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Winthrop University

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## Play "Kiss Me Kate" is Challenging Production for Department

### Quick Facts

- "Kiss Me Kate" is based on a book by Sam and Bella Spewack, with Broadway composer Cole Porter providing music and lyrics.
- The play was first presented at Winthrop in 1963 when it was directed by Chris Reynolds.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The **Department of Theatre and Dance** is pulling out all the stops to celebrate **theatre's 50th anniversary** at Winthrop with the musical "**Kiss Me Kate**," running Feb.16-19. To commemorate 50 years of productions, the department knew it wanted to do something special and challenging, and "**Kiss Me Kate**" fit the bill.

"**Kiss Me Kate**" is based on a **book by Sam and Bella Spewack**, with **Broadway composer Cole Porter** providing music and lyrics. A fast-paced 'play within a play,' the musical tells the story of two feuding couples performing **Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew."** Romance, gambling, and gangsters combine to produce a crazy mix of onstage drama and backstage comedy. The play was first presented at Winthrop in 1963 when it was directed by **Chris Reynolds**.

**Danelle Smith**, assistant professor of theatre and the musical's director, explained one of the production's challenges.

"This is a very difficult show, musically speaking. It's all syncopated, it's off-the-beat and really jazzy," **Smith** said. "We are very excited that we have students from theatre, dance and music represented in the cast. They have worked diligently to learn and grow in all three disciplines."

The **Department of Theatre and Dance** made the decision to **double-cast the role of Kate**, the female lead, because of its demanding nature. **Junior Maggie Monahan** of Goshen, Conn., and **sophomore Anna Moore** of Lake City, S.C., were chosen to share the role of Kate.

**Monahan**, a theatre major with a concentration in performance, is enjoying the experience. "I love having a double-cast. It gives you someone to balance off of...someone who understands," **Monahan** said.

The cast is practicing almost daily, preparing for their big night. "**Kiss Me Kate**" will be performed Feb. 16-19 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. in **Johnson Theatre**. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students with ID.

For more information, contact the department at 803/323-2287.

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