

# Don Quixote



TEATRO DEI VENTI





A decorative illustration featuring a torch with a red and yellow flame on the left, and a broken lance with a wooden shaft and a metal head on the right. The text "Don Quixote" is written in a black cursive script, underlined, and positioned between the two illustrations.

Don Quixote

*Script*



## CHARACTERS

- Don Quixote
- Sancho Panza
  - Narrator
- Narrator's Assistant
- Sheep and Shepherd
  - Devils
  - Roughnecks
- Knight of the White Moon



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SQUARE INTRODUCTION

Welcome, bienvenidos, benvenuti, bienvenus,  
willkommen, bine ati venit, ave omnes...

### NARRATOR

I'm the author of this story that you're about to see.

We've been touring it for centuries, my actors and me.  
Go on, take your places, let's have the first scene!

Each time it's new, every time has its flow  
from yesterday, and toward some tomorrow  
and even today, a dream calls and we follow.

What is the dream?  
What is the dream?

An unexpected light  
that shows what's hidden at first sight  
an acrobat's brave stunts  
putting poetry on stilts.  
I'm trying to tell a different tale  
that helps lost people find their trail.

That's why we're here—so be my guests,  
come join this *centuries*-old quest.

This is the story of a man,  
This is the story of a man who read,  
This is the story of a man who read a *lot*.

Ideals sank into his heart, not just into his head  
and he imagined something more, something that  
lay ahead  
And so let's take his path as inspiration, then:  
we'll set out to travel towards a world of justice  
in which we must be heroes—and raise a real  
ruckus.

But now let's dive right in  
and see how our tale begins:  
we have a gent who's quite well read  
accompanied by a dunderhead  
he's promised him riches, his heart's desire  
and so the poor idiot serves as his squire.

Here he comes now  
Here he comes, now...  
Here he comes, now now now...  
Here he comes now...  
Here he comes...  
The Knight of the Woeful Face  
with his companion  
Sancho Panza  
and now adventures will take place!



**Don Quixote:** I'm Don Quixote de la Mancha and this is my trusty steed Rocinante, and here on my left... introduce yourself!

**Sancho:** Soy Sancho Panza and eso es EL RUCIO, and I guess he's rusty, too!

**Don Quixote:** Sancho Panza, my worthy squire.

**Sancho:** Oh yes, I'm worth it!

**Don Quixote:** Sancho, this planet of ours is ill-equipped for happiness. We must snatch joy from the future.

Let's go, Sancho.

**Sancho:** Vamos! You mean me?

**Don Quixote:** You first, Sancho!  
What do you see, my loyal squire?  
What do you see?

**Sancho:** No veo nada, señor.

**Don Quixote:** Hush, Sancho!  
Don't be fooled by appearances! What do you see?

**Sancho:** I dunno. I see what's there... *[improv]*

**Don Quixote:** That's enough, Sancho! What do you see?

**Sancho:** I see a day like any day, where I'm hungry and my back hurts. The things you do just to earn a little dough...

**Don Quixote:** NO! That's where you're wrong! That's how they *want* you to feel, tired and hungry. Look, Sancho, look. This is our country. It's there to be built. It's called the *Future*.

**Sancho:** Sure, okay, fine. But let's talk about my salary. How does that work? Are we passing the hat? Is the city going to pay? Do we have a permit to occupy public space?

**Don Quixote:** That's just it, Sancho: this space is public! The cobblestones beneath our feet belong to us all, human and non-human! That's why we have to fight! And I may very well liberate a city, or maybe an island. Where I'll make you governor.

**Sancho:** An island? Governor. As promises go, that seems vague... I can give it a shot. In any case I've got nothing better to do.

**Don Quixote:** Let's go, governor, I think our first adventure is waiting over there.

**Sancho:** Donde, señor?

**Don Quixote:** Ahead of us, Sancho, always look ahead!

**Sancho:** Ma no veo nada señor!

**Don Quixote:** You don't understand a thing about adventure, Sancho! Trust me. As I said: We must snatch joy from the future. Let's go, Sancho!

**Sancho:** Ok, vamos.

**Narrator:** Hear that? Let's go!





## 2<sup>ND</sup> SQUARE THE SHEEP

**NARRATOR**

Please, everyone, get settled in!

And now begins the true campaign  
inside this character's own brain  
I'll show you what may well arise  
if you believe nothing but your eyes.

**Shepherd:** *[Urging on his flock]*

**Don Quixote:** Look, Sancho my friend! Isn't that  
an army, ready to do battle?

**Sancho:** No me parece señor!

**Don Quixote:** And isn't that man with the sword a  
despot who commands his people like sheep?

**Sancho:** Not really, señor!

**Don Quixote:** Let us wipe every form of despotism  
off the face of the earth!

**Don Quixote:** Come forward, and I'll show you the fruit of your brash stupidity!

**Don Quixote:** Where do you think you're going, cowardly villain?

**Don Quixote:** Don't run away! Don't run away, you dirty, craven rogues! Don't leave me here!



**2<sup>ND</sup> SQUARE**  
**SANCHO TENDS QUIXOTE'S WOUNDS**

**Sancho:** Patrón? Señor! Look what they did to you! But then, you're the one who picked a fight with a bunch of sheep!

**Don Quixote:** Me duele todo, they've really banged me up. But when you're boldhearted, it doesn't matter if other people believe you. You know what keeps my heart bold?

**Sancho:** Gold?

**Don Quixote:** Of course not! It's that you've got to dream things up, Sancho my friend. I believe in possibilities, in visions! And you know what I envision?

**Sancho:** What?

**Don Quixote:** I envision a world without slaves, chains, whips... Without injustice, Sancho.

**Sancho:** But the world is what it is, believe me. Vamos! Or no, you go, you're the knight! Injustice is like a toothache. And the dentist is expensive.

**Don Quixote:** Always with your mind on money!  
We are made to forge ahead, even when our teeth  
ache!

**NARRATOR**

The first vision lets it be inferred  
that a man on his own can't stand up to the herd  
if he tries to fight its ruthless pressure  
he may find himself crushed forever.  
And now let's move on: music, please!

**Don Quixote:** Onward, Sancho!





## 3<sup>RD</sup> SQUARE DEVILS

### NARRATOR

The second vision shows the cruel master who often is the true disaster: inside our minds this master dwells and enslaves us to ourselves.

**Don Quixote:** Look at that. A sea of people, trudging along... Slaves with bowed heads, joyless and hopeless. What a pitiful sight, Sancho. What do you see?

**Sancho:** Good heavens, señor, I think the devil must be playing tricks on us!

**Don Quixote:** The only demon you must fear is inside of you, Sancho! Remember: we must snatch joy from the future. Wake up, wake up! Raise your heads and look to the sky, you nihilists!

**Don Quixote:** You see, Sancho? See how I'm encouraging them not to bow their heads?

**Sancho:** The only one I see taking a bow is the devil, patrón...

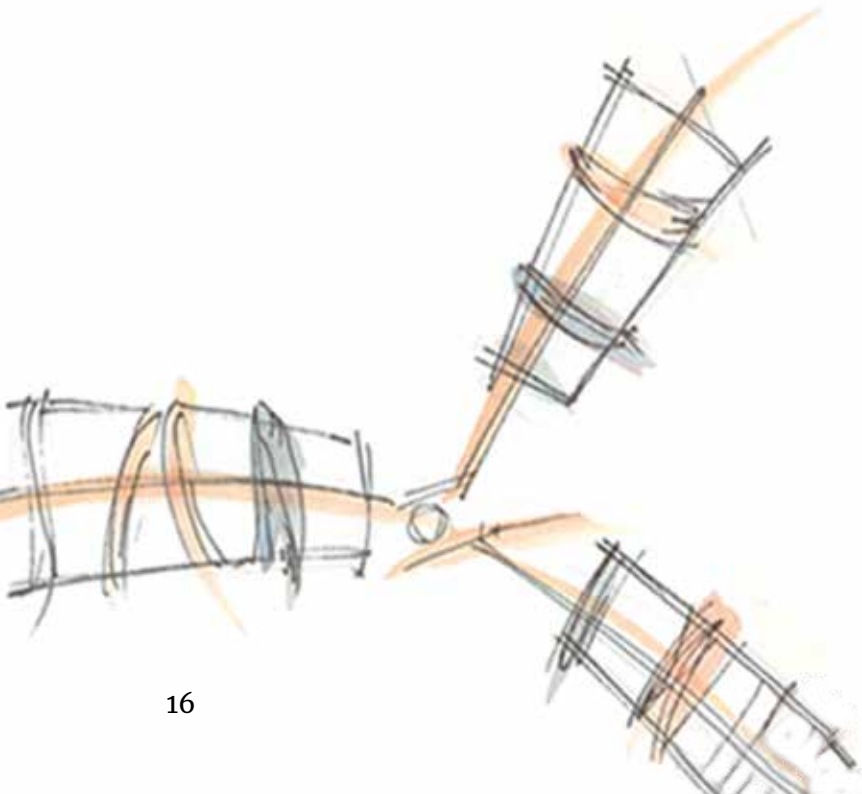
**Don Quixote:** Devils, my foot, Sancho! Stop placing the blame on others! I challenge you all, you defeatists!

**Don Quixote:** You see, Sancho? It's because I know how to dream, I can see beyond the surface, that's why I'm challenging them.

**Sancho:** I know you're good at dreaming, but this is going to end badly!

**Don Quixote:** Then stay there and don't meddle, conserve your strength to be my disciple!

**Sancho:** Señor... Look out behind you!



**3<sup>RD</sup> SQUARE**  
**SANCHO TENDS QUIXOTE'S WOUNDS AGAIN**

**Sancho:** Don Quixote, your lordship, try to get up now, come on...

**Don Quixote:** Alas, Sancho my friend, it seems everyone here is going out of their way to do harm, which would try the spirits of the most valiant knight.

**Sancho:** Oh come on, it's just a bruise or two.

**Don Quixote:** Maybe I ought to see a doctor, try to rest up a little...

**Sancho:** Well, sure, a little time off... Maybe give me a paid vacation... I could go home, see my wife...

**Don Quixote:** Perhaps, Sancho! But that's just it, just what drives us on...

**Sancho:** My wife, señor?

**Don Quixote:** No, Sancho... Love! Universal love, love of all that is beautiful.

**Sancho:** Oh, señor, what an illusion...

**Don Quixote:** Love, Sancho, is the burning force that keeps the world going! I'm mad with love. A little bruised, but mad with love.

**Sancho:** Señora Dulcinea del Toboso will be glad to hear it...

**Don Quixote:** Dulcinea? That's one of the synonyms for love! Good man, Sancho. The madness of love gives me comfort and will spur me on, towards new adventures! Let's persevere!

**Sancho:** That's the spirit! Let's go!

**NARRATOR**

Follow us to the next battle!  
For we've still got some road to travel.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SQUARE THE WINDMILLS

### NARRATOR

The third vision tells us that all giants — the rich and powerful, lords and tyrants — will beat the poor man who despairs. Without hope, he hasn't got a prayer.

**Don Quixote:** Look Sancho. Giants, giants everywhere, casting their shadow on all the humble folks who cross their path.

**Don Quixote:** I'm exhausted, Sancho. Thank goodness you're here to urge me on. Shall we challenge them? We must snatch joy from the future!

**Sancho:** Go for it, Don Q! I'm right behind you!

**Don Quixote:** I CHALLENGE YOU, GIANTS!



**4<sup>TH</sup> SQUARE**  
**SANCHO TENDS QUIXOTE'S WOUNDS**  
**A THIRD TIME**

**Sancho:** Don Q, you've got me worried. Come on, pick yourself up.

**Don Quixote:** My faithful friend, what's the point in fighting when the giants don't even see you?

**Sancho:** Oh, don't say that. If people like you lose heart, what are we supposed to do?

**Don Quixote:** Not everyone can sing victory, Sancho.  
And this world of ours is so beautiful that even dying in it is a pleasure.

**Sancho:** But living in it is a more of a pleasure. Let's go, on your feet, you're all slouched and sagging, it's not like you!

**Don Quixote:** I'm still the same man.  
And my heart has not changed  
but it can no longer cast light  
into this darkness.  
Goodnight! Goodnight to all of you! Eternal night...

**Sancho:** No! The darkness needs you... it needs us!

**Don Quixote:** I'm tired, Sancho.

**Sancho:** Tired? Nonsense! Aren't you the one who was all "onward, onward," even with a toothache?

**Don Quixote:** I need to rest, Sancho.

**Sancho:** Rest!? What was that thing you said about the future, Don Q? That catchy thing?

**Don Quixote:** Right. *We must snatch joy from the future*—but that means believing in the future, Sancho. I have a task for you.

**Sancho:** Anything you like, just don't give up.

**Don Quixote:** Do this for me. This one thing. Go and seek Dulcinea.

**Sancho:** Dulcinea?

**Don Quixote:** Dulcinea del Toboso. Love is the last remaining comfort.

**Sancho:** But how do I find Dulcinea, where is she!?

**Don Quixote:** I know that you can do it, Sancho. I believe in you.

**Sancho:** Fine, Don Q, if you believe it I believe it.



You go get some rest, I'll handle things. I'll handle things here!

**NARRATOR**

Quixote, Sancho, everyone's seeking love.  
Why bother to fight if nothing will change?  
That's why people think that Quixote's deranged.  
Hear that? Thumps and blows and bangs and dents  
that's what knights get from miscreants.  
Dreamers have no place in this world, I'm afraid.  
Quixote's in trouble, let's go to his aid!

**Sancho:** I'm coming, Don Q!



Don



## 5<sup>TH</sup> SQUARE BEATING AND FINALE

### NARRATOR

Quixote, Sancho, everyone's seeking love.  
I'll step in as the author here to observe  
that now the story takes a new twist  
and our loyal squire is put to the test.  
That meek little guy, the last rung on the ladder,  
the comic sidekick who doesn't matter:  
he gets the message, he changes the form  
in our time, Sancho is transformed.

**Sancho:** You swine! Come fight me  
You ignorant fools, I dare you! Bring it on, I'm not  
afraid! We must snatch joy from the future! You  
oafs, you bullies, you crooks! Is that all you've got?  
Out of here, get out, out, out!

**Sancho:** Don Q, what have they done to you?

**Don Quixote:** I'm exhausted, Sancho, I've been  
hit by a volley of insults, and overpowered. I don't  
think I'll be able to make you a governor.

**Sancho:** But I'm already more than a governor.

You know why? Because I can choose which side to be on, you've taught me that.

**Don Quixote:** Things are looking bad for us. The darkness is advancing. Our forces are failing.

**Sancho:** But you're Don Quixote! You're invincible! You're beyond all that!

**Don Quixote:** There's nothing beyond anything, if no one believes.

**Sancho:** What are you saying! Knights can't give up!

## DON QUIXOTE

Being knights errant is sadder than  
watching children play  
it's not as sweet as the light  
that shines its truth on this piazza.  
Sancho, there's a force as big as life  
in the step that one person takes toward another.  
But I'm tired... Nothing changes... No one sees...  
I'm lost, Sancho, lost...

**Sancho:** But I'm here, Don Q: I can fight for the same dreams as a knight, you've taught me that! I can see it now, I see it! And *now* you're giving up?

**Don Quixote:** I just want to go home. I've lost all hope. It's not worthy of a knight. Take me away from here, take me away!

**Sancho:** That's terrible to hear.

**Don Quixote:** Stop, stop!

**Sancho:** And who are you? Don Q? Who is that?  
What does he want? Don't worry, I'll get rid of  
him!

Wait, Don Q, what are you doing? Don't! Don't go  
near him! I don't like that guy!

Wait, I'm coming! I'll defend you!

**Don Quixote:** This planet of ours is ill-equipped  
for happiness and justice, Sancho. Or maybe I'm  
the problem. In any case, this is a journey I'll make  
on my own.

## **NARRATOR**

So is this the end, was this the aim?  
Is victory just leaving it all the same?  
Sancho's heart broken to pieces,  
and our valiant knight defeated?

## **SANCHO**

No, he wasn't defeated  
he got lost, he strayed  
with no one on his side  
forgive me, Don Q  
forgive us  
for what we never understood  
forgive us

for how this world hammers  
too hard

Forgive us  
for not following you  
for never believing your dream  
forgive us, forgive me  
for not speaking out against tyrants  
Forgive us, whoever's in misery  
oppressed beaten crushed, you who come last  
if we didn't defend you  
forgive us for the blows  
for the shattered bones  
for the broken spines  
forgive us, children, you who are fragile  
if war is a word that keeps coming back  
forgive us, you too,  
suffering there alone in a cell  
Forgive us, old people  
if no one admits you're shut out  
and that we bar the door  
until you're like a scar  
forgive us if you're dying  
forgive us if you're starving  
on the steps, as we waver  
forgive us, whoever  
beasts and plants, this whole world,  
for finding nothing better,  
a vision to trust in,  
that's not just adjusting.

The people who push, and trample and crush

you get used to it  
the women obliged to give up everything  
children, families  
you get used to it  
the laborers out in the fields, the sweat  
the boats lost at sea  
you get used to it  
the pieces of houses of bridges of bodies  
the massacres, fires  
you get used to it  
the little bodies wrapped in a sheet  
you get used to it  
to injustice, Don Q  
you get used to it

But redemption and love come unexpected  
they come from behind, like words on your back  
written on your face every time you imagine  
something for us all, something with other people  
that reminds you to dream, and struggle, and  
yearn  
that's how you make Don Quixote return.

Don Q!  
Here he is, coming back. It's me, all of us:  
we can and should act like heroes—we must.  
And so onward, together  
proud, unchained, untethered  
with brave banners unfurled  
against this burning world  
against ignorant cowards  
and demons in power

into the wind, over the wall  
to a land called the future, one and all.  
Let's go! Vamos!  
Andale, vamos!

**NARRATOR:**

It's time to say goodbye, as our show concludes  
but first we would like to express gratitude.

Thank you for joining us on this voyage  
across an ocean of dreams and courage.

We have to go, to seek battles and beauty  
and reawaken Quixote in some other city.

But not you: *you* stay here.

*You* stick around.

*Your* dreams are what the world really needs now.



## CREDITS AND CAST

**Concept, direction and dramaturgy** Stefano Tè.

**Texts** Azzurra D'Agostino.

**Translation by** Johanna Bishop.

**With** Alessandro Berardi, Oxana Casolari, Francesca Figini, Davide Filippi, Esther Grigoli, Alice Mascolo, Antonio Santangelo, Christian Sidoti, Cesare Trebeschi, Francesco Valli.

**Music** Iginò L. Caselgrandi, Pietro Colliva, Diego Lancellotti, Nicola Raccanelli.

**Stage Machines** Dino Serra in collaboration with Paolo Romanini, Emanuela Savi, Chiara Pettenati.

**Costumes and set design** Maria Scarano - Atelier Polvere di Stelle.

**Artistic consultant** Mario Barzaghi.

**Assistant director** Francesco Cervellino.

**Sound design** Luigi Pascale, Tonino La Distruzione, Nicola Raccanelli.



**Sketches of costumes and theatrical machines by F.M., inmate of Casa di Reclusione di Castelfranco Emilia, within the European project AHOS All Hands on Stage.**



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## TEATRO DEI VENTI

Teatro dei Venti is a theatre company based in Modena (Italy), active since 2005 in the creation of performances and in the realisation of projects that bring together creativity and community towards an effective social cohesion. They realise permanent projects in Prisons, in the field of Mental Health, in International Cooperation, with a wide experience in Creative Europe projects. They have developed artistic research in theatre for urban spaces, through the use of high-impact stage sets and the involvement of citizens, touring Italy and abroad. They have started artistic research for the production of a new work for urban spaces, 'The Human Measure' (temporary title) with several creative stages and debut planned for 2026. Waiting for this major project, in the summer of 2024 they are touring with the new performance "Don Quixote".

DON QUIXOTE

**Production**  
Teatro dei Venti.

**In co-production with**  
Solares Fondazione delle Arti Teatro delle Briciole.

**With the support of**  
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