



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 7, 2011

CONTACT: Jillian Zylinski
(313) 577-6798
JZylinski@wayne.edu

The Hilberry Theatre Merges Past and Present in an Adaptation of a Classic Tale:
Frank Langella's Cyrano

Detroit, MI - The Hilberry Theatre Company welcomes back 1994 alumnus Greg Loftus as guest scenic designer for its presentation of *Frank Langella's Cyrano*, which opens January 13, 2011 at 8 p.m. Loftus has taken on the challenge of a long-distance scenic design from his home in Casselberry, Florida. The production is an adaptation of Edmond Rostand's 1897 classic, *Cyrano de Bergerac*. *Frank Langella's Cyrano* runs in rotating repertory at the Hilberry Theatre with *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *Summer and Smoke* until March 20, 2012. Tickets are \$12-\$30 and are available by calling the Hilberry Theatre Box Office at (313) 577-2972, online at hilberry.com, or by visiting the box office at 4743 Cass Avenue on the corner of Hancock.

Title character Cyrano is a charismatic swordsman-poet with an absurd nose. He hopelessly loves the beautiful Roxane; she, however, loves the handsome but tongue-tied Christian. Chivalrous and selfless, Cyrano sets up an innocent deception with inspired words for Christian to win Roxane. Years later, when Cyrano is near the end of his life, true love triumphs when long-remembered lyrical phrases reveal the secret and Roxane discovers the soul she has always known.

While *Frank Langella's Cyrano* maintains the integrity of Rostand's original story, it is a different script. Loftus says that he honors those differences in his approach to the scenic design.

"Langella's adaptation is less transparent, more ambiguous. It is romantic, idealized, lyrical and modern. There is a balance between designers being literal and ambiguous. We use realism to lead audiences to an interpretation. We use concept to force audiences to come to their own conclusions. I hope our audiences see deep and human characters in a complex, non-literal world," Loftus says.

Since graduating, Loftus has taught scenic design and designed scenery for many college theatre programs, professional theatre and dance companies, and designed sets for television and decorations for special events. He has maintained contact with Hilberry faculty and students since his graduation.

"A long-distance guest design is always a challenge, and *Cyrano* makes me aware of how much more I still have to learn," Loftus says.

-MORE-

The Hilberry cast members include **Dave Toomey** (Cyrano), **Sara Hymes** (Roxane), **Topher Payne** (Christian), **Vanessa Sawson** (Margeurite), **Christopher Call** (Ragueneau), **Danielle Cochran** (Lise), **Edmund Alyn Jones** (Le Bret), **Christopher Ellis** (De Guiche), **Joshua Blake Rippy** (Montfleury), **Alec Barbour** (Valvert), **Andrew Papa** (Carbon) and **Brent Griffith** (Priest). Production team includes **Blair Anderson** (Director), **Michael Peters** (Stage Manager), **Veronica Zahn** (Assistant Stage Manager), **Curtis Green** (Technical Director), **Greg Loftus** (Scenic Designer), **Rudolph C. Schuepbach** (Assistant Scenic Designer), **Leazah Behrens** (Properties Master), **Samuel G. Byers** (Sound Designer), **Donna Buckley** (Costume Designer), **Brian Scruggs** (Lighting Designer) and **Patrick Pozezinski** (Publicist).

About the Hilberry Theatre Company

The Hilberry Theatre Company is the nation's only professional theatre company that is both staffed by graduate students and runs on a rotating repertory schedule. Each academic year, forty or more graduate students receive fellowships to work for the Hilberry Theatre and study for advanced degrees from Wayne State University. The company performs an annual season of six plays, including high school matinees for nearly 6,000 students. In its 49-year history, four Hilberry productions have been selected to appear at the American College Theatre Festival.

Tickets are \$12-\$30 and are available by calling the Hilberry Theatre Box Office at (313) 577-2972 or online at www.hilberry.com. The box office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., with extended hours to 8 p.m. on performance evenings (Thursday-Saturday). Group discounts and corporate packages are also available. For more information, please call (313) 577-2972 or visit the Wayne State University Theatre Box Office at 4743 Cass Ave. on the corner of Hancock in Detroit. Performance information and tickets may also be obtained by visiting the theatre's website at www.hilberry.com.

The 2011-2012 Hilberry season is sponsored by CBS Outdoor, *Between the Lines* and Encore Michigan.

Photo #1:



From left to right: Topher Payne (Christian), Sara Hymes (Roxane) and Dave Toomey (Cyrano).

-MORE-

Photo #2:



Dave Toomey (Cyrano).

Photo credits: Alexandra Stewart

Frank Langella's Cyrano
By Frank Langella

-Calendar Information-

January 13, 2012 – March 20, 2012

Tuesday 10 a.m. Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, Mar. 6, 20

Wednesday 2 p.m. Jan. 25

Thursday 8 p.m. Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Mar. 8

Friday 8 p.m. Jan. 13, 27, Feb. 3, Mar. 9

Saturday 2 p.m. Jan. 14, 28

Saturday 8 p.m. Jan. 14, 28, Feb. 4, 11, Mar. 10

-Special Performances-

Opening Night – Friday, January 13, 8 p.m.

Talkback Series – Wednesday, January 25, 2 p.m.

Discussion Series – Thursday, January 26, 7:15 p.m.

###