



*"Kiss Me Kate"*



Elements of the “Kiss Me Kate” musical storyline holds some sweet memories for Steve Duprey who is directing the production that will be performed March 2-4 at Newark High School.

Cole Porter’s musical version of William Shakespeare’s comedy “The Taming of The Shrew,” Duprey and Cindy, who is now his wife, played “Petruccio” and “Kate” in acting classes while they were dating in college.





The couple, who after they were married founded and performed with the "Garden Players" at Sonnenberg Gardens for some 10 years, often did scenes from "The Taming of the Shrew."



Their oldest daughter Katherine, 21, who is the stage manager at the Downstairs Cabaret Theater in Rochester, was named after the leading lady in "The Taming of the Shrew."



Duprey also directed The Geneva Theatre Guild production of “Kiss Me Kate” in the early 80s. He directs Geneva Theatre Guild summer shows in addition to teaching courses at Finger Lakes Community Colleges’ satellites in


Newark and Geneva.

“Kiss Me Kate” is a very funny show with some very funny elements \_ and some very tender moments,” said Duprey, who is now in his eleventh season of directing plays and musicals at NHS.



The musical, set in the late 1940s, centers around the tumultuous relationship of divorced actors Lilli Vanessi, played by NHS junior Hannah Rothpearl, and Fred Graham played by NHS senior John Connors.


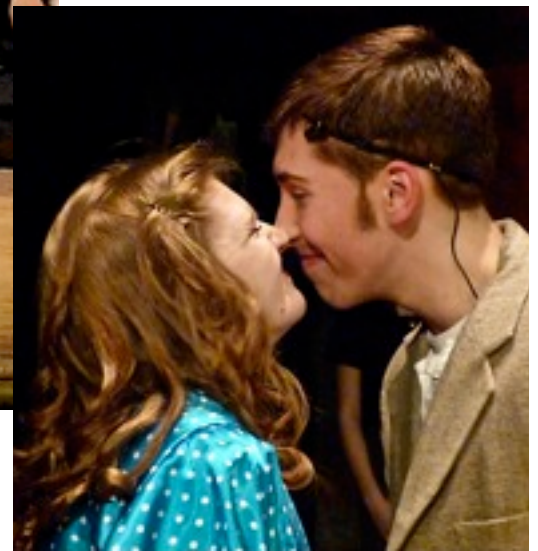
Fred is directing a production of his musical version of Shakespeare's “Taming of the Shrew” in which he and his ex-wife Lilli, a movie star, are the leads, Kate and Petruchio.

A man in a white shirt and dark pants is dancing with a woman in a light blue, flowing dress on a stage. The woman is barefoot and has her leg kicked up. In the background, a woman in a black vest and white shirt is sitting on the floor near a rack of clothes.

Lois, played by NHS senior Olivia Howard and Bill, played by sophomore Ryan Tracy are Broadway hoofers brought in to play the supporting roles of Bianca and Lucentio.

“Kiss Me Kate” is a play-within-a-play where each cast member's on-stage life is complicated by what is happening offstage.

And it is verrrry complicated.

A close-up shot of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, wearing a black top, laughing heartily. A man in a white shirt and a dark hat is partially visible behind her.

Fred's current love interest is Lois. The other man in Lois' life, Bill, is a gambler, who gets Fred mixed up with two gangsters, Mike Fedczuk, an NHS sophomore, and his brother, Matt, a freshman, who come to collect on the note that Bill signed Fred's name to. Bill tells Lois he signed a \$10,000 IOU for a debt in Fred's name, instead of using his own.



Not long after Lois begs Bill to stop gambling, two thugs show up at the theater to make it clear that Bill will have to make good on that IOU. But they confront Fred instead of Bill, since Fred's name is on the gambling debt.

And the ridiculous plot thickens with the action moving from

hilarious onstage antics to offstage mix-ups between the various actors, stagehands and more.



Take a peek on the next few pages, but you gotta come to the show and find out how it all ends.











The singing and dancing in "Kiss Me Kate" is great. Wait until you see it!



Duprey said this show is technically more difficult than most and making sets that could not only fit the stage space and be able to be moved quickly was a challenge.





“Kiss Me Kate” will be presented March 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. and at 2 p.m. March 4 in the NHS auditorium.

Duprey says the show has a great cast.

“There’s a lot of talent in this show,” he said.

“Again this year, we’ve got a lot of younger talent and that’s great because we’ll have them in shows for a few years.”



In "Kiss Me Kate," NHS vocal music teacher Jean Bendix is the musical director; Emily Howard is the choreographer; NHS instrumental music teacher Dave Schwind is director of the pit band; and Mary Lou Bonnell is the rehearsal piano accompanist.

The cast and their grade levels include: Megan Rice (12) as Babs (doorman); Kathryn Brinkman (10) as Hattie (Lilli's dresser); Curtis Mason (11) as Paul (Fred's dresser & Gregory); Daniel Staples (10) as Ralph (stage manager); Jonathan Norris (11) as Harry Trevor





(Baptista); Jeremy Kowaleski (11) as Stagehand #1 (cab driver); Luke Cornwell (12) as Flynt, aide to General Howell (Gremio); Spencer Edmonds (10) as Riley, aide to General Howell (Hortensio); Grant Howard (9) as Stagehand#2 (Phillip); Sam Wersinger (9) as Stagehand #3 (Haberdasher) Mike Gonzalez-Kelly (12) as General Harrison Howell; and Mike Sullivan (10) as Padua Priest.





The ensemble cast includes: Ayushi Jain (12); Kenya Holtby (10); Elizabeth Kline (10); Jenna Taylor (10); Sarah Childs (12); Karissa Bush (10); Marina Ruffalo (11); Michael Sullivan (10); Karley Bush (12); Alison Hoe (11); Josephine Nower (12); Cynthia Coleman (11); Megan Kreuser (10); Kendra Bush (11); Sarah Deys (12); McKenna Martin (9); Krista VerMeersch, (12); Ashley Farley (11);







Meghann Dygert (12); Bethany Kommer (11); Kaitlin Lyman (9); and Amanda Fagner (10).

Stage manager is Jenn Orlopp; costumes are by Marcela Mason with Linda Whiting, Christine Sullivan, Kristin Kommer, Inger Rothpearl, Jean Hoe, Tina Kline, Christine Taylor, Andrea Hoe and Julie Howard as costume helpers; set and lighting design is by Duprey; and set construction is by Lawson Whiting, Chris Childs, Mitch Ruffalo, Marc Kreuser, Rob Hoe, Jeremy Rothpearl, Dave Howard, Ashley Farley, Greg Brinkman and Bob Bendix.

Alanna Greco, Brittany Williams, Meghan Wright, Stephen Murphy and Jenna Taylor are the stage crew; Richard Jacobsen, Dave Howard, Emily Howard, John Connors and Ashley Farley are scenic painters; Mary Jo Cole, Jean Bendix and Emily Howard are in charge of make up and hair; Kelli Bundschuh is the light board operator; Jack Diamond is the sound board operator; Stu Blodgett is the fly operator; Mary Jo Cole is in charge of props; Megan Rice designed the poster; Jim Miranda has been in



charge of photography; Duprey did the program and Toni Rice is in charge of concessions.

Pit orchestra members are: Christine Stevens, Kelsey Williams, Joshua Stokes, McKenzie Botcher, Jeff Garrett, Saquiba Mufti, Michaela Mason, Steve Quance, Mike Ciranni, Mark Viavattine, Drew Viavattine and Eric Stabnau.

Advanced sale tickets for "Kiss Me





Kate” are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Advance sale tickets are available at Newark Village Pharmacy, Reliant Federal Credit Union and Wegmans service desk.

Senior Citizens may attend the dress rehearsal of the show for free March 1 at 3:30 p.m. A shuttle service from Woodlane Community Church is being offered beginning at 3 p.m. at the church.

A dinner is available after the dress rehearsal featuring chicken parmesan with rice pilaf, California mix vegetables, salad, Italian bread, cookies, coffee, tea, water or milk for \$6. Reservations for the dinner must be made by calling Deb Barry at 332-3265.

Shuttle service back to the church will resume at about 7:15 p.m. after the dinner.