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# Life in LAMORINDA

# Cyrano on Stage in Orinda



Laura Morgan as Roxanne, Peter McArthur as Christian, and Edwin Peabody (on left) as Cyrano de Bergerac in Orinda Starlight Village Players' current production Photo Ohlen Alexander

fter enjoying larger than usual Acrowds for their Agatha Christie season opener, the Orinda Starlight Village Players launched their production of Cyrano de Bergerac last weekend on a warm starry night at their outdoor amphitheater tucked in the corner of the Orinda Community Park. Starring as Cyrano in his first play with the Village Players is Moraga resident Edwin Peabody. "It's the true definition of community theater. It's a grass roots organization, and I really appreciate it," states Peabody.

"This play is a true love story," says director Suzan Lorraine who has been acting and directing with the Starlight Village Players for over ten years. "It has all the elements of the best plays in the world. It's absolutely a classic," adds Lorraine who admits this is the first "classic" that she has directed. "I was terrified of this play...but it's been fantastic," she adds.

Lorraine and husband, Bill, who plays the bad guy Count de Guiche in the production, worked through several versions of the play to whittle the 200-page script down to a manageable two hour and fifteen minute performance. Written in verse with rhyming couplets, the play is based on the life of Hector Savinien de Cyrano de Bergerac, a 17th century play

#### By Andrea A. Firth

write with a swashbuckling manner. While portraits suggest the original Cyrano had a large nose, the prominence of his proboscis is a central theme to both comic and dramatic moments in the play.

"When Edie puts on his prosthetic nose each night, he transforms. He becomes Cyrano," says Lorraine who has been thrilled with the casting. "I could not have gotten a better cast."

Peabody describes digging deep into his early life in order to connect to his inner-Cyrano. "He overcompensates for his nose with his sword," says Peabody. "He had is own 'small man's' disease." Standing just 4'10" as a sophomore in high school, Peabody could relate. Although he experienced a late growth spurt, Peabody still recalls being teased for his short stature. "A couple weeks into rehearsal I found a real connection to the character—his feeling of loneliness while knowing he is not a lesser man."

The Starlight Village Players Production of Cyrano de Bergerac will run through August 15th. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., with additional performances on Sunday, August 9th at 8 p.m. and Thursday, August 13th at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. For more information go to www.orsvp.org.

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# **Lafayette Promotes Safety Awareness**



Vehicle and personnel from Contra Costa County Fire

Picture courtesy of the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission n August 1, from 10:00 a.m.

to 2:00 p.m., the Lafayette Safety Fair will take place at Stanley Middle School, 3455 School St. The Safety Fair is brought to you by the Lafayette Police Department, Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission and the Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission.

"We hope that the fair will be

one way our community can get together to meet their neighbors, enhance personal safety, and help to keep Lamorinda a great place to live," says Dennis Rein of the Emergency Preparedness Commission and one of the event's lead organizers, "we want the community to know what resources are out there in the areas of safety, fire, neighborhood

watch, emergency preparedness and how crime prevention works."

There will be many attractions for families, including a kids' bike rodeo and safety check, a fire shack, helicopter landings and visits by Smokey the Bear. The Lafayette Rotary Club will provide hot dog lunches.

Besides fun, the focus will be on getting residents the information they need to stay safe.

At the Lafayette Police Department booth, residents will be able to meet the K9 officer. The children who bring their bikes will learn to ride safely at the bike rodeo.

Visitors to the fair can also learn about the Neighborhood Watch program, get DNA kits and have their children fingerprinted. Information will be available on Lafayette's new solicitor ordinance, and residents will be able to pick up a "No Soliciting" sign for their front doors.

The Contra Costa Fire Protection District will dispatch information on fire safety in the home from a county fire prevention specialist and will showcase some of their vehicles. East Bay Regional Park District, Regional Parks Police, Fire and Volunteer Trail Safety will be there with Helicopter Eagle VII, to provide trail safety tips, and will display a Wildland Fire Engine.

Many other groups will be present as well, including the Bay Area Red Cross, Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), EBMUD, Lamorinda Community Emergency

Response Team (CERT) and more. According to Fred Lothrop, Chair of the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission, the fair had existed in the past but was discontinued. This August event is the first of what he hopes will be a long series of useful and fun

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