

ACT ONE

HAZER ON 10 min. to Curtain

SB HOUSE, LQ 1-3, SQ A-C, FX 100, FQ 1 (Act Out)

↑ 1

HOUSE HALF GO

after 10 seconds

HOUSE OUT w/ SQ A GO

FQ 1 w/ LQ 1 GO

↓ 1

A fusillade of musket and cannon, the bloody cries of a pitched battle-and as the lights come up, we're at the Siege of Arras in 1640, at the outpost of the Company of Carbon de Castel-Jaloux. But we're not, really. We're on the stage of the Erlanger Theatre in Buffalo, New York, during a rehearsal of Act IV of Cyrano de Bergerac. The stage is full of smoke, noise and tattered flags, and the actors are in silhouette. George and Charlotte Hay are playing Cyrano and Roxane, and the rest of the parts are played by members of their company.

Act Head High

LQ 2 w/ SQ B GO

CONFUSED VOICES: "Retreat! For God's sake retreat!"

FIRST SOLDIER: "Sound the alarm!"

SQ C GO

SECOND SOLDIER: "We are all dead!"

DE GUICHE: "Retreat!"

THIRD SOLDIER: "Retreat!"

THREE SOLDIERS: "Retreat!"

SQ C w/ FX 1 GO

CYRANO (GEORGE): "No! Never! Not in this life!"

SL Flash Pot

DE GUICHE: "You fool, we shall all die! It is ten to one against us!"

SB LQ 4-5, SQ OUT and D-F

CYRANO (GEORGE): "Be damned your numbers! And damn you! I am Cyrano de Bergerac!"

THREE SOLDIERS (weakly): "Yay."

GEORGE: Stop! Stop!!

LQ 4 w/ SOUND OUT GO

(The music stops and we go to work lights)

GEORGE: For the hundredth time, I want the cheer louder! The audience won't hear you! Let's try it

again. "I am Cyrano de Bergerac!"

THREE SOLDIERS (*weakly*): "Yay!"

GEORGE (*disgusted, turning away*): I don't know why we even bother rehearsing. . . . Louder!

THREE SOLDIERS: "Yay."

GEORGE: That's better. All right, let's run it.

LQ 4 w/ SQ D GO

(*The music and lights restore to performance level*)

DE GUICHE: "You fool, we shall all die! It is ten to one against us!"

CYRANO (GEORGE): "Be damned your numbers! And damn you! I am Cyrano de Bergerac!"

THREE SOLDIERS (*weakly*): "Yay."

DE GUICHE: "Popinjay!"

(*De Guiche walks off in a huff. We hear the sound of a horse and carriage approaching*)

SQ E GO

SECOND SOLDIER: "Halt, who goes there?!"

FIRST SOLDIER: "It's a coach!"

ACT ONE 3

THIRD SOLDIER: "What?!"

FIRST SOLDIER: "In the camp?!"

(*Off, the horse whinnies*)

SQ F GO

SECOND SOLDIER: "Look! 'Tis Roxane!"

(*Roxane enters with a basket of fruit, and the Soldiers cheer*)

THREE SOLDIERS (*weakly*): "Yay!"

(*George gives them a look*)

SB Shift 1, LQ 6-9, SQ OUT, HAZE OUT, WQ 1

↑3

SECOND SOLDIER: "She brings supplies!"

FIRST SOLDIER: "Bread!"

SECOND SOLDIER: "And wine!"

THIRD SOLDIER: "And chicken!"

(*Roxane exits*)

LE BRET (PAUL): "Cyrano! That was the Comte de

LQ 6 w/ HAZE OUT GO

Guiche you insulted! Stop trying to be the Three

Musketeers in one!"

(During the following oration, Ethel, an actress in her 70s, enters from the wings. She's dressed in her everyday 1950s clothes, and therefore looks incongruous)

CYRANO (GEORGE): "What would you have me do?

Hanh?!

Seek for the patronage of some great man,

And like a creeping vine on a tall tree

Crawl upward, where I cannot stand alone?

No thank you!"

ETHEL: Oh my God, I've seen more talent at a dog show.

LQ 6 w/ WQ 1 GO

↓ 3

(Ethel joins in the speech with George. After a line or two, we hear only Ethel, and the "onstage" action fades away. Simultaneously, she makes her way to the green room of the Erlanger Theatre.

The room is large, comfortable, and a bit shabby. It contains a chaise, a large pouffe, and one or two easy chairs. It's decorated with Theatre posters and other theatrical bric-a-brac. Stage right is a door to the street; stage left, two doors to the backstage area, one of them up a short flight of steps. Up center is another door to the backstage area and also a door to a utility closet.

The time is mid-morning in June, 1953.

When Ethel enters the room, she continues playing Cyrano, even as she potters around straightening things up)

GEORGE/ETHEL:

"Dedicate, as others do,
Poems to pawnbrokers? Be. a buffoon
In the vile hope of teasing out a smile
On some cold face?"

SOUND OUT GO

Elev stage @ 1/2 LQ 8 GO

Ethel flips switch LQ 9 GO