

TASIS
presents

Kiss Me, Kate

A Musical Comedy of Shakespearean Proportions

Book by BELLA & SAM SPEWACK

Music and Lyrics by COLE PORTER

Palmer Cultural Center
April 21-24, 2016



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

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Kiss Me, Kate

Book by BELLA & SAM SPEWACK
Music and Lyrics by COLE PORTER

Performed by
TASIS High School Students

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Kiss Me, Kate is presented through special arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.
560 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10022, United States

ABOUT *Kiss Me, Kate*

We're delighted to bring *Kiss Me, Kate* back to Montagnola, having played it here eight years ago. With music and lyrics by Cole Porter and a script by Bella and Sam Spewack, this entertaining musical follows the backstage story of a theatrical troupe mounting a new musical based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

As the show begins, we discover that it's opening night of *Taming of the Shrew*, directed by Fred Graham (who is also Producer, Star, and Writer!) and starring both his ex-wife, stage and screen star Lilli Vanessi, *and* his new girlfriend, Lois. Complicating the relationships even more are the facts that Lois is also dating Bill, the actor-dancer playing her onstage suitor, and that Lilli is newly engaged to a WWII war hero. The plot is as complicated as the relationships are. We learn that Bill has signed a \$10,000 gambling debt I.O.U. in Fred's name, and gangsters show up to collect. Of course, through all of this, the show must go on....though it does not always go according to plan!

It's fitting for TASIS to be putting on this musical in our 60th anniversary year, as it combines so magnificently Mrs. Fleming's loves of both Shakespeare and musical theater. And like Mrs. Fleming, co-writer Bella Spewack lived well into her 90s and was very much a smart, creative, successful woman working in what was so often a man's world. Also like Mrs. Fleming, the Spewacks and Porter were brave and bold. In 1948, protesters against racial segregation were picketing Ford's Theatre in Baltimore for its policies on and off-stage. Our writers decided to set their new musical specifically at Ford's Theatre and include African-American characters (which needed to be played by African-American actors). While the characters in question are backstage folk, they are speaking and soloing roles. Thus, *Kiss Me, Kate's* creative team quietly but pointedly made social commentary on the situation and provided a vehicle for an interracial cast to rehearse and perform together. Additionally, it's made clear that Fred is not Petruchio, and that a woman and a man are best when they are equal partners.

Mostly, though, *Kiss Me, Kate* is simply a love letter to theater folks and theater itself, so we hope you will enjoy watching as much as we've enjoyed putting it on for you.

SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

THE SETTING

Ford's Theatre, Baltimore, Maryland, 1948

Backstage and Onstage

during the opening night rehearsals and performance of *Taming of the Shrew: The Musical*

**marked songs are part of The Shrew, the show within the show*

ACT I

“Another Op’nin’, Another Show”

Hattie, the Theater Staff, & the Ensemble

“Why Can’t You Behave?”

Lois & Bill

“Wunderbar”

Lilli & Fred

“So in Love”

Lilli

*“We Open in Venice”

Ensemble

*“Tom, Rick, or Harry”

Bianca, Lucentio, Gremio, & Hortensio

*“I’ve Come to Wive It Wealthily in Padua”

Petruchio & the men

*“I Hate Men”

Kate

SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

*“Were Thine That Special Face”

Petruchio

*“Kiss Me, Kate”

Petruchio, Kate, & *Shrew* cast

ACT II

“Too Darn Hot”

Paul, Sam, Bill, & Chorus Girls

*“Where is the Life That Late I Led?”

Petruchio

“Always True to You in My Fashion”

Lois

“From This Moment On”

General Howell & Lilli

“Bianca”

Bill, Chorus Girls, Hattie, & Pops

“So in Love” reprise

Fred

“Brush Up Your Shakespeare”

The Gangsters

*“I Am Ashamed That Women Are So Simple”

Kate

*Finale—“Kiss Me, Kate” reprise

Shrew cast

CAST LIST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Please note that where two names are listed for one part, it is a shared role.

Pops, the stage doorman

Taylor Wright

Ensemble, chorus girls who play various roles in Shrew

Ada Hunca, Esma Karuv, Emily Lewis, & Lauren Riba

Theater Staff & Backstage Crew

Adam Asher, Adrian Bulz, John Tabor Gage,
Begum Emirsoy, Caimin Long,
Georgia Mantegazza/Margherita Vanini, Defne Sahenk

Hattie, Lilli Vanessi's dresser

Lauren Robbers

Sam Porter, Broadway hooper & actor
plays Gremio in Shrew

Adam Osgood

Harry Trevor, a veteran character actor
plays Baptista and servant Gregory in Shrew

Jim Eiholzer

Paul, Fred Graham's dresser
plays Hortensio and servant Nathaniel in Shrew

Francis Accilien

Lois Lane, a nightclub singer in her first stage role
plays Bianca in Shrew

Serena Rand Bardi / Taina Gigi Barrau

Bill Calhoun, a Broadway hooper & Lois's boyfriend
plays Lucentio in Shrew

Ivan Semashev

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Please note that where two names are listed for one part, it is a shared role.

Lilli Vanessi, *star of stage and screen*
plays Kate in Shrew

Georgia Mantegazza / Margherita Vanini

Fred Graham, *stage star, writer, director*
plays Petruchio in Shrew

Jonathan Xie

Ralph, *the stage manager*

Raid Husni-Bey

Maurice, *the musical director and pianist*

Mr. Jonathan Morris

Cab Driver

Ada Hunca

Gangster 1

Defne Sahenk

Gangster 2

Begüm Emirsoy

Philip, *Petruchio's servant in Shrew*

Taylor Wright

General Harrison Howell

Adam Osgood

General's Driver

Esma Karuv

General's Aides

Ada Hunca & Lauren Riba

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/Production Manager

Musical Director/Pianist

Choreographer

Fight Choreographers

Stage Management

Costume Designer (professional)

Costume Design & Wardrobe Crew

Hair & Make-up Design & Crew

Set Design & Scenic Artists

Props & Set Dressing Design

Scene Shop & Set Painting

Running Crew

Lighting Design & Board Ops

Followspot Operator

Electricians

Sound Design & Operation

Dramaturg

House Managers

Reservations Manager

Poster Art

Program Art

Program Editors

Photography

Videography

Ms. Valerie Bijur Carlson

Mr. Jonathan Morris

Mr. Matthew Frazier-Smith

John Tabor Gage, Adam Osgood, & Ms. Carlson

Diego Blank (booth), Raid Husni-Bey (deck), & Amanda McAfee

Ms. Giulia Fratini

Céline Cialdini & Julia Womack

Lisa Tregubova & Devereaux Cates

Aida Loggiodice & Mino Kronwitter

Maria Eduarda (Duda) V. Paludo & Alöis de Bruin

Adam Ashur, Adrian Bulz, Alöis de Bruin,

Ben Carlson-Peters, Caimin Long, Skye Rourke,

Taylor Wright, Mr. Marco Casati, Mr. Massimo de Lorenzi,

Mr. Thomas Ricci, Ms. Caroline Rossi & Ms. Carlson

Adam Ashur, Adrian Bulz, Alöis de Bruin,

Caimin Long, & Maria Eduarda (Duda) V. Paludo

Madyson O'Connor & Fiona Perdomo

Lisa Hess

John Tabor Gage & Ms. Carlson

Andrea Parmegiani, Umberto Lima, & Mr. David Peters

Carmen Alban

Weekend Dorm Parents

Ms. Simone Aeschliman

Svetlana Esmukhanova & Mr. Martyn Dukes

Mr. Jacopo Riva

Ms. Kristin Pedroja, Mr. Jacopo Riva, Ms. Carlson

Ms. Kim Nelson

Mr. Frank Long

SPECIAL THANKS

Martyn Dukes, Simone Aeschliman, and David Peters

The Wonderfully Helpful Members of the Visual Arts Program

Yumi Ferretti and Valentina Rampazzi (for costuming assistance)

Lariulà, costumeria di Milano

TASIS Communications and Website Staff

The Facilities Department, Michele Dinelli, and Mariangela Tognalli

The Weekend Activities Team ~ Paola Prentice

The Physical Education and Athletics Departments

Lyle Rigg, Mark Abisi, and the Deans

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman and the Board of Directors

and the families, friends, advisors, and dorm parents

of the cast and crew

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

SERENA RAND BARDI '18, USA/ITALY (Lois/Bianca), is excited to play her first big role with this play. This is her first time performing in a big musical production, and she is so happy to be able to participate in this project alongside such amazing people. In the future she would love to do something that has to do with acting and hopes music and theater will always be part of her life.

TAINA GIGI BARRAU '16, USA/SAUDI ARABIA (Lois/Bianca), is performing in the Spring Musical for the first time. Last year she was in the tech crew for *Fiddler on the Roof*, but this year she decided to step out of her comfort zone and audition. She's had a wonderful time working with the cast and crew, especially Ms. Carlson, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Frazier-Smith!

DIEGO BLANK '16, SWITZERLAND/BRAZIL (Stage Manager), is infinitely grateful to have participated in the musical this year. This is his first year getting involved in any TASIS play. He is thankful and appreciative of the colleagues he has worked alongside during the production of this masterpiece.

MS. VALERIE BIJUR CARLSON, USA (Director), has been involved in theater for over two decades. Originally from New York, she ran the theater programs at Emma Willard and Connelly School of the Holy Child before coming to TASIS in 2012. She also works as a professional theater stage manager in the USA. Her shout-outs are for David and Ben, who fuel her in multiple ways, and all the TASIS faculty members who understand what theater takes—and gives.

BEGÜM EMIRSOY '16, TURKEY/CYPRUS (Gangster), is delighted to be playing a gangster before graduating. She hopes to end up in engineering school at NYU, BU, or Northeastern. Her past acting at TASIS was as Elsa in *The Sound of Music*. She sends shout-outs to her amazing gangster partner Defne (Gülüm) and her mother and father for their love and support.

MINO KRONWITTER '17, GERMANY (Set Designer), is participating in his first high school production. He wants to thank his partner, Aida, for the many hours spent together working on the set and, of course, all the rest of the production team for their efforts and energy spent on this musical.

GEORGIA MANTEGAZZA '17, UK (Lilli/Kate), is in her fifth year at TASIS. Past productions include *I Want a Dog* (Carmen/mother) in middle school; and *The Sound of Music* (chorus member), *The Merchant of Venice* (servant), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel), and *Loves Labour's Lost* (Jaquenetta) in high school. She is planning to have a long and adventurous career in showbiz and thanks her mother and brother for their support.

ADAM OSGOOD '16, USA/France (Gremio/General Harrison Howell), is both excited and sad to be partaking in his last theatrical performance at TASIS and would like to give a huge thanks to his family, friends, and Ms. Carlson. Previous TASIS performances include the King in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Gratiano in *Merchant...*, Rolf in *The Sound of Music*, and Macduff in *Macbeth*.

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

MARIA EDUARDA VIEIRA PALUDO '17, BRAZIL (Sets & Props), does not have any prior theatrical experience. She intends to continue working on theater sets because she appreciates decoration and design. She thanks TASIS for offering her this opportunity.

LAUREN RIBA '19, SOUTH AFRICA (Ensemble), is excited to be performing in her first production at TASIS. She has always been passionate about musical theater and looks forward to being in many more productions in the future.

LAUREN ROBBERS '16, USA (Hattie), appeared in last spring's *Fiddler on the Roof*, is a member of the A Capella Group at TASIS, and is graduating in a month! She shouts out an enthusiastic "I love you guys!" to her parents.

DEFNE SAHENK '16, TURKEY/USA (Gangster #1), has acted in *Macbeth*, *The Sound of Music*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Love's Labour's Lost* at TASIS. In middle school she was in *Peter Pan* and *Alice in Wonderland*. She is excited to be playing a comical character, especially opposite her real-life partner-in-crime, Begüm, who has made this her favorite production to date. In the fall she will attend Babson College and hopes to continue theater productions there.

IVAN SEMASHEV '18, RUSSIA (Bill Calhoun), is happy to be taking part in yet another production at TASIS. He has been seen in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. He would like to thank his parents, his sister, and his girlfriend for their support in doing what he loves throughout this long journey from auditions to opening night.

MARGHERITA VANINI '17, ITALY/RUSSIA is an alumna of the Artistic Movement of Ticino and Vocal Care Program Danila Satragno Milan. She was featured in *The Wizard of Oz* (ISC production, 2013), *Romeo and Juliet* (Lugano's Teatro Focè MAT company, 2014), and *The Visit* (Teatro Focè MAT, 2015). She also played Rosaline in *Love's Labour's Lost* at TASIS last fall. She thanks her father for making her fall in love with the world of performance, and her mother for always supporting her unconditionally.

JONATHAN XIE '16, USA/CHINA (Fred/Petruchio), is eager to perform in his first theatrical endeavor. He hopes to continue doing theater recreationally at university and is infinitely grateful to Ms. Carlson, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Frazier-Smith for giving him this incredible opportunity.

TAYLOR WRIGHT '18, USA (Pops, Phillip), is thrilled to be in the play. He started acting in 5th grade with a fairly large role in his school play and soon after went on to join an acting school in Los Angeles. Since then he hasn't acted but is still enthusiastic about the art. He wishes every one of his colleagues good luck.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE CAST & CREW hail from France, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, Venezuela, and the Virgin Islands. They represent the Classes of 2016, 2017, 2018, & 2019.



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