

Before you attend *Man of La Mancha*

Man of La Mancha, the Tony awarded musical, debut in 1965 and was based on a teleplay I, *Don Quixote*. It is one of the early dramatic musicals, or dark musicals, that came out of the mid to late 1960s during one of the most tumultuous periods in American history. *Man of La Mancha* was widely viewed at the time as an antiestablishment story and/or a depiction of man's resilient spirit while facing overwhelming adversity. FTC's production leans toward the presentation of a parable of man's resilient spirit.

Please be aware:

The setting of this one act musical is in the late sixteenth century in a grimy prison during the Spanish Inquisition. The prison is populated with thieves, murderers, conmen, prostitutes, and violent thugs. The musical depicts man's brutality to man, demonstrating the dark depths of evil that men (and women) spiral down to when hope is lost. The female lead character is a scullery maid and prostitute. She has dialogue about the transaction of sex for money. There are beatings, thefts, swordplay, deaths, and a brutal assault on a character. To present the parable's lessons, FTC has chosen to show this depravity as a starting point for these characters to either receive or reject redemption. Because of the intimacy of our auditorium, we feel that theatergoers need to have an elevated maturity level in understanding the theatrical depiction of these cruel acts. There is no nudity or blood, but as we are live theater, there is a stronger emotional connection than with film. Though the starting point is dark, the musical's journey toward redemption is what you will remember and will fill your heart with hope.

As with *Man of La Mancha's* most famous song "The Impossible Dream":

*And the world will be better for this,
That one man, scorned and covered with scars,
Still strove, with his last ounce of courage,
To reach the unreachable stars!*

It is our aim to tell this story in the belief that the act of striving for the greater Good is what elevates us from the mud. We hope you will benefit from our presentation of this powerful story.

John Phelps

Stage Director