

ROLE BREAKDOWN FOR “KISS ME KATE”

Kiss Me Kate was first presented at the New Century Theatre in New York on December 30, 1948, with music by Cole Porter and lyrics and book by Samuel and Bella Spewack.

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 production of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. The battle of the sexes continues onstage and off, as it becomes clear that, as much as this couple profess to hate each other, they are also still in love. Alongside their bickering liaison, the show's supporting actress, Lois Lane, supports her gambling boyfriend, Bill, as he attempts to evade the clutches of local gangsters. Throw in a number of cases of mistaken identity, the mob, and comedic routines into the mix and you get *Kiss Me, Kate* -- a dazzling Broadway classic that earned the very first Tony award for Best Musical.

Fred Graham/Petruchio—30-50, strong baritone, commanding presence. He is actor, director and producer of the play within the play *The Shrew* and plays Petruchio—he has the lion's share of Shakespearean dialogue. He is also Lilli's ex-husband.

Lilli Vanessi/Katherine—30-50, strong mezzo soprano. She is an actress of stage and screen, proud, haughty, much like her character Katherine in *The Shrew*, but also vulnerable. Ex wife of Fred and engaged to Harrison Howell.

Lois Lane/Bianca—20-30, strong mezzo belter. She is an actress, the quintessential airhead ingénue but with lots of charisma and charm. She also plays Bianca in *The Shrew*.

Bill Calhoun/Lucentio—20-30, strong tenor or baritenor. He is a ne'er-do-well actor who has a bit of a gambling problem. Is a Broadway hoofer, so he should move well. Plays Lucentio in *The Shrew*.

General Harrison Howell—50+, baritone. He is a little stuffy and pompous. He is engaged to Lilli Vanessi.

First Man (Gangster)—30-50+ comic baritone or tenor. He is an archetypical gangster complete with accent. Does some soft shoe in “Brush Up Your Shakespeare” so should move well. Also appears in *The Shrew* (unexpectedly)

Second Man (Gangster)—Qualities the same as the First Man, but a bit more reserved and dryer of wit.

Harry Trevor/Baptista—50+, sings in the ensemble. He is a character actor who appears mostly in *The Shrew* as Katherine and Bianca's father, Baptista. He has mainly Shakespearean dialogue.

Hattie—Any age, mezzosoprano. She is Lilli's dresser and sings "Another Op'nin', Another Show" and sings in "Too Darn Hot". Opens the show, so should have a good voice and charisma.

Ralph (Stage Manager)—Any age, sings in the ensemble in "Too Darn Hot" and "Another Op'nin', Another Show", may be featured as soloist as well. Is the stage manager of *The Shrew*. This role can be played by a woman as well (name will be changed).

Stage Doorman (Pops)/Pauda Priest—Any age, sings in the ensemble in "Too Darn Hot", "Another Op'nin', Another Show" and several other songs.

Paul—Any age, tenor or baritenor. He is Fred's dresser and is the featured singer/dancer in "Too Darn Hot" so he should sing and move well.

Male Ensemble Dancer and Singer/Flynt/Gremio—Any age, tenor or baritenor. First Suitor in *The Shrew*. Sings in the ensemble of both *The Shrew* and in "Too Darn Hot". Featured in several numbers and should sing well and move well.

Male Ensemble Dancer and Singer/Riley/Hortensio—Any age, tenor or baritenor Second Suitor in *The Shrew*. Sings in the ensemble of both *The Shrew* and in "Too Darn Hot". Featured in several numbers and should sing well and move well.

Male Ensemble Dancer and Singer/Stqgehand #1/Cab Driver/Nathaniel—Any age. Sing and dances in the ensemble throughout and plays Petruchio's man servant and citizen of Padua in *The Shrew*.

Male Ensemble Dancer and Singer/Dance Captain/Gregory—Any age. Sings and dances in the ensemble throughout and plays Petruchio's man servant and citizen of Padua in *The Shrew*.

Male Ensemble Dancer and Singer/Stagehand #2/Phillip— Any age. Sings and dances in the ensemble throughout and plays Petruchio's man servant and citizen of Padua in *The Shrew*.

Male Ensemble Dancer and Singer/Stagehand #3/General's Driver/Haberdasher—Any age. Sings and dances in the ensemble throughout and plays Petruchio's man servant and citizen of Padua in *The Shrew*.

Female Ensemble Dancer and Singer/Wardrobe Lady— Any age. Sings and dances in the ensemble throughout and plays citizen of Padua in *The Shrew*.

Female Ensemble Dancer and Singer/Padua Inn Waitress— Any age. Sings and dances in the ensemble throughout and plays citizen of Padua.

Female Ensemble Dancer and Singer— Any age. Sings and is a featured dancer in the ensemble throughout and plays citizen of Padua.

Female Ensemble Dancer and Singer— Any age. Sings and is a featured dancer in the ensemble throughout and plays citizen of Padua.

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Female Ensemble Dancer and Singer— Any age. Sings and is a featured dancer in the ensemble throughout and plays citizen of Padua.

Auditions will consist of a prepared song of 16 bars in Broadway style and cold readings from the script. Please dress to dance and/or bring appropriate shoes. Bring sheet music in correct key. An accompanist will be provided.