

Long Islander Alexander Sovronsky Hits Broadway

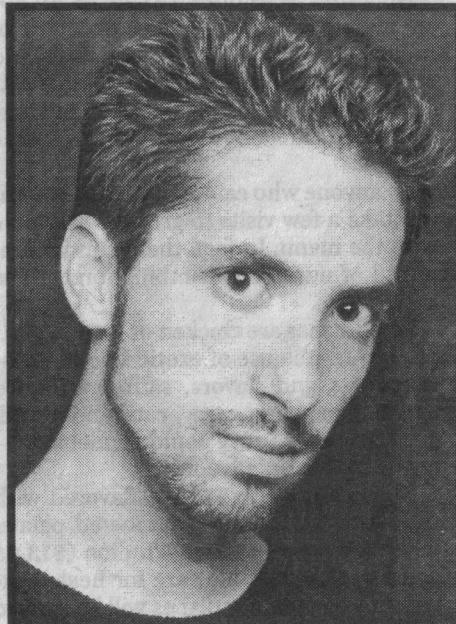
By Iris Wiener
info@longislandernews.com

It's a rare occurrence when someone knows what they want to do with their lives before they've even entered college, let alone high school. For Alexander Sovronsky, a Long Islander currently appearing in Broadway's *Cyrano de Bergerac* alongside Kevin Kline and Jennifer Garner, all it took was a few hours in front of the television at the ripe old age of 7.

"The first time I really decided I wanted to perform and do Shakespeare was when I saw Kevin Kline as Hamlet on PBS in 1990," Sovronsky said, the irony in this fact clearly not lost on him. "It was on at 8 o'clock, and stayed up and I watched it. And my mother woke up during the final gravedigger scene, and she said, 'What are you doing up? You don't understand what the hell is going on, you're 7 years-old!' And I gave her the whole synopsis of *Hamlet*. And she was like, 'Alright...I guess you get it.'"

A classical actor, musician and fight director, Sovronsky gives the term "well-rounded" a whole other meaning. In *Cyrano* alone he plays the violin, mandolin, tin whistle, fife and drums, while honing his acting chops opposite some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

"Working with people whose work I revere has been wonderful. I know their body of work, I've seen a lot of them on stage before," he said when contemplating how Broadway differs from his various other stage experiences before making it to Broadway. "It's funny, it doesn't really feel



Alexander Sovronsky falls deeper into his passion for theater in Broadway's *Cyrano de Bergerac* alongside Kevin Kline and Jennifer Garner.

much different from the other projects I've done. People come together to tell a story. Whether it be in a regional theater, a small black box theater downtown or on Broadway, it's really all the same thing. We are storytellers. And we sometimes forget that. The entire cast has been really incredible at working together and it's just been a wonderful experience."

After scoring the coveted role of Hamlet in his senior year production at Svosset

High School, he graduated in 2000 and immediately began to construct a resume that most actors would envy. With a B.A. in Theatre from SUNY Geneseo in hand, Sovronsky tackled roles in prestigious productions of *Cymbeline*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, and Shakespeare in the Park's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, amongst many others.

"There are many people that look at my career thus far and say that I am very lucky, and I agree with them," he said when considering his steady body of work. "But I think it has to do with a lot more than just blind chance. It isn't as if I just stumble into these jobs. To me, luck really is a meeting of opportunity and preparation. I try to always be ready for the next job, and constantly remind myself that once you allow yourself to get comfortable, you stop learning and growing. It's a constant process of challenging yourself, pushing yourself to the next level."

His story of success with *Cyrano* is one of which he is very proud. It all started with a chance meeting with casting director JV Mercanti at a restaurant in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

"We happened to be eating next to each other, and we started talking about theater," he said. Sovronsky passed along his business card, and thought nothing of it until a few months later when Mercanti and Kevin Kline had the opportunity to enjoy a performance of *Romeo and Juliet* in the New York Shakespeare Festival.

"Mr. Mercanti contacted me and said, 'We'd love to call you in for an audition.

David [Leveaux, director] and Kevin would like to see you.'" After a forty-five minute audition for Kline, Leveaux, Mercanti, and the producers, during which Sovronsky played six instruments and a monologue from *King Lear*, he was one of the first actors to be on board for the production. "It was just such a welcome environment in which to audition!"

Sovronsky continues to audition between sold-out performances of *Cyrano* because he knows the show will be closing on December 23, however he is extremely proud to have been a part of it.

"If I was sitting there watching *Cyrano* and I was 12 years-old, this would be the show that would make me want to be in the theater. This is the show that would capture my imagination, that would inspire me to have a passionate liking for theater," he said with a nostalgic look in his eye and a huge grin spread across his face. "I know that so many young people are going to see it. Drama students from Huntington, where I spent a lot of time taking part in the cultural arts community and frequenting the Cinema Arts Centre, as well as English students from Syosset High School, are planning on coming to see it. We've seen a lot of children from the inner-city schools coming to see *Cyrano*. They've approached us saying, 'Oh my God, it was so exciting, this is better than MTV!' That's the most rewarding part of the job, is that what inspired me to be in this life of theater is exactly what I am doing to inspire other people. It's really good to be a part of something that's coming full circle now."