

ZORRO: FAMILY CODE

Created by Rebecca Northan, Bruce Horak,
and Christian Goutsis

Directed by Rebecca Northan



EDUCATOR RESOURCES



RBC
Emerging Artists
Project

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Zorro: Family Code

Created by Rebecca Northan, Bruce Horak, and Christian Goutsis

Directed by Rebecca Northan

STUDENT MATINEES: Tues. Dec. 4th | Wed. Dec. 5th | Thurs. Dec. 6th | Tues. Dec. 11th
(Relaxed Performance) | Wed. Dec. 12th | Thurs. Dec. 13th | Wed. Dec. 19th | Thurs. Dec. 20th

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YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AT ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS**YOUth Belong at ATP!**

Our Youth Engagement programs aim to deepen the theatre experience for young audiences and emerging artists through our plays, varied practical learning opportunities, and professional mentorship. These programs foster community, engage the inquisitive mind, and bring young audiences and artists together in an exchange around our work.

FREE PROGRAMS

Our free programs bring the excitement of live theatre, professional artists and the youth of Calgary together. These programs are stand-alone but can also be paired together with our Student Matinees to provide a totally immersive experience in live theatre.

The following Youth Engagement Programs are provided by Alberta Theatre Projects FREE of charge to youth, students, emerging artists, youth groups, educational institutes and organizations.

Conversations with Artists

Capture your students' imaginations through an in-classroom conversation with an ATP Season Artist about the artistry and skills that go into making live theatre.*

**Visits are based on the availability of artists involved in our productions and are subject to change due to illness or show requirements.*

[Conversations with Artists – Request Form](#)

Backstage Tours

Discover backstage secrets with an educational and interactive, behind-the-scenes tour of the Martha Cohen Theatre. Learn how math, science, language, technology and art are brought together to create new works of theatre in our scenic carpentry shop, costume shop, fly gallery, lighting grid and on stage.*Tours are open to all ages and abilities.

[ATP Backstage Tour Request Form Fillable](#)

For More Information about all of our Youth Engagement Programs Contact:

TALORE PETERSON TPETETRSN@ATPLIVE.COM

Artistic Associate Community & Youth Engagement

ATPLIVE.COM

ZORRO: FAMILY CODE

Created by Rebecca Northan, Bruce Horak, and Christian Goutsis

CREATIVE TEAM

Director- Rebecca Northan

Dramaturg - Trevor Rueger

Fight Director - Karl Sine

Assistant Fight Director - Brianna Johnston

Set Design- Narda McCarroll

Light Design - Narda McCarroll

Costume Design - Hanne Loosen

Composition/Sound Design - Christian Goutsis

Composition/Sound Design - Bruce Horak

Stage Manager - Kerry Johnson

Assistant Stage Manager - Emma Brager

Child Supervisor - Kate Pallesen

CAST

***Zorro aka Don Diego de la Vega* -** Derek Flores

***Isodora* -** Natasha Strickey

Miguel- Lucian-River Mirage Chauhan

***Capitan Juan Ramon* -** Tyrell Crews

***Maria* -** Mabelle Carvajal

Sgt. Pedro Gonzales/Friar etc.- Kevin Corey

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rebecca Northan

As always, it is an absolute joy to be returning to Calgary, and Alberta Theatre Projects for the Holiday Season!

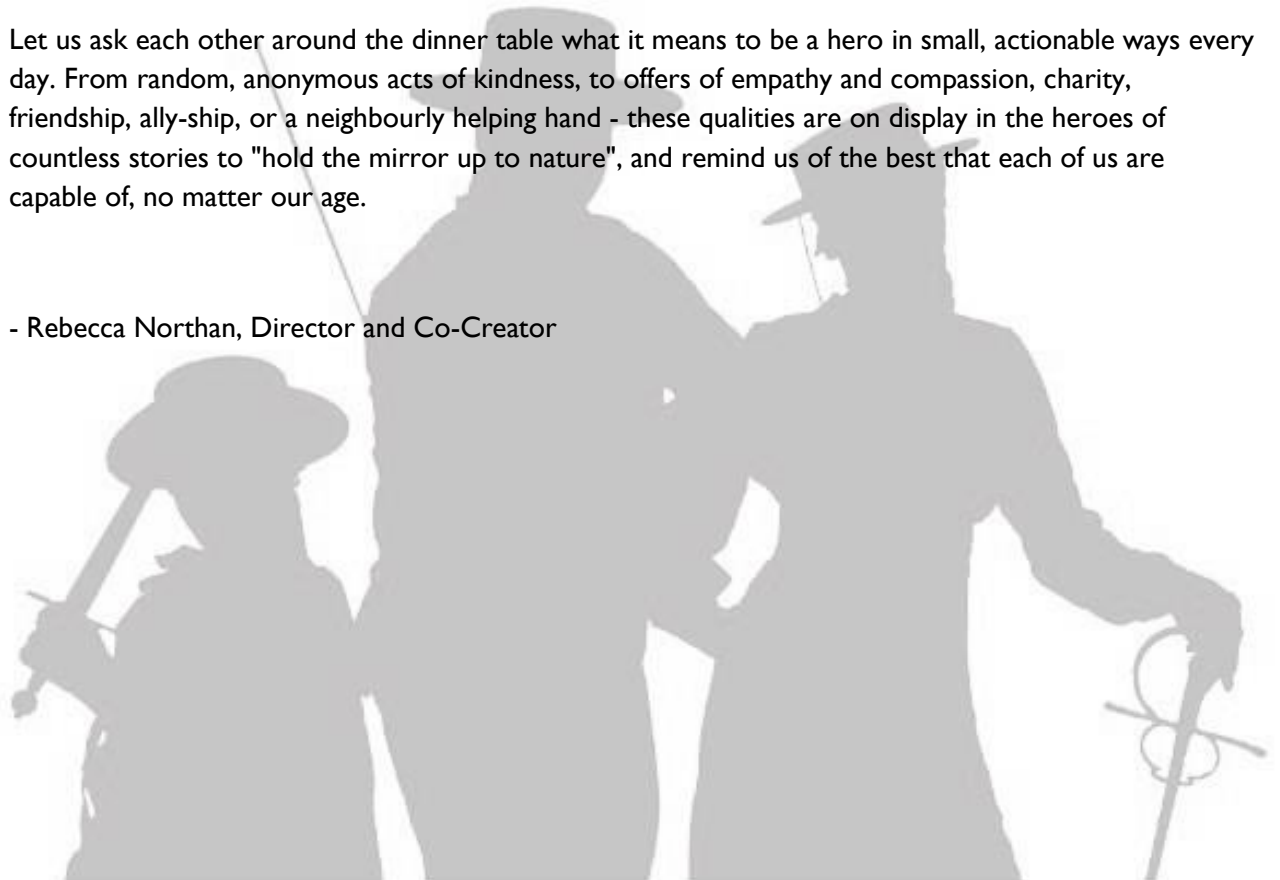
I was inspired, through our research, to learn that there is much speculation that Zorro was the template for many of our more contemporary, well-known masked crusaders. Certainly Batman/ Bruce Wayne seems to parallel Zorro/ Don Diego in numerous ways, not to mention the Lone Ranger. Some even go so far as to call Zorro "America's *first* superhero". Bruce Horak, Christian Goutsis and I have had many discussions about 'super heroes' over the years: their fundamental philosophies, their best qualities, their flaws. We share a love of the realistic hero - the one who does not possess some magical, other-worldly super power, but rather the person who chooses to do right by the world, their community, their heart, and their conscience.



It seems to me that the world is in need of as many every-day-heroes as we can get right now - so why not start at home, with a 'family code'?

Let us ask each other around the dinner table what it means to be a hero in small, actionable ways every day. From random, anonymous acts of kindness, to offers of empathy and compassion, charity, friendship, ally-ship, or a neighbourly helping hand - these qualities are on display in the heroes of countless stories to "hold the mirror up to nature", and remind us of the best that each of us are capable of, no matter our age.

- Rebecca Northan, Director and Co-Creator



ABOUT THE CREATORS

REBECCA NORTHAN

Rebecca Northan is an actor, theatre director, improviser and improv teacher. She is a graduate of the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama. Rebecca did her improv training at the Loose Moose Theatre Company in Calgary, Alberta with Keith Johnstone (creator of Theatresports, author of "Impro" and "Impro For Storytellers") and Dennis Cahill (Artistic Director). Rebecca was nominated, along with fellow cast members, for a Gemini Award in 2004 for "Best Ensemble Performance in a Comedy Program or Series" for "The Joe Blow Show", directed by Linda Kash. She was also nominated for a Dora Award for "Best Actress" for her work in the theatrical production of "Dear Boss", by Toronto playwright Eric Woolfe. Rebecca is also a 5-time Canadian Comedy Award nominee for "Pretty Funny Female Improviser". When not acting, Rebecca teaches improvisation in the business community through her company Biz-Improv.



BRUCE HORAK

Bruce Horak is an award-winning composer, writer, performer, and visual artist who began his career here at Alberta Theatre Projects as a Junior Apprentice. FOR ATP: Slipper (Sound Design/Composition), Charlotte's Web, The Wizard of Oz, This is CANCER, Robin Hood (Sound Design). ELSEWHERE: An Undiscovered Shakespeare (The Stratford Festival, London Grand), Undercover (Vertigo Mystery Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Tarragon Theatre), A Christmas Carol (National Arts Centre), Assassinating Thomson (Stratford Festival Forum).



CHRISTIAN GOUTSIS

Christian is thrilled to have collaborated in the creation of this show and its music, and to work with and laugh with dear friends Rebecca and Bruce, and the amazing cast and crew. Christian has been a theatre professional for the past 25 years, and has been fortunate to have worked at every major theatre in Calgary, as well as coast to coast across Canada, the U.S., and abroad, as an actor, director, designer, musician, and teacher. He is a multiple recipient of Betty Mitchell Awards, Calgary Critic Awards, and a multiple AMPIA Award nominee. Christian is Casting Director and Voice Director at Six Degrees Music and Productions. He makes Calgary home with his wife Kelly, and two boys – Simon and Clayton.



SYNOPSIS

There comes a moment in every masked crusader's life, when even he must admit that the years are catching up with him. For 20 years Don Diego de la Vega has donned the mask of Zorro to stand on the side of justice, and carve a tell-tale "Z" into the hide of those who insist on taking advantage of the less fortunate. Time takes its toll though; the once lithe and acrobatic el Zorro has a bit of arthritis in his knee, and a few too many tamales have added extra holes to his belt. De la Vega dreams of settling down, seeing his daughter, Isodora, married off, and passing on the mask and sword to his young son, Miguel, when he comes of age....and, perhaps it might even been time to find love again?

Fate has other plans though...



Zorro's arch nemesis, Capitan Juan Ramon, infamous in the Capistrano region of California for his corrupt and ruthless tax collecting, after being stripped of his military title and imprisoned for his crimes has managed to escape prison in America and returned to Spain to his home town of Pueblo de la Costa. He and his companion Gonzales promptly begin robbing and tormenting the local towns people. Never one to stand idly by in the face of wrongdoing, de la Vega(Zorro) follows Ramon back to their hometown to take up the blade and find a way to stop Ramon once and for all...if only he weren't so tired.

Upon the reunion of these two foes the wicked Capt. Ramon is only too eager to take advantage of Zorro's rumoured weakness - with every inch of his flesh emblazoned with the "Z"s of past run-ins, Ramon is ravenous for revenge. When a near-fight-to-the-death on the precipice of a dark and dangerous gorge results in a surge of youthful power from Zorro - a new rumour is started: Has el Zorro found "la fuente de la juventuda" - the Fountain of Youth?

Only de la Vega knows the truth: that someone is masquerading as a second Zorro!!! And, this will never do, as this younger, stronger imposter does not seem to know the most important thing about being Zorro - that there is a sacred Code that guides the blade of the hero: Zorro must never kill.

SETTING

The play is set in the rural town of Pueblo de la Costa, off the East Coast of Spain.

STYLE

Metatheatre, and the closely related term metadrama, describes the aspects of a play that draw attention to its nature as drama or theatre, or to the circumstances of its performance.

These may include: the direct address of the audience; expression of an awareness of the presence of the audience (whether they are addressed directly or not); an acknowledgement of the fact that the people performing are actors (and not actually the characters they are playing); an element whose meaning depends on the difference between the represented time and place of the drama (the fictional world) and the time and place of its theatrical presentation (the reality of the theatre event); plays-within-plays. This can also be known a “breaking the fourth wall”

Zorro: Family Code employs this theatrical style for some of the more humorous moments in the play.



CHARACTERS

Diego De La Vega - An unknown hero to many in the quaint town, at least when he isn't playing the part of the famous and daring "El Zorro". This courageous man is a kind, assertive and knowledgeable father to his children, Miguel and Isodora as well as a friend to others. Not only is Diego a caring parent to the rambunctious pair but, he deals with the challenge of secrecy and identity throughout the play.

Miguel De La Vega - A mouthful of amusement and factual expression, he doesn't hold back. Miguel is the son of Diego De La Vega, but not quite a spitting image of his father. Through the many series of events in this play, he uses his courage and smarts to defend his father, himself and others in times of need.

Isodora (Izzy) De La Vega - Isodora is the blunt daughter and jealous sister type we can categorized as "the typical teenage girl". With the mother of the De La Vega children gone, Isodora and her brother find that they must figure some things out on their own. Besides the strength of her confidence, bravery and good heart, Isodora struggles with her needs and recommendations being heard. As her journey progresses, she learns more about her father and her aspiring capabilities.

Maria - An admired and well-spoken woman who spends much time with the De La Vega family while maintaining her papa's Inn. She is present for the ups and downs others deal with and acts as a supporting hand.

Cpt. Juan Ramon – An exaggeratedly confident and strong minded individual who is proud of his title and has an ongoing goal to defeat Zorro. He doesn't hide his feelings for Maris and uses trickery and dishonesty towards others to get what he wants.

Sgt. Pedro Gonzales - Gonzales adds a unique and fun loving touch to the play considering his susceptibility to gullibility and control. He tags along and is frequently controlled and criticized by Cpt. Ramon.

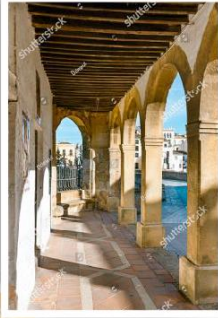
Friar – A wise, understanding figure in the village and a long term friend of the De La Vega family. He encourages Izzy’s sewing skills and is supportive towards Miguel as well as the community.

Local – An uncertain and cautious man who is interested in turning in Zorro for the ransom money in order to support his family. The local interacts with Zorro in a non-violent matter and the two hatch a plan.

DESIGN

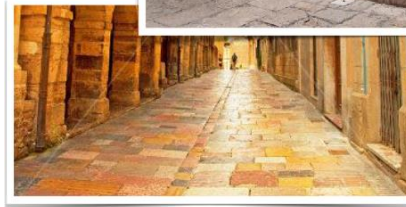
SET DESIGN

by Narda McCarroll



Zorro Prelims
Set Images

Here you can see the set design inspiration images. These collages are used by the director, set carpenter and scenic painter to demonstrate examples of what the finished product should emulate.



Zorro Prelims
Stage Floor Images



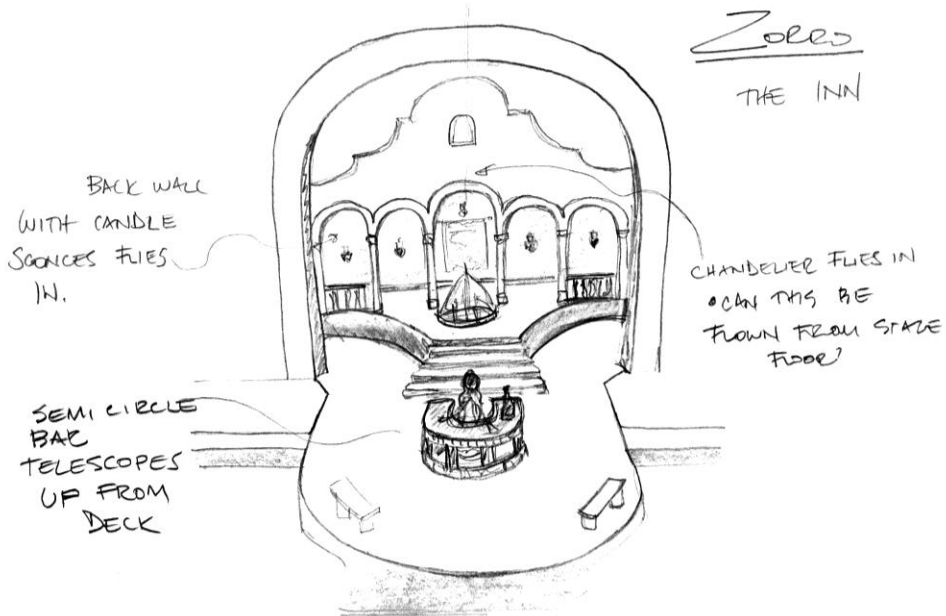
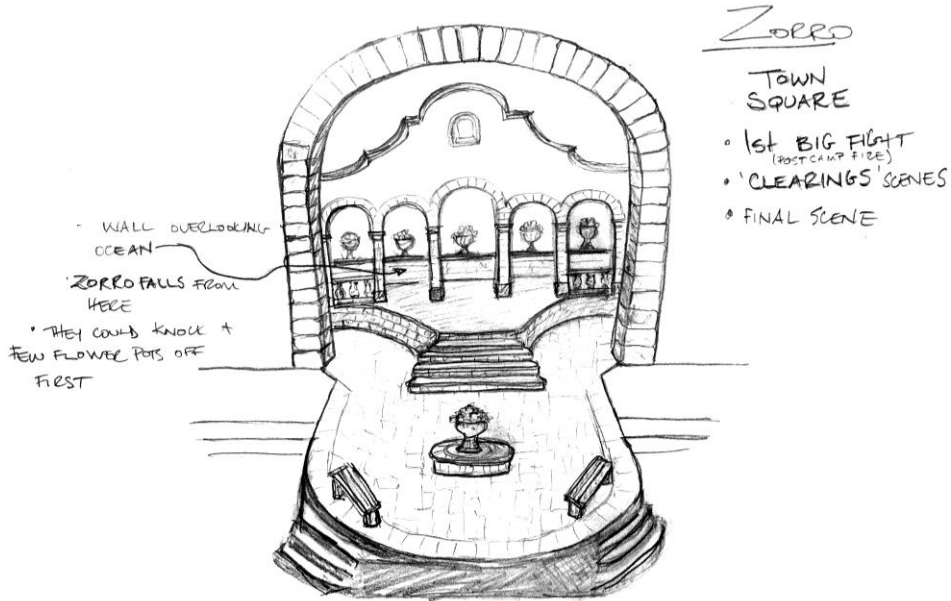
Zorro Prelims
Tree Images

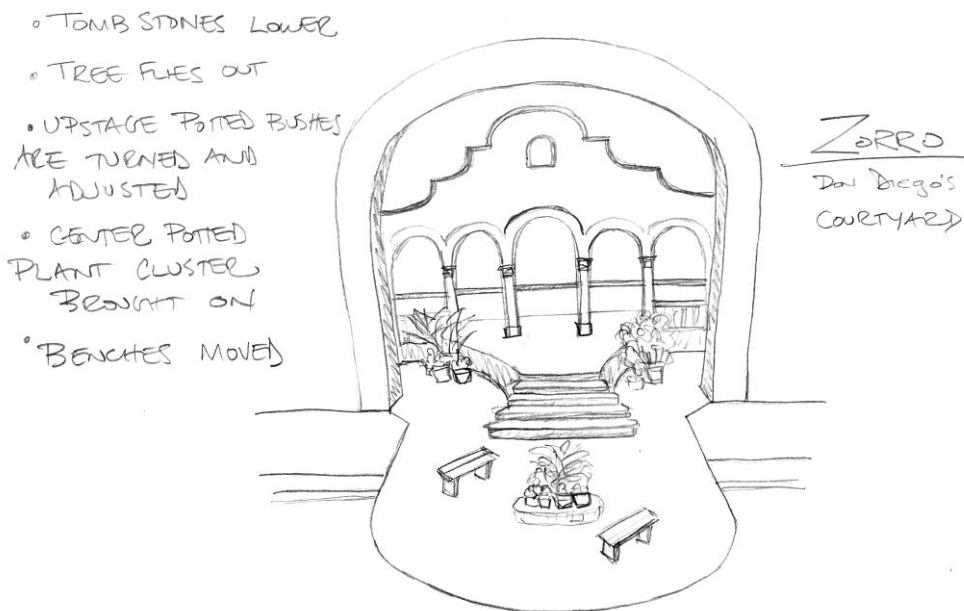
The designs are inspired by traditional Spanish architecture. To visually support the fun and entertainment of the show a bright colour palette has been created. This will enhance the playful energy of the play.



Zorro Prelims
False Props Images

The action of the play moves between 4 different locations: The Town Square, The Inn, The Cemetery, and Don Diego's courtyard. Below you will see the design sketches and notes from set designer Narda McCarroll. Notice how she has identified small changes that will be made to the set to reinvent the space in order to depict a new location.

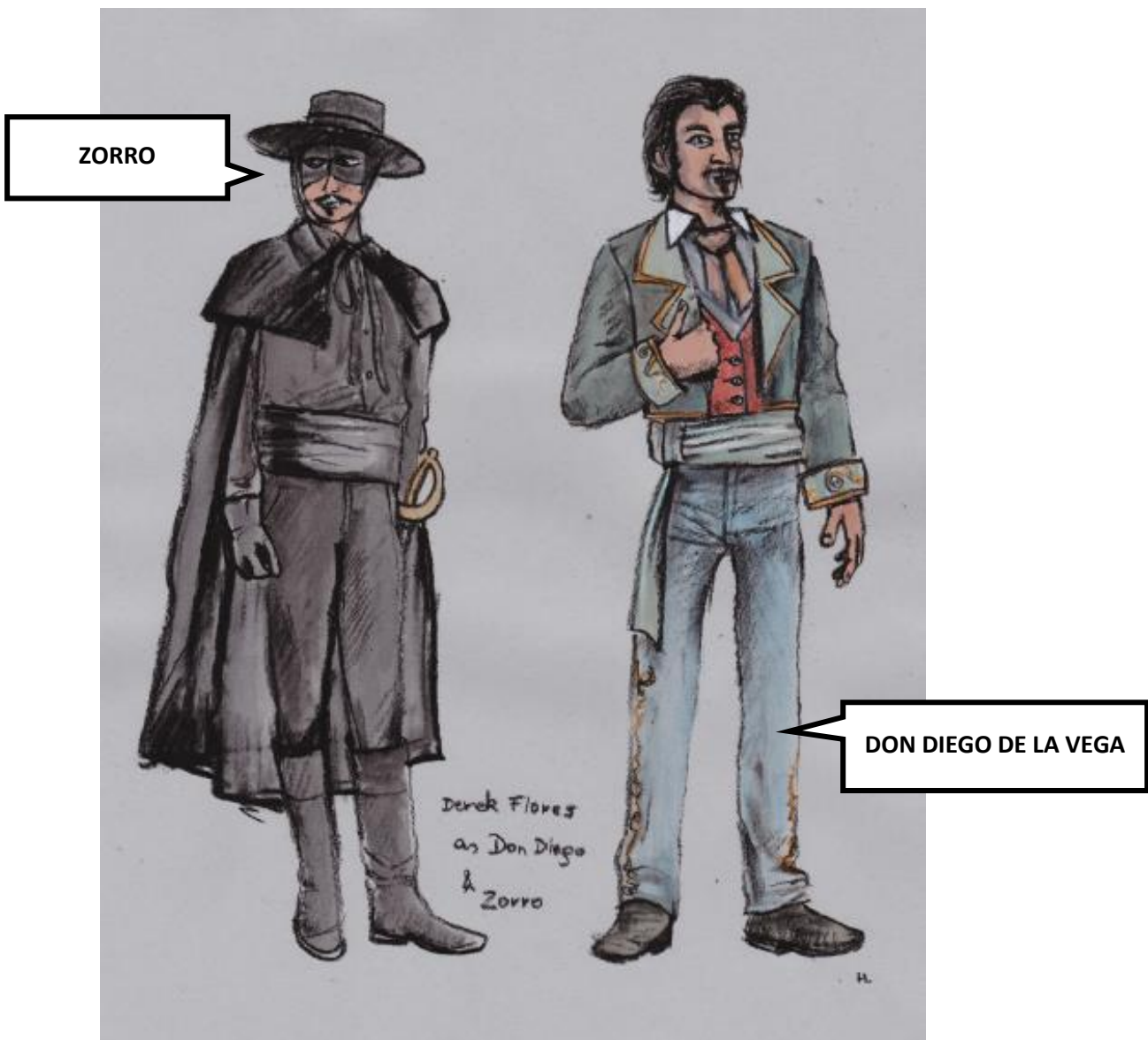




COSTUME DESIGN

by Hanne Loosen

In order to make the costumes pop out against the already colourful set, the designer has chosen a pallet of colours that have not been used in the set.

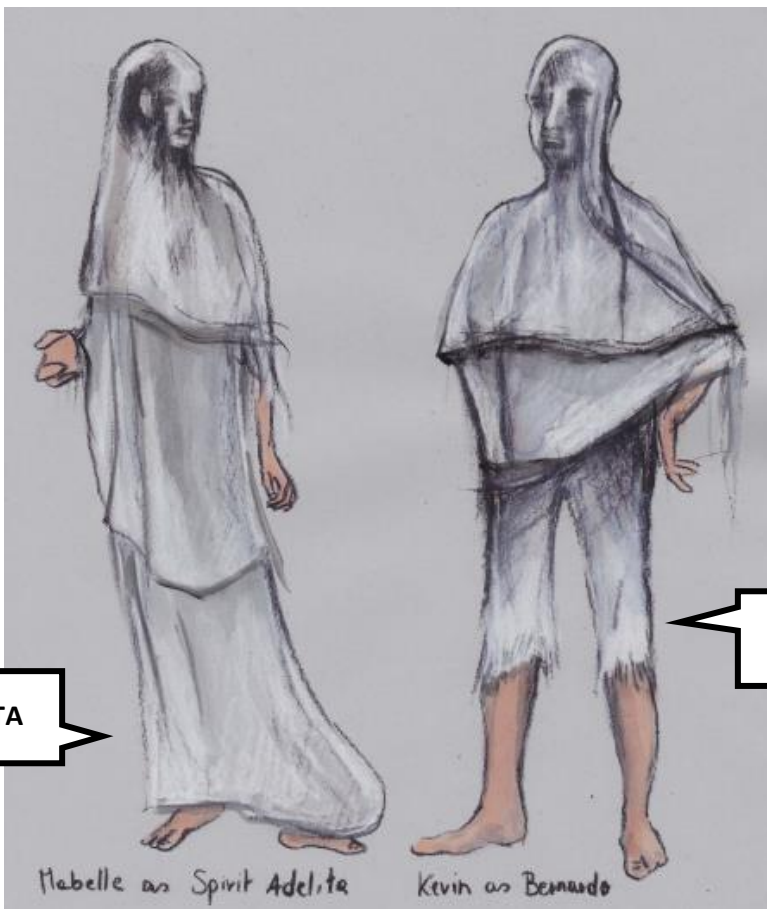




ISODORA DE LA VEGA



MARIA



SPIRIT OF ADELITA

SPIRIT OF BERNARDO



JUAN RAMON

THEMES AND TOPICS**THEMES**

Moral Code

Justice vs Vengeance

Aging

Legacy

Gender Equality

Forgiveness

Family

Expectations

POST SHOW DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 1) What is the difference between Justice and Revenge?
- 2) What is your moral code?
- 3) How are our morals learned?
- 4) What do you want your legacy to be?
- 5) Discuss how masculinity and femininity are perceived in this play. How do the characters embrace both the “Masculine” and “feminine”?
- 6) What are the expectations that each of the characters face? How does this differ from what they want?