancha

When: April 15, 2010 – May 2, 2010

Where: Clarence Brown Mainstage

Tickets: Preview: Adult \$20, UT Fac/Staff—BOGO \$17, Seniors \$17, Students \$12, UT Students Free with ID

Opening: Adults \$33, Students \$20, UT Students \$10 with ID

Wed/Thursday: Adults \$22, UT Fac/Staff—BOGO \$19 Seniors \$19, Students \$12, UT Students \$5 with ID

Weekends: Adults \$27, UT Fac/Staff-BOGO \$22, Seniors \$22, Students \$15, UT Students \$5 with ID