

# KISS ME, KATE – AUDITION PACK

We are delighted to announce that our next production will be *Kiss Me, Kate*. This pack will include everything you need to know to get involved in what will be an incredible show. If at any point you have any questions, don't hesitate to email the director (M-C) at [marie.claire.lindsay@gmail.com](mailto:marie.claire.lindsay@gmail.com)

## SYNOPSIS

Set in Baltimore in the late 1940s, egotistical leading man, director, and producer Fred Graham is reunited with his ex-wife, Lilli Vanessi, when the two are forced to play opposite one another in a new musical production of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. The battle of the sexes continues onstage and off, as it becomes clear that, as much as these exes profess to hate each other, they are secretly still in love.

Alongside their bickering liaison, *The Shrew's* other female lead Lois Lane supports her gambling boyfriend Bill Calhoun as he attempts to evade the clutches of local gangsters by claiming that Fred is the one who owes them money, not him. Throw in a number of cases of mistaken identity, the mob, some jazz classics and comedic routines and you get *Kiss Me, Kate* – a Broadway classic that earned the very first Tony award for Best Musical.

## KEY DATES

### PERFORMANCES

THURSDAY 12th, FRIDAY 13th, and SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2024, 7pm

### REHEARSALS

Tuesdays & Thursdays (7-10pm) from May onwards.

Some Sundays (2-5pm) from July onwards.

**Cast members are required to be available for all rehearsals and all performances.** Some flexibility may be possible in the rehearsal schedule: please discuss further with the production team if required.

The **FULL CAST** will be required on the following dates – this is compulsory:

**Sunday 25 August**, all afternoon (full run through)

**Sunday 1 September**, all afternoon (full run through)

**Sunday 8 September**, all afternoon (Tech run)

**Tuesday 10 September**, 6-10pm (Dress run)

**Thursday 12, Friday 13, Saturday 14 September**, 6-10pm (Performances)

We expect commitment from all cast members. One-off issues can be catered to.

# AUDITIONS

All auditions will take place on **SATURDAY 20th APRIL** in the Upper Hall of the Sacred Heart Church, SW19 4LU.

To sign up for an audition please fill out [this form](#).

**NB: the minimum age requirement is 14.**

## 1. GROUP DANCE AUDITION: 10am-12pm

**Everyone** is required to attend the dance audition, regardless of what you are auditioning for. There is nothing to prepare, just make sure you are wearing comfortable clothes, and do bring tap shoes if you have them (although this is not compulsory at all).

Not all characters will need to dance, but there will be some level of movement for everybody in the cast. During the dance audition we are looking for effort and a smile, not necessarily the best dancer in the room, so please don't be put off if you don't consider yourself a dancer!

## 2. ENSEMBLE AUDITION: 12-12.30pm

Anyone who does not wish to be considered for a speaking role must also attend this short 30-minute group audition straight after the dance audition has finished. There is nothing to prepare!

## 3. INDIVIDUAL AUDITIONS: from 1pm onwards

Individual auditions will be held for anyone wanting a speaking role – details on each role are listed below in the “**Characters / Roles**” section, so please read the requirements there carefully before signing up.

**Your audition will last up to 20 minutes**, and we will ask you to read an extract from the script and perform an extract of one of the songs.

Please wait outside the UPPER HALL or in the YOUTH ROOM until your allotted time. (There will be signs to the Youth Room for you to follow – the main entrance is the same as the Upper Hall).

## AUDITION MATERIALS

We would like you to prepare the materials ([found here](#)) listed in the table below, depending on the part(s) you're auditioning for. NB not all extracts listed in the table contain lines for that part, so don't be surprised.

Nothing needs to be learned by heart for the audition. We will have copies for you to use, but please feel free to print out and bring with you if you prefer. Bob Rathbone, Musical Director, will accompany your singing audition on the piano.

If you are auditioning for more than one role, you don't need to learn more than one song (just pick one) though we may want to hear your script extract for different characters if there is time.

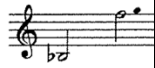
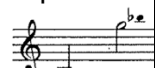

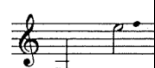
NB if you would like to listen to the musical track, I suggest using the New Broadway Cast Recording from 2000, as there are many different versions but this one is the closest to ours.

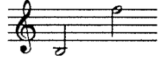


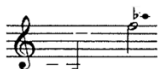

Role	Script	Song
Fred Graham	> Fred & Lilli > Petruchio (Fred) & Baptista (Harry) > General Howell & Fred	> Where Is The Life That Late I Led? - FULL VERSION
Lilli Vanessi	> Fred & Lilli > Katherine (Lilli) & Petruchio (Fred)	> So In Love > Kate's Cadenza
Lois Lane	> Bill & Lois > Lois & General Howell	> Always True To You In My Fashion
Bill Calhoun	> Bill & Lois > Fred & Lilli	> Bianca
1st Man or 2nd Man (Gangsters)	> 1st Man & 2nd Man (read either)	> Where Is The Life That Late I Led? - SHORT VERSION
General Howell	> General Howell & Fred	> Where Is The Life That Late I Led? - SHORT VERSION
Baptista/Harry	> Petruchio (Fred) & Baptista (Harry)	N/A
Hattie	> Fred & Lilli <i>OR</i> > Bill & Lois <i>(you choose!)</i>	> Always True To You In My Fashion
Paul	> Fred & Lilli <i>OR</i> > Bill & Lois <i>(you choose!)</i>	> Where Is The Life That Late I Led? - SHORT VERSION
Ralph	> Fred & Lilli <i>OR</i> > Bill & Lois <i>(you choose!)</i>	> Where Is The Life That Late I Led? - SHORT VERSION
Gremio or Hortensio	> Fred & Lilli <i>OR</i> > Bill & Lois <i>(you choose!)</i>	> Where Is The Life That Late I Led? - SHORT VERSION
Nathaniel, Gregory, or Philip	> Fred & Lilli <i>OR</i> > Bill & Lois <i>(you choose!)</i>	> Where Is The Life That Late I Led? - SHORT VERSION

# CHARACTERS / ROLES

There is a wide range of lead, cameo and ensemble roles in the show – singers, dancers and actors! We are looking for a cast of around 30 people. A collaborative style is very important in our productions, and every single person will be important to the story we will create.

**NB: “Age” is just a guide for the rough age of the character. You do not need to be that age to audition.**

Character name	Playing in <i>The Shrew</i>	Age	Singing	Dancing
<p><u>Fred Graham</u></p> <p>Fred is actor, director and producer of the play within the play <i>The Shrew</i>. He is arrogant and confident.</p> <p>He is Lilli’s ex-husband.</p>	<p><u>Petruchio</u></p> <p>A suitor who wants to marry rich and decides to marry &amp; “tame” Katherine.</p> <p>He has the lion’s share of Shakespearean dialogue.</p>	30-50	<p>Baritone</p> 	Strong
<p><u>Lilli Vanessi</u></p> <p>Lilli is an actress of stage and screen; proud, haughty, much like her character Katherine in <i>The Shrew</i>, but also vulnerable.</p> <p>Ex-wife of Fred and engaged to Harrison Howell.</p>	<p><u>Katherine</u></p> <p>The independent and fiery older daughter of Baptista who does not want to marry.</p>	30-50	<p>Mezzo-soprano</p> 	Strong
<p><u>Lois Lane</u></p> <p>Lois is an actress, the quintessential airhead ingénue but with lots of charisma and charm.</p> <p>She is Bill’s girlfriend.</p>	<p><u>Bianca</u></p> <p>The younger daughter of Baptista: mild, beautiful, and pursued by many suitors.</p>	20-30	<p>Mezzo</p> 	Strong (tap is preferred but not required)
<p><u>Bill Calhoun</u></p> <p>Bill is a ne’er-do-well actor who has a bit of a gambling problem.</p> <p>He is Lois’s boyfriend.</p>	<p><u>Lucentio</u></p> <p>Bianca’s main suitor.</p>	20-30	<p>Tenor/ baritone</p> 	Strong

Character name	Playing in <i>The Shrew</i>	Age	Singing	Dancing
<u>General Howell</u>  Harrison is a dignified gentleman from Georgia; very political, sometimes played as a general or a retired general. He is a little stuffy and kind of a hick, and he is engaged to Lilli Vanessi.	N/A	40+	Tenor/ baritone 	N/A
<u>1st Man (Gangster)</u>  The archetypical gangster. Attempting to collect an IOU from Fred.	Appears unexpectedly!	Any	Tenor/ baritone 	Should move well
<u>2nd Man (Gangster)</u>  Qualities the same as the 1st Man, but a bit more reserved and dryer of wit.	Appears unexpectedly!	Any	Tenor/ baritone 	Should move well
<u>Harry Trevor</u>  An actor in the company.	<u>Baptista</u>  A rich man of Padua, father of Katherine and Bianca.  Most of Harry's dialogue is as Baptista.	60+	Ensemble singing	N/A
<u>Hattie</u>  Lilli's dresser.  She is the lead singer in <i>Another Openin', Another Show</i> .	N/A	Any	Soprano 	Strong dancing preferred
<u>Paul</u>  Fred's dresser.  He is the lead singer/ dancer in <i>Too Darn Hot</i> so should have good charisma.	N/A	Any	Tenor 	Strong dancing preferred

Character name	Playing in <i>The Shrew</i>	Age	Singing	Dancing
<u>Ralph</u>  The stage manager! He sings in the ensemble in <i>Too Darn Hot</i> and <i>Another Op'nin'</i> , and could be featured as a soloist.	N/A	Any	Any	Not required
[No name]  Actor who plays Hortensio in <i>The Shrew</i> .  Featured in several numbers, and should sing well and move well.	<u>Hortensio</u>  A suitor to Bianca.  Sings and dances prominently in <i>Tom, Dick or Harry</i> (with Gremio, Lucentio & Bianca).	Any	Tenor/ baritone 	Good dancing required
[No name]  Actor who plays Gremio in <i>The Shrew</i> .  Featured in several numbers, and should sing well and move well.	<u>Gremio</u>  A suitor to Bianca.  Sings and dances prominently in <i>Tom, Dick or Harry</i> (with Hortensio, Lucentio & Bianca).	Any	Tenor/ baritone 	Good dancing required
[No name]  Actors, stagehands etc of the theatre company, with opportunities for close harmony singing.	<u>Nathaniel, Gregory, Philip</u>  Petruchio's manservants. Appear <i>The Shrew</i> and in all the ensemble numbers.	Any	Ensemble singing (tenor/ baritone)	Should move well
<u>Ensemble (including Dancers)</u>  The Ensemble is key to creating a full and vibrant world – Shakespearean actors, stage crew, wardrobe, etc, who appear throughout, both in “modern” day (1940s) and in <i>The Shrew</i> .  Some of the Ensemble have a couple of lines, and there are opportunities for small sung and danced solos/groups.  All members of the Ensemble will be required to sing.  Dancing is required at various levels – some of the Ensemble will perform the more difficult routines (chosen at Auditions), and others will dance to a lesser amount, however everyone will be required to do some form of movement.			All ranges	All levels required