

CYRANO DE BERGERAC

Modified for Radio by Marge Lutton

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Cast

Narrator Bryan

Cyrano Cliff

Christien Ivan

Roxanne Esther

Ragenau Dave P

Le Bret Kevin

Montfleury Reynaud

Valvert Kim

De Guiche Cole

Voice1 Van Meter

Voice 2 Julie (Porter)

Duenna Joan P

Voice 3 Donna

Ligniere Pat

Voice 4 Melinda

Sister Claire Joy

Mother Margaret Jean R

Sister Martha Barbara

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2

3 **NARRATOR:** Is beauty only skin-deep? Ask the man or woman who lives with deformity
4 and learn how deep the scar may go. To possess a soul that yearns to
5 blossom with great love, actions and deeds yet is imprisoned by
6 misshapened body or ugly face-that is the tale we are about to tell.

7 **CYRANO:** A drooping white plume...cape faded and torn...sword dulled by long
8 use...and always preceding me by a quarter of an hou...r my nose. I am
9 Cyrano de Bergerac.

10 **CYRANO:** And yet in the sunset of my life as I keep my weekly tryst here in the
11 Convent Park of the Ladies of the Cross I remember only life as morning?
12 Time 15 years ago. And the lady... Roxanne Venus herself...young,
13 gentle, warm and radiant. My cousin Roxanne, my love, my lady, my life.
14

15 **CHRISTIEN:** Cyrano!

16 **ROXANNE:** Poet!

17 **RAGENAU:** Solider

18 **LE BRET:** Philosopher! Invincible swordsman!

19 **CYRANO:** (IRONY) My public long ago acclaimed everything about me... but my
20 nose!... And then one night...in the theatre of the Hotel de Bourgogne...I
21 outdid even myself!

22 **MUSIC:** **SWELL AND CUT**

23 **CAST:** **EXCITED CROWD BG.**

24 **CYRANO:** (YOUNG-VITAL) I say again, Montfleury...go – before I deflate your
25 bloated carcass with my blade!
26

27 **MONTFLEURY:** (OFF) But, Monsieur de Bergerac...you are interrupting the play...

28 **CYRANO:** I interrupt nothing but a too-fat actor...depart!

29 **CAST:** **AD LIBS. “No...let him continue” ... “Cyrano will win”... “He’ll**
30 **stay”... “He’ll go”...etc.**

31 **MONTFLEURY:** (OVER AD LIB) Consider the rest of the audience, Cyrano...they
32 want their money’s worth!

1 **CYRANO:** They shall have it by seeing you exit to the count of three!

2 **MONTFLEURY:** Impossible...I will not go!

3 **CYRANO:** My sword shall speak

4 **SOUND:** **SWORD DRAWN**

5 **CYRANO:** One...my blade is thirsting for your blubber

6 **CAST:** EXCITED AD LIB

7 **MONTFLUERY:** (PLEADING) Gentlemen...protect me!

8 **CYRANO:** Two...thirstier and thirstier

9 **MONTFLUERY:** Well...I do have an engagement

10 **CAST:** JEERS AND CAT CALLS

11 **CYRANO:** Three...I shall attack!

12 **MONTFLUERY:** (FADES) ...That I must keep immediately!

13 **CAST:** LAUGHS AND CHEERS...KEEP IN BG THRU FOLLOWING

14 **CYRANO:** (LAUGHS) Ha!

15 **SOUND** **SWORD IN SCABBARD**

16 **CYRANO:** I never thought to see jelly make such speed...until I saw Montfleury in a
17 hurry!

18 **CAST:** MORE LAUGHTER. "Cyrano...Cyrano..."

19 **VALVERT:** (APPROACH-SNEERING) So the actor of the day is replaced by a
20 clown! --- Or is that your real nose?

21 **CAST:** QUIETS DOWN EXPECTANTLY.

22 **CYRANO:** Sir...you are the Viscount de Valvert?

23 **VALVERT:** (STIFFLY) I am...but what has that to....?

24 **CYRANO:** (QUIETLY) Valvert, you were uninspired—merely to inquire if this is my
25 real nose when you might have left us all with deathless prose...

26 **VALVERT:** (CONTEMPT) So...? Your courage does not equal the size of what you
27 call a nose!

1 **CYRANO:** Sir, I wish to introduce you to...my glove!

2 **SOUND** **GLOVE STRIKES HIM ACROSS FACE.**

3 **CAST:** GASPS

4 **VALVERT:** (REACTS)

5 **CYRANO:** And next...my sword!

6 **SOUND:** **DRAWS SWORD**

7 **VALVERT:** Have at it then!

8 **SOUND:** **SWORD IS DRAWN. DUEL BEGINS.**

9 **CAST:** EXCITED AD LIB BG. THEN DOWN.

10 **CYRANO:** (AS HE LUNGES AND PARRIES) Valvert is uninspired... merely to ask
11 if this be my real nose when he might have left more deathless prose!
12 Words of imagery such as...(AGGRESSIVE)...If that were my nose, I'd
13 cut it off to please, not spite my face...How can you drink with such a
14 beaker...a special should be made for it...(MILITARY TONE)...To blow on
15 such a bugle could start a thousand wars! (CHANGE OF TONE)...Such
16 folly I allow my tongue...but I permit no other man alive...)FINAL
17 LUNGE)...to utter them.

18 **VALVERT:** (CRIES OUT IN PAIN)

19 **SOUND** **BODY FALLS TO THE FLOOR**

20 **CAST:** CHEERS. APPLAUSE.

21 **LE BRET:** A beautiful blade, Cyrano...(concern)...but most unwise.

22 **DE GUICHE :** Here, porters...bear the Vicount de Valvert from this place... ! (FADING)
23 Handle him gently...careful there...

24 **LE BRET:** (SOTTO) Cyrano...you've just made an enemy of the count de
25 Guiche...the look he gave you!

26 **VOICE 1:** (O.S.) Clear the theatre...ladies and gentlemen...clear...

27 **CYRANO:** (PANTING A LITTLE) Roxane...did she see it all...or did she leave her
28 box?

29 **CAST:** IS FADING DURING THIS

1 **LE BRET:** (CONCERN) Roxane would never hate you. But there are
2 others...deadlier.

3 **CYRANO:** (TO HIMSELF) ...Not half so deadly...

4 **LE BRET:** Why do you so dislike actors, Cyrano....? To provoke a duel with a friend
5 of the Count de Guiche

6 **CYRANO:** I do not dislike actors...Only Montfleury.

7 **LE BRET:** Why Montfleury...his patron is...?

8 **CYRANO:** (INTERRUPTING) His unhealthy flesh has reached the corpulence of
9 obscene deformity...and I have reason to despise deformity

10 **LE BRET:** (SIGHING) Your nose again? You made it your battle-cry to best
11 Valvert...But I ask again...why Montfleury?

12 **CYRANO:** I saw his eyes once when he looked upon my cousin Roxane in her
13 box...toad eyes...watching...planning.

14 **LE BRET:** Cyrano...you and...Roxane...?

15 **CYRANO:** Who else can the Beast love...but Beauty?

16 **LE BRET:** (MOVED) My friend...my friend...(ANOTHER ATTEMPT)...but she
17 watched you just now...bright eyed...eager.

18 **CYRANO:** (BITTERLY) She watched Punchinello on a stick...ringing his tiny
19 bells...She came to watch a play...she saw Punch...without a Judy!

20 **LE BRET:** Is this my Cyrano who speaks? The guardsman who fears no man...yet
21 trembles before one silent girl...? (PAUSE) Tell her, friend....tell her of
22 your love!

23 **CYRANO:** How tell her..? ...(BITTERLY)...In the organ language of my nose?

24 **LE BRET:** Aaaaah!

25 **VOICE 2:** (APPROACH) Pardon, Monsieur de Bergerac....

26 **CYRANO:** Yes, Porter ?

27 **VOICE 2 :** A lady, sir...

28 **CYRANO:** To see me?

29 **DUENNA:** (OFF) M'sieu de Bergerac

- 1 **CYRANO:** (STARTLED) Roxanne's Duenna !
- 2 **LE BRET :** (WHISPER) I told you! Now, speak up!
- 3 **DUENNA:** (FADE IN) I bring a message for you, M'sieu...We wish to meet with you
4 in private...
- 5 **CYRANO:** (TREMBLING) Roxanne...asks...for me? –Where...when....?
- 6 **DUENNA:** We attend mass at St. Roche tomorrow at dawn. – Perhaps...shortly
7 after..?
- 8 **CYRANO:** (IMPATIENTLY) Yes. Yes...but where?
- 9 **LE BRET:** (WHISPER) Raguenu's is close by...
- 10 **CYRANO:** (QUICKLY) Raguenu...an understanding friend...yes...
- 11 **DUENNA:** Where, M'sieu?
- 12 **CYRANO:** Raguenu's pastry shop is on the Rue St. Honore...
- 13 **DUENNA:** We shall be there at seven. (FADING) Au 'voir M'sieu de Bergerac
- 14 **CYRANO :** (OVERCOME) She wants to see me...Roxane asks to look upon
15 Cyrano...!
- 16 **LE BRET:** (UNDERSTANDING SMILE) Not so bitter...hopeless...melancholy now?
- 17 **CYRANO:** Now Le Bret...? Now am I that mountain...that thunderous sky unleashing
18 Its lightnings...too strong to duel with men...bring me gods...!
- 19 **MUSIC: STINGER**
- 20 **SOUND: DOOR OPENS VIOLENTLY.CROWD ENTERS FROM OFF. APPROACH**
- 21 **CYRANO:** (LAUGHS) I ask for gods...they send me devils?
- 22 **LE BRET:** (HUMOR) No devils but friends, Cyrano..it is Ligniere...the worse for
23 wear...as usual!
- 24 **CYRANO:** (AMUSED) Ligniere---that poor, bad poet...he writes no better than he
25 drinks...!
- 26 **VOICE 3:** (APPROACH) Cyrano...! Ligniere is in great danger-
- 27 **CYRANO:** (SCOFFING) Danger from creatures of the bottle? (LAUGHS)

- 1 **LIGNIERE:** (DRUNKEN TERROR) No, no...! Christien tol' me...friend Christien...a
2 hundred men are going to foul---foul—fouly murder me tonight...!
- 3 **CYRANO:** One hundred men for you...? Oh, come now, Ligniere...
- 4 **VOICE 3:** It is true, Cyrano...
- 5 **LIGNIERE:** (ALMOST IN TEARS) Merely because I wrote a wrong poem... 'bout th'
6 right people...I die tonight on my way home...Christien tol' me...
- 7 **CYRANO:** (CURIOUSLY) Who is this Christien?
- 8 **LE BRET:** He was here in the theatre earlier...Christien de Neuvillette...recently from
9 Touraine...he is joining the Guards tomorrow.
- 10 **CYRANO:** My company...(A GREAT LAUGH) Cyrano de Bergerac will see you
11 safely home, my friend...!
- 12 **LE BRET:** Cyrano...there will be trouble...!
- 13 **CYRANO:** Did I not ask for it, Le Bret? (PROJECT) Take
14 torches...lanterns...Cyrano has challenged the gods tonight...
- 15 **SOUND:** CROWD AND AS LIBS UP, CHEERS.
- 16 **MUSIC:** TRANSITION
- 17 **SOUND:** DOOR BANGS OPEN. ON.
- 18 **CYRANO:** Avaunt, friend Raguenaу...prince of bakers.....Greetings of the dawn and
19 all things new and good!
- 20 **RAGUENAU:** (OFF) Hail, Cyrano!
- 21 **SOUND:** DOOR SLAMS SHUT, FOOTSTEPS APPROACH.
- 22 **CYRANO:** (GAY) The long mouth...the sorry eye...that does not look like jolly
23 Raguenaу!
- 24 **RAGUENAU:** I cannot be jolly, Cyrano! I am concerned for you. I have heard of last
25 night – you, against a mob – Cyrano, you must be careful!
- 26 **CYRANO:** Bah! It is nothing - -
- 27 **RAGUENAU:** And what brings you with the birds?
- 28 **CYRANO:** I come to meet a friend...(WARMLY)...a dearest friend.
- 29 **RAGUENAU:** (DELIGHTED) (UNDERSTANDING) A lady!

1 **CYRANO:**(BREATHING IN).....An immutable flame.....encompassing all
2 passion...what time is it, Raguenuau?

3 **RAGUENAU:** a quarter hour till seven! But tell me – what of this lady? Who is ----

4 **CYRANO:** I cannot say what lies in my heart...I must write it....Raguenuau...a
5 pen...paper..?

6 **RAGUENAU:** Of course, Cyrano – come, on the table.

7 **SOUND:** FOOTSTEPS...CHAIR MOVING

8 **RAGUENAU:** Cyrano...your hand...wounded...?

9 **CYRANO:** It is nothing...nothing...

10 **SOUND:** WRITING BEGINS SCRATCHING OF PEN AS HE WRITES

11 **CYRANO:** (AS HE WRITES)...Your lips give issue to naught but perfume...

12 **RAGUENAU:** There could be only one man in Paris to engage one hundred...

13 **CYRANO:** (STILL WRITING) Your eyes window paradise...

14 **RAGUENAU:** Cyrano de Bergerac...!

15 **CYRANO:** When you draw near...

16 **RAGUENAU:** Such audacity...courage...heroism...!

17 **SOUND:** COACH AND HORSES APPROACH FROM DISTANCE. OUTSIDE.

18 **CYRANO:** I tremble with fear...(SIGHS) There...’tis done...no need to sign my
19 name...I’ll give it to her...in eloquent silence

20 **SOUND:** COACH STOPS...OUTSIDE.

21 **RAGUENAU:** (SLIGHT FADE) A coach has stopped...? (EXCITED) Two ladies step
22 forth...!

23 **CYRANO:** Dear heaven...

24 **SOUND:** CHAIR PUSHES BACK

25 **RAGUENAU:** (OFF) Your...friend...?

26 **CYRANO:** Please, Raguenuau...leave us alone...

27 **RAGUENAU:** (FADING) Of course, Cyrano...

1 **SOUND: DOOR OPENS. OFF.**

2 **RAGUENAU:** (OFF) Good luck...!

3 **SOUND: DOOR CLOSES. OFF.**

4 **CYRANO:** (EXPULSION OF BREATH) (TO HIMSELF) Now...may a life's prayers
5 be answered...! If I detect a glimmer of hope I'll present the letter...

6 **SOUND: HEAVY DOOR OPENS. SLIGHTLY OFF.**

7 **CYRANO:** Madame and mademoiselle, I salute you...One moment madame...

8 **CYRANO:** (STOPS. ..SMILES...ALMOST BREATHE)

9 **DUENNA:** Sir?

10 **CYRANO:** Two little words with you, Duenna.

11 **DUENNA:** You may have four.

12 **CYRANO:** You like sweet things?

13 **DUENNA:** Enough to make me fat.

14 **CYRANO:** I will fill this sack with jelly tartlets.

15 **DUENNA:** Ah.

16 **CYRANO:** Puff pastries.

17 **DUENNA:** Especially when they are filled with cream.

18 **CYRANO:** And a light sponge cake.

19 **DUENNA:** (GIGGLE) M-m-m-m.

20 **CYRANO:** and warm fresh-baked pies.

21 **DUENNA:** oh sir I'm mad about them.

22 **CYRANO:** Please take them all and eat outside.

23 **SOUND: DOOR CLOSES.**

24 **ROXANE:** (FADE IN) Am I not the naughty one to come here, cousin...?

25 **CYRANO:** Ah, Roxane...what sweet whisper from heaven prompted you to
26 remember me...to ask to see me?

- 1 **ROXANE:** First...to thank you, dear Cyrano...
- 2 **CYRANO:** You...thank...me?
- 3 **ROXANE:** For besting Valvert yesterday...! I saw it all and gloried in the duel...for
4 the Count de Guiche would have me wed that man!
- 5 **CYRANO:** What!
- 6 **ROXANE:** Though married to Richelieu's niece, the Count would keep me near and
7 safe...to eat his cake...and have it too!
- 8 **CYRANO:** I should have run him through...Two are as easy as one...But
9 ...Roxane...your eyes...your thoughts...are only for the beauty of life.
- 10 **ROXANE:** (SMILES) You have not changed one whit, Cyrano...Remember ...when
11 we were children...?
- 12 **MUSIC:** SNEAK IN BG.
- 13 **CYRANO:** How well I remember those golden summers that brought you to
14 Bergerac!
- 15 **ROXANNE:** (LAUGHS A LITTLE) Even then you were making swords out of
16 reeds...frowning so fiercely as you challenged birds and butterflies...
- 17 **CYRANO:** (WATCHING HER) ...And you wove flowers for a fragrant crown.
- 18 **ROXANNE:** (REMEMBERING)The dragonflies hovering over the pond...
- 19 **CYRANO:** The long, long thoughts of the very young...
- 20 **ROXANNE:** Did you...love me then, Cyrano?
- 21 **CYRANO:** (STARTLED) What...?
- 22 **ROXANNE:** (LAUGHS) Was I pretty?
- 23 **CYRANO:** You were not plain.
- 24 **CYRANO:** (GAINING COURAGE) Roxanne...you...you wished to tell me
25 something...?
- 26 **ROXANNE:** The spirit of the past encourages me...I must pronounce it simply...for I
27 have not your gift of words. I am in love!
- 28 **CYRANO:** Roxanne...!
- 29 **ROXANNE:** But the one I love...does not know...

1 **CYRANO:** Perhaps...he dares to guess...

2 **ROXANNE:** Oh, I know he loves me...I've seen it in his eyes....!

3 **CYRANO:** Ah.....!

4 **ROXANNE:** He longs to tell me....but dares not....such a brave man too...a
5 Guardsman...!

6 **CYRANO:** My regiment!...Roxane...!

7 **ROXANE:** (INTERRUPTING) Young, noble...and so handsome...!

8 **CYRANO:** Handsome...?

9 **ROXANE:** Cyrano,...what is wrong?

10 **CYRANO:** Er...my hand.

11 **ROXANE:** Let me see! (REPROOF) Cousin...fighting again?

12 **CYRANO:** No blade of reeds...no butterflies...(SADLY) the boy has grown to
13 manhood...

14 **ROXANE:** (BARELY LISTENING) He has been at the theatre every night for the last
15 two weeks...not to see the play...but me...(BREATHLESS) Oh,
16 Cyrano...how he watches me! Tell me...am I... bold?

17 **CYRANO:** (SADLY) To love...to know that you are loved in return? Not bold,
18 Roxane...but blessed. --- His name?

19 **ROXANE:** (BREATHES IT) Christien, the Baron de Neuville...Protect him in your
20 Gascon regiment, Cyrano...they quarrel with anyone of other blood...

21 **CYRANO:** You ask me to protect your Christien?

22 **ROXANE:** For ...the sake of our childhood---?

23 **CYRANO:** For...(SIGHS) Very well...

24 **ROXANE:** (EAGERLY) You'll be his friend?

25 **CYRANO:** I swear...

26 **ROXANE:** Tell him to write to me...

27 **CYRANO:** That I promise.

28 **ROXANE:** And now...I must go...Ah, Cyrano...(ARDENTLY) I do love you!

1 **CYRANO:** As a friend...

2 **ROXANE:** (SOFTLY) As the dearest of friends...(FADES) Adieu...adieu...

3 **SOUND: DOOR OPENS GENTLY OFF. SHUTS QUIETLY.**

4 **CYRANO:** (TO HIMSELF. HEART-BROKEN) Farewell...farewell...my heart...!

5 **MUSIC: BRIDGE.**

6 **SOUND: MALE VOICES APPROACH.**

7 **CYRANO:** (RETURNING TO THE PRESENT WITH A START) Eh...what noise is
8 this?

9 **RAGUENAU:** (COMES IN – EXCITED) Cyrano...your Guardsmen are outside...and
10 with them...the Count de Guiche...!

11 **CYRANO:** De Guiche...?

12 **SOUND: DOOR OPENS. CROWD APPROACHES THEN QUIETS DOWN.**

13 **DE GUICHE:** (APPROACH) Monsieur de Bergerac...I heard of your prowess in the
14 street last night...Your second starring performance of the evening, was it
15 not ?

16 **CYRANO:** (WATCHING HIM CAREFULLY) If you can call the first...the disposition
17 of Viscount de Valvert, a performance, your Grace!

18 **RAGUENAU:** (OFF) The Guardsmen are excellent at such things!

19 **DE GUICHE:** Swordsmanship with poetry...an accomplishment... You might be
20 amusing in my retinue...

21 **CYRANO:** Yours...!

22 **DE GUICHE:** My uncle...the cardinal...might be persuaded to help your career...

23 **CYRANO:** I ask no help...I am as prodigal with my talents as is the sun with
24 warmth... the clouds with rain...

25 **LE BRET:** (SOTTO) Cyrano, take care...

26 **DE GUICHE:** And insolent as well...!

27 **RAGUENAU:** (OFF - LAUGHING) Bergerac can well afford insolence with his talent for
28 dueling!

29 **CAST:** (LAUGHTER)

1 **LE BRET:** Whoever hired those assassins for Ligniere last night should feel robbed!

2 **DE GUICHE:** (COLDLY) Believe me, Messieurs...I do!

3 **VOICES:** (DIE DOWN)

4 **CYRANO:** (TONGUE IN CHEEK) You...the Count die Guiche...feel the need to
5 murder poets?

6 **DE GUICHE:** Foolish poets...who sing unwisely...

7 **CYRANO:** To be a post is to be forever unwise...but it pays well in coin of
8 truth...freedom to unmask the hypocrites in high places...!

9 **DE GUICHE:** (COLD ANGER) We shall meet again, Cadet...

10 **CYRANO:** I eagerly await the time and place...!

11 **DE GUICHE:** (FADING) Come, officers...we have some plans to form!

12 **SOUND:** DOOR OPENS...SHUTS...OFF.

13 **CAST:** MURMUR OF AS LIB BG... SOME CONCERN

14 **RAGUENAU:** Cyrano...you've done it now!

15 **LE BRET:** Would it have pained you so much to win back favor from de Guiche?

16 **CYRANO:** It would have killed me!

17 **LE BRET:** But your career!

18 **CYRANO:** I have my career. Let those who will carouse over commas...and mouthe
19 metaphors for empty heads...I choose my own path...free and alone!

20 **RAGUENAU:** Cyrano against the world...sword sharp and ready...tongue sharper and
21 readier still...!

22 **LE BRET:** (SOME ANGER) Cyrano...against the world...alone...and mad!

23 **CYRANO:** But with a method, good friend, Le Bret...I thrive on hatred...it is my fancy
24 to lance the soft, white sinning of hypocrisy...I love to make an honest
25 enemy...!

26 **LE BRET:** (SUDDEN UNDERSTANDING) So, it is not you she loves.

27 **CYRANO:** (BITTERLY) You read me better than I speak, Le Bret.

28 **SOUND:** DOOR OPENS. SHUTS. OFF.

1 **RAGUENAU:** (FADING) Yes, sir...what is your desire...?

2 **VOICE 4:** Behold...our recruit of the morning!

3 **CHRISTIEN:** (APPROACH) Gentlemen cadets...I greet you...

4 **VOICE 4:** (IN) Tell him how he may hope to act like a Gascon in a thousand years,
5 Cyrano!

6 **CYRANO:** (FADING - A LITTLE DISINTEREST) In a thousand years...he will learn.

7 **CAST:** LAUGHTER. SOME AD LIB IN BG.

8 **LE BRET:** Psst...recruit!

9 **CHRISTIEN:** You are addressing me?

10 **LE BRET:** (SOTTO) Of course. To offer advice...whatever else you say to
11 Bergerac...never mention his...nose...

12 **CHRISTIEN:** His nose? It is large...

13 **LE BRET:** (HOLLOW) To voice it is to die!

14 **CHRISTIEN:** But why...?

15 **LE BRET:** (PROJECT)...Come, Cyrano...your story of the hundred and one...!

16 **CAST:** AD LIB AGREEMENT.

17 **CYRANO:** (APPROACH) The story...gentlemen...? It is nothing new...I would have
18 done the same for you!

19 **ALL:** LAUGHTER

20 **CHRISTIEN:** (TO HIMSELF) So...don't mention his nose...?

21 **CYRANO:** I was walking my friend home...that was all.—Of course we had heard we
22 might be waylaid...and many followed to see the plot! The Lady Moon
23 moved with us and then slipped behind a cloud...you could not see
24 beyond...

25 **CHRISTIEN:** (DELIBERATELY)...Your nose...!

26 **CAST:** GASP FROM MEN.

27 **CYRANO:** (AFTER SLIGHT PAUSE – PLANNED COURTESY) And...who is this?

28 **LE BRET:** (EAGERLY) A new recruit... who came to us this morning.

1 **CYRANO:** (ANGER) I'll season him fast enough!

2 **SOUND: DRAWING OF SWORD.**

3 **LE BRET:** Christien de Neuvillette...!

4 **CYRANO :** De Neu...(CONTROLS HIMSELF WITH AN EFFORT)

5 **SOUND: (SWORD RETURNING TO SCABBARD)**

6 **CYRANO:** Black...all was black as I marched on...thinking that for a shabby ne'er-
7 do-well I would offend some prince who might well have me taken...

8 **CHRISTIEN:** By the nose.

9 **CYRANO:** (HALF-STRANGLLED) ...taken into custody...Why should de Bergerac be
10 the one to pay...

11 **CHRISTIEN:** ...through the nose...!

12 **CYRANO:** (ROARS) Mon Dieu...out of here...all of you...leave me alone with this
13 ...this...recruit!

14 **CAST:** VOICES IN EXCITEMENT. BEGIN FADING.

15 Poor chap...mincemeat...I'm turning pale...Let's go...I'm afraid

16 **SOUND: DOOR OPENS OFF.**

17 **CYRANO:** Go...All of you!... Quickly!

18 **SOUND: DOOR SLAM.**

19 **CHRISTIEN:** And now you intend to kill me?...

20 **SOUND: DRAWS BLADE.**

21 **CHRISTIEN:** I'll argue that...!

22 **CYRANO:** (LAUGHS IN SPITE OF;HIMSELF) By heaven you have
23 courage...handsome, too...as she said...

24 **CHRISTIEN:** She...? Who?

25 **CYRANO:** Roxane...!

26 **CHRISTIEN:** Roxane...!

27 **CYRANO:** She who loves you...you love her...I know all...I am her cousin...!

- 1 **CHRISTIEN:** (OVERCOME) Cousin...forgive me, sir...I did not know...I only sought to
2 prove my courage with those cadets...
- 3 **CYRANO:** Forget them. She expects a letter from you !
- 4 **CHRISTIEN:** Then... I am lost.
- 5 **CYRANO:** (SURPRISE) you cannot write?
- 6 **CHRISTIEN:** (DESPERATE) I have no wit...I am a soldier, Cyrano and brave. But,
7 women tie my tongue. But, if I had your tongue...your pen...
- 8 **CYRANO:** (WISTFULLY) And Cyrano your eyes...your nose...(GETS IDEA) But
9 wait...perhaps together we can win Roxane!
- 10 **CHRISTIEN:** I do not understand...!
- 11 **CYRANO:** It is you she loves! My ghost will give you tongue. And letters too...see
12 here is one...all ready for you.
- 13 **CHRISTIEN:** A love letter...? But how could you know...?
- 14 **CYRANO:** Poets must know everything...practice makes eloquence, Cadet...!
- 15 **CHRISTIEN:** But...will this letter...fit Roxane?
- 16 **CYRANO:** (SOFTLY) Like her own...luminous skin.
- 17 **CHRISTIEN:** (DEEP GRATITUDE) Cyrano...!
- 18 **CYRANO:** Christien...!
- 19 **BOTH:** THEY BOTH LAUGH WITH JOY.
- 20 **MUSIC:** **TRANSITION.**
- 21 **SOUND:** **CRICKETS BG.**
- 22 **CYRANO:** (GRUMBLING) Are not the letters enough...why must you come here this
23 night to Roxane's courtyard...her very balcony...!
- 24 **CHRISTIEN:** My love needs more than pen and paper to feed on,Cyrano...my love
25 needs sight of her...perhaps...I dare dream...even a kiss...!
- 26 **CYRANO:** (ANGER) You dare a kiss...? (REMEMBERING)...And yet...in love...the
27 impossible becomes glorious reality...Call her, Christien...do and
28 dare...I'll stand here...under the balcony...out of sight...
- 29 **CHRISTIEN:** Very well...(LOUDER) Roxanne...Roxane...(PAUSE)

1 **CYRANO:** (SOTTO) Try a few pebbles on her window...

2 **CHRISTIEN:** (DESPERATELY) Yes...she must speak to me tonight! (THROWS)

3 **SOUND:** PEBBLES ON WINDOW. SLIGHTLY OFF.

4 **CHRISTIEN:** Roxane...!

5 **SOUND:** WINDOW OPENS. SLIGHTLY OFF.

6 **ROXANE:** (SLIGHTLY OFF) Who calls me?

7 **CHRISTIEN:** It is I...

8 **ROXANE:** Christien...! Is that you...

9 **CHRISTIEN:** I...I...

10 **CYRANO:** (WHISPER) At least say yes...!

11 **CHRISTIEN:** Yes...! Roxane...I...I love you...!

12 **ROXANE:** (TENDERLY) And I love you! If you could know how I treasure your
13 letters...Christien...

14 **CYRANO:** (WHISPER) My words...torn from my heart...

15 **ROXANE:** I keep them...ever close...Speak on...my love.

16 **CHRISTIEN:** I ...I do love you...

17 **ROXANE:** (SOME DISAPPOINTMENT) Yes, you ...said that.

18 **CHRISTIEN:** (STRUGGLING DESPERATELY) I do love you...

19 **ROXANE:** And...after that?

20 **CHRISTIEN:** I...I love you more...

21 **ROXANE:** (GROANS) Oh, no...! (COOLING FAST) Is...that all you can say,
22 Christien?

23 **CHRISTIEN:** But I do love...

24 **ROXANE:** (INTERRUPTING) The night is growing cool (FADING)...I'll go inside...

25 **CYRANO:** (ALoud NOW – TAKING DESPERATE MEASURES) No, wait... your
26 beauty warms the air, Roxane...it's brilliant fire reaches me here...can you
27 not share your own gift?

- 1 **ROXANE:** (APPROACH A LITTLE-MORE INTEREST) My gift? – What do you say,
2 Christien?
- 3 **CHRISTIEN:** (WHISPER) Cyrano, ... what are you doing...?
- 4 **CYRANO:** (WHISPER-QUICKLY) I'll take your place...she'll note no difference in the
5 dark...quick...step back here and I'll stand there...
- 6 **ROXANE:** Christien...what is it you were saying...?
- 7 **CYRANO:** (IMITATING CHRISTIEN'S VOICE) I....I could not speak too clearly...the
8 thunder in my heart is enough to burst it...
- 9 **ROXANE:** (EAGERLY) Yes...go on...
- 10 **CYRANO:** (WARMING UP TO HIS WORK) Yet...what love destroys...love can make
11 whole again...with bits of heart left over to form words...like birds flying to
12 the nest of your divine beauty....
- 13 **ROXANE:** (ARDENTLY) I'll welcome these heart-birds of yours...and keep them safe
14 and warm...
- 15 **CYRANO:** They'll grow to shining, splendid things...nurtured on love...with opinions
16 strong enough to fly the world...
- 17 **ROXANE:** (TREBMLING) Your voice...It is different! Wait!... I shall come down!
- 18 **CYRANO:** (ALARM) No, No!
- 19 **ROXANE:** (SADLY) So strong a "no" imprisons me here...!
- 20 **CYRANO:** (ARDENTLY) Allow me my moment, Roxane...when I am only a
21 voice...and all else is shadow...anonymity...
- 22 **ROXANE:** Oh, Prince of shadows...I love you...
- 23 **CYRANO:** No laughter now...no...friendship...?
- 24 **ROXANE:** That strange voice I'd follow to the ends of the world
- 25 **CYRANO:** Oh, love...take my joy to make you more joyful...let my heart as your own
- 26 **ROXANE:** (NEAR TEARS OF EMOTION) I love you...I love you...I am yours...
- 27 **CYRANO:** (PAUSE) (QUIET REMEMBRANCE) What can death hold for me now?
- 28 **CHRISTIAN:** (FORGETTING HIMSELF CRIES OUT) One kiss...!
- 29 **ROXANE:** (STARTLED) What...?

1 **CYRANO:** (HISSES) You fool!

2 **CHRISTIEN:** (WHISPER) I cannot stand this agony!

3 **ROXANE:** (SOFTLY) Only...one kiss, Beloved?

4 **CYRANO:** (RECOVERING HIMSELF) The seal of passion on a promise...

5 **ROXANE:** Come then...drink deeply

6 **CYRANO:** (WHISPER) Go then, Christien...go...!

7 **ROXANE:** Place your seal of passion on my promise...

8 **CHRISTIEN:** (WHISPER) But Cyrano...dare I...?

9 **CYRANO:** (ANGRY WHISPER) Climb the balcony...ape!

10 **SOUND:** CLIMBING OF BALCONY.

11 **CHRISTIEN:** (AS HE CLIMBS) Roxane...Roxane..!

12 **ROXANE:** Christien...

13 (PAUSE)

14 **CYRANO:** (TO HIMSELF) And Cyrano...A skeleton at the feast of love!

15 **MUSIC:** TRANSITION DOWN UNDER B.G.

16 **NARRATOR:** (OLD AGAIN-LABORED) And so Roxane and Christien loved...and were
17 wed...in spite of the Count de Guiche...then came the siege of Arras and
18 the Cadets all marched away to defend...but again...Cyrano wrote
19 Christien's letters daily letters slipping through enemy lines to see they
20 were passed to Roxane...even Christien's last letter. And when he died,
21 Cyrano thought then...perhaps...but even death had a last grim laugh at
22 his expense...Roxane came here to live at the Convent...and ever
23 since...(PAINFULLY) (IRONY) He pursued his wooing by bringing her
24 gossip of the world...once a week he came...

25 **SISTER MARTHA:** This morning Sister Claire looked in her mirror...Not once but twice,
26 to see how well her head dress suited her.

27 **MOTHER MARGARET:** That was not good.

28 **SISTER CLAIRE:** But Sister Martha slyly took a plum out of the tart this morning. I could
29 see.

30 **MOTHER MARGARET:** That was not nice.

1 **SISTER CLAIRE:** But such a little glance!

2 **SISTER MARTHA:** And such a tiny plum!

3 **MOTHER MARGARET:** Still, I shall tell your sins to Monsieur Cyrano today.

4 **SISTER CLAIRE:** Oh, don't! He will make fun of us!

5 **SISTER MARTHA:** He'll say that nuns are very vain.

6 **SISTER CLAIRE:** And very greedy.

7 **MOTEHR MARGARET:** And very sweet.

8 **SISTER CLAIRE:** But is it really true, dear Mother that he has come here to the convent
9 every Saturday for ten long years?

10 **MOTHER MARGARET:** Longer than that, my child. He's come here ever since his
11 cousin came in her widows weeds fourteen years ago.

12 **SISTER MARTHA:** He is the only one who can make her smile.

13 **ALL THE SISTERS:** Its lively when he comes...he teases all of us...he is so kind...

14 **SISTER MARTHA:** We like him very much—but he is not a good, church going Catholic.

15 **SISTER CLAIRE:** Well, then we will convert him.

16 **ALL THE SISTERS:** Yes!

17 **MOTHER MARGARET:** That, I forbid! Were you to succeed, he might repent---and
18 come here less often.

19 **SISTER MARTHA:** But if he doesn't know God...

20 **MOTHER MARGARET:** Don't fear.. God knows him very well.

21 **SISTER MARTHA:** Each Saturday he tells me boastfully, "Yesterday-- Friday sister, I ate
22 meat!

23 **MOTHER MARGARET:** He tells you that? Well, this last Saturday he had not eaten
24 anything at all for two whole days.

25 **SISTER MARTHA:** Mother!

26 **MOTHER MARGARET:** He is very poor.

27 **SISTER MARTHA:** How do you know this?

- 1 **MOTHER MARGARET:** His friend, Monsieur Le Bret , told me.
- 2 **SISTER MARTHA:** And there is no one to help?
- 3 **MOTHER MARGARET:** he is too proud. Assistance would be an offense. Sisters, we
4 must go inside. Madam approaches with her visitor, the Count de Guiche.
- 5 **DE GUICHE:** And are you going to remain here forever in widowhood?
- 6 **ROXANE:** Forever, Count de Guiche.
- 7 **DE GUICHE:** Always faithful.
- 8 **ROXANE:** Always.
- 9 **DE GUICHE:** Is his last letter still so near your heart?
- 10 **ROXANE:** I wear it in this locket.
- 11 **DE GUICHE:** Dead—but you love him still?
- 12 **ROXANE:** Sometimes it seems he is not dead. I often feel his love still living,
13 surrounding me.
- 14 **DE GUICHE:** And does Cyrano still come to see you?
- 15 **ROXANE:** Yes, often. Punctually.. He is my clock, my comfort, my newspaper. A
16 chair is placed here in the courtyard beneath this tree when the weather is
17 fair. I wait with my embroidery...The clock strikes...In time with the last
18 stroke I hear...no need to turn round...his cane upon the steps. He seats
19 himself and teases that my tapestry never will be done...Then he tells me
20 the week's gossip...
- 21 **SFX** **FOOTSTEPS**
- 22 **DE GUICHE:** Oh, Le Bret. How is our friend?
- 23 **LE BRET:** Very ill.
- 24 **ROXANE :** Oh, you exaggerate.
- 25 **LE BRET:** All that I foretold has come true. Neglect, poverty, solitude. But he goes
26 on fighting the hypocrites, winning new enemies.
- 27 **ROXANE:** But his quick sword still keeps them at bay. No one dares challenge him.
- 28 **DE GUICHE:** Who knows?

1 **LE BRET:** It's not such attacks I fear but gaunt hunger, gnawing loneliness, the chill
2 of winter days that creeps into his musty little room. Each day he makes a
3 new hole in his belt and tightens it. His wardrobe is a shabby, thin, black
4 cloak.

5 **DE GUICHE:** Oh, don't pity him too much!

6 **LE BRET:** Really, my lord.

7 **DE GUICHE:** The man has lived free in his thinking, free in every action. Not bought by
8 greed or corrupted by compromise.

9 **LE BRET:** M' lord!

10 **DE GUICHE:** I know what is in your mind. Nothing for him, while I have everything. Yet,
11 I do envy him. I must go but, a word with you Le Bret.

12 **LE BRET:** Yes?

13 **DE GUICHE:** That no one would dare meet Cyrano in a fight, it's true. But many hate
14 him. Wish him ill. Yesterday at court I heard it said: "This Cyrano may
15 die—by accident."

16 **LE BRET:** You heard that?

17 **DE GUICHE:** Yes. If he stays indoors...is cautious...

18 **LE BRET:** He? Cautious? He's on his way here now! I'll try to warn him...

19 **DE GUICHE:** Ho! Raguenaу, what brings you here? ...Nover mind...telli it to Le Bret. I
20 must be going...

21 **RAGUENAU:** Just now I went to see our friend. I was a few steps from his house when
22 I saw him come out. And as he approached, a second story window
23 opened. And someone dropped a heavy flowerpot upon his head.

24 **LE BRET:** The cowards!

25 **RAGUENAU:** I ran to him and saw...

26 **LE BRET:** It's frightening...

27 **RAGUENAU:** Our friend, on the ground, wounded... with a deep hole in his head.

28 **LE BRET:** Is he dead?

29 **RAGUENAU:** No. I took him up to his room. A dingy garret. Such a place...

30 **LE BRET:** He's suffering?

1 **RAGUENAU:** No, he's unconscious.

2 **LE BRET:** You called a doctor?

3 **RAGUENAU:** I found one who came out of pure charity.

4 **LE BRET:** Poor Cyrano. How do we tell Roxane? What did the doctor say?

5 **RAGUENAU:** The doctor shook his head, spoke of fever on the brain. Oh, the bloody
6 bandaged head, the burning eyes. Let's go to him. He's alone. If he gets
7 up he'll surely die.

8 **LE BRET:** Let's hurry. This way through the chapel...it's shorter...

9 **SFX** **FOOTSTEPS, HURRIED; FOOTSTEPS HESITANT (ROXANNES)**

10 **ROXANE:** Monsieur Le Bret...Le Bret? Raguenu... ? Both gone. ? Ah, Sister
11 brings the chair. ..Yes, by the tree...

12 **SISTER MARTHA :** Best chair in the parlor.

13 **ROXANE:** Thank you, Sister...

14 **SOUND:** **CLOCK STRIKES.**

15 **ROXANE:** Oh, he will be here...the clock is striking...My embroidery! My
16 thimble...The clock has struck.. (PAUSE) That's strange. ..Will he be late
17 for the very first time? Perhaps he's gossiping with Sister at the
18 gate...Where are my scissors?

19 **SOUND:** **TAPPING OF A CANE AND FOOTSTEPS.**

20 **ROXANE:** You are late, my friend! For the first time in fourteen years.

21 **CYRANO:** (PROVOKING) I was unavoidably detained.

22 **ROXANE:** By whom?

23 **CYRANO:** An inopportune visitor.

24 **ROXANE:** A wicked creditor?

25 **CYRANO:** The last and most persistent one.

26 **ROXANE:** But you got rid of him?

27 **CYRANO:** Oh, yes. I said "This is Saturday. A day I never fail to call on a certain
28 lady. I shall pay my debt, but come back in one hour."

- 1 **ROXANE:** He'll have to wait longer. I intend to keep you here until dark.
- 2 **CYRANO:** I may be forced to leave sooner than that.
- 3 **ROXANE:** Have you been teasing Sister Martha?
- 4 **CYRANO:** Yes. Sister come here! Why hide those large dark eyes? Why keep them
5 always focused on the ground?
- 6 **SISTER MARTHA:** But...Oh, my, your head!
- 7 **CYRANO:** Hush! It's nothing. Yesterday, Sister, I ate meat!
- 8 **SISTER MARTHA:** I'm sure that you did. (WHISPERS) If you'll come to the refectory
9 later, I'll make you a nice bowl of soup. You'll come?
- 10 **CYRANO:** (WHISPERS) Yes, yes.
- 11 **SISTER MARTHA:** (WHISPERS) You're reasonable today.
- 12 **ROXANE:** Is she still trying to convert you?
- 13 **SISTER MARTHA:** No.
- 14 **CYRANO:** You've stopped preaching. It's surprising. Well, I'll surprise you too. This
15 very night you may...you may in chapel...say a prayer for me.
- 16 **SISTER MARTHA:** (SOFTLY) I did not wait for your permission.
- 17 **CYRANO:** I wonder if I shall ever see the completion of your tapestry...?
- 18 **ROXANE:** (LAUGHING) I was waiting for that. Now, tell me my court gazette.
- 19 **CYRANO:** I'm ready.
- 20 **ROXANE:** Good.
- 21 **CYRANO:** Saturday, the 19th. The King lunched heartily on grape conserves and
22 had a touch of fever. He was bled; the King's pulse returned to a normal
23 beat. The Queen's ball was Sunday; it was lit with over 700 tall white
24 candles. 4 witches have been hanged. Madame Athis' little dog dug up
25 the Queen's rose bushes.
- 26 **ROXANE:** Cyrano...to say such things...!
- 27 **CYRANO:** On Monday...nothing happened. Lygdamire took a new lover.
- 28 **ROXANE:** Oh!

1 **CYRANO:** Tuesday the Court went to Fountainbleau. The following day the lovely
2 Montglat said “No” to Count de Fiesque. On Thursday the Court favorite,
3 La Mancini, became the current Queen (almost) of France. On Friday the
4 fair Montglat changed her mind and said “Yes” to de Fiesque. Saturday...

5 **ROXANE:** He’s fainted! Cyrano...

6 **CYRANO:** What! What is it? No, it’s nothing...

7 **ROXANE:** But, my friend...

8 **CYRANO:** It’s my old wound. There are times it hurts—you know...

9 **ROXANE:** Dear cousin...

10 **CYRANO:** It has passed. The pain is gone.

11 **ROXANE:** Everyone bears a wound. Mine has never healed. It rests beneath his
12 letter...now yellow with time and age. Stained with his tears and blood.

13 **CYRANO:** His letter. ..Once, a long time ago you said I might read it...

14 **ROXANE:** Do you really wish to see it now?

15 **CYRANO:** Yes. Of all days...today...

16 **ROXANE:** Here, my friend.

17 **CYRANO:** May I open it?

18 **ROXANE:** Open it and read.

19 **CYRANO:** “Roxane, farewell...”

20 **ROXANE:** Aloud?

21 **CYRANO:** “It seems that I must die...It might well be tonight, my own. My heart is
22 heavy with unspoken love.”

23 **ROXANE:** Oh, how you read his letter...

24 **CYRANO:** “And I must die too soon. Never again will these loving eyes feast on all
25 your charms. Enjoy your smallest gesture...”

26 **ROXANE:** Oh, the words...

27 **CYRANO:** So, I cry ‘Farewell’. Oh, my dear, my sweet...”

28 **ROXANE:** The way you read it...

1 **CYRANO:** “ ...my treasure. My own true love. Although I am, alas, so far away
2 never has my heart left you...”

3 **ROXANE:** In such a voice...a voice that I have heard before,
4 sometime...somewhere...

5 **CYRANO:** “For I am in this and even in the other world, the one who loves you
6 best...”

7 **ROXANE:** It is too dark to see..

8 **CYRANO:** “...whose love cannot be measured.”

9 **ROXANE:** How can you read...? And so for 14 years my kind old friend who likes to
10 chat and tease me has played htis role...

11 **CYRANO:** Roxane.

12 **ROXANE:** Yes, it was you!

13 **CYRANO:** No, no Raxane.

14 **ROXANE:** I should have known at once. I should have guessed, the way he spoke
15 my name...

16 **CYRANO:** It was not I.

17 **ROXANE:** It was.

18 **CYRANO:** I swear to you...

19 **ROXANE:** I see it all---the lovely generous lie. The letters...yours.

20 **CYRANO:** No, no...

21 **ROXANE:** The voice in that dark night was yours...

22 **CYRANO:** I swear to you it never was...

23 **ROXANE:** The very soul was yours.

24 **CYRANO:** I never loved...

25 **ROXANE:** You loved me always.

26 **CYRANO:** It was someone else.

27 **ROXANE:** You loved me...

1 **CYRANO:** No.

2 **ROXANE:** You say it softer now...

3 **CYRANO:** No, my own best beloved, I loved you not

4 **ROXANE:** Why were you silent these long 14 years? On this letter, which he never
5 wrote, the tears were yours...

6 **CYRANO:** Ah, the blood was his!

7 **ROXANE:** Why the long silence... and why broken today?

8 **SOUND: FOOTSTEPS.**

9 **LE BRET:** What folly...and here he is.

10 **CYRANO:** Of course, I am here...

11 **LE BRET:** Madame, he's killed himself by getting up.

12 **ROXANE:** (GASP) The fainting spell...The weakened voice...the words...

13 **CYRANO:** True. But my gossip and Gazette were not quite finished. Item: On
14 Saturday, the 26th at dinnertime Monsieur de Bergerac was murdered.

15 **ROXANE:** Cyrano, your head! What have they done? Why?

16 **CYRANO:** "A quick end by a worthy foe's sword." I said that once. Fate has cheated
17 me. Here I am struck from behind—by what? A common flower pot,
18 dropped by a thug, a hired cut-throat! I have failed in life and even in
19 death.

20 **RAGUENAU:** Alas, dear sir...

21 **CYRANO:** Raguenuau, do no weep....Roxane...You recall that night with Christien
22 beneath your window, there in the dark? That's how my life has gone.
23 Waiting...unseen...unknown, while others mount to endless glory and the
24 kiss of fame. Yet it is fair enough.. And I declare Christien had great
25 beauty!

26 **SOUND: SOFT CHAPEL BELLS.**

27 **RAGUENAU:** Sisters, dear sisters...

28 **CYRANO:** Let them go to prayer. The bell has rung. If you go after them... I doubt I
29 shall be here when you return...

30 **SOUND: ORGAN**

1 **ROXANE:** I love you! Live!

2 **CYRANO:** In the fairy tales the lady says “I love you” and the beast becomes a
3 prince—beauty banishes all ugliness. Although you speak the magic
4 words... this is no fairy tale and I remain the same.

5 **ROXANE:** I am the cause of your unhappiness, I...and I alone...

6 **CYRANO:** You! Just the opposite. I never really knew a woman’s love. My mother
7 seldom cared to look at me. I had no sister. I grew up to dread a mistress’
8 or sweetheart’s mocking smile. Yet, thanks to you I’ve had a cherished
9 friend. A woman’s radiance has lit my path.

10 **ROXANE:** I have loved but once—one man---and yet I have lost him twice.

11 **CYRANO:** Tonight, Le Bret, I shall ascend and reach the moon... at last. She shall
12 be my Paradise.

13 **LE BRET:** I say no. it is unjust. Such a heart and soul... to die like this.

14 **ROXANE:** Cyrano...Oh, Cyrano, my love.

15 **CYRANO:** I would not have you grieve one hour less for him. I ask only that when
16 my flesh is cold you’ll mourn for me a little, mourning him.

17 **ROXANE:** I promise.

18 **CYRANO:** No...Death...not here in a chair! He comes. I’ll meet him standing...

19 **SOUND:** **SWORD BEING DRAWN.**

20 **CYRANO:** .sword in hand.

21 **LE BRET:** Cyrano!

22 **ROXANE:** Cyrano...

23 **CYRANO :** He sees me...mocks me for my nose...Says it’s useless ? A man fights
24 better when he’s doomed to lose. I know you now, my enemies of old...

25 Falsehood, Compromise. Prejudice. Treachery... Come to terms? Never.
26 Here’s Cowardice and Folly, too. You’ve robbed me of glory and love.
27 But when tonight I enter God’s house, I shall bow low and sweep the
28 heavenly blue with my unsullied white plume!.