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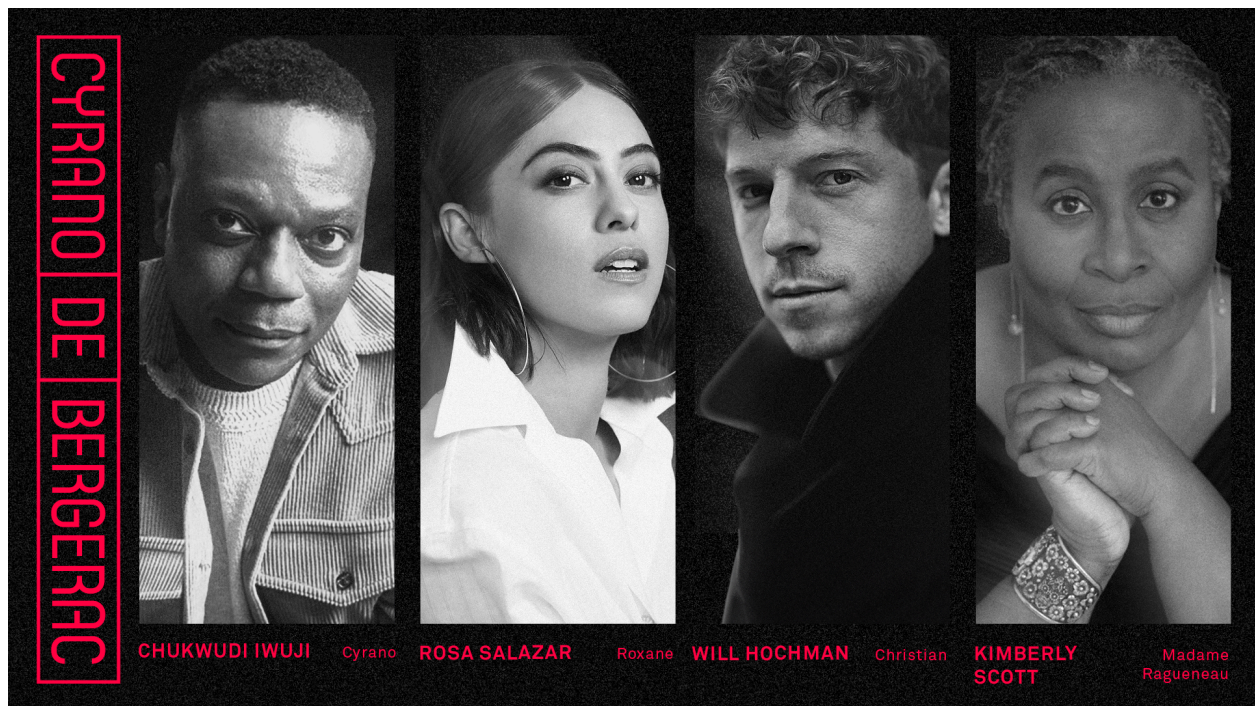
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CHUKWUDI IWUJI (*Guardians of the Galaxy*, Royal Shakespeare Company, *Othello*) to star in
PASADENA PLAYHOUSE'S

CYRANO de BERGERAC

by Edmond Rostand
freely adapted by Martin Crimp

Directed by MIKE DONAHUE
(*Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Inheritance*)



also starring **ROSA SALAZAR** (*Alita: Battle Angel*, *Brand New Cherry Flavor*, *Undone*), **WILL HOCHMAN** (Broadway's *The Sound Inside*, CBS's *Blue Bloods*), and **KIMBERLY SCOTT** (Broadway's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Respect*).

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 – Sunday, September 29, 2024
Press Opening September 8, 2024

Tickets on sale July 16 at pasadenaplayhouse.org

PASADENA, CA (July 11, 2024) – Danny Feldman, Producing Artistic Director of Pasadena Playhouse, the State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, announces Chukwudi Iwuji (James Gunn’s *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Peacemaker*, Royal Shakespeare Company, NY Public Theatre’s *Othello*) to star in Pasadena Playhouse’s *Cyrano De Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand, freely adapted by Martin Crimp, and directed by Mike Donahue (*Little Shop of Horrors*, Geffen Playhouse’s *The Inheritance*).

Also starring in the production are 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. Additional casting to be announced at a later date.

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 (Intimacy/Fight Choreographer), with Casting by RBT Casting (Ryan Bernard Tymensky, CSA).

One of the greatest plays ever written is radically reborn in this critically acclaimed adaptation. Modern poetry and sizzling rhythm collide in a scorching love triangle when Cyrano discovers the love of his life has eyes for another man. Immerse yourself in the romantic adventure of this timeless and heartrending 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.

Tickets for ***Cyrano de Bergerac*** are currently available through the purchase of a Membership and single tickets go on sale Tuesday, July 16. More information is available at pasadenaplayhouse.org, by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the Box Office at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

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 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: Wednesday, September 4 to Sunday, September 29
Press opening Sunday, September 8 at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: Memberships available starting at \$310
Single ticket on sale Tuesday, July 16, 2024
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 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).

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.