

About 'Kiss me, Kate' the Show

[Performance Licence awarded to Manor MTC for 24th to 28th April 2018 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall]

'Kiss Me, Kate' is a musical written by Samuel and Bella Spewack, with Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter. Cole Porter's most successful show, it was first produced on Broadway in 1949, and awarded a Tony for Best Musical.

The story involves the production of a musical version of William Shakespeare's 'The Taming of the Shrew' and the conflict on and off-stage between Fred Graham, the show's director, producer, and star, and his leading lady, his ex-wife Lilli Vanessi. A secondary romance concerns Lois Lane, the actress playing Bianca, and her gambler boyfriend, Bill, who runs afoul of some gangsters.

Cast of Characters (and their Shakespearian character):

Fred Graham – Director and Leading man (Petruccio)

Lilli Vanessi – Leading woman (Kate)

Bill Calhoun – Lois' gambling boyfriend (Lucentio, suitor to Bianca)

Lois Lane – (Bianca)

Gangster No.1

Gangster No.2

Harrison Howell – Senator and Lillie's fiance

Henry Trevor – (Baptista – Bianca's father)

Hattie – Wardrobe Mistress

Paul – Fred's Assistant

Gremio and Hortensio – Other suitors to Bianca

Musical Numbers:

Act I

- 1 **"Another Op'nin' and another show"** – *Hattie and Company*
- 2 **"Why Can't You Behave"** – *Lois Lane and Bill Calhoun*
- 3 **"Wunderbar"** – *Fred Graham and Lilli Vanessi*
- 4 **"So in Love"** – *Lilli Vanessi*
- 5 **"We Open in Venice"** – *Fred Graham, Lilli Vanessi, Lois Lane and Bill Calhoun and Company*
- 6 **"Tom, Dick or Harry"** – *Bianca, Lucentio, Gremio and Hortensio*
- 7 **"I've Come to Wive it Wealthily in Padua"** – *Fred Graham and The Men*
- 8 **"I Hate Men"** – *Lilli Vanessi*
- 9 **"Were Thyne That Special Face"** – *Fred Graham*
- 10 **"We Sing of Love (Cantiamo D'Amore)"** – *Lois Lane, Bill Calhoun and Company*
- 11 **"Kiss Me, Kate"** – *Fred Graham, Lilli Vanessi and Ensemble*

Act II

- 1 **"Too Darn Hot"** – *Paul and Company*
- 2 **"Where is the Life That Late I Led?"** – *Fred Graham*
- 3 **"Always True to You in My Fashion"** – *Lois Lane*
- 4 **"From this Moment On"** – *Harrison Howell and Lilli Vanessi*
- 5 **"Bianca"** – *Bill Calhoun and Company*
- 6 **"So in Love"** (Reprise) – *Fred Graham*
- 7 **"Brush Up Your Shakespeare"** – *First Gangster and Second Gangster*
- 8 **"I am Ashamed That Women Are So Simple"** – *Lilli Vanessi*
- 9 **"Kiss Me, Kate"** (Reprise = Finale) – *Company*