

Don't miss Kate



**Claire McGeough
– hits the right
notes.**

2005

KISS ME KATE
**Chelmsford Amateur Operatic
and Dramatic Society**
Civic Theatre

CAODS' spring production, Kiss me Kate, opened on a curiously subdued note.

Gone was Ray Jeffery's trademark blockbuster opening that grabs the audience from line one. Instead, this was a thoughtful and really rather slow start.

It's not too long, though, before the pace hots up, and CAODS' main belters – Claire

McGeough, Karen Kelleher and David Pridige – made the most of Cole Porter's great classics.

The story takes a back seat throughout – an American travelling troupe doing Taming of the Shrew while backstage, the real taming of the shrew – Kate – proceeds apace.

Early on, the ever dependable Claire McGeough gave us a highly-dramatic I Hate Men which hit the all the right notes, and Karen Kelleher, as a con-

vincing night club hooper turned Shakespearian actress produced Tom, Dick & Harry in a perfect downtown New York accent and mannerism.

My favourite David Pridige was a trip down his memory lane of past conquests in Where is the Life that Late I Led? An inspired duo was the pairing of Patrick Tucker and Martin Burgess as a pair of gangsters who produced a very witty and skilful version of Brush Up Your Shakespeare which I will cherish for a long time.

The set was beautifully simple and convincing both as a Paduan front stage and the Baltimore Ford theater backstage, and the band, led by Andrew Denyer, kept up a well-modulated accompaniment. As usual, CAODS gives full value for money, and this is an evening of theatre not to be missed. It's on until April 9.

JIM HUTCHON