

“My nose is Gargantuan! You little Pig-snout, you tiny Monkey-Nostrils, you virtually invisible Pekinese-Puss, don’t you realize that a nose like mine is both scepter and orb, a monument to my superiority?”



A Note from the Artistic Director

Jody Hovland
Artistic Director

And so Edmond Rostand’s master of wordplay, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, trumpets summer at Riverside Theatre! *Cyrano*, an adaptation by Jo Roets of the beloved French classic, brings the excitement of the season onto the Gilbert St. stage, where its romance, humor and panache promise a delightful evening for the whole family.

It also signals our difficult decision to take a hiatus from the park following flooding evacuations three of the last six years. While we continue to work with our longtime City partners to determine the future of park programming, we’re also taking the opportunity to imagine new ways to celebrate the summer – and are gladdened to have found such a charming way to bring a classic indoors.

Cyrano’s rich language and powerful story, tailored for a versatile acting ensemble and imaginative, theatrical staging, captures the very heart of Rostand’s epic. Guest artists include Steven Marzolf as Cyrano and Kelly Gibson as Roxane (Cassio and Desdemona in last summer’s *Othello*).

Wordplay is truly at the center of our summer festival, which also includes *Love Letters*, A.R. Gurney’s story of a lifelong correspondence between childhood friends – and Poetry Out Loud! Don’t miss this exciting collaboration with the Iowa Youth Writing Project and Iowa Young Writers’ Studio.

Winter dreams always turn to the possibilities of summer, and this year even more so. As we plan for the finale of this 34th season — and the excitement of the next chapter of Riverside leadership — a stage full of swashbuckling, poetry, and romance seems like just the right summer adventure. I hope you’ll be there for all of it!

*“A great nose is the banner of a great man,
a generous heart, a towering spirit, an expansive soul.”*