

DON QUIXOTE

Day Four





THE FUTURE OF DON QUIXOTE

Emma Stone

Jonah Hill

MANIAC



- ▶ Set in a surreal (and yet oddly retro) near future, the series follows a drug addict (Emma) and a schizophrenic (Jonah) through a series of bizarre alternate realities caused by experimental drugs
- ▶ It also contains persistent references to a certain book that is precisely about the difference between reality and fantasy
- ▶ In this clip, for example, Annie decides to break her drug habit and visit her long-estranged sister—to become “healthy”

Maniac, "Windmills"



Emma Stone

Jonah Hill



MANIAC

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- ▶ Hopefully, you understand this scene as *ironic* — reading *Don Quixote* will make me sane and well!
- ▶ What Annie describes *sounds* healthy — travel, reading books, exercise, and “taking care of your mind” — but this is what Don Quixote does!
- ▶ Meanwhile, the radio interview in the background suggests link between “individuality and art”: the self is a work of fiction
- ▶ Much later in the series, in the next clip, we learn of a “lost chapter” to *Don Quixote*, one that sounds suspiciously like *Maniac*. Is there any world other than *Don Quixote*?

Maniac, "Exactly Like You"



THE TRUE QUIXOTE & THE FALSE QUIXOTE





S. D. 1879

H. PIRAN.



THE FALSE QUIXOTE

- ▶ Quixote overhears two travelers (Jerónimo y Juan) discussing the false *Quixote* by Avellaneda.
- ▶ they pronounce it inferior in quality; Quixote says the problem is it's *untrue*
- ▶ travelers immediately “quixotify,” praising him as the greatest knight
- ▶ Quixote “invalidates” Avellaneda by not going to Zaragoza; fiction is false when it does not agree with reality — *Don Quixote* sets the standards of what *is* reality.

“Don Juan: “By heaven,
Señor, while they bring in
our supper, let us read
another chapter of the
second part of *Don Quixote
of La Mancha.*”

—*Don Quixote, II: LIX*

“ Quixote: [Avallaneda] “deviates from the truth in the most important part of the history, because he says that the wife of my squire, Sancho Panza, is named Mari Gutiérrez, which is incorrect, for her name is Teresa Panza.”

—*Don Quixote, II: LIX*

“ Jerónimo: “he depicts you [Sancho Panza] as gluttonous, and simpleminded... very different from the Sancho described in the first part of the history of your master.”

—*Don Quixote, II: LIX*

DON QUIXOTE & THE TALKING HEAD





COYPEL, 1716



TALKING HEADS

- ▶ identical to the puppet master sequence earlier (man “in the know,” magic fortune-telling device, tricks on Quixote)
- ▶ More elevated version, however: Don Antonio is to Mastro Pedro as the magic head is to the talking monkey
- ▶ Anonymous Castilian (Cervantes?) yells truth about Quixote: the quixotification of the whole world

“

“The devil take Don Quixote of La Mancha! You’re a madman. If you were a madman in private, it wouldn’t be so bad, but you turn everyone who talks to you into madmen and fools, too; if you don’t believe me, just look at these gentlemen who are accompanying you.”

—*Don Quixote, II: LXII*



DON QUIXOTE & THE BOOKSTORE



DON QUIXOTE'S
NOT THE MAN HE WAS
IN THIS BOOK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S FORGOTTEN
ABOUT DULCINEA DEL TOBOSO, THAT
HE DOESN'T LOVE HER ANYMORE,
I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE WHOLE
BLOODY POINT OF THE BOOK!



WHO CLAIMS THAT DON QUIXOTE
COULD FORGET DULCINEA? I WILL
GLADLY MEET HIM WITH EQUAL ARMS
AND DISPATCH THE IMPOSTOR.

IT'S ALL
IN HERE.





I TAKE OFFENCE
AT THE PREFACE,
TO BEGIN WITH---
I'LL READ NO
MORE.

NO, ME
NEITHER!





THE BARCELONA PRINTER

- ▶ *traduttore, traditore*: translation is both the loss and the source of meaning (like all creative acts in language)
- ▶ Don Quixote, who lives in the world of books, enters a printer's workshop, the world of books, in *Don Quixote*, the world of books
- ▶ encounters, and once again, refuses the false continuation of *Quixote*

“Translating from one language to another is like looking at Flemish tapestries from the wrong side, for although the figures are visible, they are covered by threads that obscure them, and cannot be seen with the smoothness and color of the right side.”

—*Don Quixote, II: LXII*





Remember: we are supposedly reading a translation, made by an unreliable translator, of a chronicle written by the Moor Cide Hamete — who swore as Catholic Christian to tell the absolute truth.

THE DEATH OF DON QUIXOTE





QUIXOTE'S CONVERSION

- ▶ Quixote turns sane—and dies. Are they the same?
- ▶ Quixote turns sane—but *no one else* can let go of his elaborate fantasy
- ▶ attempts to translate his lost love for novels of chivalry into the pastoral
- ▶ tragic ending, or comic?
Conservative (religious) ending, or something more... anarchic?
disobedient?





W. Story.



“ Quixote: “Good news, Señores! I am no longer Don Quixote of La Mancha but Alonso Quixano, once called *the Good* because of my virtuous life. Now I am the enemy of Amadís of Gaul and all the infinite horde of his lineage; now all the profane histories of knight errantry are hateful to me; now I recognize my foolishness and the danger I was in because I read them; now, by God’s mercy, I have learned from my experience and I despise them.”

—*Don Quixote, II: LXXIV*

“ Sansón: “Don Quixote, you say this now, when we have news of the disenchantment of Señora Dulcinea? Now that we are on the verge of becoming shepherds and spending our lives in song? For God’s sake, keep quiet, come to your senses, and tell us no more tales.”

—*Don Quixote, II: LXXIV*

Here lies the mighty Gentleman
who rose to such heights of valor
“ that death itself did not triumph
over his life with his death.
He did not esteem the world;
he was the frightening threat
to the world...

—*Don Quixote, II: LXXIV*

Here lies the mighty Gentleman
who rose to such heights of valor
“ that death itself did not triumph
over his life with his death.
He did not esteem the world;
he was the frightening threat
to the world, in this respect,
for it was his great good fortune
to live a madman, and die sane.

—*Don Quixote, II: LXXIV*



QUIXOTE'S DEATH

- ▶ Hard to sustain the 'comic' (idealist, utopian) reading, but we could suggest...
 - ▶ A defense against more continuations
 - ▶ A sop to censors who might be alarmed by a book praising a madman
 - ▶ Autobiographical: Cervantes dies just a few months after Part II is published
- ▶ “There is a remedy for all but death,” says Quixote. And even the most beautiful and utopian dreams run aground on this limit