

PRE-SHOW IN-THE-KNOW

FAST FACTS

TITLE:

Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand. Adapted by Andrew Upton. Original translation by Marion Potts.

ABOUT THE PLAY:

The nose that launched a thousand quips

In wordplay and swordplay, *Cyrano de Bergerac* has no peer. He is a man's man who can speak as eloquently of battle as he can of love - even though the latter has eluded him. Cursed with an enormous nose, he has resigned himself to experience love vicariously. And so, despite his feelings for Roxane, the beautiful heiress, he agrees to court her on behalf of his handsome friend Christian, who learns by heart *Cyrano's* urgent, amorous poetry.

Richard Roxburgh returns to STC to play with customary panache the title role, adding his interpretation to a stellar roll call from across the years including José Ferrer, Gerard Depardieu and Steve Martin. He is joined by Eryn Jean Norvill (*Romeo and Juliet*) and Chris Ryan (*Gross und Klein*).

Cyrano de Bergerac is a significant work in the life of STC. This will be our third new production, joining Richard Wherrett's record-setting 1980 season that starred John Bell and Marion Potts' riproaring version from 1999 starring Jeremy Sims.

CHARACTERS

Cyrano de Bergerac	Poet
Roxane	Le Bret
Christian	Lingnière
Montfleury	Lise
Cuigy	Sister Marthe and Sister Claire
Brissaille	Ragueneau
Valvert	Cook
De Guiche	Musketeer

STYLE

Tragedy and Comedy

RUNNING TIME

2 hours and 50 minutes including interval.

ACTIVE AUDIENCE

THINK ABOUT:

- The heightened sense of theatricality apparent through language and set
- Inner and outer beauty and the concept of the perfect romantic partner
- *Cyrano's* use of language as both a weapon and a romantic gesture
- *Cyrano's* commitment to values and principles and the personal sacrifice that comes with upholding these

WATCH FOR:

- The swashbuckling sword fights
- The shadows cast on the black walls above the set
- The opulent costumes
- The chorus of cadets

MEMORABLE MOMENTS:

- The balcony scene between *Cyrano*, *Christian* and *Roxane*
- *Roxane* confessing to *Cyrano* her love for *Christian*
- *Cyrano* reciting poetry while sword fighting with *Valvert*
- The final moment of the play