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Don Quixote

USSR 1957, 107 minutes, English sub-titles, £8.25

Directed by Grigory Kozintsev

With Nikolai Cherkasov and Yuri Tolybeyev

In this famous Russian version of the novel by de Cervantes, Alonzo Quixano, a noble Spaniard who has read so many novels of chivalry and adventure, decides to become a knight errant himself. He chooses a beautiful noble woman as his patron, takes the name of Don Quixote de la Mancha, arms himself with his ancestral sword and lance, and sallies forth, with his faithful squire, Sancho Panza, in search of heroic exploits in the name of honour and justice.

* * *

Kozintsev's poetic treatment is made possible by inspired casting. What other actor could play Don Quixote like Nikolai Cherkasov, so tall and gaunt that you expect him to fall to pieces, so gentle and noble and other worldly that he breaks your heart with every glimpse and sentence?" DAILY TELEGRAPH

