

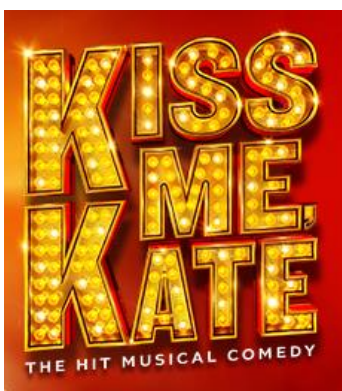


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Presented by Howard Panter for Trafalgar Theatre Productions  
in association with the Barbican

**“COLE PORTER’S GREATEST MUSICAL COMEDY”**  
Playbill

**AWARD WINNING ACTORS**  
**NIGEL LINDSAY & HAMMED ANIMASHAUN**  
JOIN THE CAST OF



*“The ultimate Broadway musical from the golden age”*  
Financial Times

**Starring**

**Multi-Award-Winning**  
**ADRIAN DUNBAR**  
As Fred Graham / Petruccio

**Tony Award Winner**  
**STEPHANIE J. BLOCK**  
As Lilli Vanessi / Katharine

**Music and Lyrics by COLE PORTER**  
**Book by SAM AND BELLA SPEWACK**

**Directed by Tony Award Winner BARTLETT SHER**

**BARBICAN THEATRE**  
**FROM 4 JUNE 2024 | PRESS NIGHT 18 JUNE 2024**  
**STRICTLY LIMITED ENGAGEMENT UNTIL 14 SEPTEMBER**  
**TICKETS ON SALE NOW FROM KISSMEKATEMUSICAL.COM**

Get ready to witness a tour de force of talent and comedy as Olivier Award nominee and What’s On Stage Award winner **Nigel Lindsay** (*Victoria / Shrek The Musical*) and What’s On Stage Award winner **Hammed Animashaun** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream / Black Ops*) are set to take on the roles of the uproarious gangsters who sing in Cole Porter’s classic musical comedy *KISS ME, KATE* for a strictly limited

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15-week season at the Barbican Theatre from 4 June.

They will join multi-award-winning actor **Adrian Dunbar**, making his musical theatre debut and Tony Award winner and Broadway Royalty **Stephanie J. Block**, making her West End debut alongside recently announced Olivier nominee **Charlie Stemp** (*Crazy For You*, *Mary Poppins*) and rising star **Georgina Onuorah** (*The Wizard of Oz*, *Oklahoma!*). Certain to steal the show in true criminal fashion, **Lindsay** and **Animashaun** will be bringing their razor-sharp wit to the Barbican stage, promising a performance that will leave audiences roaring with laughter and begging for more.

Nigel Lindsay said: “Kiss Me Kate is one of my favourite musicals. Bart Sher is a world class director and the cast he has assembled will rock the house. I am excited to be joining the team.”

Hammed Animashaun said: “I’m very, very excited to be a part of this production and company! And I can’t wait to get stuck in and brush up everyone’s Shakespeare!”

Producer Howard Panter said: “I’m thrilled that Nigel Lindsay and Hammed Animashaun will be joining the cast of *KISS ME, KATE*. Nigel and Hammed are an absolute dream team. Their undeniable chemistry and comedic timing is sure to bring a fresh, hilarious energy to the roles of the gangsters. *KISS ME, KATE* is the perfect treat for London audiences – a show that promises an unforgettable theatrical experience for the whole family this summer”.

One of the all-time classic musical comedy farces, **KISS ME, KATE** is making a long-awaited return to the London stage. From the producer of the smash hit musical *Anything Goes* and *A Strange Loop* (both staged at the Barbican), this majestic production of Cole Porter’s musical masterpiece is set dazzle West End audiences once again this summer.

Directed by **Bartlett Sher** (*The King and I*, *South Pacific* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*), this all-star creative team have collectively won a remarkable 20 Tony awards between them. Joining the dynamic creative team is renowned choreographer **Anthony Van Laast**, accomplished costume designer **Catherine Zuber** and leading set designer **Michael Yeargan**. With music and lyrics by Cole Porter and the original book by Bella & Samuel Spewack, this new production, promises a symphony of wit, charm and musical brilliance. With a company of over 50, including a full-scale orchestra, and featuring Cole Porter classics such as ‘*Another Op’nin’*’, ‘*Another Show*’, ‘*Brush Up Your Shakespeare*’, ‘*Tom, Dick or Harry*’ and ‘*It’s Too Darn Hot*’ **KISS ME, KATE** is the perfect musical spectacle for 2024.

This musical farce which brilliantly showcases Cole Porter’s razor-sharp wit, has won Best Musical at the Tony Awards. It’s a sophisticated, ferociously funny, show within a show – which whisks you into a world of backstage chaos and romantic entanglements as a theatre company attempt to put on a production of Shakespeare’s ‘*The Taming of the Shrew*’. The battle of the sexes takes centre stage as former spouses feud, only to find the off-stage antics rival the drama on-stage. Throw in a number of cases of mistaken identity, confused love, gangsters and a spectacular tap routine and you get...**KISS ME, KATE**.

#### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Bartlett Sher – Director

Anthony Van Laast – Choreographer

Michael Yeargan - Set Designer

Catherine Zuber – Costume Designer

Donald Holder - Lighting Designer

Adam Fisher – Sound Designer

Stephen Ridley - Music Supervisor

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### **LISTINGS INFORMATION**

Barbican Theatre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

First Performance: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Press Night: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.00pm

Final performance: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Performances: Monday – Saturday at 7.30pm & Thursday and Saturday at 2.30pm

Running time: Approx 2 hours 40 minutes (including interval)

Age guidance: 10+

Tickets from £29.50

Barbican Box Office: [Barbican.org.uk](http://Barbican.org.uk) or 020 7870 2500

(Telephone lines open Monday to Friday, 12.00 – 5.30pm)

Website: [KissMeKateMusical.com](http://KissMeKateMusical.com)

X: @KissMeKateUK

Facebook: @KissMeKateUK

Instagram: @KissMeKateUK

### **Access Performances:**

Audio Described: Wednesday 17 July, 7.30pm (Touch Tour 5.30pm) and Saturday 10 August, 2.30pm (Touch Tour 12.30pm)

Captioned: Wednesday 24 July, 7.30pm and Saturday 17 August, 2.30pm

BSL interpreted: Wednesday 31 July, 7.30pm and Saturday 24 August, 2.30pm

Presented in association with the Barbican

### **For more information please contact:**

**Hannah Tollman / Neil Reading**

**Neil Reading PR**

**020 7839 2277**

[Hannah@neilreadingpr.com](mailto:Hannah@neilreadingpr.com)

### **Nigel Lindsay**

Nigel Lindsay has worked with many great names of contemporary theatre: playwrights Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard, Martin McDonagh, Terry Johnson, Alan Ayckbourn and Patrick Marber and directors Sam Mendes, Michael Grandage, John Crowley, Josie Rourke, Rob Ashford and Max Stafford-Clark.

Nominated for Olivier, Irish Theatre, WhatsOnstage and Drama Desk awards, Nigel has appeared five times at the National Theatre; as Bolingbroke opposite David Tennant in Richard II at the RSC/Barbican; at the Donmar, Almeida, Royal Court, Old Vic, Young Vic and in Ireland at the Abbey Theatre. He created the title role of Shrek for Dreamworks' award-winning musical at Drury Lane, has played Nathan Detroit in two West End productions of Guys and Dolls and appeared on Broadway in the triple Tony award winning The Real Thing. Most recently, Nigel was Henry Lehman in the sold-out Lehman Trilogy at the Gillian Lynne Theatre and appeared in An Enemy of the People with Matt Smith at the Duke of York's.

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His numerous TV credits include Robert Peel in *Victoria*, Walshy in *White Gold*, *The Capture*, *Safe*, *Magnum PI*, *The Salisbury Poisonings*, *Unforgotten*, *Innocent*, *Poirot* and *The Tunnel*. In film, Nigel appeared in Woody Allen's *Scoop*, in *Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa*, and was nominated for a British Comedy Award for his performance as Barry in *Four Lions*.

### **Hammed Animashaun**

Hammed is a British actor from Hackney, East London. He began his acting journey aged 11, when he joined Half Moon Young People's Theatre. His first professional role was in the Manchester Royal Exchange's *MOGADISHU* in 2012. Since then he has become one of the UK's most in-demand stage and screen comedy actors, and has performed at some of London's most prestigious theatres, including the National Theatre, the Young Vic, and the Royal Court.

Hammed can currently be seen in a leading role as *PCSO Kay* for BBC Studios' new comedy-thriller *BLACK OPS* in which he stars alongside the show's creators, Gbemisola Ikumelo and Akemnji Ndifornyen. The six-part series follows eager officers Dom (Ikumelo) and Kay as they become embroiled in a high-stakes undercover mission for which they are woefully unprepared. Some reviews of the show are below:

Hammed also stars as the Ogier *Loial* in the Amazon Prime Video series *THE WHEEL OF TIME*, based on the novels by Robert Jordan. This fantasy epic follows the magician *Moiraine* (Rosamund Pike) as she leads a ragtag group on a journey across continents, hoping that one of them will be the Dragon Reborn, prophesied to either save or destroy the world.

In 2019, Hammed appeared in Nicholas Hytner's reimagining of Shakespeare's classic *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*. Leading the cast alongside Gwendoline Christie, Oliver Chris, and David Moorst, it was Hammed's interpretation of *Bottom* which won him numerous accolades. These included an Ian Charleson Award (2021), a WhatsOnStage Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Play (2020), a Critics' Circle Award for Best Shakespearean Performance (2019), and a Clarence Derwent Award (2019).

Hammed continued his 2019 stage success in the National Theatre's production of *'MASTER HAROLD' ... AND THE BOYS*. This semi-autobiographical piece written by Tony Award-winner Athol Fugard explores the nature of friendship, love, and hurt in the context of apartheid-era South Africa. Hammed danced the big-hearted tea room employee *Willie* into the foreground, a role which contributed to his winning the Clarence Derwent Award.

Hammed's other notable TV credits include series regular *Johnny Jackson* in the BBC Three mockumentary *PLS LIKE* alongside Liam Williams, and an appearance in the memorable *BLACK MIRROR* episode *USS CALLISTER*. He has also starred in Comedy Central's *GODS OF THE GAME*, BBC's *BREEDERS*, and Channel 4's *FURIOUS ANDREW* and *WIZARD SLEEVE*.

Hammed's major film appearances include the 2018 comedy *THE FESTIVAL*. In it, he plays *Shane Stubbs*, best friend to lead *Nick* (Joe Thomas) who he tries to drag out of his post-break up blues with a three-day festival binge. Other film credits include the role of *Elliot* in the upcoming comedy-horror *THE*



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LONELIEST BOY IN THE WORLD, and *Durab* in the Sundance thriller SURGE, starring alongside Ben Wishaw. He has also appeared in Film4's HOW TO BUILD A GIRL and Dan Scully's THE ELLINGTON KID.

It was recently announced that Hammed has started an exciting six-month writing residency with the BBC's Creator in Residence programme. He will be creating new scripted work based on his own original ideas.

### **About Trafalgar Theatre Productions**

Trafalgar Theatre Productions produces new shows and classic musicals in London, across the UK and internationally, including the Tony and Olivier award-winning smash hit musical, *Jersey Boys* recently at London's newly renovated Trafalgar Theatre alongside a UK & Ireland Tour, a National Theatre co-production of Michael R. Jackson's critically acclaimed, Pulitzer Prize and multi award-winning *A Strange Loop* at London's Barbican Theatre in the summer of 2023, Broadway's favourite multi award-winning musical, Alanis Morissette's *Jagged Little Pill* which opened at Trafalgar's Theatre Royal Sydney in December 2021 and the first major international production of it to open in Australia straight from Broadway, a major revival of the award winning classic musical *Anything Goes* at London's Barbican Theatre in the summers of 2021 and 2022, starring Sutton Foster, Robert Lindsay, Felicity Kendal and Gary Wilmot, *The Merchant of Venice* 1936 (in partnership with the RSC), the tenth anniversary UK & Ireland tour of the acclaimed National Theatre production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, the current 50th Anniversary World Tours of *The Rocky Horror Show* with numerous engagements in Australia and the UK, the Lincoln Center's award-winning production of *The King and I* at the London Palladium and worldwide, and a co-production of *War Horse* with The National Theatre in Australia and Asia-Pacific.

In the West End, productions have also included *On Blueberry Hill*, The National Theatre's *A Taste of Honey* starring Jodie Prenger, Peter Nichols' *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* starring Toby Stephens, Claire Skinner and Patricia Hodge, *Equus* by Peter Shaffer, the hit comedy *Education, Education, Education*, the acclaimed award-winning play *Admissions* starring Alex Kingston, new British musical Tom Morris' *The Grinning Man*, *Apologia* starring Stockard Channing and *Killer Joe* starring Orlando Bloom. Other co-productions have included the two sell-out ground-breaking productions: the Bush Theatre's *Misty* and National Theatre's *Nine Night*.

Co-productions include *Good* starring David Tennant, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *The Starry Messenger* starring Matthew Broderick and Elizabeth McGovern at Wyndham's Theatre, *Mary Stuart* starring Juliet Stevenson and Lia Williams at the Duke of York's, and London season of *The Messiah* starring Hugh Dennis and *The Height of The Storm* at Wyndham's Theatre starring Jonathan Pryce and Dame Eileen Atkins.

### **About the Barbican**

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

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As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [the BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Britten Sinfonia](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [Human Rights Watch Film Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Entertainment](#).

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