

'Cyrano' strongest in four leads

By GLEN BUSHEY

Of the Emerald

The University Theatre production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* alternates throughout the evening between good theatre and "good grief." The good moments in the play all have something in common; they are when the four leads are acting together or alone. Roxanne, Christian, Ragueneau and Cyrano are all very fine and they work well together. The bad moments come when the other characters (seemingly hundreds of them) move in.

Ann Thomas Todd plays Roxanne, the heroine. She is beautiful not only in ap-

pearance, but also in movement and speech. Roxanne has a scene where Cyrano begs for a kiss. In our time (compared to the 17th-century setting of the play) this scene could appear ridiculous. But Todd does a nice job of making it believable.

Ragueneau, the baker, played by Richard Hawkins, is not written as a big part, but Richard makes it one. Scene two opens with his singing, dancing and talking with his pastry cooks, and he helps to make this about the only group scene that is enjoyable. He has several little bits that he pulls off with professionalism.

Chip Balling plays the part of the young lover, Christian. He does well as the fool "cursed with a pretty face." He is required to be strong and courageous at times, and then moments later, to be weak and helplessly in love. He swings back and forth from these extremes with little difficulty.

A large part of the play depends on the

actor playing Cyrano. Martin Treat is this actor, and he is excellent. He gives a polished performance from his affected walk to the tip of his large nose. Cyrano has two long and rather repetitive speeches, one about his nose, and the other in which he says "no thank you" about 10 times within the lines.

Both of these monologues have a potential for being very boring. Martin, however, has made them thoroughly delightful. In fact, whenever Martin is turned loose on the stage, and doesn't have to battle against crowds, he is delightful.

Besides these four people, almost everyone else in the cast of 50 is only fair. The group scenes are especially weak. The crowds do not act or react well together. Almost every line during the first 15 minutes of the play is literally lost in the crowd. The noise and numbers of the group make it impossible to identify who is talking or what is being said.

The crowd does become less chaotic after Cyrano's entrance. He has a line, "You speak the first word of intelligence," and unfortunately it is very true.

UT director Jean Cutler likes to oc-

asionally remind his audiences that they are not really living the action on stage, but are only observers. "Cyrano" is no exception. For scene changes, the lights are brought up enough to see, and the stage crew makes the scene shift. This does make the audience remember that they are at a play, but unfortunately, it gives an unpolished look to the show.

"Cyrano de Bergerac" is not a bad show, except when the crowds attempt to turn it into a three-ring circus. The play will continue its run this week with performances Wednesday through Saturday.

Review

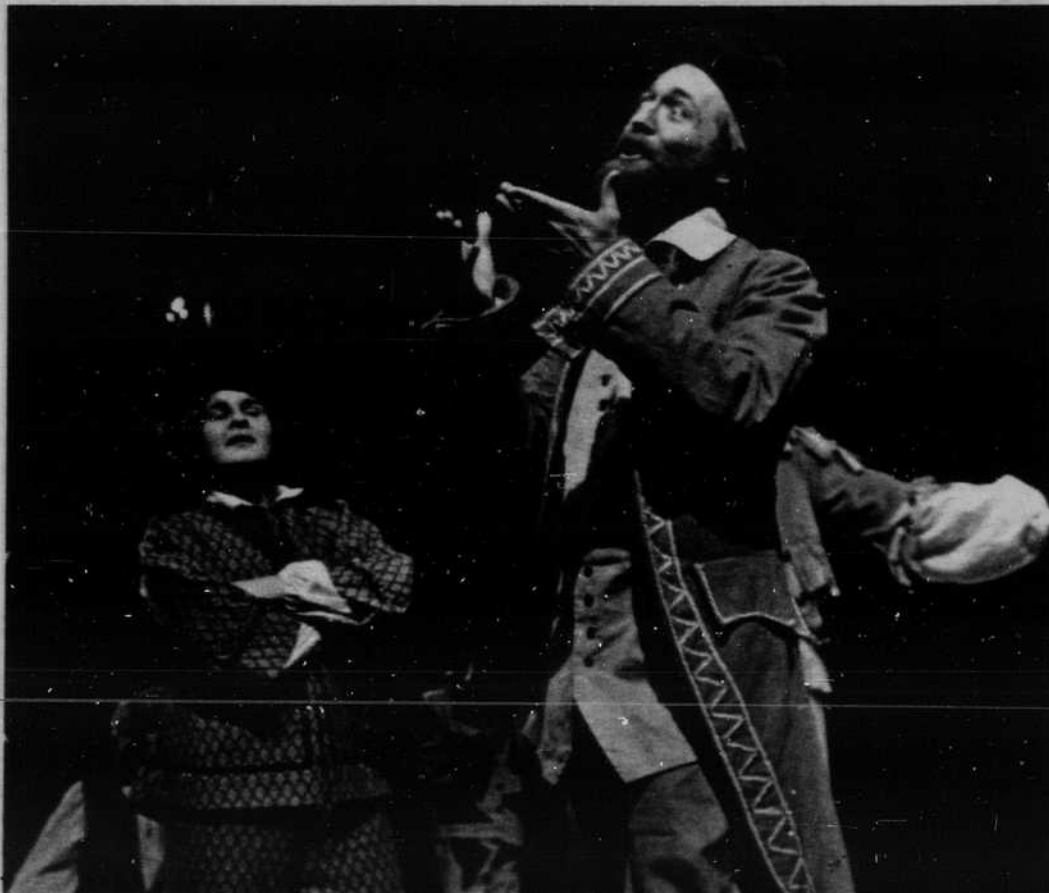


Photo by Peter Grant

Elections . . .

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The ethnic group section includes two candidates for one foreign student seat and one candidate each for single seats representing Black, Chicano and Native American students. Students who are not members of one of these groups may vote for four of the 19 at-large candidates.

Information about the candidates can be obtained by referring to the Voter's Guide published in last Friday's *Emerald*. Candidates are not allowed to campaign on election days. Spirited campaigning, especially in the form of flyers, has taken place over the past several days.

The deadline for general election Voter's Guide statements is 5 p.m. today. The statements, which should be turned in to Room 308 EMU, will not be accepted or changed after that deadline.

The election is the first to be held under the new system of reapportionment first proposed by Fred Loveys, who is now ASUO vice-president but was a senator at the time he first brought up the plan.

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