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# The Adventures of Don Quixote

By

STEVEN FOGELL



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## **Cast of Characters**

**ALONSO QUIJANO, who becomes DON QUIXOTE**

**ALDONZA, who becomes DULCINEA**

**KENDRICK, who becomes SANCHO INNKEEPER**

**ROCINANTE (Horse)**

**LORETTA**

**KNIGHT OF MIRRORS/ANTONIA**

## **Setting**

The play begins with an old man, Alonso Quijano, in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century.. As the play progresses we go into his imagination and past adventures.

The stage is divided in half by a large book that opens. The titles of the book is “The Adventures of Don Quixote.” The book is used as a transition point into the fantasy world. All of the characters inside Don Quixote’s mind come out of the book. As each character arrived in the story, they posed inside the book as if in an illustration.

The book used in the first production was 12’ high by 8’ wide. The cover was made of wood and foam. When opened, the inside was a cutout wood frame, secured to the floor, from which the characters could step out.

The inside of the cover was painted with letter in

**Spanish, as the original story once was created. A curtain met the book on each side to create a way to get to the back side of the book without being seen.**

**Lighting effects lighted the inside of the book as needed, especially when the Dragon appears in the fight scene between Don Quixote and the Knight of the Mirrors. The front half of the stage was used for most of the action. At the end of the play, the characters posed inside the book on the last line, and a stagehand closed the front of the book.**

**The original giant, in the windmill scene, was made of painted foam core and stood 8 feet tall. The arms were on sticks and moved from behind. The dragon, in the battle scene, was a large dragon head made of latex with two actors flapping large fabric wings attached to poles. Sound effects were used for both the giant and the dragon.**

# The Adventures of Don Quixote

*(A small boy is playing on stage alone. He has a stick and plays with it like a sword. Alonso Quijano, wearing the mask of an old man, sits with his back to him, next to a large book.)*

KENDRICK. Take that! And that! Now I've got you! *(He thrusts sword.)* Die, dragon, die! I, Sir Kendrick, has slayed the mighty dragon! Now on to the castle! I shall become a mighty knight!

ALONSO QUIJANO *(with back to him)*. A knight, you say?

KENDRICK. Ohhh! Excuse me sir, I didn't see you there!

ALONSO QUIJANO. Many don't see me. Did you mention a knight?

KENDRICK. Oh, I was just playing a game sir. There is no such thing as knights.

ALONSO QUIJANO. Ohh, I beg to differ with you sir. There most certainly are knights, and Kings and Queens and dragons.

KENDRICK. No way! You are teasing me!

ALONSO QUIJANO. What would you say if I told you I was almost a knight?

KENDRICK *(laughing)*. You? A knight? I'm sorry to say you're . . . you're . . . a bit old to be a knight.

ALONSO QUIJANO. I may be old, but I still could be a knight. Just like Sir Galahad or Sir Lancelot of the Lake.

KENDRICK. But they be just story characters sir, made up from long ago.

ALONSO QUIJANO. No good sir, they were real knights, and knights live forever. It is the true legends of all knights. It is their destiny!

KENDRICK. Their destiny?

ALONSO QUIJANO. Yes, as long as we tell their stories and pass on their courage, they will live on and on!

KENDRICK. So what kind of knight will you be?

ALONSO QUIJANO. I will be a knight errant! A knight that wanders and strays from home! But like I said. I am not a knight as of yet.

KENDRICK. What do you have to do to become one?  
Alonso Quijano. Well, I need to slay a giant or a dragon! I must rescue a fair maiden, and do good deeds for no reward.

KENDRICK. No reward? Well, that's not fair!

ALONSO QUIJANO. Oh yes, it is most fair! A true knight is one who holds up honor and virtue above all gain!

KENDRICK. If you are to be a knight, where is your armor? And horse? And don't you need a sword?

ALONSO QUIJANO. Yes, you are right, good sir! I need the proper attire, the proper steed, and a good weapon. Look at that large book over there.

KENDRICK. I see it.

ALONSO QUIJANO. Maybe it can help us out. Who don't you go read me the title of it?

KENDRICK. All right. *(Runs over, runs back.)* Oh, yeah, I can't read.

ALONSO QUIJANO. Well first thing my friend we must do something about that. Every good squire must be able to

read.

KENDRICK. Squire?

ALONSO QUIJANO. Yes, a knight's right or left hand man.

A loyal friend that follows his knight to the ends of the world. No fun to adventure out alone!

KENDRICK. Me? A knight's squi-re?

ALONSO QUIJANO. You're not tied down to this place, are you? Married? Children?

KENDRICK (*laughs*). No. I am a stable boy here in La Mancha. But I have no parents, I am an orphan!

ALONSO QUIJANO. Same here, my friend. Same here, sir . . . sir . . . ?

KENDRICK. Kendrick.

ALONSO QUIJANO. Sancho?

KENDRICK. No. Kendrick.

ALONSO QUIJANO. Well, Sir Sancho, nice to meet you. (*Shakes hand.*)

KENDRICK. Aughhh . . . yes, the same here. Does a squire get rewarded?

ALONSO QUIJANO. Oh, yes, very well most of the time.

KENDRICK. In gold?

ALONSO QUIJANO. Well, not always gold.

KENDRICK. Silver?

ALONSO QUIJANO. Not always silver. But sometimes in pieces of land and if a squire is most true, he can earn himself his own island!

KENDRICK. Wow! My own island!

ALONSO QUIJANO. But to get an island you must be a faithful squire!

KENDRICK (*becoming Sancho*). I can do that! I can be the

best squire ever! But I still haven't learned your name.  
ALONSO QUIJANO. Let us see if this book can help.

*(Goes to book, reads dramatically.)*

“The Adventures of Don Quixote!”  
SANCHO. Who's that?

*(Alonso Quijano points to himself.)*

Are you Don Quixote?  
ALONSO QUIJANO. Presently no, but open the book Sancho! I believe what is inside can determine my fate!  
SANCHO. All right.

*(He opens book and armor hangs inside.)*

Wow! Look! What's that? Do you see it? It is some kind of suit.  
ALONSO QUIJANO *(becoming Don Quixote)*. Yes, Sancho, I see it. Step aside.

*(He goes to armor and starts to apply clothing and takes off mask.)*

Before you, you have seen but a common man, a man of Spain, a simple man named Alonso Quijano. A man devoted to his family and land! But you've seen nothing yet! Today you shall meet another man. A man of bright shining days of glory, days of virtue, honor and true tests of bravery. A man with high visions and the courage to fight

dragons, giants, and dark knights.

*(He takes sword, turns round and shuts book.)*

SANCHO. You are a knight!

DON QUIXOTE. Not yet! But soon, Sancho! Soon! We must first go on our quest. Then I must be knighted, by a King or Queen, Prince or priest.

SANCHO. A quest?

DON QUIXOTE. Yes! An adventure! It is time to set forth on a fantastic journey.

SANCHO. Where?

DON QUIXOTE. Wherever the wind leads us. We might be drawn to a troubled maiden or a castle in threat. Destiny will determine and lead us on!

SANCHO. How will we travel? By foot? Or do you have a horse?

DON QUIXOTE. Do I have a horse? Of course, you foolish man! Not just a horse but a true steed. A wild beast full of loft and sweat. An Equus of power and strength. A fine robust beast. *(Gestures to book.)* I give you Rocinante!

*(Sancho opens book, horse appears, old and feeble.)*

SANCHO *(laughs)*. Wow! Quite the horse. It looks kind of . . . old!

HORSE *(whinnies)*.

DON QUIXOTE. The finest thoroughbred this side the equator!

HORSE *(whinnies)*.

SANCHO. Are you sure about that?

HORSE (*whinnies*).

DON QUIXOTE. Who there, Rocinante! Calm down! Save your energy!

*(Horse lies down. Sancho laughs.)*

Not that calm! Get up, you beast! Now, Sancho, we are almost ready to set forth on our journey. (*Horse rises.*)

SANCHO. Do I get a horse?

*(Rushes to book opens. A stick mule is there.)*

DON QUIXOTE. Not a horse but a . . . mule of pure breeding.!

SANCHO (*sadly*). Oh boy. Thanks.

*(Horse lies down again.)*

DON QUIXOTE. It wouldn't look right for a soon-to-be knight's squire to be riding such an animal as Rocinante! You need skill and years of expert riding to handle such an animal! (*Sees horse lying down.*) Get up! Get up! You lazy beast!

HORSE (*whinnies. Rises slowly*).

SANCHO. So, is it time to go, Don Quixote? Are we ready? Ready for our quest?

DON QUIXOTE. All ready except for one thing. We must have the heart of a great maiden to ride into battle with.

SANCHO. What? Maiden's heart? Where will we find that?

DON QUIXOTE. Every knight only can go to the edge of death knowing at home there is a fair maiden to which his heart is given. (*Humming is heard.*) What is that sound?

SANCHO. I don't hear it

DON QUIXOTE. It is the sound of birds from the heavens! It has me transfixed, transformed, I am in its power!

SANCHO. Oh that. Sounds like someone humming to me.

DON QUIXOTE. Humming? It is the breath of an angel. I must find her.

*(He opens book. Aldonza stands hanging laundry.)*

Sweet angel, breathe that sound once more, let me be enchanted!

ALDONZA. What did you say? Who the devil are you? Who you calling angel?

DON QUIXOTE. Why you, my sweet creature.

ALDONZA. Do you need your laundry done or what? I don't have all day!

DON QUIXOTE. Why would this sweet creature be made to do laundry?

ALDONZA. What kind of joke is this? What's this talk? Sweet creature? Do not make fun of me! Leave me alone!

DON QUIXOTE. I have angered you! That was not my purpose. I humbly apologize and beg to be forgiven. (*Kneels.*)

ALDONZA (*to Sancho*). Is he for real?

SANCHO. Yes ma'am. I am his squire.

ALDONZA. Squire? Like to a knight?

SANCHO. Yes.

ALDONZA. There haven't been knights for hundreds of

years. Are you both thick in the head?

HORSE (*whinnies, nods yes, and lies down*).

DON QUIXOTE. Not thick in the head but bewitched, bewitched by your beauty. What is your heavenly name, creature?

ALDONZA. Not that it is any of your business, but it is Aldonza!

DON QUIXOTE. Dulcinea! Oh, it is you! At last I have found you.

SANCHO. She said Aldonza.

ALDONZA. Yeah, Aldonza.

DON QUIXOTE. Yes, oh yes, sweet Dulcinea!

SANCHO. Sir, who is Dulcinea?

ALDONZA. Yeah, who is she?

DON QUIXOTE. Who is Dulcinea? Why Sancho, it is this heavenly creature, the fairest maiden in all La Mancha. Her eyes are as rich as the temples of the pharaohs, her lips as full as the bud of a rose, and her skin so soft as the finest down.

ALDONZA. Leave me alone! I don't have time for your nonsense. Go away! You are insane sir!

DON QUIXOTE. Insane with my devotion. Please let me make my quest in your name.

ALDONZA. In my name? Your quest?

DON QUIXOTE. Let me go into my journeys, which may last for years, with you pledged in my heart.

ALDONZA. Fine, go on your journey. Please do. Good riddance! Are you sure you want to go with this loon, kid?

SANCHO. He is a knight errant! Don Quixote de La Mancha. I am his squire; wherever he goes I will follow. I may

earn an island of my own one day.

ALDONZA. Well, you two were meant to each other. Good day to the both of you. Now let me get back to my laundry.

DON QUIXOTE. One last request, my fair lady!

ALDONZA (*yells*). What?

DON QUIXOTE. Aah, the voice of a nightingale! May have a small garment to take with me if I need to go to battle?

ALDONZA. What? Of course not! What battle?

DON QUIXOTE. Just a small scrap of fabric from your gown? A ruffle.

ALDONZA. A ruffle? A ruffle he says. (*Looks around.*) Here! Here is a ruffle from which I maidenly clean my huge maiden's castle floor. Take that, sir knight! (*She throws it at him, laughs.*) Take that into your battle!

DON QUIXOTE (*puts rag in shirt*). Ohhh. I will wear it with pride and honor of my sweet lady Dulcinea. Thank you! Thank you for your attention. (*Bows.*)

ALDONZA (*to Sancho*). You better run, kid. This guy is a nut. Good luck in the battle! (*She exits into book. It closes.*)

DON QUIXOTE. Sancho, it is time! Prepare my horse. Sound the trumpets! Say good bye to La Mancha, it is time to go. The wind is blowing and our quest is under way!

SANCHO. Yes sir! (*Goes to horse, pulls on it.*) Come on, Rocinante. Get up. Get up!

HORSE (*whinnies*).

DON QUIXOTE. Sancho, a good squire can have a knight's horse ready upon the asking!

*(Sancho and Horse fall to several interesting positions to get horse up.)*

SANCHO. Yes, Don Quixote. I am trying . . . trying . . .

DON QUIXOTE. The winds are calling, Sancho.

SANCHO. I hear them, sir. Come on horse!

HORSE (*whinnies*).

DON QUIXOTE. Today, Sancho!

SANCHO. Yes sir, I . . . I . . .

DON QUIXOTE. A man's success, Sancho, is not in what he tries but what he accomplishes.

SANCHO (*pushing under horse*). Yes sir. I . . . I . . . understand.

*(Finally they have a standoff and Sancho wins.)*

There! (*Horse whinnies, Sancho collapses.*)

DON QUIXOTE. Sancho, this is no time for a siesta! We must go. Up, you lazy squire!

SANCHO. Yes . . . sir! (*He grabs stick mule.*) Ready! I guess.

DON QUIXOTE. Then onward!

*(They move, and we hear coconut shells as horse hooves.)*

What lovely countryside here in Spain. Have you ever seen lovelier, Sancho?

SANCHO. No, never, but I have never been beyond La Mancha.

DON QUIXOTE. A man must travel. Have experiences! What stories do you tell your children, Sancho, if you do not see the world?

SANCHO. Sir, I have no children. I am only twelve.

DON QUIXOTE. No excuse, Sancho. Look around, take it all in. Look at the great Sierra Nevadas. The way they spring from the earth and make large castles to the heavens.

SANCHO. Lovely mountains!

DON QUIXOTE. The lake and all its mystery! It is from a lake like this that the sword Excalibur rose by the hand of the lady of the lake. It was tossed right into the hand of King Arthur!

SANCHO. Wow! Is that true?

DON QUIXOTE. As true as the herbs and flowers that grow and become potions for evil sorcerers to transfix the common peasants.

SANCHO. How scary!

DON QUIXOTE. Not scary when you know the right route. When you know what is good and what is bad. Ahh, the sights and sounds, the . . . the . . . the . . . what is this?

SANCHO. What, sir?

DON QUIXOTE. Look! Be still!

SANCHO. What am I looking at?

DON QUIXOTE. They stand right before us, Sancho They are huge and monstrous!

SANCHO. What sir, what?

DON QUIXOTE. These giants. They are on the hillside?

SANCHO. Where? Where are they?

DON QUIXOTE. Right over there, good man! Look at their long, thick, arms spinning like madmen and how they stand so tall and firm.

SANCHO. Where? I only see . . .