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Cyrano de Bergerac

Edmond Rostand (1868–1918) Translated by Gladys Thomas and Mary F. Guillemard

Read by: Cast Language: English
 Length: 4 hours and 4 minutes Style: Dramatic
 Genre(s): Fiction, Plays, Drama

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
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The title character of *Cyrano de Bergerac* is a fictionalization of the basic facts life of a real person by the same name, a French writer and swordsman who lived in the early 1600's. The play consists of five acts and is written entirely in rhyming couplets of twelve syllables per line that approximate the popular French alexandrine form. Our hero is Hercule Savinien de Cyrano de Bergerac, a talented, strong-willed nobleman serving as a soldier in the French Army. A duelist, a poet, and a musical artist, he also has an exceptionally large nose which keeps him from declaring his love for Roxane. Early in the play Cyrano gets his hopes up when he visits with Roxane, thinking he might have a chance, but they are dashed when she confides that she is in love with Christian, a young cavalier in his regiment. When Christian con-

fides his feelings for Roxane to Cyrano, he also admits that he is the least eloquent of men. Cyrano offers to write love letters to her on Christian's behalf. The play careens through twists and turns, coming to a tragic climax that sends Roxane to see a convent. Fifteen years later, Cyrano travels to meet with Roxane, but, alas, it is not what we might have wished. The play was a huge hit when it debuted in late 1895, running for 300 consecutive nights. The play has been a perennial favorite ever since and is famous for introducing the word "panache" into the English language.

Edmund Eugene Alexis Rostand (April 1, 1868 – December to 1918) was a French poet and playwright best known for his play *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Rostand was born in Marseilles to a wealthy Provençal family. His father was an economist, poet, and a member of the Institut de France. Rostand studied history, literature, and philosophy at the Collège Stanislas in Paris. His first play, a one-act comedy, was published and performed in 1888 to little notice. In 1890 published a volume of poems, *Les Musardises*. He wrote a three-act play in verse for the Théâtre François entitled *Les Romanesque's* that debuted in 1894 and was adapted in 1960 into the long-running Broadway musical *The Fantasticks*. He then wrote two plays featuring Sarah Bernhardt before the debut of his heroic comedy *Cyrano de Bergerac* in December 1895, which became a massive hit and played for over 300 consecutive nights. He wrote *L' Aiglon* in 1900 for Sarah Bernhardt to perform during the Exposition Universelle in Paris. In 1902 he became the youngest writer ever elected to the Académie française. In 1903 he relocated to the Basque Pyrenees in 1903 for health reasons. In 1910 he wrote *Chantecler* for the famous actor Constant Coquelin, which is considered the great play of his maturity. He was still writing when he died prematurely at age 50. "La Dernière Nuit de Don Juan" (*The Last Night of Don Juan*) was performed posthumously in 1922. In addition, there were two unfinished and unpublished plays, *Yorick* and *Les Petites Manies*.