

**COLE PORTER'S KISS ME KATE**  
**IS**  
**"TOO DARN HOT"**  
**STARRING**  
**BAILEY, DUFFY, BISOM, MARGHERITA**  
**REDONDO BEACH**  
**PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
**SEPTEMBER 26-OCTOBER 14**

Executive Producer James A. Blackman, III and Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities (CLOSBC) launch the Tony Award winning Broadway classic, Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate* as the third installment of the 2007 season.

*Kiss Me Kate* is directed and choreographed of Dan Mojica, with musical direction by Alby Potts. The all star cast is headed by **Kevin Bailey in the dual roles of Fred /Petruccio, Michelle Duffy as Lilli/Kate, John Bisom as Bill / Lucentio, Lesli Margherita as Lois/Bianca with Jeffrey Landman, Hershel Sparber and Bart Williams.** The show will be produced at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center with previews September 26, 27, 28 and Gala Opening on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Based on Shakespeare's *Taming the Shrew*, Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate* exposes the resulting hilarity from the fighting and feuding of two quarrelling couples. The show is a boisterous blend of romance, comedy, music, and dance. With successful Broadway runs and a hit movie, *Kiss Me Kate* is a surefire hit. "Faithful in My Fashion", "Too Darn Hot", and "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" are just a few of the musical hits this classic show has to offer.

Years without a hit and recovering from a serious equestrian accident, Cole Porter seemed to be passed his prime. In the 1930's he wrote *Kiss Me Kate* and this sparked a turning point in his life as this work went on to be his most honored and successful. With hits like *Anything Goes* and *Panama Hattie* written by Porter years prior, *Kiss Me Kate* came as a response to numerous integrated musicals being released at the same time. The success of the musical was evident from its first pre-Broadway showing in early December 1948.

*Kiss Me Kate* debuted on Broadway on December 30<sup>th</sup> 1948 at the New Century Theatre. The show, under the direction of John C. Wilson and choreographed by Hanya Holm, spent nineteen months at the New Century before it was transferred to the Shubert Theatre. Alfred Drake, Patricia Morison, Lisa Kirk, and Harold Lang were all original cast members who performed in over 1500 shows between the two theatres. The West End in London also presented an opening of *Kiss Me Kate* in March of 1951 which went on to do 400 performances. This, however, was just the tip of the iceberg for the impact that the show would have for years to come.

In 1953, just a couple years after its Broadway success, *Kiss Me Kate* was released as a major motion Picture, starring Kathryn Grayson, Howard Keel, and Ann Miller. Directed

by George Sidney, the film was honored with an Oscar nomination and brought even more fame to the show.

Almost a half a century later, revivals proved to be similarly successful in both New York and London. In 1999 at the Martin Beck Theatre, *Kiss Me Kate* re-opened under the direction of Michael Blakemore and choreographed by Kathleen Marshall and Rob Ashford. This team, with a cast including Marin Mazzie, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Amy Spanger, went on to perform over 880 times and won the prestigious Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical. In London, a revival came in 2001 with many of the same names and successes as its New York counter.

The SBCLO cast includes Broadway veterans Kevin Bailey (*The Lion King* and *Annie Get Your Gun* opposite Bernadette Peters), Jeffrey Landman (*Falsettos* and *Les Miserables*), Hershel Sparber( *Guys and Dolls* with Nathan Lane and *City of Angels*).

Award winning John Bisom starred in regional productions of *The Full Monty*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Will Rogers Follies*. Michelle Duffy starred most recently in *Can Can* at the Pasadena Playhouse and Leslie Margherita was featured as *Grace Slick* in the award winning *Beehive*, *The 60's Musical* at the El Portal.

For tickets and information please call 310 -372-4477 or [www.civilightopera.com](http://www.civilightopera.com)

## CALENDAR:

### What:

***KISS ME KATE***

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter

Book by Sam Spewack & Bella Spewack

From the Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare

Uncredited contributions by John Guare

### Who:

James A. Blackman, III Executive Producer

Christopher Beyries Associate Producer/Set Designer, Technical Director

Stephanie A. Coltrin Associate Producer

Dan Mojica Director/Choreographer

Alby Potts Musical Director

Kevin Bailey.....Fred/Petruchio

Michelle Duffy.....Lilli/Kate

John Bisom.....Bill/Lucentio

Lesli Margherita.....Lois/ Bianca

Lateefah Devoe..... Hattie

Jeff Griggs .....General Howell

Herschel Sparber.....Gangster #1

Jeffrey Landman .....Gangster #2

Bart Williams.....Harry/Baptista

**When:**

**Previews:** Wednesday, September 26 to Friday, September 28 at 8 P.M.

**Gala Press Opening:** Saturday, September 29 at 8 P.M.

**Closing:** Sunday, October 14 at 7 P.M.

**Regular Schedule:** Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 P.M.

**Saturday Matinees:** 2 P.M. October 6 & October 13

**Sunday Matinees:** 2 P.M. September 30, October 7 & October 14

**Where:**

The Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center is located at the corner of Manhattan Beach Blvd. and Aviation Blvd.

**Tickets:**

\$60, \$55, \$50 Weekends & Matinees

\$55, \$50, \$45 Weeknights (Tue – Thu)

\$50, \$45, \$40 Previews

Call (310) 372-4477 [www.civilightopera.com](http://www.civilightopera.com)

Forrest & Associates

Pegge Forrest - Jay Irwin

Phone 818-693-0964/508-0281/760-0964

Fax 818-508-9698

RNFRST@aol.com

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