

HERCULE-SAVINIEN DE  
CYRANO DE BERGERAC  
(1619 - 1655)

French poet, philosopher and playwright. The fictional Cyrano of Rostand's play, with his enormous nose and insatiable appetite for duels, gives a distorted impression of a remarkable man. Extravagant action and extravagant language were the two passions of this courageous soldier and radical free thinker. Wounded in the throat at the siege of Arras in 1640, he left the army (the Gascony Cadets!) and threw himself into the intellectual life of Paris.

Cyrano's baroque excesses of language and flights of fancy tended to obscure the action of his plays, but elements of his plots were later to be plagiarised by Moliere among others. His treatise entitled "Voyage to the Moon" which speculated on space travel, has brought last recognition as the first Science Fiction writer.

His play "La Morte d'Agrippine" (1653) was adjudged immoral and anti-religious and brought him into fierce conflict with the authorities. Few tears were shed when in 1655, a piece of timber "fell" on his head. The wound proved fatal.

THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY is pleased to welcome new members at anytime, both on stage or off, behind the scenes or front-of-house. Our Honorary Secretary, Betty Riggs may be contacted on SOUTHAMPTON 472619. A full and varied programme of things theatrical, social and educational awaits your support.

EDMOND ROSTAND

Rostand was born in Marseilles in 1868 and died in 1918. His thirty year literary career is marked by one astronomical success and a number of plays of lesser note. Although groomed by his father for a career as a lawyer, Edmond displayed an early interest in marionette theatre and poetry.

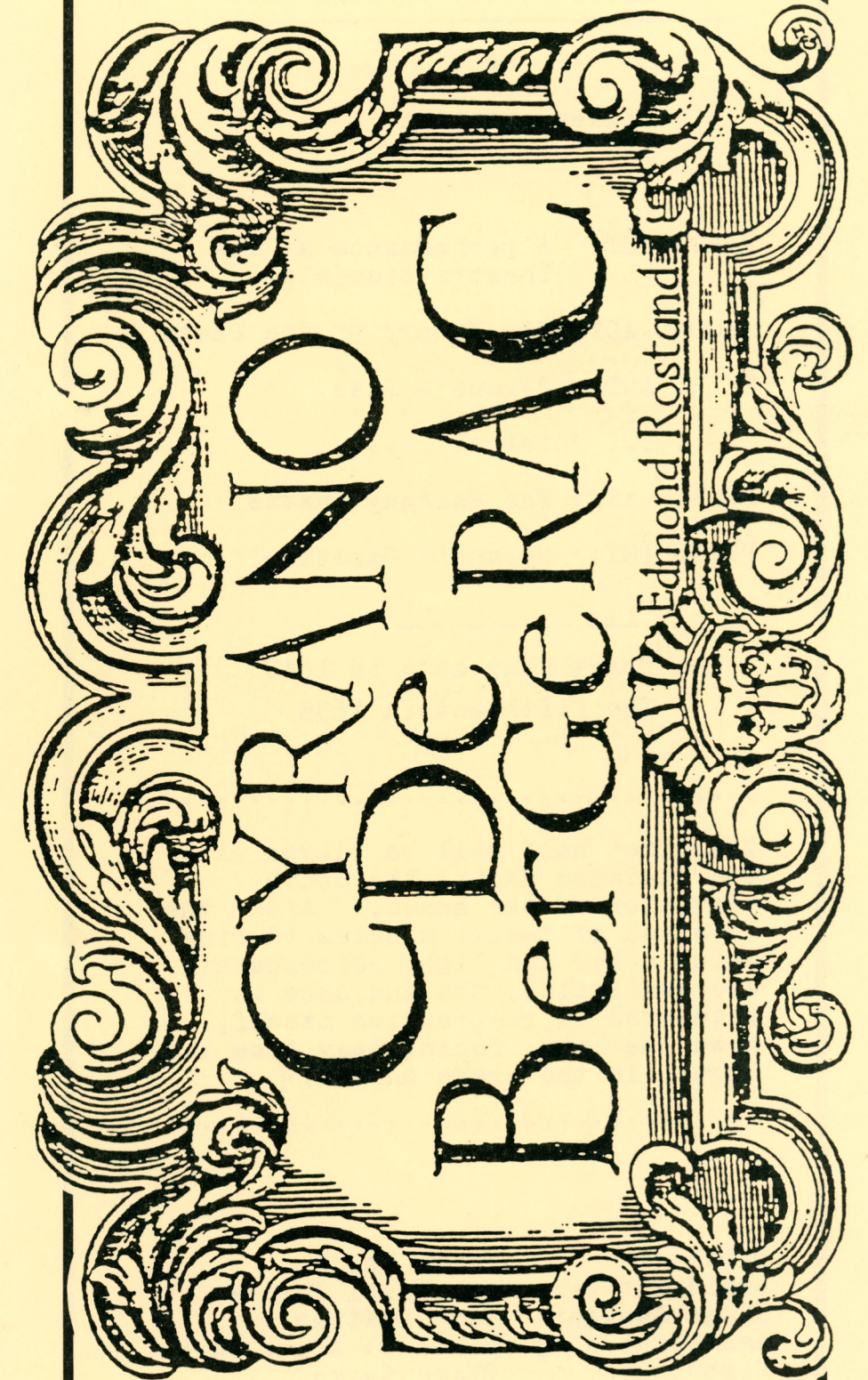
After studying literature at The College Stanislas in Paris, his first poetry was published in the small academy review "Mireille". His play "Les Romanesques" was produced in 1894, followed a year later by "La Princesse Lointaine". The playwright's name and influence spread and popular stars of the theatre, including Sarah Bernhardt and Benoit Constant Coquelin were featured in the most prominent roles.

Rostand's fame peaked in 1898 with the first production of "Cyrano de Bergerac", a five act verse drama. The play was important to the drama of the time for it's romantic nature was in complete contrast to the stark realistic convention then in vogue. It was a phenomenal success.

The next play "L'Aiglon" was also adjudged a success, but perhaps more for Sarah Bernhardt's acting than for the play itself. Retiring from Paris, Rostand was to produce no more work for ten years and when the highly experimental "Chantecler" reached the stage in 1910 it flopped dismally.

Rostand's health was failing and being refused entry into the French Army in 1914, he spent the war in retirement. Four years after his death the play "La Premiere Nuit de Don Juan" was discovered among his papers and staged in Paris in 1922. It was a resounding failure.

MASKERS THEATRE Company



Directed by PETER WHITE



"CYRANO DE BERGERAC"

An Heroic Comedy in Five Acts

by

Edmond Rostand

FIRST ACT: A performance at The  
Theatre Beaujolais

SECOND ACT: The Bakery of the Poets

THIRD ACT: Rexane's Kiss

..... Interval .....

FOURTH ACT: The Gascony Cadets

FIFTH ACT: Cyrano's Gazette

The first four acts in 1640

The fifth act in 1655

.....  
The first half will be played with  
the audience facing the South  
elevation of the house. After the  
Interval of twenty minutes (during  
which a bar and light refreshments  
are available), the audience is  
requested to re-position itself,  
down the lawn, facing away from the  
house, in the areas marked.  
.....

Director: Peter White  
Assistant Director: Hazel Burrows  
Stage Manager: Tony Lawther  
Assistant Stage Manager: Angie Barks  
Lighting: Clive Weeks

Battle Staging: Phillip & Sue Aldmark  
and members of The Sealed Knot  
Cyrano Prosthetics: Stan Phipps

THE CAST

Cyrano de Bergerac	Ken Spencer
Rexane	Belinda White
Christian	Brian Stansbridge
De Guiche	James Smith
Rageneau	David Bartlett
Le Bret	Harry Tuffill
Captain de Jaloux	Jim Oliver
De Valvert	Chris Williams
The Duenna	Jenni Watson
Ligniere	Derek Sealy
Lise	Janet Cairney
Montfleury	David Jupp
Bellerose	Alan Watson
Cuigy	Mike Johnson
Brissaille	Paul Stanley
Richelieu	Meri Lawther
Marquis	Mike Patterson
Marquis	Albert Minns
Musketeer	John Carrington
Flower Girl	Hilary Bowen
D'Artagnan	John Carrington Jr
Pickpocket	Graham Buchanan
Doorkeeper	Richard Tuffill
Drunkard	Graham Hill
Mother Marguerite	Jean Johnson
Sister Marthe	Sheila Clark
Sister Clare	Jan Ward
Guard	John Treverrow
Flunkeys	Sue Cunningham
	Louise White
Felixerie	Barbara Williams
Cook	Heather Johnson
Actress	Jean Durman
Nun	Sue Grant
Apprentices	Daisy Morris
	Emma Carrington
	Becky Williams
	Elisabeth Rackham
Sentry	Matthew Tuffill
Cadets	Mark Hamilton
	Kevin Munro
	Huw Thomas
Pages	Alice Watson
	Ellen Watson

Burgers, Pastry Cooks, Poets,  
Spanish Soldiers, Precieuses,  
Gascons, Nuns played by members  
of The Company.

The Company gratefully acknowledges  
the assistance given for this  
production by the following:

Hall & Tawse Construction Ltd  
Drake & Scull Engineering Ltd  
Collier Feature Fires  
The Royal Shakespeare Company  
Timsbury Riding Centre  
Baptys, Showbiz, Marks Bakery,  
Pinecrafts, Kevin Madgewick,  
Eric Chase, Sylvia Pankhurst

and, for their continuing help and  
assistance at this delightful  
venue at Mottisfont Abbey, John &  
Barbara Cavanagh.

THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY  
INVITE YOUR SUPPORT FOR:

"LOCK UP YOUR DAUGHTERS"

Based on Henry Fielding's "RAPE  
UPON RAPE", Bernard Miles' satirical  
adaptation with music by Laurie  
Johnson and explicit lyrics by  
Lionel Bart, provides an exciting  
answer to the question, posed with  
relish, 'When does the ravishing  
begin?'. At The Nuffield Theatre,  
Southampton from 28th October to  
1st November. All tickets from  
The Box Office: Southampton 555028

"SEASON'S GREETINGS"

Alan Ayckbourn's Christmas Comedy  
at The Eastpoint Centre, Southampton  
from 26th to 29th November.  
Telephone: Bursledon 2648