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Lope de Vega (1562-1635) born into poor Spanish peasant family; a soldier at 15, took part in the Great Armada, but spent his time writing poetry; wrote more than 1700 plays, as well as many novels and poems. Had two wives, many children, many mistresses; became a monk. His plays are performed regularly everywhere in the world except in Great Britain.

PRODUCED BY
JOAN LITTLEWOOD

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 1955 — SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd
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54 different wines, beers and spirits can be had from Mrs. Parham in the Long Bar. Tea, coffee, chocolates and snacks from the Snack Bar.

In accordance with modern theatre practice, National Anthems will only be played in the presence of Royalty.

The setting designed by John Bury and built by John Bury, Clive Barker and Jo Benson. Costumes designed by David Walker and made in the Theatre Workshop wardrobe by David Walker and Josephine Wilkinson.

Lighting and Stage Direction...JOHN BURY
Stage Management...CLIVE BARKER
Lighting Operator...JO BENSON
Bars...RUTH PARHAM
Cleaning...Mrs. BANKS, Mrs. CHAMBERS
Mrs. BARDELL, Mrs. WOOLMER
Fireman...BERT POOL
Poster Design...GEOFF. MILLER
Photography...JOHN SPINNER
Secretary...MARY LEFEBVRE
General Manager...GERALD C. RAFFLES
Assistant Manager...DENIS FALSHAW

We gratefully acknowledge the courtesy and help we have received from: The Gnomes of Paysage Madame Tussaud’s Waxworks; Scaffolding by Boulton Tubular Structures Ltd., S.W.18

Stockings by Kayser Bondor. Virginia Cigarettes by Abdulka.

“ In the interest of Public Health this Theatre is disinfected throughout with Jeyes’ Fluid ”

SETTING:
The stage represents a landscape in the rocky, arid countryside where the play is set — the District of Cuidad Real in the land of Spain in the year 1476.

Spain is divided by civil war: the people of the village of Fuente Ovejuna are loyal to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Fernando Gomez, their lord, fights for the opposing faction.

The songs and music you will hear were collected in this district of Spain last year by Alan Lomax and are arranged by Ewan MacColl.

These songs date back to the time of the true events recorded in the play.

In 1934 the people of Cuidad Real, subjected again to tyrannical rule, rose against their oppressors singing these same songs and shouting the slogans which had inspired their ancestors 550 years before.
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John Marston—a contemporary and friend of Shakespeare—was a great moralist and was often in trouble for attacking The Establishment. His satires were publicly burned, he was imprisoned together with Ben Johnson and Chapman for making fun of King James’ court, he was one of the protagonists in the "War of the Theatres" in which the Elizabethan and Stuart dramatists made fun of each other in their plays, and he retired in the end to become a Minister.

There are no lay figures, no heroes, no villains and no types to be found in most of Marston’s work. Above all, there are real women. Influenced as he was by the Spanish and Italian theatres of his day where women appeared on the stage, he was the only dramatist of the Golden Age of the English theatre who could write as real women think.

the setting made by
costumes by
stage direction and lighting
stage management
assistants
lighting operator
bars
cleaning
fireman
poster design
theatre maintenance
photography
voice training
movement training
swordsmanship
secretary
house manager
general manager

John’ Bury
Margaret Bury
John Bury
James Lovell
Pat Turney, Alan Brett and Paoli di Leonardis
Jo Benson
Ethel Murphy, Ruth Parham
Meg Chambers, Bea Woolmer, Maureen Whale
Derek Fuke
George Mayhew
Bila Tatrai
John Spinner
P. R. Pfaff
Jean Newlove
Professor Simmonds
Coral Dent
Cavan Lambart
Gerald C. Raffles

Many different wines, beers and spirits can be had from Mrs. Parham in the Long Bar, Tea, coffee, chocolates and snacks from Mrs. Murphy in the Snack Bar.

In accordance with modern theatre practice, modern theatre practices, National Anthems will only be played in the presence of Royalty or Heads of State.

Flowers in the front of the Theatre are by courtesy of Four Seasons Florist, Martin St. Stratford and Leytonstone.