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Chukwudi Iwuji, Rosa Salazar, and Will Hochman

lead cast of

CYRANO de BERGERAC

by Edmond Rostand
freely adapted by Martin Crimp
Directed by Mike Donahue

Now through Sunday, September 29, 2024

Tickets at pasadenaplayhouse.org or by calling 626-356-7529

PASADENA, CA (September 8, 2024) – Pasadena Playhouse, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, presents its new production of ***Cyrano de Bergerac*** now through September 29, by Edmond Rostand, freely adapted by Martin Crimp, and directed by Mike Donahue (*Little Shop of Horrors*, Geffen Playhouse's *The Inheritance*).

Tickets are available at pasadenaplayhouse.org, by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the box office at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101. Tickets start at \$40.

The cast of ***Cyrano de Bergerac*** is led by Chukwudi Iwuji (James Gunn's *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Peacemaker*, Royal Shakespeare Company, NY Public Theatre's *Othello*) as Cyrano; Rosa Salazar (*Alita: Battle Angel*, *Brand New Cherry Flavor*, *Undone*) as Roxane; Will Hochman (Broadway's *The Sound Inside*, CBS's *Blue Bloods*) as Christian; and Kimberly Scott (Broadway's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Respect*) as Madame Ragueneau.

The production also includes Kimberly Scott (Broadway's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Respect*) as Madame Ragueneau; Larry Powell (The Gaze Series, *Mother's Milk*) as Lignière; Jens Austin Astrup (CW's *Gossip Girl*) as Alastair/Act 3 Soldier; Aaron Costa Ganis (Broadway's *Bernhardt/Hamlet*) as Le Bret; E.M. Davis (Chicago Shakespeare Theater's *Richard III*) as Usher/Denise/Medic; Christine Lin (Broadway's *Chinglish*) as Woman Sent By Roxane/Marie-Louise; Barry Livingston (ABC's *My Three Sons*) as Theatre Owner/Priest; Michael Nathanson (Marvels' *The Punisher*) as De Guiche; Kila Packett (Sir Peter Halls' *As You Like It*) as Fencing Referee/Sentry; Sawyer Patterson (Marin Shakespeare Company's *Romeo and Juliet*) as Valvert; Jonathan Slavin (Netflix's *Santa Clarita Diet*) as Montfleury/Armande; and John Garet Stoker (Geffen Playhouse's *Significant Other*) as Annoying Person.

The full creative team is rounded out with Afsoon Pajoufar (Scenic Designer), Carolyn Mazuca (Costume Designer), Josh Epstein and Edward Hansen (Lighting Designers), Veronika Vorel (Sound Designer), Rachel Lee Flesher (Fight Director/Intimacy Coordinator), Christine Adaire (Voice/Text Coach), with Casting by RBT Casting (Ryan Bernard Tymensky, CSA). The production stage management team includes Colleen Danaher (Stage Manager), Jessica Keasberry-Vnuk (Assistant Stage Manager), and Kimberly Sanchez Garrido (Assistant Stage Manager).

One of the greatest plays ever written is stunningly reborn in this critically acclaimed Pasadena Playhouse adaptation. Poetry and passion collide in a scorching love triangle when Cyrano discovers the love of his life has eyes for another man – *his new best friend*. Immerse yourself in the timeless adventure of this universal love story.

The Hollywood Reporter calls Crimp’s adaptation “A dazzlingly inventive and entertaining new version”, and *The London Times* says “Mesmerizing... glittering... unforgettable.”

Cyrano de Bergerac (Crimp) is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

This production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* is partially underwritten by our very generous Honorary Producers Stephen & Susan Chandler, and Tammi & Lenny Steren.

About Pasadena Playhouse

Pasadena Playhouse, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, is one of the most prolific theaters in the country. The Playhouse has staged thousands of original productions since its founding in 1917 including premieres of works by Tennessee Williams, Eugene O’Neill, Suzan-Lori Parks, Gloria Calderon Kellett and hundreds more. For decades, its pioneering School for Theater Arts was a training ground for actors and theatermakers who went on to make significant contributions to the entertainment industry. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman since 2016, Pasadena Playhouse’s productions and community programs are centered on its founding idea of being a living force in its community, making theater for everyone.

Calendar Listing for *Cyrano de Bergerac*

Cyrano de Bergerac

by Edmond Rostand

freely adapted by Martin Crimp

Venue: Pasadena Playhouse, 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Dates: Now through Sunday, September 29

Tickets: Membership Packages available starting at \$104
Online -- PasadenaPlayhouse.org
By phone at 626-356-7529
In person -- Pasadena Playhouse Box Office, located at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Performance Schedule: Wednesday and Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 2:00 p.m and Sunday,
September 29th at 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday, September 17th at 8:00 p.m.

BIOGRAPHIES

For a full list of company bios to date, visit

<https://www.pasadenaplayhouse.org/event/cyrano-de-bergerac/>

Chukwudi Iwuji (Cyrano): Iwuji played the lead villain ‘The High Evolutionary’ in James Gunn’s international blockbuster *Guardians of the Galaxy* and co-starred in his series *Peacemaker*. Other film credits include *John Wick: Chapter 2*; *A Woman, A Part*; and *Barry*. Television credits include *The Underground Railroad*, *When They See Us*, *The Split*, *Designated Survivor*, and *Doctor Who*. A renowned theater actor, Iwuji’s credits at NY Public Theatre include the title role in *Othello*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *The Low Road* (Obie Award). In London for the RSC he played the title role of *Henry VI* (Two Olivier Awards), *Obsession*, *Hedda Gabler*, and *Richard III*. He will soon be seen in the film *Play Dirty* and limited series *Day of the Jackal*.

Rosa Salazar (Roxane): Rosa Salazar will next be seen starring in *Play Dirty* for Amazon MGM Studios. Her many film credits include playing the title role in *Alita: Battle Angel* for 20th Century Fox, director Robert Rodriguez and writer/producer James Cameron; *A Million Miles Away* for Amazon MGM Studios; *The Kindergarten Teacher* for Netflix; and *The Maze Runner* franchise for 20th Century Fox. In television she most recently produced and starred in *Undone* for Amazon and produced and starred in *Brand New Cherry Flavor* for Netflix.

Will Hochman (Christian): Will Hochman is best known in theater for his breakout performance opposite Mary-Louise Parker in Adam Rapp’s critically acclaimed play *The Sound Inside*. The play, directed by David Cromer, premiered on Broadway in 2019. Currently, Hochman can be seen opposite Tom Selleck as ‘Joe Hill’ on the final season of CBS’s *Blue Bloods*. Up next, Hochman will recur opposite Billy Crystal on the Apple series *Before*, and star as ‘Julian Turner’ in Marco Baratta’s feature film *Turning* for Heroboy Productions. Additional film credits include Peter Farrelly’s *The Greatest Beer Run Ever* opposite Zac Efron for Apple; *Let Him Go* opposite Kevin Costner for Focus Features; *Critical Thinking* opposite John Leguizamo, and *Master* opposite Regina Hall for Amazon Studios.

Kimberly Scott (Madame Ragueneau): Broadway: *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone* (Tony and Drama Desk nominations). Regional: *Black Cypress Bayou* (WP@Geffen), *The XIXth* (WP@Old Globe), *Sweat* (WP & Arena Stage), *Familiar* (WP@Yale Rep), *Head of Passes* (Berkeley Rep), *Her Portmanteau* (ACT Strand), *American Night* (WP & Kirk Douglas), *Ruined*, *The Liquid Plain* (WP), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Huntington), *Death of a Salesman* (Yale Rep), *The Gospel at Colonus* (Mabou Mines/Moscow Art Theatre). TV: *Bob Hearts Abishola*, *Medium*, *Family Law*, *The Commish*. Film: *Respect*, *The Abyss*, *Love and Other Drugs*, *Guess Who*, *K-Pax*, *Sam I Am*, *The Client*, *Batman Forever*, *Batman & Robin*. MFA: Yale. Two-time Beinecke Fellow @Yale Rep and Board Member for the extraordinary environmental nonprofit Mujeres de la Tierra (mujeresdelatierra.org).

Larry Powell (Lignière): Larry Powell (he/they) is enough. They come from a family of visionaries who have been in Los Angeles for over a hundred years, longer than this great building has been standing. Honored to finally grace the Pasadena Playhouse, the last time they walked across a stage in Pasadena was in 2004 at The Alex Theatre, graduating from Oakwood Secondary School and then flying off to Pittsburgh a few months later to study Theatre Arts at Carnegie Mellon University. Proud to stand alongside my ancestors, happy to play my part. Deep gratitude, peace, and liberation.

Jens Austin Astrup (Alastair/Act 3 Soldier): Jens Austin Astrup, raised in Los Angeles, began performing at Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences, receiving the Darren Appel Award for Excellence in Theater. He recently graduated from Vassar College, where he pursued acting and literature. He recently recurred on HBO Max's reboot of *Gossip Girl*. He is honored to be making his Pasadena Playhouse Debut. He gives special thanks to his manager, Lexy Alvarez as well as Samantha Crisp, and the rest of the team at Kohner.

Aaron Costa Ganis (Le Bret): Aaron has worked theatrically on and off-Broadway in NYC and LA at the Roundabout Theatre Company, LAByrnth Theater Company, Second Stage Theater, The Public Theater, Geffen Playhouse and more. He currently recurs on *Power Book III: Raising Kanan*, and can recently be seen in *Fantasy Island*, *The Endgame*, *Bull*, *Almost Family*, *Blue Bloods*, *Jessica Jones*, *House of Cards*, and more. He can be seen in the recent films *Susie Searches*, *The Noel Diary*, *Lazy Eye*, *Monsters and Men*, and *Set It Up*. Aaron wishes to dedicate this show to June and Rick, his mom and dad. MFA: NYU Graduate Acting Program, BA: Brandeis University and University of Oxford.

E.M. Davis (Usher/Denise/Medic): A recent transplant to LA from Chicago, E.M. is thrilled to make their Pasadena Playhouse debut. They were last seen in Chicago Shakespeare Theater's *Richard III*, directed by Edward Hall and starring Tony nominee Katy Sullivan. Regional credits include *Stateville Voices* (Goodman Theatre); *Otello* (Lyric Opera Chicago); *At The Table*, *Plainclothes* (Broken Nose Theatre, former Artistic Director); along with workshops of *Joan* (Northlight Theatre); *Reawakening Desire* (Red Orchid Theatre); and *A Million Tiny Pieces* (South Coast Repertory and Colorado New Play Festival). TV/Film: *4400* (CW); *How'd It Go*; *I'm Pretty Sure My Therapist Thinks I'm a Bad Actor*; *My Dearest Sexual Freak*. Recipient of the inaugural Sarah Siddons Society Professional Development Grant and proud member of AEA.

@emdavischi

Christine Lin (Woman Sent By Roxane/Marie-Louise): Christine Lin is thrilled to return to the Playhouse after playing Connie in *The Great Leap*. Christine originated the role of Miss Zhao in David Henry Hwang's *Chinglish* on Broadway and at the Goodman Theatre. Additional stage: Back Room Shakespeare Project, CalArts CNP at the Huntington Library, Cincinnati Playhouse, Nashville Repertory Theatre, Firefly Theater & Films, Stir-Friday Night! (sketch comedy). Screen: *Quiz Lady*, *Abominable*, *Surfside Girls*, *The Blacklist*, *Gossip Girl*, *American Horror Story*, *Ghost of Tsushima* (video game). Originally a Chicagoland native, she studied at the Second City Chicago Conservatory as well as Steppenwolf West, UCB NYC/LA, and Duke University BSE in electrical and biomedical engineering. www.Christine2Lin.com

Barry Livingston (Theatre Owner/Priest): Barry Livingston's career has spanned decades. Stage credits include: *The Skin Of Our Teeth* on Broadway, *Bertesgaden* Off-Broadway, *Cause Celebre* at The Ahmanson Theatre, *Love Streams* directed by John Cassavetes, *Creeps* at Theatre Theater

and most recently, *Stella's Last J-Date* at The Whitefire Theater. Film credits: *War Dogs*, *Jersey Boys*, *First Daughter* and such Oscar winning films as *Argo*, *The Social Network*, and *Zodiac*. On TV, Barry found national fame playing "Ernie" on the hit series *My Three Sons* for eight years. Recently, he's appeared in *Bosch* (recurring), *Lessons in Chemistry*, *Mrs. Davis* and many more. Working at Pasadena Playhouse is a dream come true for this SoCal native.

Michael Nathanson (De Guiche): Michael Nathanson is an award winning actor, writer, & producer. Best known to audiences as 'Sam Stein' in Marvel's *The Punisher* (Netflix/Disney+) and 'Dr. Zinberg' in Steven Soderbergh's HBO series *The Knick*. Other credits include: *Succession*; *FBI: Most Wanted*; *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*; *Madam Secretary*; *Unforgettable*; *Chicago Med*; *The Good Wife*; *30 Rock*; *Rescue Me*; *Elementary*; *Law & Order*; *Side Effects*, directed by Steven Soderbergh; *The Wolf of Wall Street*. He has performed in theaters in NYC and across the country, including the national tour of *The Lion King* as Ed, Timon, & Zazu, and most recently received the CT Critics Circle award for his performance as 'Uncle Louie' in Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers*, directed by & starring Marsha Mason, at Hartford Stage.

Kila Packett (Fencing Referee/Sentry): Kila was most recently seen on stage in Noël Coward's *Hay Fever* at The South Pasadena Theatre Workshop. Off-Broadway and Regional theaters include: Brooklyn Academy of Music, Classic Stage Company, Pearl Theatre Company, Crossroads Theatre Company, LaMaMa etc., Mark Taper Forum, The Wallis (Ovation Award), and Theatricum Botanicum. He is the co-author of *Unnatural Acts* (Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, and GLAAD Award nominations). Film: *Bad Hombres*. Television: *Grey's Anatomy*; *Hawaii Five-0*; *NCIS: Hawaii*; *This Is Us*; *9-1-1*; *Shooter*; and *S.W.A.T.* Kila is the associate director of Shakespeare Youth Festival LA & Kenya, head mentor with Young Storytellers, and co-producer of the LA-based concert series, *A Little New Music*. MFA: Columbia University's School of the Arts.

Sawyer Patterson (Valvert): Sawyer Patterson is excited to be making his Pasadena Playhouse debut. He grew up in Burbank, CA and was last seen on stage as Edward Brocket in *Alice, Formerley of Wonderland* by Mark Saltzman at Ensemble Theatre Company in Santa Barbara. He has a BFA in Theater Performance from Baylor University where he was seen on stage as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* and Alcippe in *The Liar* by David Ives. He was also an MFA Candidate in Theater Performance at UC Irvine. Sawyer is grateful to his sword mentors Jan Bryant and Dan Speaker and the Academy of Theatrical Combat for his foundation and training.

Jonathan Slavin (Montfleury/Armande): Notable Theater Credits: Broadway: *The Sisters Rosensweig* (Barrymore Theatre). Off-Broadway/Regional: *The Best Of Schools* (Ubu Rep), *Six Degrees of Separation* (Dallas Theatre Center). LA Theatre: *Sukkot* (Skylight Theatre), *Homefront* (The Victory Theatre), *Freud On Cocaine* (The Whitefire), *The Boomerang Effect* (The Odyssey). Notable and/or recent film/TV: *Sugar*, *Santa Clarita Diet*, *Starf*ckers*, *St. Dennis*, *Pam & Tommy*, *Dr. Ken*, *Better Off Ted*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Grace and Frankie*, *Speechless*, *Andy Richter Controls the Universe*, *Friends*, *My Name Is Earl*. Proudly vegan and very queer.

John Garet Stoker (Annoying Person): John Garet is thrilled to be making his Pasadena Playhouse debut. Past theater credits include: *Significant Other* and *Trayf* at The Geffen Playhouse. Past film/television credits include: *Insecure* (HBO), *Crazy-Ex Girlfriend* (CW), *CSI: Vegas* (CBS), *Eye Candy* (MTV), and the upcoming film *Inheritance* starring Phoebe Dynevor. He received his BFA from Carnegie Mellon University.

Mike Donahue (Director): Select credits include: LA premiere of Matthew Lopez's *The Inheritance* (Geffen); *Little Shop of Horrors* with Michaela Jae Rodriguez, George Salazar and Amber Riley (Pasadena Playhouse); and world premieres of Matthew Lopez's *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (MCC, Geffen, Denver Center), Jen Silverman's *Collective Rage* (MCC, Woolly Mammoth), Ana Nogueira's *Which Way To The Stage* (MCC), and *Highway Patrol* (The Goodman), co-created with Dana Delany, Dane Laffrey & Jen Silverman. Mike's award-winning debut short film *Troy* premiered at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival, screening at another 70 festivals internationally, including the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. *Troy* is a Vimeo Staff Pick Best of 2023 and featured online in *The New Yorker's* Screening Room. Mike and writer Jen Silverman are currently working on their first feature, with Pacific Electric producing.

Edmond Rostand (Playwright): Edmond Rostand (1868–1918) was a French poet and dramatist, best known for his 1897 play *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Rostand's other works include: *The Red Glove* (1888); *Les Musardises* (1890); *The Two Pierrots, or The White Supper* (1891); *Les Romanesques* (1894), which was the basis for the 1960 off-Broadway musical *The Fantasticks*; *La Princesse Lointaine or The Princess Far-Away* (1895); *La Samaritaine or The Woman of Samaria* (1897); *L'Aiglon: A Play in Six Acts* (1900); *Chantecler: A Play in Four Acts* (1910); *The Last Night of Don Juan* (1921); *Le Cantique de L'Aile* (1922) and *Le Vol de la Marseillaise*.

Martin Crimp (Free Adaptation): Martin Crimp was born in 1956 and began writing for theatre in the 1980s. His plays include: *When we have sufficiently tortured each other* (2019), *Men Asleep* (2018), *The Rest Will be Familiar To You From Cinema* (2013, voted by Germany's Theater heute best foreign play of the year), *In the Republic of Happiness* (2012), *Play House* (2012), *The City* (2008), *Fewer Emergencies* (2005, receiving Italy's Premio Ubu), *Cruel and Tender* (2004, written for director Luc Bondy), *Face to the Wall* (2002), *The Country* (2000), *Attempts on her Life* (1997), *The Treatment* (1993, winner of the John Whiting Award), *Getting Attention* (1992), *No One Sees the Video* (1991), *Play with Repeats* (1989), *Dealing with Clair* (1988) and *Definitely the Bahamas* (1987).

His translations of plays include Botho Strauss's *Gross und Klein* (2012), Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* (2007), Marivaux's *The False Servant* (2004) and *The Triumph of Love* (1999), Genet's *The Maids* (1999), Ionesco's *The Chairs* (1997), Koltès's *Roberto Zucco* (1997), a new version of Chekhov's *The Seagull* (2006), and adaptations of Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* (2019) and Molière's *The Misanthrope* (1996).

His work has been produced in the UK by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, Almeida, Young Vic, Barbican, Théâtre de Complicité, the Orange Tree and the Royal Court, and has been translated into many languages and widely produced abroad at venues including the Piccolo Teatro, Milan, the Sala Beckett, Barcelona, the Vienna Festival, the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, the Théâtre de la Ville, Berlin's Schaubühne, Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg, and at the Festival d'Automne in Paris, which presented four of his works in their 2006 season, including his first text for opera, *Into the Little Hill*, written for George Benjamin. His second collaboration with Benjamin, *Written on Skin*, had its world premiere at the Aix-en-Provence Festival in 2012, and the third, *Lessons in Love and Violence*, opened at London's Royal Opera House in 2018.

In 2020 he was awarded the Nyssen-Bansemer Theatre Prize.