

## **Taming of The Shrew (with a twist)**

The play begins with Lucentio arriving in Padua to study. As soon as he sees Bianca, the younger daughter of the rich merchant Baptista, he falls in love with her. Bianca is also being wooed by Gremio and Hortensio, but Baptista will not allow her to be married until a husband is found for his older daughter Katherina, 'the shrew', whose aggressive character has made this unlikely. Gremio and Hortensio decide to join forces to find a husband for Katherina. Lucentio changes identities with his servant Tranio, and gets a job as Bianca's tutor in order to be close to her.

Petruchio of Verona is visiting Hortensio, and agrees to help his friend by marrying Katherina, especially when he learns the size of her dowry. At his first meeting with her, he is quite taken with her and she with him. But in order to win the wager when in company he takes no argument from her and she maintains her 'shrewish' behaviour - he 'insists on marrying her despite her protestations' (again a ruse).

Baptista more than willingly agrees, leaving Bianca's suitors to argue their respective cases among themselves. Lucentio makes progress with Bianca in his guise as tutor.

Petruchio arrives late for his wedding, badly dressed, behaves badly during the service, and afterwards refuses to stay for the reception, despite Katherina's wishes to the contrary. He takes her back to his country house.

Petruchio's servants wait for his arrival where he displays more 'Shrewish' behaviour than Kate in their opinion.

Back in Padua, Hortensio and Tranio see Bianca courting the 'tutor' Lucentio and decide in to court her no longer. Hortensio decides to marry a rich widow.

Tranio persuades a passing merchant to play the part of Lucentio's father, Vincentio, and confirm to Baptista that Lucentio has a wealthy background. Real Lucentio and Bianca run off and are married.

On their way back to Padua, Katherina and Petruchio meet the real Vincentio. They arrive at Lucentio's house, but the Merchant and Tranio refuse to acknowledge him, calling him a villain. The real Vincentio is about to be taken off to prison when Lucentio arrives, revealing his marriage and the identity changes. The parents accept the situation.

At the celebration in honour of the weddings Petruchio, Lucentio, and Hortensio, the three husbands wager among themselves which of their wives, in another room, will be the most obedient and come at their bidding.

Katherina is the only one to do so. She 'lectures' the wives before turning the tables on the men - especially her own husband as she has loved him from the start.

This play ends with Petruchio and Katerina (who has been in on the scheme all along) counting up their winnings from all of Petruchio's wagers.

*Due to cast illness the part of Lucentio/ Cambio is played by Samantha Ellwood who joined the company 4 rehearsals from opening night.*