

Director's Note



This season, Synetic has performed on water, on sand and even in Moscow! But with *Don Quixote*, I return to the minimalism and simplicity of how we first began. The art and architecture of Spain where this story was born has always been richly surreal but interwoven with a romantic idealism. These qualities are reflected in Cervantes' storytelling that, on the surface talks of the absurd and the imaginary, but at its core unveils the very nature of human ambition. Thus, my *Don Quixote* is an exploration of character,

motivation and yearning, set in a Dali/Bosch-esque world that is comedic, abstract and imaginary and seen through Quixote's eyes in a sequence of short stories.

One of Cervantes' contemporaries (and Synetic's good friend) William Shakespeare once penned, "the very substance of ambitions is merely the shadow of a dream." This notion, that ambition and dreaming are hopelessly intertwined, that the drive to achieve greatness is sometimes nothing but a waking dream, is a central theme in *Don Quixote*. The old knight's fantasies and foolhardy campaigns are all manifestations of his romantic ambition to selflessly do good in the world. But paradoxically, the fantasies themselves engulf his reality and begin to direct his very ambition. Quixote wants to free the world of evil, as if it were an external foe that he could vanquish forever. But the evil he fights lives in his mind and can never be eradicated, always returning to pose a new challenge that he must overcome.

We are all subject to falling into this trap. Our dreams often take on a sense of false importance that we cannot see for ourselves. Rejecting reality, we choose to live within the uncompromising rules of our own imagination. As an artist, I admit that I am particularly predisposed to this failing. But one thing is clear, I know where my imagination lies. It lies within Synetic. Onward and upward!

As always, my thanks to my faithful actors, designers and staff, who continue to charge at every challenge alongside me. Without them, I could not imagine the artistic accomplishments we have achieved thus far. Thanks also to our audiences, donors, volunteers and the DC theater community as a whole for their continued generosity and support.

And finally, as Synetic moves into the next phase of our lifecycle, we sincerely thank our Board of Directors for their commitment, counsel and support, with special thanks to our Board Chair, Jeffrey Schragg, for his outstanding service over the past years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Tsikurishvili'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Paata Tsikurishvili
Founding Artistic Director
Synetic Theater