

# FOOTLIGHTS

## Quixote

There is nothing better than going to a show with no expectations and discovering something astounding. Such is the case with *Quixote*, a co-production from New York City's Stillpoint Productions and Philly's Broad Street Ministry.

*Quixote* is staged deep in the bowels of the Center City building, where the supremely talented director Lear deBussonet reimagines Miguel de Cervante's legendary tale as a story of community purpose and possibilities.

Featuring a sharp and accessible text from Lucy Thurber, the title character Quixote (superbly played by David Brooks) inhabits the role of an errant knight. Chivalrous and determined, he seeks to right wrongs and bring justice to a world beset with suffering.

The makeshift performance space is small, but the production is huge. A professional ensemble of five is supported by approximately 30 community members.

There's also a delightful blue horse (vividly brought to life by puppeteer Robert Smythe on a bicycle) and the anarchist gypsy-punk band the Psalters, whose tribal rhythms give the show its musical heartbeat. DeBussonet makes imaginative use of the space, especially in the battle scenes, which roar with surprising fury thanks in large part to the Psalters' raucous musical accompaniment and Tracey Bersley's primal choreography.

Visually impressive (Justin Townsend's lighting is stunning) and with strong local flavor (one character announces she's from Philly), deBussonet's site-specific production draws its energy from its surroundings and the community members who form the bulk of the cast. It's community theater in the truest sense, showing social justice as a group pursuit. (J.C.R.)

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Through June 7. \$15. Broad Street Ministry, 311 S. Broad St. 1.800.838.3006. [broadstreetministry.org](http://broadstreetministry.org)