

Man Of La Mancha

Charlotte Opera Presents "A Knight To Remember"

Charlotte Opera continues Super Season '85-'86 with its second offering of the four production season, "Man of La Mancha" on November 14 and 16 in Ovens Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Based on Miguel de Cervantes' immortal novel "Don Quixote," this Mitch Leigh/Dale Wasserman musical tells the story of the eccentric and idealistic would-be knight who finds nobility in his illusions and sets out to right the wrongs of the world. Originally presented in the fall of 1965, "Man of La Mancha" received every major theatrical award of the 1965-66 Broadway season. One of America's most beloved musicals, "La Mancha" continues to attract standing-room only audiences as it is performed not only in the U.S. but in Europe, Israel, Mexico and Japan.

Headlining the stellar cast for COA's production is renowned baritone John Reardon, star of Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera. In addition to starring in the musical, Mr. Reardon will also be directing the staging of the production. His interpretation of the dual role of Don Quixote-Cervantes has been critically acclaimed as "the consummate Quixote portrayal."

The fiery Aldonza will be sung by dramatic mezzo-soprano Janis Eckhart. A featured performer with the New York City Opera since 1981, Miss Eckhart is an international finalist in the 1985 Luciano Pavarotti-Opera Company of Philadelphia competition.

John David Gruett joins the cast of "La Mancha" in the tenor role of Don Quixote's faithful servant

Sancho Panza. Mr. Gruett has received critical acclaim for his many skillfully drawn and beautifully sung characterizations both in opera and musical comedy.

Returning to Charlotte Opera is William McDonald, as The Padre. Mr. McDonald is a favorite of audiences throughout the Southeast; well-remembered for his beautiful tenor voice and acting skills as Nemorino in COA's production of "The Elixir of Love" and as Tonto in "The Daughter of the Regiment."

Ted Farlow has been connected with many productions of "Man of La Mancha" as a performer, stage director and choreographer. He brings his experience to COA in the role of Barber and as choreographer, adding greater dimension to the scope of the musical.

Powerful sets designed by COA Technical Director Joseph F. Bogdan and dramatic costuming by the talented designer duo of Ronald Leamon-Henry Lewis give "Man of La Mancha" the heightened impact of musical theatre at its best.

Together with a supporting cast of outstanding American talent, this production will be toured by The North Carolina Opera with a full orchestra under the baton of Houston-based conductor Charles Rosekrans. Mr. Rosekrans is Music Director-Conductor of Charlotte and North Carolina Operas.

North Carolina Opera, touring associate of Charlotte Opera, was founded in 1978 with the purpose of bringing fully staged opera-musical theatre productions to com-

munities throughout the Southeast. The 1985 North Carolina Opera Tour of "Man of La Mancha" includes performances in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky and Florida from October 25 - November 11, and again November 18 - 23.

With a score that includes "The Impossible

Dream," the haunting "Dulcinea" and "I am I, Don Quixote," "Man of La Mancha" is certain to sell out quickly for both performances on November 14 and 16.

Ticket prices range from \$7 to \$25 and are available at Charlotte Opera, 110 East Seventh St., or by calling 372-SING, Monday through Friday, 9-5 p.m.



"PM Magazine" follows a day in the life of Susan Aklin, the reigning Miss America, Tuesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.



Deborah Shelton, who plays J.R.'s current love interest on "Dallas," joins Gary Collins as guest co-host on "Hour Magazine" Wednesday, November 20, at 9 a.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

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