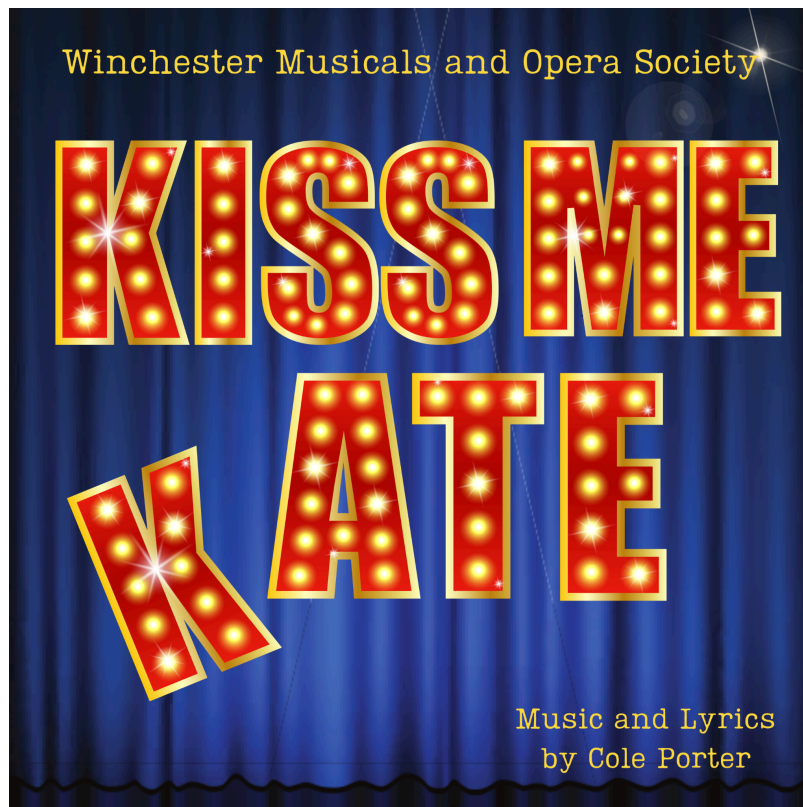


Kiss Me, Kate

Theatre Royal Winchester

November 6th - 9th November 2024



AUDITION PACK

Information evening Monday 3rd June 19.30
Pre-audition workshop Wednesday 5th June 19.30
Auditions Sunday 9th June 14.00-17.00

All at United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester

The Story

Kiss Me, Kate, by Cole Porter, tells the story of a The Frederick Graham Theatre company who are putting on the opening night of a Musical Version of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Some of the scenes are direct from *The Shrew* whilst others show the backstage antics of the cast. The *Shrew* scenes will be dressed in showbiz versions of Shakespearean costumes whilst the other scenes are set in 1940s USA. Fred Graham, the leading man, and Lilli Vanessi, the leading lady do not get on well and spend most of their time offstage fighting. Lois Lane and Bill Calhoun, the young lovers in *The Shrew*, are also dating offstage, but both are guilty of fooling around with other people! Add to this two shady comedic gangsters, who have come to collect a debt of honour from someone in the cast, but they can't work out who, and trouble ensues. **This will be an immersive production that takes place all over the stage and auditorium. Prepare to get up close and personal with the audience!** All this is accompanied by a fantastic Cole Porter score including *So In Love*, *Why Can't You Behave*, *Too Darn Hot*, *Always True to You* and *Another Openin, Another Show!*

David Tatnall, Director says:

I like a purposeful and productive rehearsal environment. Come to rehearsal expecting to work hard – I don't call people if they're not needed. I expect you to practise at home. I will always start at 19.30. If you miss a rehearsal you will be behind – it is your responsibility to catch up. I like to have a laugh but also ultimately produce the most professional show that we can. Don't be in the show if you are not prepared to work as part of a team or if you take yourself too seriously. We will have a great time and put on a great show!

Principal Roles

Fred Graham	Actor, singer, director and all-round superman of the Theatre company. He takes the lead role of Petruchio in <i>The Shrew</i> . He is charismatic and arrogant, but witty, charming and likeable. He is ex-husband of Lilli and fights with her all the time only to fall back in love with her at the end of the show. Plenty of singing, lots of audience interaction. High Baritone.
Lilli Vanessi	The man-hating prima-donna-ish leading lady of the Theatre company. She is strong minded and selfish and gets her own way, even with her ex-husband Fred. She is quick-witted and charismatic and deeply in love with Fred throughout. She takes the title role of Katherine in <i>The Shrew</i> . Lots of musical numbers, Mezzo-Soprano/Soprano.
Lois Lane	The air-headed ex-nightclub singer who is making her debut in musical theatre in the role of Bianca. She is flirtatious and showy but also very, very dumb. Several fantastic numbers, good dancer. Mezzo-Soprano/Alto.
Bill Calhoun	Lois's boyfriend and player of Lucentio in <i>The Shrew</i> . He is a loveable rogue who is always in trouble through gambling and other illegal activity. In love with Lois, although annoyed by her flirtatious traits. Some singing, good dancer. Baritone.
Hattie	Miss Vanessi's dresser. She is quirky and likeable and needs a big voice to sing the opening number. Will probably pick up <i>Too Darn Hot</i> . Mezzo-Soprano belt.
Paul	Mr Graham's dresser. He is cool and impulsive, but prone to making mistakes. Will not sing <i>Too Darn Hot</i> so this is a non-singing role.
Harry Trevor	An old, experienced and eccentric actor in the company who plays Baptista in <i>The Shrew</i> . Great comic cameo. Non-singing.
Gangsters 1 & 2	Two wonderful nameless cameos that arrive backstage during the show to try and get some money from Fred. They end up dressing up and going onstage with hilarious consequences. An excellent comic duet at the end. Pure vaudeville, Baritones.

Hortensio, Gremio	Two characters seen only in <i>The Shrew</i> scenes. One excellent number to sing with Lois and Bill. Harmony. Tenor/Soprano and Baritone/Mezzo.
Harrison Howell	Military lover of Lilli's. Very upright and disciplined. One duet with Lilli. Baritone.
Ralph	The frantic stage manager of the theatre. Speaking role, non-singing. Lots of physical comedy.
Pops	The stage doorkeeper of the theatre, old. Small speaking role, non-singing.

Auditions

Auditions will take place from 2pm to 5pm on **Sunday 9th June**.

They will be largely open so we can see what the audience response is to each candidate as well as our own!

- All potential cast members will sing the Ensemble Audition
- All potential cast members will perform a short text extract. There are many smaller roles!
- All auditionees will be expected to do a movement audition
- There will be an advanced dance audition for interested dancers
- Principal auditionees should prepare libretto and music pieces for their chosen role alongside ensemble requirements.
- Please only audition for one thing – don't be put off if you think you don't fit the description – this is theatre so just give us a character and we will suspend belief (as will the audience).
- We will aim to post the cast as soon as possible – hopefully on the night!

A Note on Casting

There are a lot of principal roles for both genders, but don't feel constrained to your own gender if you don't want to. We're happy to see auditions for people who don't match the character they are auditioning for in real life – as long as you can act it we are happy! There are of course numerous other smaller roles to be allocated and lots of excellent chorus scenes. The rest of the company will be split between the cast of *The Shrew* (playing dancers and walk-on roles) and crew (playing roles like Stage crew, Wardrobe Mistress etc.). This show contains a lot of dance sequences as well as far more smaller cameo parts than normally which should give everyone a chance to shine!

Audition Requirements

Character	Shrew	Singing	Acting
Fred Graham	Petruchio	#10 (Were Thine That Special Face), bar 42 to end.	Fred libretto extract & Lilli and Fred extract
Lilli Vanessi	Kate	#9 (I Hate Men) 1st verse & #12 (Finale Act 1), bar 52- 60 (the cadenza)	Lilli libretto extract & Lilli and Fred extract
Lois Lane	Bianca	#17 (Always True To You In My Fashion), bar 10 - 64	Lois libretto extract
Bill Calhoun	Lucentio	#19 (Bianca), bar 50 - 101	Bill libretto extract
Hattie		#1 (Another Op'nin', Another Show), bar 37 to 97	Hattie libretto extract
Paul		#14 (It's Too Darn Hot), bar 24 - 48 & 94 - 116	Ensemble libretto
Harry	Baptista		Harry libretto extract
First & Second Man Gangsters		#21 (Brush Up Your Shakespeare), bar 1 - 106	Gangster libretto extract
Harrison Howell		#18 (From This Moment On), bar 137 - 168	Harrison Howell extract
Paul		#14 (It's Too Darn Hot), bar 24 - 48 & 94 - 116	Ensemble extract
	Gremio	#7 (Tom, Dick or Harry), start - bar 36	Ensemble extract

	Hortensio, Priest, Nathaniel	#7 (Tom, Dick or Harry), bar 21 - 63	Ensemble extract
Ensemble		#11 (Cantiamo D'Amore), bar 28 - 45	Ensemble extract

If you have any further questions please contact the Production Manager:
kissmekate@wmos.org.uk