



BOX OFFICE: 831-646-4213

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**MPC THEATRE COMPANY TO OPEN *KISS ME, KATE***

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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BOX OFFICE: 831-646-4213 (Weds – Friday 3:00 – 7:00 & 2hrs prior to all performances)

**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MONTEREY - The Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department presents the musical comedy *KISS ME, KATE*, winner of Broadway's first ever Tony Award for Best Musical, for a limited three week run. Performances are Thursday at 7:00 PM, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 PM, and Sunday at 2:00 PM at the Morgan Stock Stage, on the Monterey Peninsula College campus. MPC is located at 980 Fremont Street, downtown Monterey.

*KISS ME, KATE* is directed by Michael Cheak, who last directed *THE MUSIC MAN* for MPC in 1988. We are pleased to welcome Michael back to the Peninsula, after his having spent 16 years overseas and on the eastern seaboard. Long time Peninsula residents may remember Michael from the days of the Fort Ord Cabaret Theatre (now the home of CSUMB's Black Box Cabaret).

Combining Shakespeare's *TAMING OF THE SHREW* with Cole Porter's brilliant music and lyrics, *KISS ME, KATE* has delighted audiences since 1948. The story revolves around out-of-town tryouts for a musical version of *TAMING OF THE SHREW*, and features an Orson Welles like director named Fred Graham (James Brady) and his ex-wife, actress Lili Vanessi (Michelle Boulware). While Lili is now engaged to a powerful senator (Keith Wolhart), Fred is currently involved with a sexy young dancer named Lois Lane (Tara Marie Lucido). Complications soon arise when Flowers from Fred are mistakenly sent to Lili instead of Lois, and Lois' boyfriend Bill signs Fred's name to a gambling debt.

When two bumbling gangsters (Mitchell Davis & Jeromy Rutter) arrive to collect on the debt, and encourage everyone to "Brush up" their Shakespeare, the two jousting ex-lovers begin to realize they can't live without each other, even though they can't live with each other, either. Soon the play-within-a-play turns screw-ball-comedy, as on-stage performances are turned upside down by the off-stage antics. Tension mounts and tempers flare, until it seems that no amount of acting can save the show, and Fred and Lilli learn that they are bound to one another, just like Kate and Petruchio in Shakespeare's original play.

Musical numbers include: *Why Can't You Behave*, *Wunderbar*, *Too Darn Hot*, *I hate Men*, *Brush Up Your Shakespeare*, and *Another Opening, Another Show*.

The Production team, lead by Director Michael Cheak, includes Choreographer Laura Akard, Musical Director Barney Hulse, Scenic Designer Carey Crockett, Lighting Designer Michael Kaplan, and Costume Designer Constance Gamiere.

*KISS ME, KATE* performs 7:00 PM Thursday (February 28 & March 6); 8:00 PM Friday & Saturday (February 29 & March 1, 7, 8, 14, 15); and 2:00 PM Sunday (March 2, 9, 16). Advance Tickets are \$18.00; \$15.00 if purchased online; Day of show tickets are \$25 General Admission, \$20 Senior, \$15 Young Adult (16-25), and \$10 for children age 15 & under. Tickets may be purchased from the MPC Box Office (831-646-4213) Wednesday 3:00 – 7:00 PM & 2 hrs prior to any performance, or online at [www.TicketGuys.com](http://www.TicketGuys.com)

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