



THE REGALS MUSICAL SOCIETY
KISS ME KATE
AUDITION INFORMATION PACK
11TH – 20TH OCTOBER 2024
ROCKDALE TOWN HALL

Production Team

Co-Directors – Mel Hogan and Tim Martin
Musical Director - Jonah Eskander
Choreographer – Chris Bamford

AUDITIONS

(By appointment only)

Singing and Reading auditions

Monday 27th May, 2024

7:30pm -10:00pm

Wednesday 29th May, 2024

7:30pm -10:00pm

Group Dance Audition

Sunday 2nd June, 2024

3:00pm

Callbacks (if required)

(By invitation only)

Sunday 2nd June, 2024 from

5:00pm

REHEARSALS

Commencing 17th June, 2024

Monday and Wednesday evenings

7:30pm – 10:00pm

Dance Workshops (Dates TBC)

Sunday afternoons from 2:00pm

until 6:00pm

Rehearsal Venue

Coronation Hall

23 Barden St, Arncliffe, 2205

BUMP IN

Saturday 5th October, 2024 – Full Day

TECHNICAL/DRESS REHEARSALS

Sunday 6th October, 2024 - Full Day

Tuesday 8th October, 2024 - Evening

Wednesday 9th October, 2024 - Evening

Thursday 10th October, 2024 - Evening

PERFORMANCE DATES

Friday 11th October, 2024 at 7:30pm

Saturday 12th October, 2024 at 7:30pm

Sunday 13th October, 2024 at 2:00pm

Wednesday 16th October, 2024 at 7:30pm

Friday 18th October, 2024 at 7:30pm

Saturday 19th October, 2024 at 7:30pm

Sunday 20th October, 2024 at 2:00pm

BUMP OUT

Sunday 20th October, 2024 immediately
after final performance

All above at

Rockdale Town Hall

448 Princes Hwy, Rockdale, 2216



Hello!

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for our next production, *Kiss Me Kate*! Our website (www.theregals.com.au) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/theregalsmusicalsociety>) are the places to visit for news and updates. Please take the time to read the enclosed information, which contains important details regarding our musical society and your participation.

Principal cast auditions are by appointment only and will be held on Monday 27th and Wednesday 29th May, 2024 from 7:30pm at Coronation Hall (23 Barden Street, Arncliffe, 2205). A group DANCE audition will be held on Sunday 2nd June, 2024 at 3:00pm. Callbacks, if required, will be held on Sunday 2nd June, 2024 from 5:00pm.

To book an audition time, please go to
<https://calendly.com/theregals-auditions/kissmekate>

Please also ensure that you bring your completed audition application form and a recent photograph to your audition.

If you are unable to attend the auditions due to very special circumstances, a different audition date may be organised at the discretion of the Production Team. Please see contact information at the end of this pack.

If you are successful in auditioning for a principal role, you will be contacted by phone; otherwise, you will be contacted by email. A cast list will be posted on The Regals' website and social media accounts as soon as possible.

All cast members are required to be a financial member of The Regals Musical Society and to pay a show fee of \$140.00. Please see the cast commitments at the end of the Audition Pack.

If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

Kindest Regards,

The *Kiss Me Kate* Production Team



ABOUT US

Founded in 1945, The Regals Musical Society is a community-based, not for profit organisation in Sydney, Australia. We produce quality musical theatre productions in Rockdale, NSW, with the objectives of engaging our audiences and nurturing the talent of our members. With a proud history spanning over seventy-five years, we allow all participants the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of our stage productions including set design and construction, costume design, publicity and promotion, and stage management, amongst others, that contribute to the ongoing success of the society.

KISS ME KATE - SYNOPSIS

Egotistical leading man, director, and producer, Fred Graham, is reunited with his ex-wife, Lilli Vanessi, when the two are forced to play opposite one another in a new production of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. The battle of the sexes continues on and off stage and it becomes clear that, whilst they profess to hate each other, they are still in love. Alongside Fred and Lilli's bickering liaison, supporting actress, Lois Lane, supports her gambling boyfriend, Bill, as he attempts to evade the clutches of local gangsters. Throw into the mix several cases of mistaken identity, the mob, and comic routines, and you get *Kiss Me Kate* – a dazzling Broadway classic that earned the very first Tony Award for Best Musical.

CONTENT WARNING

Please note this show contains references to and explicit content portraying domestic violence, physical violence, workplace sexual impropriety, sexual innuendo, and bullying. If this is triggering for you, please contact the Production Team prior to your audition.

CHARACTERS

Detailed character descriptions are given in the character descriptions table toward the end of this document. Strong singing, acting, and some dancing are required in the lead roles.

AUDITIONS

Everyone intending to participate in *Kiss Me Kate* must attend an individual VOCAL+READ audition (approximately five minutes) and a group DANCE audition. All auditions are in-person and by appointment only. VOCAL+READ auditions are in a closed format (one auditionee at a time in the room with the audition panel). The audition panel will consist of the Production Team, a Regals Musical Society committee member, and a neutral party.

For the **vocal part of the audition**, please prepare the song extract(s) indicated in the character information table later in this document. The audition panel may wish to hear you sing all or part of the extract(s). An experienced repetiteur (accompanist) will be available at auditions.



For the **read part of the audition**, please prepare a short (approximately one minute) monologue of your choice to present. The monologue you choose should showcase your ability to play your preferred character. You do not need to memorise anything, however, familiarity with your monologue would be helpful. Neutral accents are preferred.

For the **dance audition**, please wear clothing you can move in and appropriate footwear (e.g., dance shoes if you have them; not thongs). Please make sure you bring a water bottle with you. The dance audition will be conducted more as a dance class so the choreographer can better understand the full range of your movement capabilities rather than just your quick memorisation skills. The show choreography can then be specifically tailored to the abilities of the selected cast.

Auditions may be recorded. Recordings will only be seen by the casting panel and will be deleted after the cast is confirmed.

CASTING REQUIREMENTS

- To audition for *Kiss Me Kate*, you must be at least 17 years old by 17th June, 2024.
- The Production Team embraces diversity and encourages all who meet the age requirement to audition!

REHEARSALS/ATTENDANCE

Rehearsals for *Kiss Me Kate* will be held at Coronation Hall (23 Barden Street, Arncliffe, 2205) from 7:30-10pm on Monday and Wednesday evenings, commencing on Monday 17th June, 2024. Dance Workshops and additional rehearsals will be held from 2:00pm on some Sunday afternoons throughout the rehearsal season (dates TBC).

Rehearsals continue throughout school holiday periods. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled at the discretion of the Production Team. If you are successful in being cast in *Kiss Me Kate*, you should assume that you will be required for all rehearsals.

Please note that bump-in and technical rehearsals will be held over the October long weekend. These rehearsals are mandatory, as are the dress rehearsals from Tuesday 8th October to Thursday 10th October, 2024. If you are unavailable for these dates, please do NOT audition. The start time for dress rehearsals will be confirmed in due course, but will likely be around 6:00pm.

Please let us know at the auditions if you expect to be unavailable for any rehearsals, as it may be possible to accommodate individual requests for absence. Absence from three or more rehearsals or absence from any rehearsals without advance notice may result in forfeiture of your place in the cast.



A FEW NOTES FOR AUDITIONEES FROM THE PRODUCTION TEAM

The Regals Musical Society is a friendly and enthusiastic group where you can always be assured of a warm welcome. The audition process can sometimes seem like a heartless system that can make you feel exhausted and miserable. However, nobody has devised a better system for letting a Production Team envision each auditionee, one by one, in the roles to be filled. The only thing wrong with the system is that it relies on human beings – on actors trying desperately to embody the Production Team’s vision (with no way of knowing in advance what that is), and on the imagination and patience of the Production Team.

If your audition is unsuccessful, don’t be hard on yourself. You may have been terrific. However, Production Teams need to take various factors into account, including each auditionee’s talent, availability, and their compatibility with other members of the prospective cast. Most of all, be positive about your audition experience. Look on your audition as an opportunity to learn and grow. Remember, the worst that can happen is that you don’t get the role you already don’t have!

There are numerous books and web pages full of advice on how to succeed at auditions. What follows are some general guidelines for auditioning – they are not hard and fast “rules.” Everyone involved in musical theatre can identify someone who has broken one or more of these guidelines and still been an astonishing success. However, if you at least take heed of these guidelines, then you may improve your chances of success and also have a more enjoyable audition experience.

General Guidelines

- Be yourself.
- Be prepared.
- Make choices. Don't give a neutral reading but be simple and direct. Don't be static, yet don't block the entire scene in detail.
- Dress appropriately, but don't go over the top. You need to feel comfortable.
- Don't apologise.
- Focus. Concentrate. Don't wander - anchor yourself.
- Keep your volume up.
- Enjoy yourself!

Vocal Audition

The vocal audition can be the most important part of a musical theatre audition. Please sing your audition song(s) as your character would. You are not expected to prepare actions/movement for your audition song(s), but please feel free to act/move if you wish.

You will not need to audition for each individual role you are interested in. There will be a chance to indicate that you are auditioning for multiple roles on your form.



Some important things to know for your preparation and audition:





- Practice and have your audition song(s) thoroughly prepared.
- You will have an experienced accompanist at the audition.
- It is OK to discreetly speak with the accompanist before the audition starts to indicate any tempo and stylistic requirements.
- The use of sheet music is permitted in the audition. However, it is recommended that you prepare sufficiently and can perform and act out your song(s).
- Your vocal audition is an opportunity to demonstrate both your singing ability and acting skill.
- Be in good voice. If you haven't sung in a while, you can't expect to perform well in your audition.
- If you are sick in the lead up to your audition, please let the Production Team know and it may be possible to reschedule your audition. Do not attend auditions if you are sick.

Other




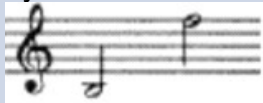
- Before you leave home, make sure that you have everything you will need, including your completed audition application form and recent photograph.
- Arrive 10 minutes early to allow time to sign in, have a drink, and use the bathroom.
- Enter with confidence. Believe it or not, the way you walk into the audition room can either make a great impression on the Production Team, or a bad one.
- Turn off your mobile phone.
- Be patient. Auditions are, unfortunately, a long, grueling process for everyone.
- Enjoy yourself!



CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

| Character | Role Type | Character Description / Audition Song(s) | Stage Age | Vocal Range |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Fred Graham/ Petruccio | Lead | The quintessential, egotistical leading man. Fred is Lilli Vanessi's ex-husband, but plays Petruccio who attempts to woo and tame the shrew, Katherine (played by Lilli). Must have an imposing stage presence (can be, but doesn't have to be, physically large). Must be a strong actor, strong singer, and have good comic timing. Must have excellent stage chemistry with Lilli. Song 1: So In Love (Reprise) (Bars 33 – 64) Song 2: I've Come to Wive it Wealthily in Padua (Bars 69 – 89) | Mid 20s – Late 40s | Baritone  |
| Lilli Vanessi/ Katherine | Lead | A regal diva with a fierce temper and rapier-like wit, but has an underlying vulnerability. Plays the shrew Katherine who resists being wooed and tamed by Petruccio (played by Lilli's ex-husband, Fred Graham). Must be a strong actor, strong singer, and have good comic timing. Must have excellent stage chemistry with Fred. Song 1: So In Love (Bars 25 - 56) Song 2: Kiss Me Kate (Bars 52 - 60) | 20s – Early 40s | Soprano, with a Mezzo/Belt  |
| Bill Calhoun/ Lucentio | Lead | Broadway song and dance man with a gambling problem. Lois Lane's boyfriend. Must be a strong actor and dancer, and a good singer. Song: Bianca (Bars 50 - 101) | 20s - 30s | Lyric Baritone  |
| Lois Lane/ Bianca | Lead | A nightclub performer who dreams of Broadway. Sexy and charismatic, but not overly bright. Bill Calhoun's girlfriend. Must be a strong actor and dancer, and a good singer. Song: Always True to You (In My Fashion) (Bars 33 – 65 [Excerpt 1] & 55 – end [Excerpt 2]) | 20s | Mezzo  |



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|--------------------------------|------------|--|-----------|---|
| Hattie | Supporting | Lilli Vanessi's dresser. A true theatre professional, full of charisma. Must be a good actor, singer, and mover. Song: Another Op'nin' Another Show (Bars 52 – 84 [Excerpt 1] & 108 – 140 [Excerpt 2]) | 20s – 40s | Mezzo/Soprano  |
| Paul | Supporting | Fred Graham's dresser. Must be a good actor and singer. Preferably also a strong dancer. Song: Too Darn Hot (Bars 48 – 70 [Excerpt 1] & 179 – 198 [Excerpt 2]) | 20s – 40s | Lyric Baritone/ Tenor  |
| First Man & Second Man | Supporting | Two tough gangsters who find themselves tights-wearing, lute playing bards in Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew. Must be comic/character actors with a great sense of slapstick comedy and capable of stealing a scene. Don't need to be dancers but must have some movement ability. We are open to all genders auditioning for these roles. Song: Brush up your Shakespeare (Bars 117 - 163) | 20s – 50s | Baritone/ Lyric Baritone  |
| General Harrison Howell | Supporting | A highly distinguished US Army General with White House connections. A man of rigid discipline, who (at least superficially) appears determined to uphold military order and patriarchal family values. Must be a solid actor with good comedic skills. Song: Another Op'nin' Another Show (Bars 108 – 140) | 40s – 50s | Lyric Baritone  |
| Flynt/Gremio & Riley/Hortensio | Featured | Two of Bianca's suitors. Must be strong dancers and good singers. Song: Too Darn Hot (Bars 48 – 70 [Excerpt 1] & 179 – 198 [Excerpt 2]) | 20s – 30s | Lyric Baritone/ Tenor |



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| Featured Ensemble | Featured | Character roles including Stage Manager/Ralph, Stagehand/Phillip, Pops (Stage Doorman)/Padua Priest, Gregory/Dance Captain, Harry Trevor/Minola Baptista, Nathaniel/Cab Driver. Song: Another Op'nin' Another Show (Bars 108 – 140) | 17+ | Any |
| Featured Dance Ensemble | Featured | Song: Another Op'nin' Another Show (Bars 108 – 140) | 17+ | Any |
| Ensemble | Ensemble | Singing/dancing ensemble. Song: Another Op'nin' Another Show (Bars 108 – 140) | 17+ | Any |



CAST COMMITMENTS

- **All cast MUST commit to ALL scheduled rehearsals unless prior arrangements have been made with the Production Team.** (Please, list ALL conflicts on your audition form.)
- The Regals Musical Society Inc. reserves the right to replace any performer who misses or is significantly late for three rehearsals or absent from any rehearsal without advance notice.
- The Regals Musical Society Inc. also reserves the right to replace any performer who accepts a role in another production or becomes involved in another event or activity which negatively affects their attendance and ability during the rehearsal or performance season.
- A closed Facebook group will be the primary form of show-based communication, and you will need to monitor it regularly. Email may also be used prior to the Facebook group being established.
- All members are required to adhere to The Regals Musical Society Inc. Code of Conduct (act responsibly, respectfully, and co-operatively), and obey the rules as set down in the Constitution. A copy of the Constitution can be requested from The Regals Musical Society Inc. Secretary: secretary@theregals.com.au.
 - The Regals Musical Society Inc. has a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to bullying, violence of any kind, abusive language, etc.
 - Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will result in removal from the cast.
- Show fees (see next section) must be paid at the first rehearsal.
- **THE CAST ARE EXPECTED TO ASSIST** in promoting the show, contributing to properties, bump in and bump out, working bees, and other activities (see next section).
- All cast members will also be required to purchase and exclusively use their own makeup and undergarments for the production. If the Production Team determines that your character requires any specialised makeup, it will be provided to you.
- Photos and videos will be taken for the show program and for publicity purposes. Your acceptance of a role in the cast indicates your consent to this photography and videography.
- A refundable deposit of \$50.00 is required for each hardcopy score/libretto, should you choose to hire one. This will be returned to you at the end of the rehearsal period when your script is returned in good condition.



FEES AND VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

To ensure the success of our shows and provide you with a fantastic experience, we have outlined our show fees and volunteer commitments below:

Show Fee:

Upon successfully securing a role in our production, each cast member will be required to pay a show fee of \$140 per person. This fee must be paid by a credit card or electronic funds transfer at the first rehearsal and includes several benefits:

- Membership to The Regals Musical Society for the 2024 calendar year, including voting rights at our general meetings;
- Show Levy to cover costs of production (licensing, costumes, props, lighting, sound, set, etc.);
- Insurance Coverage: You will be covered by our insurance during rehearsals, performances, and volunteering;
- Professional Photographs: you will receive access to all the photos taken at our final dress rehearsal and headshot taken by our professional photographer; and
- Commemorative program: you will get one complementary program as a souvenir.

Please note: T-shirts and show merchandise are not included in the fees, but will be made available for those who would like to purchase something.

Volunteer Commitment:

As part of our commitment to building a strong theatre community, each cast member is expected to support various activities, including bump-in, bump-out, and working bees for set construction, painting, costume assistance, and other volunteer tasks as required. This commitment entails dedicating a minimum of fifteen hours of volunteer work throughout the production process (this does include bump-in/out). If the cast member is unavailable to work their required hours, they can nominate another adult (18 years or over) to take their place. Bump-In and Bump-Out are already scheduled, but additional working bees will be held either on Sundays, when there are no scheduled rehearsals, or on Saturday mornings or afternoons.

Unable to meet the commitment?

Option 1 - Unable to pay show fees.

If you are unable to pay the show fees for any reason, we offer an option to waive the show fee. However, to qualify for this option, you must be willing to contribute fourteen additional hours of volunteer work. This option must be agreed to with The Regals Musical Society Committee at the first rehearsal when fees are due.

Option 2 - Unable to volunteer enough hours.

Volunteering is a major part of most community theatres, and we believe it's an important part of cast/crew relationship building. Not to mention it is always a great time! The 15-hour requirement is designed to be easily attainable, especially with



bump in/out included. We ask that you treat this requirement as if they are rehearsals on your schedule, and we will do our best to schedule working sessions as early as possible. If you do not feel you will have the time to volunteer and cannot nominate a replacement, we ask that you consider if this is the right fit. Without all hands on deck, it is difficult to produce the quality of show both our casts and audiences deserve.

Please note: if we find ourselves in the lucky position that we don't have enough work to do, we will release all cast from the remaining volunteer hours obligation. Similarly, we will never turn down someone who is able to help more than their required hours, and you will of course have our undying gratitude!

COVID SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The Regals Musical Society complies with current NSW Health COVID-19 Safety Guidelines. We require all cast to comply with these guidelines. Do not attend a rehearsal if experiencing any cold or flu-like systems. A negative Covid-19 rapid antigen test result must be obtained before returning to rehearsals.

CHILD SAFETY

The Regals Musical Society is committed to the safety, participation, and empowerment of children involved in its activities. The Regals Musical Society complies with the requirements of the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act (2012), the Child Protection (Working the Children) Regulation (2013), and the Working with Children Check requirements set out by the Office of the Children's Guardian.

All adults involved with *Kiss Me Kate* are required to have a current NSW Working with Children Check. There is no cost associated with obtaining a Working with Children Check for volunteers. For information on how to obtain a Working With Children Check, see <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-for-a-working-with-children-check>.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Co-Director Mel Hogan at 0425 242 784 or by email to melanniehogan@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest in *Kiss Me Kate*. We look forward to seeing you at the auditions!