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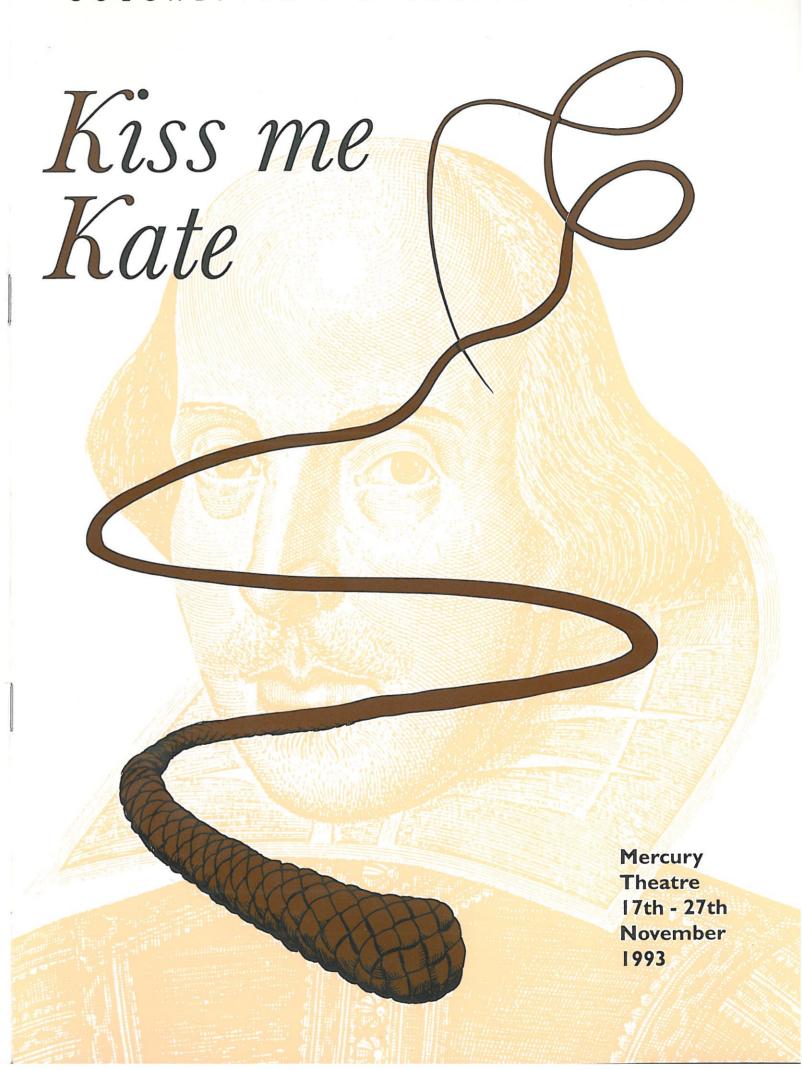
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Colchester Operatic Society presents

KISS ME KATE

Music & Lyrics by Cole Porter Book by Bella & Sam Spewak

by arrangement with Musicscope Ltd & Stage Musicals Ltd of NEW YORK



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THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

"Another Op'nin', Another Show". This line taken from the opening chorus, sums up the reasons why we are all here this evening. A glance at the list of past productions will show that this is the second time that "Kiss Me Kate" has been staged by the Society, which was a "shrewed" choice I hope vou will

We warmly welcome Pat Taplin, who has directed "Kiss Me Kate". This is Pat's first production for us and I am sure you will agree she has given us a first-class show. We are most grateful also to our Musical Director, Alan Humphrey and Doreen Matthews, our Choreographer whom we welcome back to

the production team.

I should like to congratulate two of our members who were awarded prestigious prizes by The N.E. Essex Theatre Guild in September. John Davies was voted the best singer in this area after his superb singing in "Oklahoma", and Will Long was rewarded for his most convincing portrayal of Oliver Warbucks in CO2's excellent production of "Annie". Both were well deserved and we are indeed proud of

My special thanks to all members and friends who have been working behind the scenes for many hours at rehearsals, backstage and front of house.

Finally I look forward to your continued support at our future productions in this excellent theatre.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 1994.

John M Enfield Chairman



THE STORY

The cast of KISS ME KATE, an American touring company of players is in production of a revival of Shakespeare's TAMING OF THE SHREW. The play opens with the cast on stage receiving final instructions from Fred Graham, actor-producer of the company. Also in the cast is his ex-wife Lilli Vanessi, billed to play Katharine, together with the other female character Bianca, played by Lois Lane. Fred Graham shows a friendly interest in Lois but her real affection is for Bill Calhoun, an irresponsible and inveterate gambler who in his latest escapade evades a gambling debt of \$10,000 by appending Fred Graham's signature to an I.O.U. for that amount. Lois becomes aware of his deception and begs him to to reform.

The estrangement existing between Fred and Lilli seems about to resolve itself following a scene of nostalgic reminiscences recalling the varying fortunes of their professional careers. Unfortunately the bouquet intended for Lois is inadvertently delivered to Lilli, and the discovery of the accompanying note from Fred re-opens the violent Taming of the Shrew atmosphere in their private lives resulting in Lilli's threatening to walk out of the production. This threat is avoided by some astute collaboration between Fred and two gangsters assigned to realise the amount of the I.O.U. signed by the errant Bill Calhoun. In the course of the play the hoped-for marriage of Lois (Bianca) and Bill (Lucentio) is frustrated by the convention which demands the prior engagement of the elder sister. Katharine is afforded the opportunity to develop her shrewish aversion to men in spite of which Fred (Petruchio) requests her father's (Baptista) consent to marriage under certain advantageous monetary conditions. The result is disastrous and Fred yearns for a return to batchelor life. Meanwhile Lilli seeks solace in the company of her latest admirer, Harrison Howell, a wealthy and well-preserved American Senator. Lilli confronts Fred with her latest alliance but he merely displays an indifferent and affected approval to the obvious discomfiture of Katharine. The two gangsters also have a problem of reorganisation caused by the elimination of their chief thereby rendering unnecessary the collection of the incriminating I.O.U.

Upon reflection Katharine's love of show business overrules her shrewishness and a reconciliation is sought with Fred. Lois and Bill also resolve the difficulties which earlier beset their mutual happiness.

KISS ME KATE

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreographer

DOREEN MATTHEWS

Director's Assistant SALLY HAMMOND

Chorus Master and Accompanist RICHARD HUBBARD

Rehearsal Pianist

PETER HUMPHREY

Dialogue Coach

PHYL DEEBLE



PAT TAPLIN Director





RICHARD HUBBARD



ALAN HUMPHREY Musical Director



DOREEN MATTHEWS

1981 Hello Dolly

1986 1986

1987

1987

1988

1988

Camelo Half a Sixpence

Brigadoon

Guys & Dolls

South Pacific

The Mikado

My Fair Lady

The Music Man

Oklahoma

The Pajama Game

Fiddler on the Roof

The Desert Song

Annie Get Your Gun

Oliver

Pirates of Penzance

The Sound of Music



PHYL DEEBLE

			PREMIONS	DODIIO	FIONO
		PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS			
1925	Gondoliers	1948	Waltz Dream	1965	They Came to a City
1926	Mikado	1949	New Moon	1965	The Student Prince
1927	Princess Ida	1950	The Wind and Rain	1966	Hay Fever
1929	Iolanthe	1950	The Desert Song	1966	La Belle Helene
1930	Yeomen of the Guard	1951	The Student Prince	1967	Carousel
1931	Trial by Jury and	1952	Harmony Hill	1968	Count of Luxembourg
	Pirates of Penzance	1953	Show Boat	1969	Oklahoma
	Les Cloches de Corneville	1954	Brigadoon	1970	Kiss Me Kate
1932	Quaker Girl	1955	Pink Champagne	1971	Die Fledermaus
1933	Mikado	1956	Vagabond King	1972	Mikado
1934	Gondoliers	1957	White Horse Inn	1973	Robert and Elizabeth
1935	Merrie England	1958	Summer Song	1974	Orpheus in the Underworld
1936	Duchess of Danzig	1959	The Merry Widow	1975	The Merry Widow
1937	Vagabond King	1960	Song of Norway	1976	My Fair Lady
1938	Country Girl	1961	Naughty Marietta	1977	The Great Waltz
1946	Beggar's Opera	1962	The Dancing Years	1978	Fiddler on the Roof
1947	Tom Jones	1963	Kismet	1979	The King & I
1947	The Arcadians	1964	The Most Happy Fella	1980	Show Boat

KISS ME KATE

CAST

Fred Graham		John Davies
Harry Trevor		Colin Thorne
Lois Lane		Jayne Batchelor
Ralph (Stage Manager)		Derek Massey
Lilli Vanessi		Val Massey
Hattie	•••••	Jenny Spurgeon
Bill Calhoun		David Moye
Paul		Steve Williams
First Gangster	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Lee Carter
Second Gangster		Clive Smith
Harrison Howell		Roger Dobson
Stage Doorman		John Warburton
TAMING OF THE SHRE	W PLAYERS	
Bianca (Lois Lane)		Jayne Batchelor
Baptista (Harry Trevor).		Colin Thorne
Gremio		Scott Woodrow
Hortensio		Nick Flower
Lucentio (Bill Calhoun)	***************************************	David Moye
Katharine (Lilli Vanessi)	***************************************	Val Massey
Petruchio (Fred Graham))	John Davies
Sam Coburn	Sandra Moorhouse	
Irene Crawford	Sue Nicholson	
Malcolm Crawford	Denise Pegnall	
Peter Elder	Ian Pope	
Jill Enfield	Audrey Rowe	
Brenda Green	Ann Rozier	
Cathy Grimmer	Carol Smith	
Ken Houghton	Alison Williams	
Eleanor Howes	Jennifer Woolsey	
Dawn I	King	
Dancers:	Clare Joseph	
Kirsty Chase	Michael Mundell-Poole	
Sharon Clarke	Nicola Mundell-Poole	
Beverley Humphries	Emma Spurgeon	
Philip Jackson	Rebecca Thompson	
D.'- 17 11	C/ 1 . W	

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Stephanie Thorne

6th June 1994

Brian Keeble

Colchester Operatic Society Orpheus in the Underworld (late November)

BOTH AT THE MERCURY THEATRE

Please note: Taking of Photographs during the performance is not permitted

ACT ONE

Scene 1	Stage of the Ford Theatre, Baltimore
Scene 2	The Corridor, backstage
Scene 3	Dressing Room of Lilli Vanessi
Scene 4	Padua
Scene 5	Street Scene, Padua
Scene 6	Backstage
Scene 7	Dressing rooms of Lilli Vanessi and Fred Graham
Scene 8	The church

ACT TWO

Scene 1	The stage door alley
Scene 2	Before the curtain
Scene 3	Petruchio's house
Scene 4	The corridor, backstage
Scene 5	Dressing rooms of Lilli Vanessi and Fred Graham
Scene 6	The corridor, backstage
Scene 7	Before the safety curtain
Scene 8	Baptista's home

STAGE MANAGEMENT

For the Mercury Theatre:	Stage Manager – Lesley Griffiths
For the Mercury Theatre.	Stage Manager – Lesiey Grimths

Jim Bowman (Lighting), Kate Millward (Sound), Claire Sibley, Martin Radmall

For The Colchester Operatic Society: Alan Larner, Chris Barrell, Dave Clarke, Colin Kendall, Tony Kendall,

Terry Lion, William Long, Jim Lynes, Dave Rosoman, Dave Sage,

Mike Sheeran, Philip Spurgeon, Bob Wilkinson

F/S Paul Shaw, Kate Bagley, Jim Bagley

On the Book: Mike Spurgeon

Prompts: Eileen Smith, Marion Spurgeon

Make Up Team: Ken Smith, Ann Dye, Pam Gibson, Margaret Norfolk, Linda Kendall

Props: Beryl Balls, Frank Burgess, Claire Lynas, Bernard Polley, Shirley Tindall

Wardrobe: Gill Plumtree, Debbie Andrews, Helen Banham, Joan Burgess, Mary Fletcher,

Juliette Flower, June Harris, Margaret Pedder, Susan Smith

Costume: Theatrical Costume House, Westcliff and the Company

Wigs: Jim Welling
Scenery: Stage Productions

Programme Editor: Katie Davey

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society expresses grateful thanks to all who have contributed, and in particular to:-

The Society's Non-Playing Members for their loyal support in Publicity, Programme Sales and other essential duties.

Mick Hemstedt for programme cover.

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FRED – John Davies has performed in concert, cabaret, oratorio and operatics for twenty–five years, taking many major roles including the title role in Wagner's Flying Dutchman, the Desert Song's Red Shadow, Danilo in the Merry Widow, Billy Bigelow in Carousel, Bill Sykes in Oliver, Freddy in My Fair Lady and both Ravenal and Joe in Show Boat. John recently received the Timmens Award for Music for his singing in Oklahoma by the N.E. Essex Theatre Guild.

LILLI – Valerie Massey was born in Doncaster and trained for the performing arts in Birmingham. She moved to Colchester in 1965 with her husband Derek. Since then she has played with most of the local Operatic Societies and for Players Anonymous in Ireland. Val has performed in or directed over 70 musicals, plays and theatrical productions. Her favourite principal roles have included Eliza (My Fair Lady), Annie (Annie Get Your Gun), Anna (The King and I), Guinevere (Camelot) and now, of course Kate. Her latest part may prove to be a very sore point?





BILL – David Moye has appeared nine times with Colchester Operatic Society, and is a member of CO2. This is his 17th amateur performance in 6 years. Earlier roles included Nicely, Nicely Johnson (Guys and Dolls), Doody (Grease), Billy Crocker (Anything Goes). Further demonstrating his versatility he became the archetypal butler in Annie for CO2. David performs regularly with CO2's Cabaret Troupe.

LOIS – Jayne Batchelor has been involved in music and drama for 11 years. She joined Tiptree Amateur Dramatic Society at 15, and has been in many plays and pantomimes with them. Her first production with Colchester Operatic Society was The Mikado, since then she has been in most productions and has helped with make—up. Jayne also sings with a local band called Rush Hour.





HATTIE – Jenny Spurgeon joined Clacton Operatic Society at 14, and later Colchester Operatic Society, where she met her husband. She has played many leading roles and was principal dancer. Her vast experience has been put to use as choreographer and dance captain. She returns this year to play Hattie. Jenny's favourite role was Valencienne in The Merry Widow

PAUL – Steve Williams took part in plays and sang in the choir at school, and has always been interested in the theatre. Until now his busy life has prevented him from taking part, so this is his first appearance, taking the part of Paul, and we welcome him to the Society.



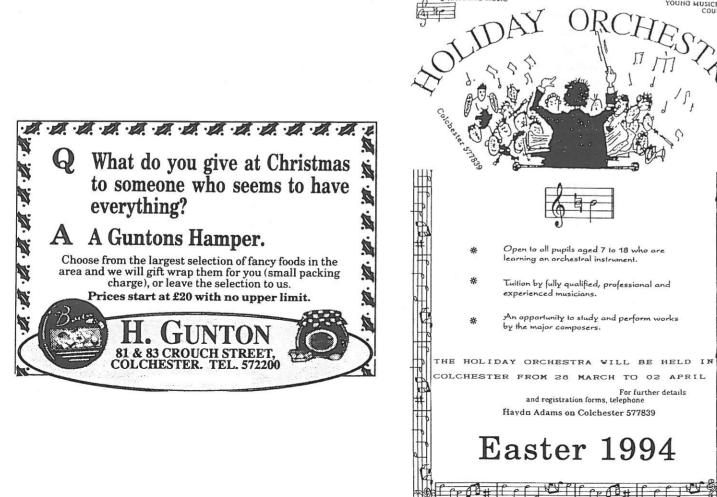




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1st GANGSTER – Lee Carter first stepped onto the stage at 14 as a Shark in West Side Story with CO2. Since then he has appeared in Godspell, Guys and Dolls as Benny Southstreet, Grease as Kinicki, Anything Goes as Moonface Martin, and in Annie as Rooster. This will be Lee's first principal role for Colchester Operatic Society as the First Gangster.





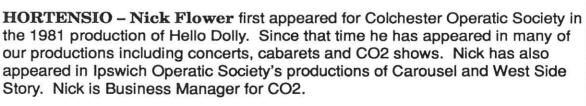
2nd GANGSTER – Clive Smith is a member of Severalls Concert Group. He played Bill Hickock in Calamity Jane. He is a member of the Concord Singers and the Stage Door Canteen, which is a group entertaining for charity, specialising in music from the war years.

HARRY TREVOR – Colin Thorne has been a member of Colchester Operatic Society since 1968 when The Count of Luxembourg was produced. He has played many times in the chorus in addition to principal parts, the most important was Billy Bigelow in Carousel for the Diamond Jubilee production. He has also played parts in Clacton, and Gaston in Gigi at Ipswich. In the previous production of Kiss Me Kate he played Bill Calhoun.





GREMIO - Scott Woodrow's first show was West Side Story with CO2. He appeared in Annie Get Your Gun and the Mikado. Since then he has only missed one or two shows with CO2 and Colchester Operatic Society. Earlier this year he played Bert Healy in Annie with CO2. This is Scott's first principal role with Colchester Operatic Society.







HARRISON HOWELL – Roger Dobson has played a number of small parts in the 16 shows in which he has taken part since he joined the Society in 1978. An Olde Tyme Music Hall exponent since 1973, he also performs G & S with Wivenhoe Society, plus pantomime (including two dames) and other shows on Mersea Island.

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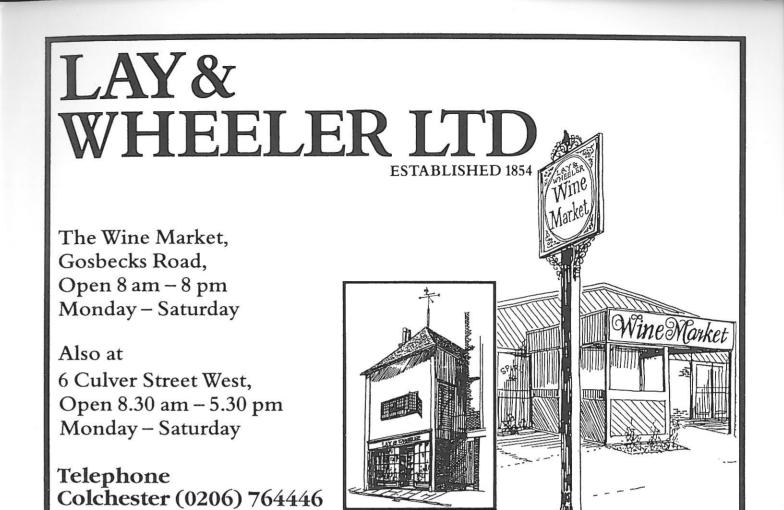
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