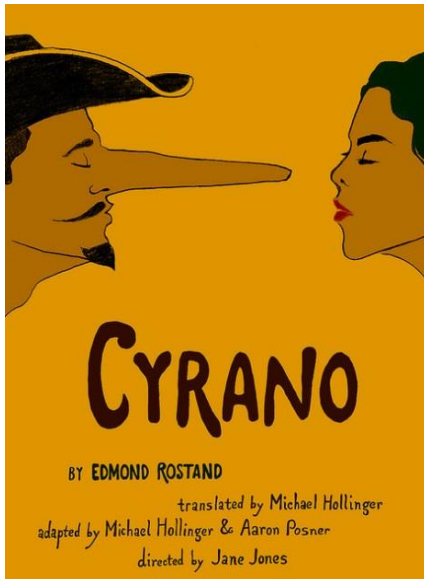




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M E D I A R E L E A S E

The Legendary Romantic Hero with a Sharp Wit, a Quick Sword and a Large Nose Takes the Boards at Portland Center Stage in a New Translation *Cyrano* runs April 10 – May 3, with preview performances beginning April 4



March 12, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR. A new adaptation of the swashbuckling romance that celebrates language and love will open at Portland Center Stage on April 10, 2015. *Cyrano* is a fresh take on Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* adapted by two artists familiar to Portland: **Michael Hollinger** and **Oregon native Aaron Posner**. The production will be directed by **Jane Jones**, the founder and co-artistic director of Seattle's Book-It Repertory Theatre. Four Seattle-based actors will join the company: **Andrew McGinn** as Cyrano, **Jen Taylor** as Roxane, **Colin Byrne** as Christian and others, and **Brian Gunter** as Le Bret. They'll be joined by a host of beloved Portland actors, many of whom will play multiple characters: **Leif Norby** as De Guiche and others, **Darius Pierce** as

Ragueneau and others, **Chris Harder** as De Valvert and others, **Gavin Hoffman** as Ligniere and others, and **Damon Kupper** as Desiree and others.

Cyrano begins preview performances April 4, opens April 10, and runs through May 3, 2015 on the U.S. Bank Main Stage in PCS's Gerding Theater at the Armory. **Regular tickets start at \$36.** Preview tickets start at \$29. Rush tickets are \$20. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding April 19, 28 and May 3); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; matinees at noon on select Thursdays and Wednesday, April 29. Tickets can be purchased at pcs.org or 503.445.3700. View the full schedule at <http://www.pcs.org/cyrano/>.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Set in 17th century France, the classic romantic comedy *Cyrano* tells the story of a great swordsman with a beautiful soul, who is handicapped by a huge nose that makes him believe he is incapable of being loved by the beautiful Roxane. When he learns that Roxane and a handsome young soldier named Christian are infatuated with each other, he writes beautiful love letters for her suitor that lead to a tragic love triangle. Filled with swordplay and wordplay, *Cyrano* is beloved for its affirmation of love, friendship and the power of a well-developed sense of humor.

CYRANO: THE NEW TRANSLATION

This modern translation had its world premiere in Washington D.C. at Folger Theatre in 2011. Longtime collaborators and friends, Michael Hollinger and Aaron Posner, transformed Rostand's rhyming verse into lively modern prose. Hollinger has said of the translation, "language that is alive, that wakes the ear up, is more important to me than strict adherence to poetic form." Their fresh take on the play maintains the essence of the original story – all of the scenes remain the same – and also upholds the original setting and glorious costumes of 1640s France. The translation calls for a streamlined ensemble of nine actors, many of whom play multiple characters. In a review of the world premiere production, the *Washington Examiner* praised the translation, noting that "the comedy and passion of the original remain but are made fresh and modern." In a later production, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* called it a "sterling, illuminating new translation."

MICHAEL HOLLINGER: TRANSLATOR/CO-ADAPTOR

Hollinger is familiar to PCS audiences as the author of *Opus*, presented in 2011. Two of his works, *Red Herring* and *Incorruptible*, have also been featured at Artists Repertory Theatre. His other works include *Hope and Gravity*, *Ghost-Writer*, *Tooth and Claw*, *An Empty Plate in the Café Du Grand Boeuf*, *Under the Skin* and *Wonderful Noise* (a musical co-authored with Vance Lehmkuhl). His awards include a Steinberg New Play Citation from the American Theatre Critics Association, a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, a Mid-Atlantic Emmy, an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award, four Barrymore Awards, and nominations for Lucille Lortel and John Gassner awards. He is currently an associate professor of theater at Villanova University, and a proud alumnus of New Dramatists. Hollinger also wrote the music and lyrics for two songs in *Cyrano*: "Gascony Guard Song" and "Behold the Bee."

AARON POSNER: CO-ADAPTOR

Posner is known to PCS audiences for his fresh adaptations of Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* (produced at PCS in 2010) and Ken Kesey's *Sometimes a Great Notion* (at PCS in 2008). Next season PCS will produce *Stupid Fucking*

Bird, his take on Chekhov's *The Seagull*. Posner is a director, playwright, the founding artistic director of Arden Theatre Company, and an associate artist at the Folger Theatre, where he directed the world premiere of *Cyrano*. He has won numerous awards as both a director and playwright, including an Outer Circle Critics Award, The John Gassner Award, the inaugural Theatre Bay Area Award for directing, three Barrymore Awards and numerous Helen Hayes Awards. He is originally from Eugene, Oregon.

EDMOND ROSTAND: ORIGINAL PLAYWRIGHT

Edmond Eugène Alexis Rostand (1868 – 1918) was a French poetic dramatist best known for his heroic comedy *Cyrano de Bergerac*, which had its premiere in 1897 to huge acclaim. His romantic hero was based on the real-life soldier and author Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac (1619 – 1655), who was known for his skills in dueling, his mastery of word play and his big nose. The character of Roxanne was also based on the real Cyrano's distant cousin, though all of the romantic exploits were Rostand's invention. His story has inspired numerous translations and derivative works, including novels, operas, ballets, poems, films and even television episodes of *Brady Bunch*, *Star Trek*, *Mad Men*, and many others.

THE CAST OF CYRANO

Andrew McGinn will play the master of swordplay and wordplay, Cyrano. McGinn's recent credits include Dr. Watson in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* at Seattle Repertory Theatre and George Banks in *Mary Poppins* at The Village Theater; he was also featured in Lincoln Center's Tony Award-winning *Coast of Utopia* and *Invention of Love* on Broadway. Cyrano's love interest, Roxane, will be played by **Jen Taylor** (previously at PCS as Sister James in *Doubt*, Viola in *Twelfth Night* and Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, among others). Roxanne's love interest Christian, will be played by Taylor's real-life husband, **Colin Byrne**, who will take on a few other roles as well (recently *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Intiman Theatre and *Pride and Prejudice* at Book-It Repertory Theatre). **Brian Gunter** will play Le Bret (recently *Truth Like the Sun* and *I am of Ireland* with Book-It Repertory Theatre), **Leif Norby** will play De Guiche and others (most recently at PCS as Roderigo in *Othello*); **Darius Pierce** will play Ragueneau and others (most recently at PCS in *The Santaland Diaries*); **Chris Harder** will play De Valvert and others (most recently at PCS as Montano in *Othello*); **Gavin Hoffman** will play Ligniere and others (most recently at PCS as Iago in *Othello*); and **Damon Kupper** will play Desiree and others (most recently at PCS as Officer/Senator/Gentleman in *Othello*).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Members of the *Cyrano* creative team – Director **Jane Jones**, Scenic Designer **William Bloodgood**, Costume Designer **Deborah Trout** and Lighting Designer **Nancy Schertler** – also created PCS's popular 2008 production of

Twelfth Night, which earned Drammy Awards for Best Production and Best Director. Most recently at PCS, Jones directed *Pride and Prejudice*, Bloodgood designed scenery for *Other Desert Cities*, Trout designed costumes for *The North Plan*, and Schertler designed the lighting for *A Christmas Story*. They'll be joined by PCS Resident Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio** (most recently *Other Desert Cities* at PCS); Violence Choreographer **John Armour** (most recently *Fiddler on the Roof* at PCS); and Stage Manager Emily N. Wells (most recently *Dreamgirls* at PCS). **Brian Gunter**, who also plays Le Bret in the show, will compose original music for the production and act as musical director.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: April 4* – May 3, 2015

*Opening Night is Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: April 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding April 19, 28 and May 3); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; matinees at noon on select Thursdays and Wednesday, April 29.

Where: On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#)
128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland.

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/cyrano/>

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$36-69. Preview tickets start at \$29. Rush tickets are \$20. Discounts for students, those 25 or younger, and groups. Prices subject to change.

Online: www.pcs.org

By Phone: 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

In Person: PCS's box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue
12 p.m.–curtain on performance days | 12–6 p.m. on non-performance days

Groups: Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

Please Note: *Cyrano is recommended for ages 10+. Children under 6 are not permitted at any PCS production.*

Accessibility: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons.
Learn more at <http://www.pcs.org/access/>.

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[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Founded in 1988, PCS is the city's leading professional theater and one of the top 20 largest regional theater companies in the U.S. PCS attracts more than 150,000 theatergoers annually with its blend of classical, contemporary and premiere works, along with its summer playwrights festival, JAW. PCS also offers a variety of education and community programs tailored for patrons of all ages.

[The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#) houses the 590-seat U.S. Bank Main Stage and the 190-seat black box Ellyn Bye Studio. It was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places – and the first performing arts venue – to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. The Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public on Oct. 1, 2006.

Support for *Cyrano* is provided by Show Sponsors Shubert Foundation and Work for Art. [Portland Center Stage's 2014-2015 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Season Sponsors the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Work for Art, and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK FM. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for the season. PCS is a participant in the Audience (R)Evolution Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the professional not-for-profit American theater.

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