

BWT Report

Singers stage a lively Musical

WITHAM Amateur Operatic Society presented a lively, colourful musical performance of Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate* last week at the Public Hall.

Full of tuneful numbers the cast made the most of the opportunities to develop their characters. Stewart Adkins played the leading role with panache, especially when singing *Where is the life that late I led*.

Pat Mcleod as the leading lady really pushed her personality over the footlights. It was a pity though that she was not able to show the softer side of her singing because of the volume of the orchestra led by Brian Brown. Geoff Coverdale showed his experience dealing with Batista and Harry Trevor's characters.

This is a play within a play based on a modern touring company who are performing *The Taming of the Shrew*. The sub-plot gave Kathryn Adkins the opportunity to present a young vital and tuneful performance opposite the young Tim Clarke.

The many scene changes went very smoothly and producer Edwina McKay controlled the large chorus well. Michael Dunion and Peter McKay were the star turns of the evening. As modern gangsters who crossed into Shakespearean characters they brought the house down with *Brush up your Shakespeare* and epitomised the vitality of this excellent show.

James Bright.

Chronicle Report

Kate ramps along at a cracking pace.

KISS Me Kate lifted off to a cracking pace from the first number – Another Op'nin', Another Show.

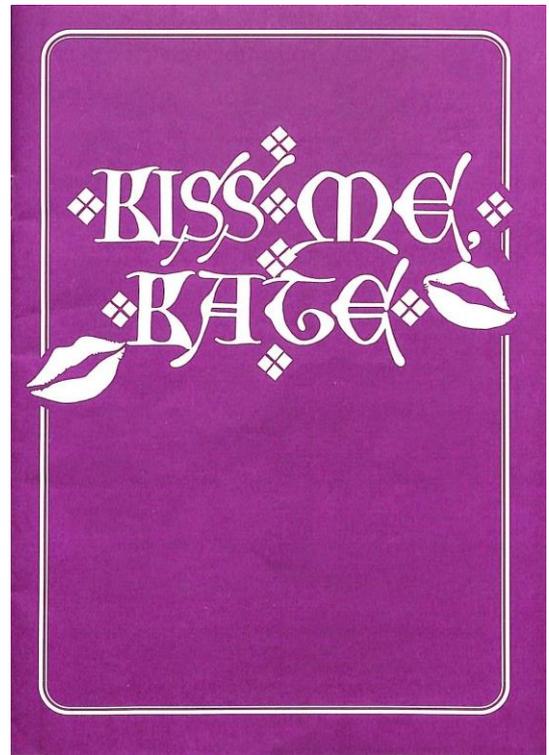
Pat Mcleod as Kate (and Lilli) gave the kind of fiery performance essential to the credibility of the plot that here is a beautiful woman with the kind of violent temper that makes her unmateable.

But Petruchio, played with panache and bravura by Stewart Adkins, is the man determined to take up this challenge. Chauvmism reigns supreme - 'owning' women, subduing the fiery Kate (by spanking and starvation) and female sub-servience - this is a musical to delight MCPs the world over. Feminists have been cringing since the Bard first wrote the *Taming of the Shrew*, the play from which Cole Porter based this raunchy musical adaptation.

Peter McKay and Michael Dunion made hilarious gangsters and strong performances were put in by Geoff Coverdale. Kathryn Adkins and Tim Clarke. There were no weak links and the chorus produced a hard-hitting sound under the strong control of musical director Brian Brown.

The dancing was delightful flowing in and out of the main action effortlessly. Edwina McKay motivated the cast to give of their best and there were some excellent production details including the carnival entrance through the audience which heightened the rapport between cast and audience.

Jackie Home



- CAST -

(in order of appearance)

Fred Graham (*Actor, Producer, Writer*) : Stewart Adkins
Harry Trevor : Geoff Coverdale
Lois Lane : Kathryn Adkins
Ralph (*Stage Manager*) : Alastair Irving
Lilli Vanessi : Pat McLeod
Hattie : Pat Briggs
Stage Doorman : Roger Munt
Paul : Paul Chittleborough
Bill Calhoun : Tim Clarke
First Man (*Gangster*) : Michael Dunion
Second Man (*Gangster*) : Peter McKay
Harrison Howell : David Adams

"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW" Players

Bianca (*Lois Lane*) : Kathryn Adkins
Baptista (*Harry Trevor*) : Geoff Coverdale
Gremio (*First Suitor*) : Howard Brooks
Hortensio (*Second Suitor*) : Nicholas Ladd
Lucentio (*Bill Calhoun*) : Tim Clarke
Katherine (*Lilli Vanessi*) : Pat McLeod
Petruchio (*Fred Graham*) : Stewart Adkins
Nathaniel : Danny Mullane
Grace : Rosemary Chaplin
Audrey : Julia Reed
Haberdasher : Cynthia Draper

Principal Dancers

Muriel Chambers, Daniel Crick, Anne Dobinson, Laura Furnival, Judy Henderson,
Marea Irving, Elisabeth Ladd, Steve Rogers, Sue Siddalls, Liz Watson

Chorus

Pam Adams, Rosemary Chaplin, William Chaplin, Cynthia Draper, Steve Draper,
Richard Herring, Val Hutchin, Alistair Irving, Dave Morgan, Danny Mullane, Roger Munt,
Patsy Page, Sue Pavelin, Julia Reed, Joyce Ryder, John Slade, Edna Starling, Bobbie Tyler,
Janet Wash, Trevor Westcott, Freda Willingham, Anne Wilson, Sarah Wilson

CREDITS

Producer: Edwina McKay
Stage Manager: David Hunt
Stage Crew: Steve Bailey, Graham Green,
Mark Pullen, Keith Radley,
Ian Thorpe, Roy Willison
Jim Cribbins
Lighting: Murray Styman
Properties: Kate Dawson
Assisted by: Samantha Willison,
Christine Willison,
Helen Clark, Janice Hawkes
Julie Cockell, Annette Lewin
Wardrobe: Alma Clarke,
Assisted by: Cynthia Draper
Production Secretary: Liz Watson
Scenery: Paul Lazell (Scenery)
Costumes supplied by: Theatrical Costume Hire
(Westcliff) Ltd
and the cast.
Flowers supplied by: Michelle
Lighting supplied by: Braintree District Arts
Council,
JBE Stage Hire
Front of House: Dennis Page
Box Office: Liz Watson
*Front of House and
programme photography:* Central Photographic,
Witham
Programme: Steve Draper
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Bar Manager: Ron Howe
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ORCHESTRA

The Chelmsford Sinfonietta

Musical Director and Conductor
Brian Brown

Orchestral Manager
Karen Brown

Violins
Sarah Edwards (leader)
Bryony Rees, Libby Hall

Viola: Judith Ayre

Cello: Tim Handel

Bass: Robin Harris

Reeds

I: Sue Chambers
II: June Bruce
III: Clare White
IV: Jeremy Martin
V: Linda Baker

Horn:

Oliver Smith, Malcolm Hiscock,
Phillip Cannell

Trumpet: Karen Brown

Trombone: Liz Lavelle

Keyboard: Phil Toms

Percussion: Graham Instrall

Rehearsal Accompanist & Repetiteur:
Ruth Le Poidevin

PHOTOGRAPHY and RECORDING

Please note that the taking of photographs and/or
the recording of this performance on film, video tape,
audio tape or any other medium is strictly prohibited.