

# An Abbreviated Timeline

On July 28, Savinien  
Cyrano de Bergerac  
dies in Paris at  
age 36.

1619

Savinien Cyrano  
de Bergerac,  
the real-life  
figure that  
inspired CYRANO,  
is born in Paris  
on March 6.

1655

CYRANO DE BERGERAC is  
first performed at the Théâtre  
de la Porte Saint-Martin in  
Paris on December 28.

1897

CYRANO, adapted by Jason  
O'Connell and Brenda Withers,  
has its world premiere at  
Amphibian Stage Productions  
in Fort Worth, Texas.

Feb.  
2018

A reading of  
CYRANO is  
performed as  
part of the 2018  
HVSF2 series.

Aug.  
2018

## Questions to Consider After the Performance

1. It is common for versions of this story to use prosthetics to enlarge Cyrano's nose to outrageous proportions. This adaptation, however, does not do so. What does this choice reveal about Cyrano's perception of his flaws? How would the use of a nose prosthetic change your view of the character?

2. What agency does Roxane have as a character? How is her character impacted by other characters and in what way? What motivates her actions?

3. How could you tell which character an actor was playing at any given time? Was it noted by a costume piece or prop? Was it reflected in their dialect or body language?

4. This production uses visual and aural references from both the 17th and 21st centuries. How did this choice influence your understanding of the play?

5. What genre would you categorize this play as?

# CYRANO

*The more you know...*

# Influences

Both this adaptation of CYRANO and its source text by Edmond Rostand are based loosely on the life of Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, a 17th century French satirist and dramatist. The real Cyrano was a fan of ridiculing authority, especially in religious settings: His best known works are imagined journeys to the moon and sun that satirize contemporary religious and astrological beliefs.

Like his literary counterpart, the real Cyrano also possessed a particularly large nose.

## Where are We?

## When are We?

Though written in the 19th century, Rostand's CYRANO DE BERGERAC takes place in 17th century France, the setting of the real Cyrano's life.

This adaptation evokes both the 17th and 21st centuries through dialogue and design elements.

photo by T. Charles Erickson

# Who's Who

**Cyrano:** A soldier and poet, known for his sharp wit and large nose. In love with Roxane.

**Roxane:** An intellectual woman with a love of poetry and wit.

**Christian:** A young soldier, handsome but inarticulate. In love with Roxane.

**La Bret:** A fellow soldier and poet. Cyrano's friend and confidant.

**Count Deguiche:** A powerful and pompous nobleman. In love with Roxane.

**Duenna:** Roxane's chaperone, often seen wielding a fan.

**Montfleury:** An untalented actor.

**Rageuneau:** A full-time baker and part-time poet.

**Lise:** Rageuneau's wife.

**Sister Marthe:** A nun. Roxane's friend.

photo by T. Charles Erickson

Themes to Look Out For

Insecurity  
Deceit  
Love  
Beauty

## A Note on Doubling

In this adaptation, five actors portray all of the characters listed to the left (and more)!

Having an actor play multiple characters in one production is often referred to as doubling.

Doubling is used for multiple reasons. Sometimes it is done for practical purposes, as a play with five actors is much more economically accessible for theatres to produce than a play with 20 actors. Other times, doubling serves the story: Consider, for example, how the Wolf in INTO THE WOODS is often played by the same actor portraying Cinderella's Prince.

Sources: A Minute History of the Drama by Alice B. Fort and Herbert S. Kates; Encyclopedia Britannica; "Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac," Edmond Rostand

photo by T. Charles Erickson