



**Cardinal Gibbon Drama
Department Presents
*Kiss Me, Kate***

The Cardinal Gibbons High School Drama Department presents its first mainstage musical production of the spring semester. The production will modernize Cole Porter's sparkling 1948 musical, the warring lovers of "The Taming of the Shrew" who are causing trouble both onstage and off. While putting on a musical version of Shakespeare's play, exes Fred Graham and Lilli Vanessi can't decide if they're enraged, enamored or enormously confused whenever they cross paths out of character. Throw in some mistaken identity, a pair of surprisingly eloquent gangsters and a whole lot of romantic entanglements, and what you get is *Kiss Me, Kate* – an updated revival of a dazzling classic that earned the first-ever Tony Award for Best Musical.

Kiss Me, Kate was Cole Porter's response to Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" and other integrated musicals. It was the first show he wrote in which the music and lyrics were connected to the script. It proved to be his biggest hit and the only one of his shows to run for more than 1,000 performances on Broadway. In 1949, the show won the first Tony Award presented for Best Musical. In 2015, the 1949 original cast recording was inducted into the Library of Congress's National Recording Registry. The book was written by Sam and Bella Spewack.

Cardinal Gibbon's modern-day production of *Kiss Me, Kate* is directed by Erick Crow, Director of Choral Activities and Drama. Speaking about this production, Mr. Crow says:

"*Kiss Me, Kate* is quite easily one of the two most famous musical "adaptations" of Shakespeare for the stage (the other being *West Side Story*). Focusing on a theatre company putting up a musical version of "Taming of The Shrew", the musical traces the main relationship between director/leading man Fred Graham and his ex-wife/leading lady Lily Vanessi as they portray the Shakespearean roles of Petruchio and Katherine (the Shrew to be tamed). Throughout the years, this razzle-dazzle musical from the Golden Era has proven that it's comedy and social messaging has not aged particularly well so it is our goal to revive this



classic into a production that today's audiences will appreciate, respect and enjoy."

Kiss Me Kate runs April 5th – April 7th at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center on the main campus at Nova Southeastern University in Davie (3100 Ray Ferrero Blvd. Davie, FL 33314). Performances take place Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm, with a matinee on Sunday at 2pm. The show is appropriate for high school students and above. The production features a full band of twelve musicians from the local community and Cardinal Gibbons students.

Tickets are \$12 for advance sales and \$18 at the Box Office. For more information visit www.cghsdrama6362.weebly.com. To purchase tickets, visit www.ticketmaster.com, or visit the lobby prior to each performance.

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If you have any questions or to schedule an interview with the director, stage manager or the cast, please contact: Megan Price, Student Publicist, at 203975@cghsfl.org



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cardinal Gibbons High School/Drama Department
Contact: Megan Price, Student Publicist
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Monday, March 4, 2019

Cardinal Gibbon Drama Department Presents *Kiss Me, Kate*

Ft. Lauderdale, FL — The Cardinal Gibbons High School Drama Department presents its mainstage show of the spring semester. *Kiss Me, Kate* centers on a cast putting on a musical version of William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* and the conflict on- and off-stage between Fred Graham, the show's director, producer and star, and the leading lady, his ex-wife Lilli Vanessi (O'Hara).

Kiss Me, Kate features a book by Sam and Bella Spewack and music and lyrics by Cole Porter. It runs April 5th – April 7th, 2019 at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center on the main campus at Nova Southeastern University in Davie (3100 Ray Ferrero Blvd. Davie, FL 33314). Performances take place Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm, with a matinee at 2pm on Sunday. Appropriate for high school students and above. The production features a full band of twelve musicians from the local community and Cardinal Gibbons students.

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