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## audience reviews

### *Man of La Mancha*, UC Davis Theatre and Dance Department

**Review:** A must see for anyone who loves theatre and good entertainment.

**Review:** Don't be fooled into thinking this production is some rinky-dink Sesame Street-like "puppet show." This elegant and brilliantly-staged production of "Man of La Mancha" is classic theater at its very best, driven by clear vision and a cast that understands and commits to that vision every step of the way. The human performances alone are worth seeing; however, the ingenious use of bunraku-inspired puppets to tell the story of Don Quixote and his fantasy world elevates this solid production to an unforgettable one. It's a shame that this particular production will have such a short life, but one hopes that this interpretation will find extended life regionally or beyond.

**Review:** Man of La Mancha left me completely stunned. When I heard it was a puppet show I thought of your run-of-the-mill sock puppets. Not so. The puppets were intricate and stylistic works of art. The acting was fantastic and the singing was phenomenal. The actors were beautifully synchronized with the puppets, showing emotion that wooden faces could not. The actors and actresses, the puppets, the set, the costumes, the songs--everything seemed beautiful and perfect beyond words. I thought this was one of the best, most imaginative plays I have seen in a long time and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

- Rachel-bug

**Review:** This show would have been better if puppets had not been used. Each puppet needed two to three people to handle them and during large group numbers the staged appeared to cramped. The actor's expressions were lost by being covered by a puppet, thus a character

was never formed into a whole being. Despite this, Mario as Don Quixote was a strong lead with a good voice. Richard as Sancho was funny. Sancho's leg puppeteer, Matthew, did a great job and was a standout among the puppeteers.

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