

## ROLE BREAKDOWN FOR *KISS ME KATE*

Fred Graham—30-50, strong baritone, commanding presence. He is actor, director and producer of the play within the play *The Shrew* and plays Petruchio—he has the lion’s share of Shakespearean dialogue. He is also Lilli’s ex-husband.

Lilli Vanessi—30-50, strong mezzo soprano. She is an actress of stage and screen, proud, haughty, much like her character Katherine in *The Shrew*, but also vulnerable. Ex-wife of Fred and engaged to Harrison Howell.

Lois Lane—20-30, strong mezzo belter. She is an actress, the quintessential airhead ingénue but with lots of charisma and charm. She also plays Bianca in *The Shrew*.

Bill Calhoun—20-30, good tenor or baritenor. He is a ne’er-do-well actor who has a bit of a gambling problem. Is a Broadway hooper, so he should move really well. He also plays Lucentio in *The Shrew*.

Harrison Howell—50+, does not sing. Dignified gentleman from Georgia, very political, sometimes played as a general or retired general. He is a little stuffy and kind of a hick and can have a bit of a Southern accent. He is engaged to Lilli Vanessi.

First Gangster—30-50+ comic baritone or tenor. He is the archetypical gangster complete with accent. Does some soft shoe in “Brush Up Your Shakespeare” so should move well. Also appears in *The Shrew*, unexpectedly.

Second Gangster—Qualities the same as the First Gangster but a bit more reserved and dryer of wit. Also appears in *The Shrew*, unexpectedly.

Harry Trevor—50+, sings in the ensemble. He is an actor who appears mostly in *The Shrew* as Katherine and Bianca’s father, Baptista. He has mainly Shakespearean dialogue.

Hattie—Any age, good voice. She is Lilli’s dresser and sings “Another Op’nin’, Another Show” and sings in “Too Darn Hot.” Opens the show, so should have a good voice and charisma.

Ralph—Any age, sings in the ensemble in “Too Darn Hot” and “Another Op’nin’, Another Show,” may be featured as soloist as well. Is the stage manager of *The Shrew*.

Stage Doorman—Any age, sings in the ensemble in “Too Darn Hot.”

Paul—Any age, tenor or baritenor. He is Fred’s dresser and is usually the featured singer/dancer in “Too Darn Hot” so he should sing and move well.

Gremio—Any age, tenor or baritenor. Actor who appears in *The Shrew*. He will also sing in the ensemble of *The Shrew*. He is featured in several numbers, including “Tom, Dick or Harry” and “Too Darn Hot.” and should sing well and move well.

Hortensio- Any age, tenor or baritenor. Actor who appears in *The Shrew*. He will also sing in the ensemble of *The Shrew*. He is featured in several numbers, including “Tom, Dick or Harry” and “Too Darn Hot.” and should sing well and move well.

Haberdasher—Any age, can be played by a woman. An actor who sings in the ensemble throughout and plays the Haberdasher in *The Shrew*.

Nathaniel, Gregory, and Phillip—Any age. Actors who sing in the ensemble throughout and play Petruchio’s man servants in *The Shrew*. These can be both male or female.

Ensemble—Actors, stage crew, wardrobe, etc, who sing in the ensemble throughout, both in modern day and in *The Shrew*. Many opportunities for small sung and danced solos. Some of the many small roles have names such as Truckman, Banker, Chauffeur, Singing Girls, Messenger and Cab Driver. The Ensemble can also include the actors playing Nathaniel, Gregory, Phillip, Haberdasher, Hortensio, Gremio, Paul, Stage Doorman, Ralph, and Hattie.