

# The Cast

## "Kiss Me, Kate"

Casting information as of July 21, 2007 - subject to change

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**PAUL SCHOEFFLER** (*Fred/Petruchio*) marks his seventh season at Music Circus where he played Frederick last year in *A Little Night Music* and in years past as Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, The King in the *King and I*, Arthur in *Camelot* and the Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*. On Broadway he has played Vittorio Vidal in *Sweet Charity* opposite Christina Applegate, Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast*, Hook in *Peter Pan* opposite Cathy Rigby, Le Bret in *Cyrano, Victor/Victoria* and *Nine*. He has also performed in New York at Encores!, Second Stage and concerts at Town Hall and in numerous off-Broadway productions. National tours include Javert in *Les Misérables*, Sheldrake in *Promises, Promises* and Hook in *Peter Pan*. Paul also has an extensive voice-over career and is currently working on the new PBS animated series "Nate the Great." Current projects also include producing a documentary with Silverwood Films entitled "Playing for Keeps." By far the best job, however, is husband to Aixa and father to five year-old Aidan. *Mi vida. Namaste.*

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**LYNNE WINTERSTELLER** (*Lilli/Kate*) starred on Broadway in *A Grand Night for Singing* and was nominated for a Drama Desk best actress award for her performance in Maltby-Shire's off-Broadway hit *Closer Than Ever*. She also performed Grace in *Annie* on Broadway and in several national tours. Off-Broadway credits include Melissa Manchester's *I Sent a Letter to My Love*, *Nunsense*, *Gift of the Magi*, *Levinsky*, *The Grass Harp*, *Music in the Air* and *The Times*. Other new projects include *Scenery*, *The Mistress Cycle*, *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, *Vanishing Point*, *Julian Po*, *Dr. Zhivago*, *Night of the Hunter*, *Richard Cory*, which earned her a NYMF Best Actress Award, and *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* as Mrs. Lucy Muir, which garnered her a Los Angeles Ovation best actress nomination. Recently, she starred as Lizzie in *110 in the Shade* at Theatre Under The Stars in Houston and as Dorothy Brook in *42nd Street* opposite Tom Wopat at Pittsburg Civic Light Opera. Television credits include "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Total Security," "Big Brother Jake," "Chappelle's Show," "One Life to Live," "All My Children" and numerous national commercials. Recordings include cast albums of *A Grand Night for Singing* and *Closer Than Ever*, and solo artist on the Varese Sarabande label *Broadway Sings Christmas*, *Lost in Boston III* and *Unsung*

*Musicals II.* Lynne and academy award-winning composer David Shire debuted their new concert series with the Buffalo Philharmonic this past January. [www.lynnwintersteller.com](http://www.lynnwintersteller.com)

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**KEVIN SPIRTAS** (*Bill Calhoun*) is no stranger to Music Circus. You may recognize him from such shows as *Damn Yankees*, *A Chorus Line*, *Little Me* and *Gypsy*. Most recently Kevin starred as Corny Collins in the Las Vegas production of *Hairspray*. In September 2003, Kevin returned to Broadway to be Hugh Jackman's standby in the smash hit musical *The Boy From Oz*. From 1997 – 2004, Kevin played the dashing Dr. Craig Wesley on NBC's "Days of Our Lives." During that time Kevin also performed his "Days" role opposite Matt Leblanc's Dr. Drake Ramoray on "Friends." On September 12, 2005, television audiences worldwide heard Kevin introduce the song: "The Sweetest of Nights and the Finest of Days," as he sang it at his TV daughter Chloe's wedding. He has also released a CD single of the song, contributing a portion of each sale to the Red Cross for victims of Hurricane Katrina. With many television and film roles to his credit, Kevin is most proud of his roles in those fantastic cult classic slasher sequels: "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> – VII," "Subspecies II" and "Subspecies III," Wes Craven's "The Hills Have Eyes – II" (original 1984) and the soon to be released "Albino Farm." Kevin can also be seen touring the country performing his hit musical one-man show *Night & Days*. CD and DVD available at the Broadway Boutique or [www.kevinspirtas.com](http://www.kevinspirtas.com)

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**TONI TRUCKS** (*Lois/Bianca*) is honored to make her Music Circus debut with the cast of *Kiss Me, Kate*. A graduate of the University of Michigan's musical theatre program, Toni now resides in Los Angeles. She is best known for her role as Terri in the Showtime original series "Barbershop." Toni has appeared as a guest star on "Veronica Mars" and was last seen as Michelle, a recurring role on the CW hit show "All of Us." She can also be seen in the feature films "Dreamgirls" and "Music and Lyrics." In addition to those big screen credits, she has appeared on stage in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* as Julia at Baltimore Center Stage, *Children of Eden* at the Fords Theatre, *West Side Story* as Anita at Music Theatre of Wichita and *Oklahoma!* as Ado Annie at the University of Michigan. This fall Toni will be featured in the Lionsgate released film "Weapons" starring Nick Cannon and Paul Dano.

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**BARRY PEARL** (*Gangster 2*) is a 46-year theatre veteran who returns to Music Circus where he was last seen as Lazar Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof*. He's done hundreds of stage productions including the first national tour and Broadway productions *Bye, Bye, Birdie* and *The Producers* as well as the first national tour of *Grease* and productions of *The Immigrant*, *Noises Off*, *Talley's Folly*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Crazy for You* and ... *Forum* to name a few. He has also been seen in scores of television shows ranging from "ER" to "Days of Our Lives." Barry is best known for playing Doody in Paramount's hit film "Grease." Kids know him as Professor Tinkerputt from NBC's special "Bedtime with Barney: Imagination Island," the live stage show *Barney's Big Surprise*, as well as the videos of both. Barry holds a BFA from Carnegie-Mellon University and has been honored with DramaLogue, Santa Barbara Independent Press and San Diego Playbill Awards. [www.barrypearl.com](http://www.barrypearl.com)

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**HERSCHEL SPARKER** (*Gangster 1*) is making his debut here at Music Circus. One common theme that runs through his career is that if the character has one name and a single-digit I.Q., Herschel's your man, from Big Six in the original cast of *City of Angels* to Big Jule in the Broadway production of *Guys and Dolls*. He was a founding member of the Tennessee Repertory, where he performed Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*; he was Lank in *Girl Crazy* at the Birmingham Theatre and Barney in the world premiere of *On the Waterfront* at the Cleveland Playhouse. His popular role as "thug" continued in films such as "Kill Squad," "King Kong Lives" and "Shadow of Death," but went thug-less in "The Birdcage." On television, he has performed in recurring roles on "NYPD Blue," "Boy Meets World" and "Star Trek – Deep Space Nine." He has also supplied the voice for countless cartoon thugs, monsters and aliens.

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**DICK DECAREAU** (*Baptista*) returns to Music Circus this summer, where audiences may remember him as Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*. He was recently nominated by Boston critics for best supporting actor in a musical for the role of Wilbur in *Hairspray* at the North Shore Music Theatre. Broadway credits include *Raggedy Ann* and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. Off-Broadway he has performed in *Jimmy Valentine*, *Hurry Hurry Hollywood* and *Captain's Courageous* at the Manhattan Theatre Club. Other credits include Senator Phogbound in *Li'l Abner* at the Goodspeed Opera House, *1776* at the Williamstown Theatre Festival and the Geva Theatre, *Merrily We Roll Along* at La Jolla Playhouse, *Peter Pan* at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, *Tomfoolery* at Alley

Theatre, *The Wizard of Oz* at Syracuse Stage and *Sugar* at Gateway Playhouse. Dick has also toured nationally with *Ragtime* and *Annie*. He has been a proud member of Actors' Equity for over 25 years.

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**BERNARD DOTSON** (*Paul*) was born and raised in Los Angeles. He is proud to return to Music Circus, where he was seen in *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and the world premiere of the musical *Lunch*, starring Barney Martin and directed by Glenn Casale. Having lived in the Big Apple for the past nine years, Bernard's Broadway credits include features in *Chicago* with several contract and performances as Billy Flynn, *Imaginary Friends* starring Swoosie Kurtz and Cherry Jones, the original cast of *Sweet Smell of Success* starring John Lithgow, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and the original company of the Tony Award-winning musical *Ragtime*. Bernard has performed with national and international tours of *Chicago*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Sophisticated Ladies* and *A Chorus Line*. He can also be heard on five cast recordings, including the *Dreamgirls* benefit concert for the Actors Fund.

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**ROBERT STOECKLE** (*General Howell*) has been seen on Broadway in *The Canterbury Tales* and *It's so Nice to Be Civilized* and in the national tours of *The Sound of Music* and *Torch Song Trilogy*. Other credits include *The Laramie Project* as Dennis Sheppard at the Caldwell Theatre, *Urinetown* as Caldwell B. Cladwell at Carousel Dinner Theatre, *The King and I* as Ramsey/Orton at the Paper Mill Playhouse, *As You Like It* as Amiens at Actors Theatre of Louisville and *A Christmas Carol* as Marley at Long Beach Civic Light Opera. He has also been featured on such television shows as "Law and Order: Criminal Intent," "Who's the Boss" and "The Young and the Restless." Robert is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

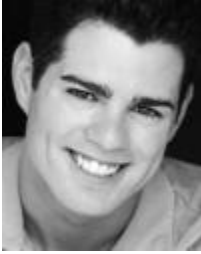
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**ZONYA LOVE JOHNSON** (*Hattie*) is a native of Durham, North Carolina. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at North Carolina A&T State University and her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her favorite roles include Sheila in *The Boys Next Door*, Ermina in *Crumbs From the Table of Joy*, Susie in *Wit*, Maria in *Twelfth Night*, Mayme in *Intimate Apparel*, Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and most recently an ensemble member in *Les Misérables*. Zonya is very excited to be back to Music Circus.



**DEANNA AGUINAGA** (*Ensemble*) is returning to Music Circus, where she was last seen in *The King and I*. Recently she performed in *Mamma Mia!* in Las Vegas. She understudied Serena and Mabel for the national tour of *Fame, the Musical* and performed in *Evita*, *West Side Story*, *Joseph ...* and *Gypsy*. Deanna has also performed at Disneyland in *Aladdin* and *Animazement*. She is a proud graduate of California State University of Long Beach with a B.A. in sociology. Deanna thanks her family, friends and Ryan for their love and support.



**JACOB ben WIDMAR** (*Hortensio*) is proud to be back at Music Circus, where past shows include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *South Pacific* and *The Music Man*. He was in the Los Angeles and Detroit company of *White Christmas*. On the West Coast, he was in *On the Town* with the Reprise! Series, *A Chorus Line* as Mark with the American Musical Theatre of San Jose and *My Fair Lady* at La Mirada. Favorite credits include *Singin' in the Rain* at Goodspeed Opera House and *42nd Street*, which won him a Robbie Award nomination as Billy Lawlor. He has also appeared on "General Hospital" and "Passions." Jacob has a BFA in theatre from BYU.



**BRADLEY BENJAMIN** (*Ensemble*) was last seen at Music Circus in *West Side Story* and is delighted to be back. She performed on Broadway in the Susan Stroman and Trevor Nunn revival of *Oklahoma!* and in the Las Vegas production of *Hairspray* as Tammy, Penny and Amber. On tour she performed Ethel Peas in the first national company of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Other favorite credits include *The Merry Widow* at the Los Angeles Opera, *Brigadoon*, *On the Town*, *My One and Only* at Reprise! and *The Top Hats*, directed by Dan Mojica. She sends thanks to loved ones.



**HOLLY ANN BUTLER** (*Ensemble*) was recently seen as Miss Dorothy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at Fulton Opera House, the Anne/Diana



standby in *Anne of Green Gables* at Lucille Lortel and in Seth Rudetsky's Broadway 101, an Actors Fund benefit. Other credits include Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown*, Louise in *Gypsy*, Rumpleteazer in *Cats* and Babette in *Beauty and the Beast*. She has also been seen on television and film in "Seaquest 2032," "Figure It Out" and "Looking for Trouble." Holly received her BFA from Florida State University and is a proud member of Actors' Equity. She would like to thank her family, The Mine, and Jeff.

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**JANNA CARDIA** (*Ensemble*) happily returns for her third season at Music Circus. Some of her credits include Nancy in *Oliver!*, Rizzo in *Grease*, the Witch in *Into the Woods*, the Narrator in *Joseph ...* (all at the Fulton Opera House), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at Allenberry Playhouse, Georgie in *Full Monty* at Arkansas Repertory, Prudie in *Pumpboys and Dinettes* at Fireside Theatre, Eve/Mama in *Children of Eden* and Mary in *It's a Wonderful Life* both at Wagon Wheel Theatre. She received Chicago's After Dark Award for her role as Trina in *Falsettos* at Porchlight Theatre.

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**KEVIN COVERT** (*Ensemble*) comes directly from the Broadway cast of *Monty Python's Spamalot* and will return after his summer in Sacramento. He was last seen at Music Circus as Farleigh in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Kevin's national tour credits include Jerry Zaks' production of *South Pacific* starring Robert Goulet and as Munkustrap in *Cats*. Favorite productions include the world premiere of *Memphis*, Goodspeed Musicals' *Call Me Madam* and *Red, Hot and Blue* and North Shore's *My Fair Lady*. He gives thanks to family and friends for their continued love and support and to all at *Spamalot* for giving him time off to perform in Sacramento.

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**KURT DOMONEY** (*Ensemble*) is making his Music Circus debut this summer. New York credits include *A Naughty Knight*, *Roadside*, *All Is Love*, *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular* and the national tour of *42nd Street*. Other credits include Action in *West Side Story* at Theatre Under The Stars (directed by Alan Johnson), Billy in *Urinetown*, Bobby in *A Chorus Line* at the Geva Theatre, Watt in *Very Good Eddie* at

Goodspeed Musicals and in *Hot Mikado* at Ford's Theatre. He has a BFA from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He also has been a soloist for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Pops. He gives thanks and love to his amazing friends and family.

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**MANOLY FARRELL** (*Ensemble*) returns to Music Circus, where she was last seen as Zaneeta in *The Music Man*. Other favorite credits include Anita in *West Side Story* at the 5th Avenue Theatre, as a member of the original cast of the David Marquez Project performed at the Duke Theatre in New York, Hattie in *Kiss Me, Kate*, Michelle in *Dreamgirls*, Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Helene in *Sweet Charity* and both Judy and Maggie in *A Chorus Line*. Manoly sends love and thanks to her parents, friends and especially David for their constant love and support.

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**KRISTEN GAETZ** (*Ensemble*) is delighted to make her debut at Music Circus. She has most recently been seen as Phyllis/Lorriane in *42nd Street* both on Broadway and in the national tour. Kristen is excited to return to California, where she has performed in productions of *Evita*, *The Will Roger's Follies* and *Crazy for You* at the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities in Los Angeles.

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**BRIAN KUCHTA** (*Ensemble*) made his New York City debut as Ralph Rackstraw in *HMS Pinafore*. Past new works have included *From Where I Stand* (original off-Broadway recording), *The Karaoke Show* (original U.S. cast), *Scalpel* and *Grace Falls* at the New York International Fringe Festival, *The Freedom Toast* (co-writer) and *The Phantom Tollbooth* with Sheldon Harnick. He has also performed readings of *Skylar's Story*, *Hurricane*, *Paradise Lost*, *Sessions* and *Vanity Fair*. Other credits include *The Cherry Orchard* at McCarter Theatre, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at the Depot, *Jekyll & Hyde* in Atlantic City and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.



**KIA LEE** (*Ensemble*) is making her Music Circus debut this summer. Some of her favorite roles include Peep-Bo in *The Hot Mikado* at Westchester Broadway, Nehebka in *Aida* also at Westchester Broadway and in *Fame* at the Bristol Riverside Theatre. She would like to send many thanks to her family and friends for their undying love and support. And a special thank you to Stephen Harding, whose passion shines through all of his students.



**IVORY McKAY** (*Ensemble*) is excited to return to Music Circus. He was last seen making music on the roof as the Fiddler in *Fiddler on the Roof*, carefully following orders as Yeoman Quayle in *South Pacific* and dancing to the sound of 76 trombones in *The Music Man*. Other wonderful theatre moments include Judah in *Joseph ...* with Jon Secada and *Dreamgirls* with Jennifer Holiday at Atlanta's Theatre of the Stars, dancing with Mary Ann Lamb as Eddie in *Damn Yankees* and *Ragtime* here at Music Circus, Anxious in *West Side Story* at The Muny St. Louis, Protean in ... *Forum* at the Denver Center and the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.



**JOE PAPARELLA** (*Ensemble*) is returning to Music Circus this summer, where previously he appeared in *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Music Man* and *Aida*. On Broadway, Joe has performed in *Les Misérables*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Good Vibrations*. He has also toured the country in *Mamma Mia!*, *Ragtime*, *Joseph ... Dreamcoat* and *Martin Guerre* and performed at the Guthrie Theatre in *Martin Guerre* and the Kennedy Center in *Mame*. He has been a proud member of Actors' Equity since 1995.

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**MICHAEL RAMEY** (*Gremio*) is making his Music Circus debut. Some of his credits include Pepe in *West Side Story*, in which he also understudied Bernardo, Richie in *A Chrous Line*, Joseph in *Joseph ... Dreamcoat*, Bill in *Kiss Me, Kate* as well as Andy Lee in *42nd Street*. Michael is a graduate of American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York and has been a proud member of Actors' Equity for seven years.

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**NATALIE ROSS** (*Ensemble*) is pleased to be returning to Music Circus after appearing in *Oklahoma!*, *Footloose* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She was most recently seen in the North American touring company of *Evita* directed by Harold Prince. Other recent credits include the European tour of *Evita*, *The Mikado* at City Center and Bard SummerScape Music Festival. She has also toured the U.S. and Europe as a concert vocalist with symphonies, cruise ships and the musical revue *Broadway Tonite!* Originally from Detroit, Natalie is a graduate of the University of Michigan and a proud member of Actors' Equity. [www.nycasting.com/natalieross](http://www.nycasting.com/natalieross).

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**GABRIEL WILLIAMS** (*Ensemble*) has danced principal and soloist roles with New York Theatre Ballet, Oakland Ballet and Milwaukee Ballet II and currently dances with the Sacramento Ballet. He has performed works by Balanchine, de Mille, Ashton, Tudor, Dwight Rhoden, Twyla Tharp, Donald McKayle, Eugene Loring and Trey McIntyre among others. He is extremely excited to perform with Music Circus and to return to his first love: musical theatre.