

Auditions notice:

***Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand, adapted and directed by Claire Hoult**

Auditions: Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st May at 7:30pm (just choose one evening to attend) at Lantern Methodist Church, Griffiths Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1SP.

Performances: Tuesday 11th-Saturday 15th August at 7:45pm, plus matinee at 3:00pm on the Saturday. All at the Studio at New Wimbledon Theatre, SW19 1QG.

You will also be needed from 11:30am on Sunday 9th August for the get-in and tech rehearsal and all evening on Monday 10th August for the dress rehearsal.

Rehearsals: Must be available for most Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:15-9:45pm, starting with a read through on 26th May.

It is highly probable that there will also be a few additional rehearsals on Sundays (likely 5th July, 12th July, 19th July and/or 2nd August). Inability to attend these rehearsals will not exclude you from being cast but a willingness to attend would be much appreciated.

If you have any questions about the information in this Auditions Notice, or about the production generally, please email auditions.carlton@gmail.com.

The Play:

Formidable wordsmith, father of science fiction, celebrated duellist and, above all, hopeless romantic, Cyrano de Bergerac embodies panache. As regimental captain, his men adore him and his sparkling sword play is matched only by his charismatic wit. In matters of the heart, however, there is just one - not small - problem. It's the elephant in the room. It's as plain as....

So while Cyrano is brave enough to fight a hundred men, he is too frightened to declare his feelings for Roxane. She is after all quite beautiful and quite exacting about words. She is also, although not just a pretty face herself, quite susceptible to falling for one. Sure enough, the handsome new recruit Christian catches her eye. Now if only he had the words to match his looks and give voice to his feelings. And so the stage is set for deception and doubt, hilarity and heartbreak.

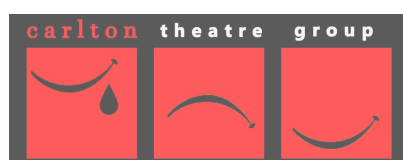
At the first performance of *Cyrano de Bergerac* in 1897 the audience were still applauding Edmond Rostand's masterpiece an hour after the curtain fell. It has remained enduringly popular ever since.

This Production:

This new adaptation sets the action in the Bakehouse Parisienne - home to beguiling soldiers, bravura spoken word performances and the best brioches in France.

The Auditions:

You do not have to prepare anything. You will be given a piece or pieces to read at the audition, probably with other people.



Key Characters:

We are open to casting gender and age blind. The 'traditional' genders of the main characters are listed by their names but casting options are in brackets.

Ragueneau - M - owner of the Bakehouse where the action is set, lover of baked goods and performance in equal measure (M/F - any age)

Ligniere - M - performance artist and drag queen/king/trans character (M/F - any age)

Cyrano - M - wordsmith and soldier, in charge of the Gascon cadets who adore him, charismatic and, superficially, confident (M/F - any age)

Bret - M - Cyrano's best friend, frequently tries (unsuccessfully) to keep Cyrano from getting himself into trouble (M/F - similar age to Cyrano)

Christian - M - handsome but often painfully inarticulate, in love with Roxane (M/F - probably a little younger than Cyrano)

Roxane - F - clever and pretty, falls for Christian (or so she thinks!) (M/F - similar age to Christian)

De Guiche - M - has powerful political and military connections, married but in love with Roxane (M/F - probably older than Roxane)

The following roles will be played by five actors working as an ensemble. The ensemble is crucial to the action and actors should be flexible and prepared to take on a variety of roles, only some of which are listed here:

Martha - Roxane's friend

Valvert - bit of a ninny, used by De Guiche to try to marry Roxane

Montfleury - an actor of limited talents

Orange Girl - sells refreshments and eavesdrops on important conversations

Sentry - inefficient guard of the camp

Priest - not the brightest

At other times the ensemble will play workers in the Bakehouse, soldiers and theatre technicians (as part of the play)

