



The Legend of ZORRO is Born Again! - in "Z"! A Latin musical that will make your feet dance and your spirits soar. "We are embracing the passion and dark sensuality of the Flamenco dance theater in "Z" explains Mr. Cilento. "An earthy, acoustical sound in the music." "It is always exciting heading up a creative team developing a new musical. The 'Gypsy Kings' have the sound that we are bringing to the show. In fact Flamenco both in dance and music originated from the Gypsies. In our version Zorro is the grandson of a Gypsy Princess and a Spanish Count. That - 'heritage' - explains a great deal of what makes Zorro tick. And that. . . is passion! A man who cannot dance - cannot love. A man who cannot love - cannot fight! Zorro is a thief-in-the-night, who steals back the freedom of his people, a piece at a time. And it is a very good time that we intend to provide our audience."

Mr. Cilento is the choreographer of the Elton John-Tim Rice Broadway musical, Disney's Aida. Winner of the 1993 Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, and Fred Astaire Award for Best Choreography for Tommy, Mr. Cilento was also nominated the Tony for the hit revival How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying and Dream:The Johnny Mercer Musical, which he also directed. An original cast member of A Chorus Line, Mr. Cilento's long list of credits as a performer include The Act, Seasaw, Perfectly Frank, Irene, Big Deal, and his Tony-nominated performance in Bob Fosse's Dancin'. He created the choreography for Jerry's Girls, Baby (Tony nominee), and Off-Broadway's A Hot Minute and Angry Housewives. In addition, he choreographed over 100 national commercials, including those for Dr. Pepper, Burger King and McDonald's. Internationally, he has staged shows for such diverse artists as Liza Minnelli, Billy Joel, Chita Rivera, Barry Manilow, Donna Summer and Pete Townsend. Mr. Cilento directed and choreographed Spirit, which currently is on national tour.

Z, The Masked Musical is inspired by the character of "Zorro" in The Curse of Capistrano, by Johnston McCulley. With a new book and lyrics by Robert W. Cabell (Off-Broadway's Pretty Faces, Two Hearts Over Easy), a celebrity CD of the full theatrical score was released in 2000. Featuring Broadway talents Deborah Gibson, Ruben Gomez, Phyllis Newman, Kaye Ballard, Marc Kudisch, Roberto Blades, Sean McDermott, Jeff McCarthy, Christiane Noll, Robert Evan, and Michael DeVries, the CD is now available via Amazon.com.

Produced by Rickie Roberts, Michael Parker, and Z Entertainment, Z, The Masked Musical is being represented by the William Morris Agency. Sound bytes and CD cast bios are available at ZMusical.com.

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The spirit of the legend of Zorro is stronger than ever! This recording stays true to the Spanish theme and distills the essence of the story musically with a symphonic score for the noble-born characters and a more folksy, mariachi-inspired sound for the townspeople. Seasoned pros such as Deborah Gibson, Kaye Ballard, Broadways' Sean McDermott and Menudo-veteran Ruben Gomez interpret songs from the musical. And if that weren't enough, look for two bonus tracks produced by none other than Tony Moran! - Richard Tressan

SHOWMusic Spring 1999 Volume

Z - THE MASKED MUSICAL (Getzeed Productions 89762; 67:58) is the concept recording for Robert W. Cabell's adaptation of the legend of early California's Robin Hood, Zorro. Lavishly produced, the album features ex-Menudo heartthrob Ruben Gomez as the lead character, Robert Blades as Diego, Zorro's less adventuresome alter ego, Deborah (nee Debbie) Gibson as his (their?) love interest and Kaye Ballard Phyllis Newman, Christian Noll, Sean McDermott, Marc Kudisch, Jeff McCarthy, Michael DeVries, and Lynn Halverson singing cameo roles. Cabell's idea to give songs for the Spanish nobles and peasants contrasting sounds - symphonic for the former, mariachi for the latter - is a good one, although I'm not sure his straightforward approach to this story is quite so successful, because it doesn't allow for variety in the score. As Antonio Banderas illustrated in the recent Zorro film, a little tongue tucked firmly in cheek doesn't hurt the effectiveness of the legend. But Cabell has some effective and attractive melodies (his lyrics have a number of predictable rhymes) that make this well produced album quite listenable.

England's Musical Mag MASQUERADE (April) issue # 33 1999 Volume

In the light of the recent Zorro movie it seems an opportune time to release a musical based on the daring exploits of the hero of the oppressed Californian peasants. And that is just what Robert W. Cabell has done with Z - The Masked Musical. Cabell has adopted quite an unusual approach to the project, marrying two diverse musical styles with pop flavored show tunes sitting side by side with music with a strong traditional Spanish feel. A sort of Frank Wildhorn meets the Gypsy Kings. But on the whole the experiment is surprisingly successful.

Personally, I found that the Spanish influenced songs worked better but that may be because I am not a major fan of the more poppy side of musical theatre material. Consequently I felt that songs like the swaying "Sweet Siesta", the sultry "Dance of Love" and the vivacious "Fiesta Amor" had much more to offer than the ballads. Oh there are a couple of worthwhile offerings ("Ivory Tower" and "Just Close Your Eyes") but generally they lack invention and some become bogged down in schmaltz.

Z-The Masked Musical is a concept album but one of the highest quality, beautifully recorded with a fine cast and nicely packaged. The lead roles are performed by Robert Blades (a relation of Ruben Blades of The Capeman fame perhaps?), Deborah Gibson and Ruben Gomez in a first class manner well supported by a large and impressive chorus and some talented musicians.

Z-The Masked Musical is a classy, enjoyable and entertaining album. It is released on GZD-89762; for more information on the project why not visit web site www.z-musical.com