



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

“Man of La Mancha” comes to Paso Robles
Centennial Park Amphitheater

The REC Foundation of Paso Robles will bring the story of Don Quixote to life at the Centennial Park Amphitheatre stage in the Tony award winning musical “Man of La Mancha” for the 2012 season of “Play in the Park.” Performances are Friday and Saturday September 21 and 22 at 7:30 pm and admission is free.

The natural outdoor amphitheater will be magically transformed into a 16th century prison for knight-errant Don Quixote, a dreamer, tax-collector, soldier and his servant, Sancho Panza.

Don Quixote is in big trouble when the Spanish Inquisition incarcerates him for foreclosing on a church that failed to pay its taxes. When other prisoners start picking at his possessions, he tells them a romantic story in hopes that he may keep his belongings. He describes the noble journey of a man who sets out to right all wrongs and win the heart of a good woman as he duels windmills along the way.

Audiences will be enchanted with fantasy, romance, comedy, and thrilling stage-fighting to remind us that dreams can come true if we dream the “impossible dream.” “Man of La Mancha” is one of the greatest musicals ever performed and based on one of the greatest novels ever written. The memorable score includes *The Impossible Dream*, *Dulcinea*, and the title song, also known as *I, Don Quixote*.

The production features an all-volunteer cast of 26 local North County actors ranging in ages from 14 to 70. Don Quixote will be played by veteran actor Larry Baldwin, an ophthalmologist, known to audiences for his performance as Captain Von Trapp in the *Sound of Music* for Pioneer Players in addition to many other local productions. Kyle Morriro, who has also performed throughout the county, plays the role of Sancho Panza. Emy Burzzo, the choir director at Atascadero High School and who has performed the title role of *Evita* at **The Clark Center**, fills the role of Aldonza.

The musical is directed by Cynthia Anthony and Jacob Shearer. Music direction is provided by Debbie Lagomarsino and John Laird. Lighting and sound are provided by Bill Gaines Audio.

Centennial Park Amphitheater is located at 600 Nickerson Drive in Paso Robles. Lawn seating will be available beginning at 6:30. Theatre patrons are encouraged to bring blankets, low back beach chairs and a picnic dinner. Fall evenings can be chilly so layered clothing is advised. Dogs are not allowed at this venue.

Wine, beer, and hot chocolate will be available for purchase. Admission is free and donations are gratefully accepted with proceeds benefitting REC Foundation projects.

Sponsors for the production include the REC Foundation of Paso Robles, J. Lohr Vineyards , Cynthia and Andy Anthony, and the City of Paso Robles. In addition to Concerts in the Park, the REC Foundation has sponsored an annual outdoor theatre production since 2004.

The REC Foundation was established as a non-profit organization in 2000 as a fundraising arm for the benefit and enhancement of parks and recreation in the City of Paso Robles.

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Submitted by Paula O'Farrell, 805.239.4437