



WATERSHED
PUBLIC THEATRE

PRESENTS

EDMOND ROSTAND'S

CYRANO

SEPTEMBER 10-12 & 17-19

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CYRANO

by Edmond Rostand

translated from French by Gladys Thomas and Mary F. Guillemard

adapted by Payton McCarthy

Directed by

Payton McCarthy

Cast

Cyrano	Evan Taylor Williams
Roxane	Maggie Hernandez ⁺
Christian	Austin Jeffrey Smith ⁺
De Guiche	E Roy Lee
Cuigy/Poet/Cadet	Isabel Smith ⁺
Le Bret/Musician	Ellen Vernier
Valvert/Poet/Cadet	Luke McGuire ⁺
Montfluery/Duenna/Cadet	Rebecca Harding
Ligniere/Poet/Carbon	Scott Karan
Raganeau/Friar	Brett Lemmers ⁺

Production Team

Stage Manager	Zach Perkins ⁺
Assistant Stage Manager	Fayth Dennis
Intimacy Director	Jada Cato
Costume Design	Sara McCloud ⁺
Light Design	Zach Perkins ⁺
Assistant Light Design	Deanna Haynes
Sound Design	Patrick Adams ⁺
Audio Assistant	Vincent Racanelli
Properties Design	Sara McCloud ⁺
Master Carpenter	Evan Hernandez ⁺
Costume Assistant/Wardrobe	Josie Timmis [*]
Wardrobe Assistant	Isabella Laurenzano [*]
Crew Lead	Tim Rust
Technical Crew	Madalyn Kirk [*] , Caleb Lindsey
Festival Coordinator	Christian Randell ⁺
Producer	Kate Foreman
Associate Producer	Sarah Kennedy

⁺Member of Watershed Artist Company

^{*}Member of WPT Apprentice Company

This performance runs under two hours with no intermission.

Director's Note

What is it about *Cyrano de Bergerac* that has brought audiences back to this story over and over again for the last 129 years? To me, it's the universality of its themes. *Cyrano* is a story about a man who has deep insecurities. In this instance, that insecurity is with his body. Specifically his nose. With this production, it is my goal to invite audiences to see past the nose, and see what the nose means to the man. Because I find the universality of his insecurity goes beyond something so specific as a large nose. Whether it's a shame with one's body, or any other kind of psychological lack of self-worth — most people know or have known at one point what it is like to feel not good enough. What's ironic is how wildly talented and brilliant of a man he is. At the end of the day, he is the only real person standing in the way of his own happiness.



My intent with this production is to lean into the timelessness and relatability of the story. To strip this production bare and let the human conflicts speak for themselves. I encourage audiences to engage your imaginations with us as we share this story. And finally, I would like to thank you all for supporting local artists by attending this production. Enjoy the show!

— Payton McCarthy

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The Cast



Rebecca Harding (Montfluery/Duenna/Cadet) has had a long and diverse career in the arts as an actor, singer, dancer, pianist/organist, conductor, accompanist, and music educator. Some of her favorite former roles include Cathy Hiatt in *The Last Five Years*, Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, and Lettie Ethridge in the premiere production of *The Heartbreak Henry* by former SNL writer, David Sheffield. Rebecca is thrilled to be making her debut with Watershed Public Theatre and to be part of telling one of her favorite stories of all time.



Maggie Hernandez (Roxane) loves collaborating with Watershed Public Theatre, where she has appeared as Claire in *Proof* and Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and served as Assistant Director/Dramaturg for *Much Ado About Nothing*. Additional stage credits include Queen Gertrude (*Hamlet*) and Liesl (*The Sound of Music*). When not on stage or co-running the Rough and Tumble Shakespeare Co. with her husband, Maggie works as a graphic designer and mom to four kids.



Scott Karan (Ligniere/Poet/Carbon) Scott is thrilled to return for his second production with Watershed Public Theatre, having previously traded a cow for magic beans as The Baker in *Into the Woods*. This time, he was promised an outdoor production for the fresh air, Vitamin D, and scenic views. Instead, he received a hundred mosquito bites, severe sunstroke, and very dirty looks from local joggers for screaming show tunes at squirrels. Scott recently lost the Tony to Joshua Henry, though that outcome was made all the more shocking by the fact that he failed to be nominated. Enjoy the show!



E Roy Lee (De Guiche) is an actor and artist living in Murfreesboro. He has performed for a number of companies, including Nashville Improv Company, The Bell Witch Festival, TN Ren Fest, and The Murder Mystery Company. Some of his favorite performances are Edgar in *King Lear* (Murfreesboro Little Theatre), Froggy in *The Foreigner* (Pull-Tight Theatre), The Colonel/Johnny in *Smokefall* (Where House Theatre), and The Shark in *Swimming In the Shallows* (Gadabout Theatre). Roy is also the co-founder and director of M-Prov (Murfreesboro Improv). When he's not on stage/screen, Roy spends his time making pop/absurdist visual art. (instagram: @the.e.roy.lee)



Brett Lemmers (Raganeau/Friar) is thrilled to be making his return to the Watershed stage with *Cyrano*! Past credits include *Carousel* (Billy Bigelow), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Dogberry), and *The Lightning Thief* (Mr. D.). Brett would like to thank his family, friends, his three pups, and you! Thanks for coming out to support the arts! Enjoy the show!

The Cast *(continued)*



Luke McGuire (Valvert/Poet/Cadet) is excited to be returning to Watershed Public Theatre for another show. Luke is a teaching artist at Watershed Public Theatre, Little Blue Theatre and Nashville Children's Theatre. You might have seen him in Nashville Children's Theatre's *Three Little Kittens* (Pinwheel), Watershed Public Theatre's *Carousel* (Enoch Snow) Springhouse Theatre's *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Ms. Bumbrake) or Murfreesboro Little Theatre's *Puffs* (Wayne). Luke would like to thank the cast, crew, and his friends for this opportunity to be part of this extraordinary show. Luke would also like to thank his fiancée and family for always supporting his passions.



Austin Jeffrey Smith (Christian) is a Nashville-based actor and is honored to be joining Watershed Public Theatre for another production. You may have seen him in recent productions of *Into the Woods* (Jack) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Don Pedro). He would like to thank this wonderful production team, cast, and crew, his dear friends and family for their continued support, his lovely wife Isabel for her love and support (on and off stage), and finally YOU for supporting the arts and local productions!



Isabel Smith (Cuigy/Poet/Cadet) is so thrilled to be back for her fourth show with Watershed and her first show at Riverwalk Park! You may have seen her recently on the WPT stage in *Carousel* (Ensemble), *Sense and Sensibility* (Marianne), and *Into the Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood). You may have also seen her in recent Nashville credits such as *A Vote of Her Own* (Anne Dallas Dudley) and the regional tour of *Music City Melody* (Melody). She is so grateful to be back onstage with her husband Austin and wants to thank him for his constant support and love. All love to her amazing family and friends!



Ellen Vernier (Le Bret/Musician) has been interested in theatre from a young age, but this is her first excursion onto the stage apart from an appearance as a scab (boo!) in *Newsies*. She's loved the story of *Cyrano* ever since she first read the play many years ago, and is delighted to take part in bringing it to life for a new audience. Ellen is deeply grateful to her family, friends, acting coaches, therapist, and Zoloft prescription for making this performance possible.



Evan Taylor Williams (Cyrano) is stoked and pleased to return to the Watershed Public Theatre stage; this time fulfilling a bucket list role as the gallant romantic hero Cyrano de Bergerac! Past roles with WPT include Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Bob Cratchit, Jacob Marley, and various others in *A Victorian Christmas Carol*. Other favorite theatrical roles include Biff Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins*, Iago in *Othello*, and J. Pierpont Finch in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Evan dedicates this performance to his family, especially his late father and his own hero, Scott Williams and his brand new beautiful baby niece, Celia Scott Williams, aka "Scotty."

The Production Team

Patrick Adams (Sound Designer/Engineer) is thrilled to be part of this production. With a passion for music and performance, Patrick has previously appeared in *Into the Woods* as Cinderella's Father, *The Sound of Music* as Captain Von Trapp and *The Wizard of Oz* as The Cowardly Lion. When not performing or audio engineering, he enjoys spending time with his wife and five children.

Jada Cato (Intimacy Director) is a multi-hyphenate artist based in Nashville. She has a BA in theatre and is a certified voice coach. When not singing, Jada is choreographing and maintaining a safe environment for performing artists. Thank you to Watershed Public Theatre for this amazing opportunity!

Fayth Dennis (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent Fine Arts graduate from University of Tennessee Southern. This is her first show with Watershed Public Theatre, and she is having a blast!

Kate Foreman (Producer) is a Columbia native who has worked in professional theater in Middle Tennessee for more than 20 years, including eight years working for Nashville (formerly Tennessee) Repertory Theatre. She holds a BS degree in Theatre from MTSU and a MFA in Theatre Education from Mississippi University for Women. Kate is thrilled to be working at the helm of Watershed Public Theatre. Many thanks to husband John, the WPT board of directors, the cast & crew, friends and family for their amazing support. Special thanks to YOU for supporting local theatre!

Deanna Haynes (Assistant Light Designer) is a retired professor of theatre with more than 20 years of classroom experience. She holds a MFA degree in Theatrical Design and Technology from Louisiana State University. She has provided scenic, lighting and costume designs for over 80 productions. Some favorite designs include productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Death of a Salesman* and *Cabaret*. Deanna has also directed more than 20 productions including *Tartuffe*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Guys and Dolls*. She is excited to be joining Watershed Public Theatre for the first time with this production.

Evan M. Hernandez (Master Carpenter) is a long time theater professional with credits in NYC, Seattle, and Nashville. His favorite set he has ever worked on is the one where audience members kept trying to crawl into the coffin and make out in the padded cells.

Sarah Kennedy (Associate Producer) is enjoying yet another Watershed Public Theatre experience. By day she is the director of Ghostlight Books. In between peddling books, teaching, directing and keeping up with her son Benjamin and miscellaneous pets, she also coordinates youth arts field trips and advises for youth arts and education in multiple organizations regionally and nationally, including serving as WPT's Community Engagement Director.

The Production Team *(continued)*

Madalyn Kirk (Technical Crew) is thrilled to help bring this production to fruition. In the past, they very briefly dabbled in acting and theatre as a kid. Now, they're dedicated to delving into everything technical. They are currently on their second year as an apprentice in Watershed Public Theatre's Apprentice Company.

Isabella Laurenzano (Wardrobe Assistant) is a member of Watershed Public Theatre's Apprentice Company and is excited to be part of her first Watershed production. Some of her stage roles include Lydia Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, Stepmother in *Cinderella*, and Kassim in *Aladdin*. She also has done crew work as a stage manager for The Building Block School for the Arts and a TA/stage hand for Out of the Box Children's Theatre. All glory to God.

Caleb Lindsey (Technical Crew) has trained with Nashville Film Institute's summer program, and Act Too Players' Dickens Day Festival in Franklin. He thanks Watershed Public Theatre and the cast and crew for letting him be a part of this amazing production. He also thanks his trusty hat for keeping his hair out of his face while he works. Caleb feels every meal is better if eaten outside next to a campfire.

Payton McCarthy (Director) is incredibly excited to be sharing this timeless story with Columbia audiences. Previous directing credits include *Carousel* (Watershed Public Theatre), *Anastasia* (WPT), *Stop Kiss* (MTSU), *Bloody Human* (MTSU), and *Cabaret* (MLT), for which he won an MLT Award for Best Production. He would like to thank you for supporting local artists and hopes you enjoy the show!

Sara McCloud (Costume & Properties Designer) is a reuse textile artist who loves to forage in thrift stores and other people's houses for the materials she needs. A native of Murfreesboro, she studied costume and fashion design at MTSU. She later worked in NYC designing for the Fringe Festival, sewing for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, running crew off-Broadway and assisting multiple costume designers. Sara is delighted to be returning to WPT after her previous adventures designing *Anastasia* (2023), *Much Ado About Nothing* in Riverwalk Park (2025), *A Doll's House* (2025), *Into the Woods* (2026) and *Steel Magnolias* (2026). She currently resides in Columbia with her two children, Arthur and Beatrice, and her fiancé Alex Saylor.

Zach Perkins (Stage Manager/Light Designer) moved to Tennessee from Kansas in 2021. He joined the Watershed Public Theatre Journeyman Troupe in 2022 before moving on to do theatre professionally full-time. He is pleased to once again join Watershed for another great production and looks forward to many more.

Vincent Racanelli (Audio Assistant) is an audio engineer based out of Franklin. He attended school at MTSU, and has worked on more than 100 theatrical and musical productions. In his spare time, he enjoys following Ole Miss sports.

The Production Team *(continued)*

Christian Randell (Festival Coordinator) is thrilled to be using his day job to help support local art. As an event planner for The City of Franklin, he used his skills to help facilitate the festival portion of the event. To see his more creative endeavors, check out the podcast Improv Tabletop, or keep an eye out for future Watershed productions as he occasionally makes an appearance on stage, not just behind the scenes.

Tim Rust (Crew Lead) is excited to be a part of another Watershed Public Theatre show. He has supported WPT productions such as *Into the Woods*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Carousel*, *The 39 Steps* and *Little Women* as part of the backstage crew. You may have seen him in the spotlight as well, having previously appeared on the WPT stage as Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Friar Tuck in *Robin Hood & Friends*, in the ensemble of *Anastasia*, and as Mr. Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice*. Favorite past roles include Stone in *City of Angels*, and Rapunzel's Prince in *Into the Woods*.

Josie Timmis (Costume Assistant/Wardrobe) is so excited to be participating in her first Watershed Public Theatre production. She is a multidisciplinary artist with a background in Shakespeare and a love for all things creative!



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Josie Timmis

Watershed Artist Company

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Kay Ayers	Payton McCarthy	Vilah Sartwell
Caleb Finley	Quantagus McFall	Austin Jeffrey Smith
Susan Gaw	Luke McGuire	Isabel Smith
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Our Mission

At Watershed Public Theatre, we believe that theatre is the ultimate collaborative art and work to bring together arts professionals, volunteers, students and patrons to share in the illumination that only live performance can provide. We maintain our focus on nurturing community and practicing social and environmental responsibility while striving for the highest quality of artistic and educational experiences.



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