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PROUDLY PRESENTS

Kiss Me, Kate



Cole Porter's classic musical comedy
featuring many well known songs such as
Too Darn Hot and **Brush up Your Shakespeare**

Thursday 19th May @ 19:30,
Friday 20th May @ 19:30
Saturday 21st May @ 14:00 and 19:30

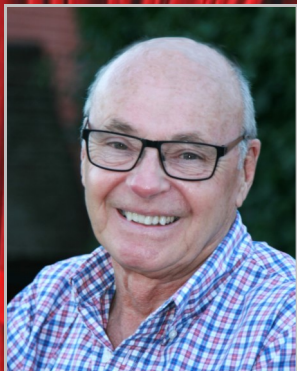
Patcham Methodist Church Hall, Ladies Mile Road, Patcham

www.barnstormers.org.uk

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter Book by Sam and Bella Spewack
By arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals Ltd of New York

From the Director

Welcome to Barnstormers new production of *Kiss Me, Kate* by Cole Porter.



This is the first time I have directed a show for Barnstormers, although I have worked with our very talented Musical Director, Russell Taylor, a couple of times at Sea-

ford Musical Theatre. Most notably we collaborated on their production of *Anything Goes* by Cole Porter last year, so when Russell asked me if I would be interested in directing another Cole Porter show here at Patcham, I jumped at the chance.

I have been involved in amateur drama and musical theatre all my life, both in the UK and abroad, having caught 'the bug' when I played a cloud in my school nativity play. Like many directors, I started out as an actor but soon found I wanted to be 'the boss', particularly as advancing years made it much harder to learn the lines. Over the years I have acted in more plays that I care to remember and have directed several pantomimes and musical shows, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Boy Friend* and *My Fair Lady*, as well as Old Time Music Halls, plays and murder mystery evenings.

To bring this show to the stage has been a great challenge for everyone involved, whether on stage or behind the scenes, but my task has been made considerably easier by the opportunity to work not only with Russell, but with his mother, Margaret Taylor, our choreographer who somehow has

View from the Pit

I am excited to be the Musical Director for *Kiss Me, Kate*, exactly 9 years after being the Musical Director for Barnstormers' production of another Cole Porter classic, *Anything Goes*. Cole Porter's scores are always full of musical challenges and delights, with larger than life characters portraying the crazy world of theatre both on-stage and off. This is the first time I have musically directed *Kiss Me, Kate*, and my fourth Cole Porter production (having previously musically directed *Anything Goes* three times). I've also been Musical Director for numerous other musicals, pantos and re



vues with Barnstormers and with other groups across the South Coast, including: *The Pajama Game*, *Crazy For You*, *Beauty and The Beast* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. It has been a pleasure to work Tony again and also with such a great cast, production team and band – all of you are *Too Darn Hot*. I must say a special thank you to Hannah Pool for covering re-

hearsals while I jetted off round the world for the delights of international business. Enjoy brushing up your Shakespeare with our production of *Kiss Me, Kate*!

Russell Taylor, *Musical Director*



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Barnstormers' previous productions include:

2013: Crazy for You & A Christmas Carol

2014: Godspell & Barnstormers does Broadway

2015: The Pajama Game & Sleeping Beauty

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the ability to make even our most two left-footed cast members look graceful on stage. I thank you both.

Costumes, set, lighting, front of house, publicity, sound, stage management, make up and props are all vital components of a successful show and my sincere thanks also go to all those unsung members of our production team who have worked so hard to bring this show to you tonight.

So, sit back, relax and enjoy *Kiss Me, Kate* as we take you from Baltimore in 1948 to Renaissance Italy .

Tony Betts, Director

Stepping up ...

It's a well-known fact that time goes quicker the older you get, but to me it does not seem possible that it was 10 years ago, following a line dance class that I ran to raise funds for the Car Park appeal, that I was nominated to take over the choreography for Barnstormers. And what 10 years it has been! The first thing I had



to do was start tap classes again after a gap of 50 years, not to mention ballet, contemporary, Russian, Irish, Latin, modern, and any other genre you can think of. Every show presents its challenges, and all have a large production number, which usually lasts for 6-8 minutes, but *Kiss Me, Kate* certainly wins hands down on having the longest which lasts for 11 minutes. Even most of the supporting numbers last for more than 6 minutes, so this has certainly been an endurance test all round, although as always the cast have come up trumps. It has been a pleasure working for this show with our new director Tony Betts, it is always good to explore new and different methods of producing desired results, and long may our association continue.

Never having been a fan of classical literature, our rendition of *A Christmas Carol* in 2013 introduced me to a whole new perspective on the works of Dickens, and likewise *Kiss Me, Kate* has been an induction to Shakespeare and, if like me, you have never been to a performance of any of his plays, I hope it will do the same for you. I hope that he would be pleased with our interpretation of his works, and in this 400th anniversary year of his death, it becomes a fitting tribute.

Margaret Taylor, Choreographer.

Barnstormers' next show will be:

"Aladdin"

(Four weddings and a lamp)

on 10, 11, 12 Nov 2016

See website for details nearer the time!



Special thanks to:

Seaford Musical Theatre for the loan of some costumes and properties

GLADRAGS Community Costume Resource for the hire of costumes



Cole Porter (1891 – 1964)



Cole Porter was arguably the most successful composer and lyricist of his generation and Broadway shows such as *Anything Goes* (1934) and *Kiss Me, Kate* (1948) continue to be as popular today as they were when first staged.

Born into a wealthy family on June 9, 1891, in Indiana, USA, Porter had a comfortable childhood, during which he studied both violin and piano. With financial support from his family he was able to concentrate on his musical career and by his mid-thirties his numbers were appearing in both London

and Broadway shows.

In 1928 Porter wrote "Let's Do It ,Let's Fall In Love" for *Paris*. The song was a massive hit, and the beginning of a successful Broadway career that reached new heights in the 1930s. He wrote "Night and Day" for *Gay Divorcee* (1932), which starred Fred Astaire. Other notable songs written during this decade were "Begin the Beguine" (1935) "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" and "Just One of Those Things" (1935). His talents found a home on the big screen as well: "I've Got You under My Skin" (1936) and "In the Still of the Night" (1937) were all written for Hollywood movies.

In 1937, Porter suffered a riding accident when his horse fell on top of him, crushing both his legs. The after effects of his injuries would force Porter to endure more than 30 operations and years of pain. However, in spite of this, or as a coping mechanism, he continued to work, producing memorable songs like "Friendship" (1939) and "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To" (1942).

Porter considered that he only wrote two 'perfect' shows, the first being *Anything Goes* (1934) and the other being tonight's show, *Kiss Me, Kate*, (1948). Loosely based on the volatile show business marriage of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine, and interwoven with Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, the show was a massive success, running for over 1,000 nights on Broadway and gaining Porter the first Tony Award ever given for a stage musical.

Porter continued to work both on Broadway shows and films gaining an Academy award nomination for "True Love," written for *High Society* (1956) but he also escaped into alcohol and painkillers. In 1958, due to his accident, Porter had to have his right leg amputated. Afterward, he stopped writing songs. He also withdrew from public life, telling friends, "I am only half a man now." At 73, he died in Santa Monica, California, on October 15, 1964.

Thank you to our Patrons and Friends of Barnstormers



Patron: Mrs G Gerard



Friend: Val Bond

Would you like to see your name in lights?

Well perhaps, 'in lights' is a slight exaggeration, but if you would like to make a donation to Barnstormers to help towards the costs of a show and maybe some new equipment, you would become a 'friend of Barnstormers' for the year, and for your £25 donation your name would be listed in the next two programmes.

For a donation of £40 or more you would be a 'patron' for the year, and as well as being listed in the next two programmes (in Bold type!), you would get the opportunity to buy your tickets a few days before they go on general sale, so you can avoid sitting by the band! Also your name would be entered into an annual draw for two free show tickets.

If you are interested in becoming a friend or patron please contact Keith : 07775 546400 or email: keithfox25@googlemail.com

Barnstormers would also like to extend their thanks to Patcham Methodist Church



Patcham Methodist Church

Ladies Mile Road, Patcham, Brighton BN1 8QE

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... Thank you!



Kiss Me, Kate

Musical Numbers



“The action takes place, both on-stage and back-stage, at the Ford’s Theatre, Baltimore, on a very warm day in June, 1948 ”

Act One

Another Opening, Another Show

Ensemble

Why Can’t You Behave

Lois and Bill

Wunderbar

Lilli and Fred

So In Love

Lilli

We Open In Venice

Ensemble

Tom, Dick or Harry

*Bianca, Gremio, Hortensio
and Lucentio*

I’ve Come to Wive It Wealthily in

Padua *Petruchio and Men*

I Hate Men

Katharine

Were Thine That Special Face

Petruchio

Cantiamo Amore

Ensemble

Kiss Me, Kate

*Petruchio, Katharine and
Ensemble*

Act Two

Entr’acte

Ensemble

Too Darn Hot

Ensemble

Where is the Life That Late I Led

Petruchio

Always True To You in My Fashion

Lois

From This Moment On

General Howell and Lilli

Bianca

Bill and Ensemble

So In Love

Fred

Brush Up Your Shakespeare

The Two Men

Pavane

Ensemble

I Am Ashamed That Women Are So

Simple

Katharine

Kiss Me, Kate

Ensemble

Cast:

Lilli Vanessi (Katherine)

Louisa Taylor

Fred Graham (Petruchio)

Sebastian Harrington

Lois Lane (Bianca)

Natalie Steel

Bill Calhoun (Lucentio)

Nick Herriott

Hattie

Claire Fowler

Roz

Jean Porter

1st Man

Ian Bates

2nd Man

Keith Fox

Harry Trevor (Baptista)

Bob Hinton

General Harrison Howell

Gary Robertson

Gremio

Paul Bridgland

Hortensio

James Smith

Moms

Sheila Carey

Paul

Hyder Khalil

Cab Driver

George Khalil

1st Stage Hand

Jasmine O’Reilly

2nd Stage Hand

Ellen Mulvenna

Dance Captain

Paula Gerard

Wardrobe Lady

Sue Sawyer

Haberdasher

George Khalil

Ensemble: Caroline Dewar,

Natasha Knight, Lee Dearling

Backing Singers: Roni Graham,

Philip Davis, Ann Barrows

Band:

Keyboards: Russell Taylor,

Hannah Pool

Woodwind: Chris Cheetham

Oboe: Lea Khalil

Trumpet: Steve Morris

Drums/Percussion: Alex Harrington

Bass: Peter Webb

Crew:

Stage Manager - Karen Ashby

Stage Crew, Set Construction and

Props - Karen Ashby, John Carey,

Gary Robertson

Sound - Craig Flint, Clive Flint

Lighting - Joe Gerard, Joshua Henry

Lighting Design/Tech - Alex

Harrington, Russell Taylor

Production Assistant - Paula Steel

Front of House – Ian Batchelor

and team

Advertising - Claire Fowler, Keith

Fox

Ticket sales and Programme - Sue

Harrington

Costume - Christine Ashby,

Philip Davis

Make Up – Astrid Fox and team

Artwork - Seb Harrington

Photography - Clive Flint

Video - Adam Clacher

Webmaster - Seb Harrington

Production Team:

Director - Tony Betts

Musical Director - Russell Taylor

Choreographer - Margaret Taylor

Producers - Astrid & Keith Fox

Cast Representative - Paula Gerard

Fundraising - Margaret Taylor,

Claire Fowler

Promotions - Claire Fowler