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Cyrano De Bergerac, Sacramento Theatre Company

Review: After a few mini catastrophes; leaving a bit late and parking's unforeseen, yet subconsciously known difficulties, we arrive! To my surprise the Sacramento Theater Company had moved, like bed coupling lovers, into the arms of the Music Circus, now part of the Wells Fargo Pavilion. After retrieving our tickets from Will Call, we follow the soft melodic sound of angels emanating from the Theater entry. And there, on a small stage, a chorus of high school students dressed in renaissance attire, singing with angelic softness, welcomes us to the opening night of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. As the first scene opens a classical guitarist sits to the left, off stage to accompany the performance. His talent filled the theater with a subtle background ambience. The play opens with various characters arriving for a stage play which culminates with a sword fight in which Cyrano creates a ballad as he does battles with his distracter, ending with his sword striking home. The play continues on with humorous wit as Cyrano meets Christian, and the deception unfolds like lifting the sarcophagus lid from King Tut's tomb, removing old crumbling cloth, sheet after sheet, until the jewels pour forth in radiant light. In this case Cyrano's splendid light spewed forth beneath the balcony, the beauty of unrequited love flowing from Cyrano to Roxanne, ringing in his heart like a golden bell ringing with each beat, calling, "Roxanne! Roxanne!", forcing Christian into her arms. The scenes continue with the marriage of Christian and Roxanne, preventing the amours desire of an unwanted love. The marriage forces the smitten admirer, which just happened to be Christian's commanding officer, to send Christian to his death; sent to the front of a war between France and Spain. During the weeks at the front Cyrano's heart cries out everyday in letters to Roxanne, letters penned from his heart, yet signed with Christian's name. Just before Christian's death, he realizes that Roxanne doesn't love him; she loves the soul of Cyrano. He tells Cyrano to break the veil of secrecy, to open his heart to her in the light of truth. Cyrano finally finds the courage to fight away his vanity and rushes to Roxanne. Just as he arrives at the threshold of truth he hears of the death of Christian. He could not bear to

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break the silence of his love for Roxanne and remains silent for 15 years and she remains in mourning, until Cyrano arrives to visit her in a court yard where he has visited her everyday for 15 years, never missing one day, to deliver the weekly news of Paris. Cyrano has been ambushed and is near death. He asks to read the last letter that Roxanne has kept in a locket around her neck. Cyrano reads the letter as night falls, and Roxanne hears the sound of his voice and feels his soul wrap her in that moment beneath the balcony years ago. She turns and sees Cyrano reading the letter in the dark and knows that he was the one who loved her. Cyrano refuses to admit it, yet she insists that he loves her and that she loves him. I sat there watching and listening as tears fell all around me. I felt the muse of masculinity forcing the tear ducts of my own passion's volcano closed, yet one large molten hot tear streamed down onto an awakening of the heart. I stepped from the theater into a full moon lit night, knowing that passion is the ultimate truth! The beauty that life offers! A performance well delivered by Mr. Pribyl. He drew me into his character in that I felt his passion and wanted more.
- Jim Cain, Carmichael Ca.

Review: Excellent production in every way! Great costumes, sets, direction and acting. John Pribyl was perfect. I hope he will return for other plays in our fair city!
- Gayle DeForest

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