

NODA Report

KISS ME KATE

Director/Choreographer: Nikki Mundell-Poole

Musical Director: Susannah Edom

Performed at Witham Public Hall on the 3rd November 2012

This production is very much a play within a play where the two leading couples are playing dual roles. Fred Graham/Petruchio played by David Slater paired with Lilli /Kate played by Julie Codling and Lois/Bianca played by Robyn Gowers paired with Bill/Lucentio played by Ollie Barrett. These four characters take up a great deal of the action and have many solo's/duets and huge chunks of dialogue to learn and it is a credit that all coped so well with very demanding physical roles.

Virtually on stage throughout the production I was impressed with the vocal range of all four. Julie as Kate gave great meaning to her "I Hate Men" but then the poignant "I am Ashamed that Women are so Simple" was mellow and gentle. Julie has a great range and a lovely tone in her voice and I enjoyed her character very much. Also with Petruchio "Were Thine that Special Face" sung very well by David Slater who played this role with great vigour.

"Tom Dick or Harry" sung by Lucentio, Gremio. Hortensio and Bianca was an excellent harmony number sung and danced with great choreography.

I did find the opening number in the show took a while to get going with a few voices not quite in tune but with all the company on stage it became a lively piece. Generally the chorus singing was good.

In Act Two we had the popular "Brush up your Shakespeare", performed by Gangsters 1 & 2, played by Michael Mundell-Poole and George Jordan, always a popular number, and with a pretty heavyweight show for the company this comes as light relief. This number can never be too OTT and I felt we had rather more from Michael than George but it was still an amusing number.

Very well balanced sound with both Orchestra & voices. Good set, lovely costumes and some exceptionally imaginative choreography and dancers made for an enjoyable production.

This is a demanding production and WAOS did a great job, and very well done to all involved. It was great to see so many young people in the production who I hope we will see in "The Boy Friend" next year.

Report by Ann Platten