

Derek Mahon

**CYRANO  
DE BERGERAC**

*A new version of  
Edmond Rostand's 'heroic comedy'*



Gallery Books

This version of *Cyrano de Bergerac* was first produced by the National Theatre, London, on 19 April 2004, with the following cast:

CYRANO	Stephen Rea
ROXANE	Claire Price
CHRISTIAN	Zubin Varla
RAGUENEAU	Anthony O'Donnell
COUNT DE GUICHE	Malcolm Storry
DEBRAY	Nick Sampson
GENEVIÈVE	Katherine Manners
LIGNIÈRE	Mark Bonnar
VALVERT	Pascal Langdale
MONTFLEURY	Stephen Critchlow
JODELET	David Collings
LIZ	Mairéad McKinley
CASTEL-JALOUX	Gregory Fox-Murphy
MARIANNE	Katy Odey
CADETS	
BILL	Simon Merrells
JULES	Mark Bonnar
PATRICK	Thomas Arnold
BRIAN	Dermot Kerrigan
HUGH	Harry Peacock
GUS	Pascal Langdale
JACQUES	William Rycroft
NUNS	
MARGUERITE	Mairéad McKinley
ANNE	Katy Odey
CLAIRE	Katherine Manners
BERTRAND	Daniel Tuite
SENTRY	Trevor Thomas
PIERRE / DANCER	Stephen Berkeley-White
MARTIN / DANCER	Gildas Diquero
GARANÇE / DANCER	Joanne Fong
AURÉLIA / DANCER	Antonia Grove
ILLUMINEUSE / DANCER	Miranda Lind
JEAN / DANCER	Tam Ward

#### MUSICIANS

Bruce O'Neill (MD/ accordion)  
Katherine Toy (accordion)  
Toby Kelly (saxophone)  
Corrina Silvester (percussion)  
Jeremy Wiles (percussion)

Other parts played by members of the company.

<i>Director</i>	Howard Davies
<i>Set Designer</i>	William Dudley
<i>Costume Designer</i>	John Bright
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Paul Anderson
<i>Music</i>	Dominic Muldowney
<i>Movement and Dance</i>	Christopher Bruce
<i>Fight Director</i>	William Hobbs
<i>Sound Designer</i>	Paul Groothuis
<i>Literal Translation</i>	Christopher Campbell

# ACT ONE

*Dark theatre; June evening, dusk. An empty house, dim light. Enter, from different doors, DOORMAN and two OFFICERS.*

DOORMAN

So, where's your ticket?

1ST OFFICER

Are you speaking to me?  
I'm a captain in the Royal Household Cavalry.

DOORMAN

And you?

2ND OFFICER

Lieutenant, Rifle Corps.

1ST OFFICER

I see  
we're early for the play — an empty hall —  
so let's get in some practice with the foil.

*They practise, feint and fence. Enter various BLOKES and GIRLS.*

1ST BLOKE

*(to BLOKES; he shuffles and deals)*  
A quick flutter? The candle and Bordeaux  
come grace of my employer, don't you know.

2ND BLOKE  
(to GIRL)  
Give us a kiss before they light the light.

GIRL  
People can see.

2ND BLOKE  
Down here we're out of sight.

1ST BLOKE  
The knave of clubs . . .

3RD BLOKE  
. . . I trump you with a heart.

*Enter various SPECTATORS including THIEVES.*

1ST SPECTATOR  
(producing a snack)  
If you want a quick bite this is the perfect place.

2ND SPECTATOR  
(opening a bottle)  
And a drinking man can drink his wine in peace.

*Enter BOURGEOIS and SON.*

BOURGEOIS  
You'd think we'd strayed into some frightful slum.  
Drinkers, robbers, ruffians . . . God's grace,  
and they first played *Le Cid* in this very room!

*Enter BOYS; one boyish GIRL.*

DOORMAN  
You lot behave yourselves!

1ST BOY  
(with wounded dignity)  
What, us do you mean?  
. . . Have we the fish hooks and the fishing line?  
Got a pea-shooter?

2ND BOY  
Yes, and we got peas.

*Enter MARIANNE with drinks tray; audience slowly gathers.*

1ST BOY  
. . . The girl I told you about? Look, there she is.  
Hey, Marianne, you speaking to us tonight?

MARIANNE *ignores them.*

BOURGEOIS  
Gamblers and fornicators, if you please.  
It's shameful to see people of this sort  
disporting themselves in a temple of high art.

*STAGEHANDS prepare chandeliers for lighting and hoisting.*

1ST SPECTATOR  
Can't see a fucking thing; let there be light!

THIEF  
(to THIEVES)  
Okay, you novices to the cut-purse racket,  
I'm going to show you how to pick a pocket.  
Change is noisy; careful you don't shake it.

2ND SPECTATOR  
Who's on tonight?

BOURGEOIS  
It's Montfleury who plays.

MARIANNE

Milk, lemonade, pippins, cinnamon, nuts, canapés.

*Enter two MARQUISES; also MUSICIANS and JODELET the theatre manager.*

1ST MARQUIS

We arrive like tradesmen in an empty vault  
with no one here to sneer at and insult?  
Who are these trash? Let's find our usual chairs.

*One MARQUIS eyes the BOYS; sniffs cocaine from snuff box.*

1ST SPECTATOR

Strike up the music! Hoist the chandeliers!

*A STAGEHAND lights and hoists chandeliers; the MUSICIANS — lute, tabor, oboe, fiddle, flute — strike up a pop song:*

I saw her standing there  
Beside the *porte-cochère*.  
All are in love with her:  
Which one will she prefer?  
Good fortune would it be  
Did she decide on me,  
*Did she decide on me.*

*Enter ACADEMICIANS; also LIGNIÈRE and CHRISTIAN; LIGNIÈRE a distinguished drunk, CHRISTIAN a handsome but provincial young man.*

1ST MARQUIS

Lignière, not drunk yet?

LIGNIÈRE

(to CHRISTIAN)

Shall I introduce you?

. . . Gentlemen, Baron Christian de Neuchâteau,

here from Touraine just a few days ago.

CHRISTIAN

I've hardly been in Paris a week yet;  
I start tomorrow as a Guards cadet.  
I feel as if I'm still on the high-road.

2ND MARQUIS

(*aside*)

A handsome chap, though scarcely à *la mode*.

SON

(to BOURGEOIS)

Papa, are those the *Académie française*?

BOURGEOIS

. . . Boudou; Boudeau . . . All the immortals, yes.

THIEF

(to THIEVES)

You lift a fob-watch with a handkerchief.

*BOYS shoot peas and fish for wigs.*

1ST ACADEMICIAN

My best peruque! Boy, do you dare to laugh?  
Have you no respect for your elders?

1ST BOY

Get a life!

2ND ACADEMICIAN

My new hair-piece! How dare you? I shan't fail  
to report you to the management.

2ND BOY

Keep it real!

*Enter PRÉCIEUSES.*