



THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

SPONSORED BY



DIRECTED BY:
POLLY MARCH

SAN ANTON GARDENS - ATTARD
14 JULY 2017 - 23 JULY 2017



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As the director, I have approached this production with very clear aims in view:

To make the story accessible, and to make the glorious language accessible

To set it in a context that allows us to remember that a) this is a play within a play and b) that it is a farce. Shakespeare never intended this to be a serious commentary, but a lot of fun.

To remind us that Shakespeare wrote of human nature. That has not changed. We feel love, envy, jealousy, delight; we experience tragedy and joy. Nothing has changed.

As a symbol of that, under the Elizabethan costumes there are elements of modern dress; a ruff above a t-shirt, trainers below breeches, and so on. So as the Bard speaks to us from 400 years ago, we still, now, at this moment, identify with all the emotions expressed then.

Sometimes this is regarded as a 'problem' play – how to reconcile present day acceptance of gender equality with the dominant masculine / female subjugation theme which appears to be the subject of this play.

I don't believe that. I believe this is a play about two people who are utterly right for each other. They are deeply flawed, as are we all, but together, they find a balance in their relationship. They play, they fight and enjoy the fight – and they find love. It might not be the gentle, peaceful loving relationship some of us might want, but it's what they want, and will have a gloriously rowdy, boisterous, passionate marriage!

“ I BELIEVE THIS IS A PLAY ABOUT TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE UTTERLY RIGHT FOR EACH OTHER. ”

The Malta Amateur Dramatic Company has staged several productions of *The Shrew* in the past. Because of that, they have very generously encouraged a rather different approach to it this year. You are about to be transported to a different world – yet a strangely familiar one.

You are about to enter the world of Mazbugg. A remote village, celebrating their festa, and, for the first time, presenting a Shakespeare play as part of those celebrations. The Mazbugg Actors Drama Co-operative is, as you can imagine, very nervous. Here they are, in the village square, almost ready to begin.

Could anything for wrong go them? Let's hope not...

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the other MADC as they undertake their Dress Rehearsal...

SYNOPSIS

Baptista is a wealthy widow, a business woman of Padua. She has two daughters, Katherina and Bianca, who is her mother's favourite.

Katherina, or Kate, is naturally sharp tongued and clever, and jealousy of her mother's obvious favouritism doesn't help. Her nickname, 'The Shrew' apparently seems well deserved.

Bianca, younger and prettier, has two suitors, an older, wealthy merchant, Gremio, and a younger man, Hortensio. Kate, of course, has no suitors. No one wants to marry a shrew...

Which is tricky, as Baptista will not allow Bianca to marry until Kate has found a husband.

Enter Lucentio, a wealthy young student, who has come to Padua to continue his studies. He is accompanied by his servant, Tranio. On seeing Bianca, he is totally smitten and it is love at first sight.

Arriving from Verona is Petruchio, with his servant Grumio. He decides he will have Kate to wife and sets about 'wooing' her. He marries her and carts her off to his home in Verona.

There the process of taming continues. Exhausted, Kate is not allowed to eat or sleep; He swears night is day, and Kate has to agree – what she doesn't realise is that he is using her own methods against her. She has been rude, unpleasant, rough, unkind to servants – and it's happening to her.

Bianca and Lucentio elope.

Meanwhile, disillusioned with Bianca, Hortensio has married a rich widow that loves him and waited for him.

A joint wedding banquet is planned and in a good natured quarrel, the men bet that their wives will come to them if asked. But neither the widow, nor Bianca, obeys. To everyone's amazement, Kate appears, and gives the two new brides a lesson in how to make a happy marriage.

It appears that Kate and Petruchio are an ideal pair and will have a long and happy marriage. And Petruchio has won the very large wager, so he's happy. And so is Kate...

THE PLAY WILL BE IN TWO ACTS

ACT 1

Scene 1
Scene 2
Scene 3
Scene 4

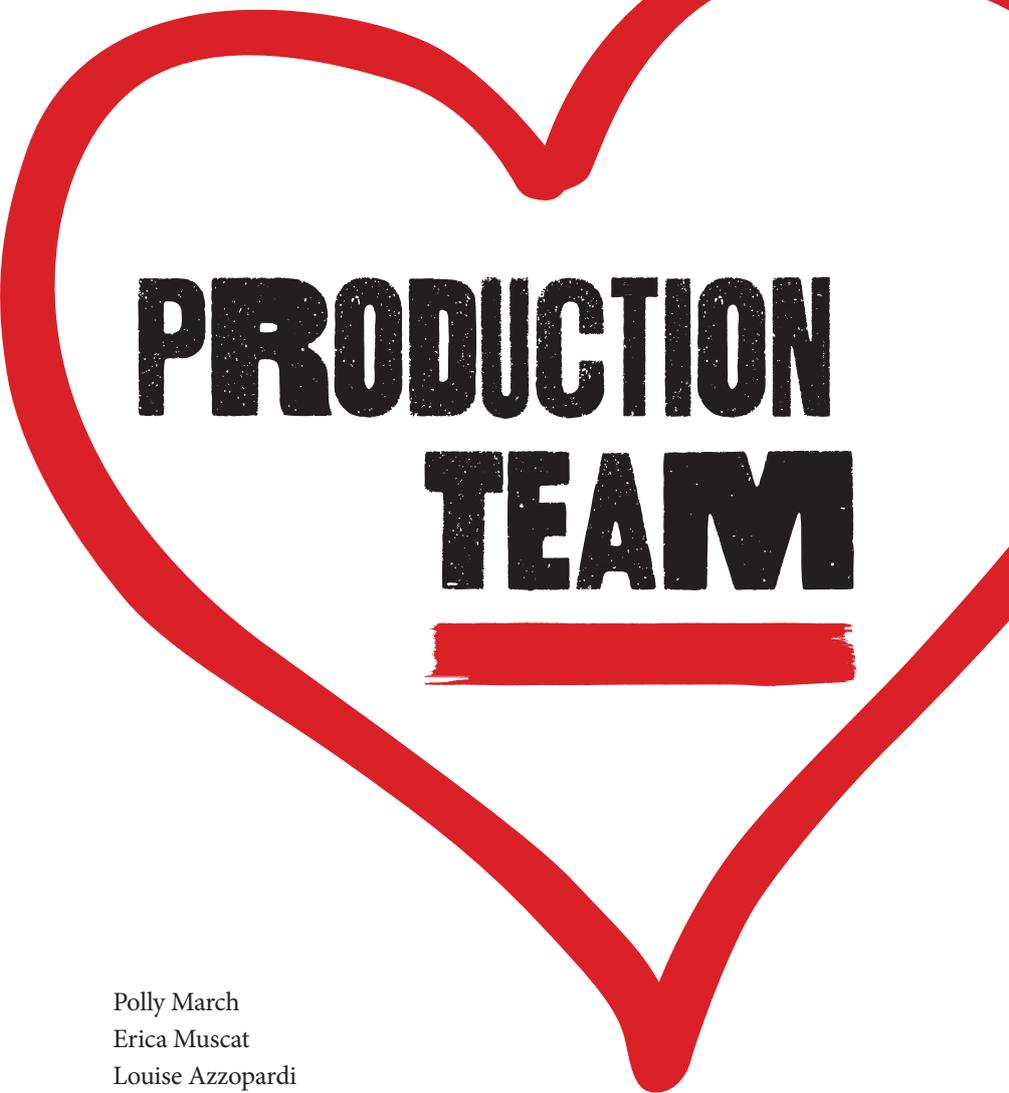
The piazza outside Baptista's house in Padua
The street outside Hortensio's house in Padua
A room in Baptista's house
The Piazza in Padua

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between acts

ACT 2

Scene 1
Scene 2
Scene 3
Scene 4
Scene 5
Scene 6
Scene 7

Petruchio's country house, outside Verona
The piazza outside Baptista's house
Petruchio's house
The piazza outside Baptista's house
The road between Verona and Padua
The street outside Lucentio's house in Padua
The Piazza in Padua



PRODUCTION TEAM

Director
Assistant Director
Executive Producer
ASM
Stage Manager
Costumes Concept/Creation

Polly March
Erica Muscat
Louise Azzopardi
Marvic Massa
Stefan Scerri
Polly March, Laura Bonnici,
Ritianne Mallia Tabone
Ritianne Mallia Tabone, Laura Bonnici
Roderick Mallia, Lara Spiteri, Rachel Ciappara
Guerriero, Antonella Agius Micallef

Wardrobe
Assisted By

Rachel Zammit
Mandy Zammit, Jonathan Mallia, Francesca Grech
Michael & Guy Hairstylists
Writemeanything, Jo Caruana, Iggy Fenech,
Antonella Axisa, Alan Meadows,
Francesca Briffa, Martin Azzopardi

Props Manager
Make-Up
Hair/Wigs
Publicity/Marketing

Eusebio Aquilina
Adam Brimmer
Christopher Gatt
Manuel Quattromani
Studio Seven
Audio Systems
Marco Bartolo
Damian Scerri, Amadeo Calleja, Carmen Mifsud

Photography/Videography
Programme + Poster Design
Lighting Design
Lighting Operator
Lights
Stage Supplied By
Stage Painting
Backstage Hands

Scaffolding
Bar Operators
Booking Officer
Front Of House
Assisted By
Acknowledgements

Marsa Steel Co. Ltd.
Mira Vandeputte, Rachel Galea, Stephen Galea
Jeremy Borg Grech
Madeleine Abela
Members Of Madc
Her Excellency Mrs. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca
Xfm Radio, Farsons



THE SAN ĠENASJU
GHAQDA GHALL FESTI

Mazbuġġ Actors Drama Co-operative
presents

The Taming of the Shrew

By William Shakespeare
Directed By Molly Pace.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

MOLLY PACE likes to be involved in village life. Sings with St Genesis Church Choir, is Hon. Sec. of The Ladies Sewing Circle, Hon. Sec. of The Pedigree Shrew Breeders Club, and co-founded The Quilting Group. She has cast her nephew, Jeremy, in the hope that his piratical delusions will be cured. She founded the MADC, in an attempt to bring more culture to village life. This is their first production and hopefully, nothing will go wrong...

MY THANKS TO

Costumes by

The Mazbuġġ Ladies Sewing Circle

Set built by

L-Ghaqda Armar Festa San Ġenasju

Sound by

Iffy Borg of Iffy Sound Systems

Bar run by

The Mazbuġġ Ladies
Temperance Group

A WORD FROM OUR MAYOR

Welcome to Mazbuġġ!

We are delighted to welcome you to our village – a small village to be sure, but with a big heart. My administration has been a firm believer in the Arts and we have always sought to promote them as an integral part of our village life. This theatrical festival has been one of our electoral promises and we are glad to see its fruition, bringing together so many volunteers from our village (and beyond) and strengthening our community. We hope that future editions of this festival will draw even more people, both as audiences as well as direct participants of this festival. A special call goes out to the youths of our village; participate, participate, participate – it is a way of widening your horizons and meeting new people – and our sheep can finally get to graze in peace and quiet out in the surrounding fields.

Our gratitude goes to the people who undertook this mammoth task:

The Mazbuġġ Cultural Society headed by the indefatigable Molly Pace;

Maria il-Mazza, managing director, il-Mazza Construction Co. for the material support donated:

La Societa' Filarmonika San Ġenasju for the rehearsal space and the musical direction;

The Sweet Tooth Caterers of Mazbuġġ High Street for the catering supplies

At a personal level, I would like to thank my fellow Council members and all the employees within the Council offices (some of whom are helping out back-stage tonight) for their whole-hearted support to this venture. Finally, to my wife Genasia who was the person who first put the idea for such a festival in my mind after having watched Benedict Cumberbatch's Hamlet live at the London National Theatre.

This is indeed our village at its best. Viva San Genasio!

The Mayor

ENSEMBLE

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Lucentio | Alexander Gatesy Lewis | Grumio | Rambert Attard |
| Tranio | Gianni Selvaggi | Nancy | Erica Muscat |
| Baptista | Laura Best | Merchant | Franco Sciberras |
| Gremio | Renato Grech | Tailor | Kurt Gabriel Meli |
| Katerina | Rebecca Camilleri | Widow | Tezara Camilleri |
| Bianca | Jasmine Farrugia | Nathaniel/Peter Servant | Jeremy Grech |
| Hortensio | Philip Leone Ganado | Vincentio | Jon Orchard |
| Biondello | Tina Rizzo | Haberdasher | Diandra Anne Mamo |
| Petruchio | Jonathan Dunn | The Fool | Samuel Mallia |



**JONATHAN
DUNN**

...arrived in Mazbugg three years ago to research for his upcoming role as a ginger Cyclops in a low budget Scottish horror film. He joined the MADC in the (slight) hope his agent might see him and get him into the RSC. In his free time, he enjoys navigating the Mazbuggian local cuisine (nothing compares to haggis), taking long contemplative walks around the edge of the quarry on windy days, and digging his escape tunnel with his enviable collection of Edinburgh silver spoons.



**BECKY
CAMILLERI**

...has been living in Mazbugg since she was born. Stifled by small town life, she often lashes out at anyone who comes in her way, and has been known to get into a brawl or two at the local Kazin. After being told that she would be playing Kate, the shrew, she realized that she may have been type cast in the role due to her... Temperament . Perhaps the Mazbugg people are trying to send her a message



**LAURA
BEST**

...recently moved to Mazbugg from Essex with her new husband Sidney and their beloved Chihuahua, Britney. Laura has previously enjoyed many roles with the Thurrock Independent Theatre Society (TITS), most notably Burlesque Dancer #2 in 'Legs Ahoy!'. She is also remembered as the waitress in Hugh Grant's famous film, 'An Awfully Big Adventure'. She and Sidney are considering purchasing property on Filfla, so Laura invites any young male Estate Agents in the audience to meet with her following tonight's performance.



**ALEXANDER
GATESY LEWIS**

(a.k.a. Pilosus Crispus - PC for short), born and raised in Mazbugg, spent his youth in a gang called the Pizelli, and together with his friend - Shaznolia Shazam - fought the rival gang the Cheeselets. Ever-troublesome throughout his teens, Alexander dreamed of becoming a major Maltese mafia boss, until he finally realised how his actions were destroying his family. He sought to better himself as an adult, finding legitimate employment. Alexander now forms part of MADC's acting troupe.



**GIANNI
SELVAGGI**

...is a former Stripper/Entertainer at Mazbugg's gentleman's club "Filfla Nights". Following an unfortunate baby oil spill incident, he decided to hang up his cowboy hat, instead becoming a Real Estate Agent to pay the bills. Gianni wishes to continue to pursue his true passion for acting by joining this MADC production, in the hope of further enhancing his stage presence, while also finding some rich, private clientele for some side-business. He's not a big fan of Chihuahuas.



**JASMINE
FARRUGIA**

...has taken part in various productions since the age of four. But since that didn't work out, at the age of eighteen, Jasmine became a successful business woman in the village of Mazbugg. She opened the first beauty shop in the village, which provides hot waxes of all types. In consequence, Jasmine has seen a large variety of unwanted hair. Price lists for hot waxes can be found at the bar. Do not hesitate to call for an appointment [or buy Jasmine a drink].



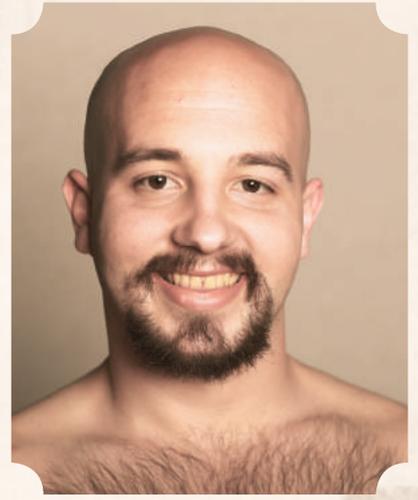
**PHILIP
LEONE GANADO**

...came to Mazbugg as a showman, with yellow flowers in his hair and a shirt cut down to there. He would merengue, do the cha-cha. And while he tried to be a star, Tony always tended bar. Philip is afraid of dentists and the dark, pretty girls, and starting conversations. He will do anything for love (but he won't do that).



**RENATO
DIMECH**

...hails from one of Mazbugg's founder families. Fourteen consecutive times the champion of the annual 'Ful, Fazola and Bigilla Eaters Competition', he was finally asked to step down for sustainable environmental reasons by his exasperated family as well as by the envious village mayor with who's family there exists an ongoing feud. Renato's knack for comic impersonations (his mayor's one is to die for) has landed him an offer to take part in tonight's play, an offer he happily accepted.



**RAMBERT
ATTARD**

...is the proud owner of "Bambi's Body Shop" whilst also specialising and being the sole importer of Body Butter in Mazbugg. Mr Attard and has recently opened a psychiatric clinic to help citizens of mazbugg to deal with the word "Moist" as this word has recently rubbed people the wrong way. He is also planning to open a 24 hour gym in Mazbugg but development has recently stalled due to a misunderstanding with the mayor over the name of the gym.



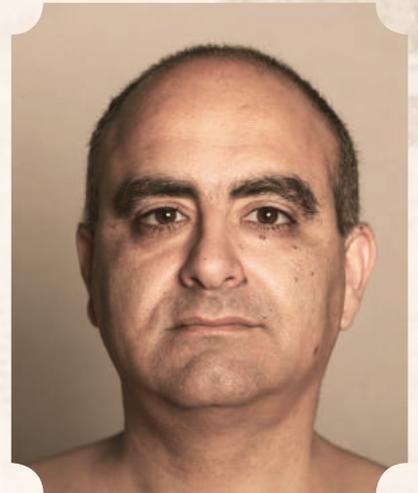
**TINA
RIZZO**

...born in Mazbugg, and is very keen on pursuing acting, as both her mother and grandmother were top leading ladies. Tina hasn't had much luck, previously cast as 'the woods' in the school production of 'Into The Woods'. This is her first production outside school; however, to her family's disappointment, Molly Pace has cast Tina as a boy. She hopes she can change the director's mind before opening night; hopefully Ms Pace might reconsider her casting?



**ERICA
MUSCAT**

...hails from the Island of Kemunetta, and at 16, she was offered a 'free' fare to Malta by Ċikku il-Gremxul... Being the only Kemunese speaker on Malta, she secured herself a lucrative position in Customer Care at Mazbugg International Betting Co.; a job she loves proportionally to the gossip she can illicit. Furthermore, she can speak to her fellow Kemunesers for free!!! (Anybody wishing to make a bet can call her anytime on 1-800-KISS-ME-BET. This week's jackpot is €42.).



**FRANCO
SCIBERRAS**

...is currently in his third term as village Mayor of Mazbugg. He has also served as President of the Societa Filarmonica San Genasio as well as Committee Secretary of Mazbugg Tigers FC. Although he has never sought the limelight he has always been captivated by the stage and he is looking forward to participating for the first time in this year's village production, albeit in a minor role given his mayoral commitments.



**JONATHAN
ORCHARD**

...was actually born in a trunk and his family swear that his first spoken word was “freak.” After a rather uneventful childhood he finally met his soulmate at the local festa in Mazbugg, when they found themselves running from a stray firework. His greatest achievements are having one foot two sizes bigger than the other and getting his haircut at the same hairdressers as the mayor of Mazbugg.



**DIANDRA
ANNE MAMO**

...moved into Mazbugg after a slight disagreement with the director of Hal BlaRas’ passion play (her hosanna line got removed for the third time in a row). She’s happy to be a part of the Mazbugg Actors Drama Co-Operative, provided that this time she keeps her one line, and her middle name in the cast list.



**KURT
GABRIEL MELI**

...was born in Mazbugg at the young and tender age of zero. Boasting his reputation as the village’s master in the art of lethargy, he recently took his talents to a nationwide slumber competition, finishing in a remarkable third place out of a hefty field of three participants. Unfortunately, the cash prize wasn’t enough for a new ergonomic mattress, and he’s now hoping to sustain his professional do-nothing career via a generous cheque from his participation in this production.



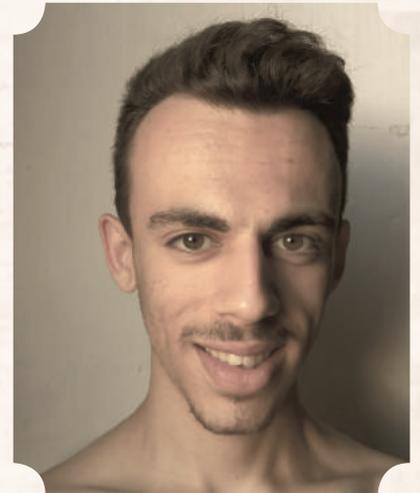
**TEZARA
CAMILLERI**

...has lived in Mazbugg all her life with her parents, sisters, nieces, nephews, goldfish and birds but will soon be fleeing the nest to move in with her boyfriend, Oreste. The people of Mazbugg did not take kindly to the fact that she is setting up home away from her clan. Tezara co-founded the extremely well-known theatre company Society of Rowdy Musicals (SORM) however when she was NOT cast in Kiss Me Kate, she resigned! She is particularly credited for her role in Betty Crocker – The Musical as ‘The cup of flour.’



**JEREMY
GRECH**

...is usually frowned upon in Mazbugg, due to his pirate habits. The residents of Mazbugg don’t like seeing a skull and crossbones flying on a roof. Recently he joined MADC to try and prove that a pirate’s life can be fun, and hopes to be accepted as he is and maybe hire more crew mates.



**SAMUEL
MALLIA**

...an unsociable guy, whose relationship with his saxophone is intense, to say the least. According to the Mazbugg Genesian Vigilantes, he used to be the principal oboist of the Mazbugg Philharmic Orchestra, until he disappeared into a puff of Marijuana smoke and returned two months later with a saxophone and an unquenchable thirst for jazz and contemplation. His role at MADC is quite equivocal; a performative sound designer, timid psychoanalyst and impulsive commentator, whose presence is as sporadic as a time-travelling squirrel.

MADC COMMITTEE

Patron

Her Excellency
Mrs. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca

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The Hon. Owen Bonnici,
Minister for Justice,
Culture & Local Government.

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ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

2017



MADC Clubrooms 7/8/9/10 September 2017

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION



DAVID HARE'S
SKYLIGHT

DIRECTED BY ANDRÉ AGIUS

29th, 30th September
1st, 6th, 7th, 8th October

Valletta Campus
Theatre (Ex MITP)

Poster design by Francesca Grech

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION

Cinderella

Your all time favourite Panto



Directed by
Chris Gatt

MFCC 22ND DECEMBER 2017 TO 2ND JANUARY 2018

MAD SHAKESPEARE PLAYS PRODUCED SINCE 2000

| Year | Play | Director |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 2000 | All's Well That Ends Well | Chris Gatt |
| 2001 | Twelfth Night | Salvu Mallia |
| 2002 | As You Like It | Joe Friggieri |
| 2003 | The Tempest | Colin Willis |
| 2004 | The Merchant of Venice | Marylu Coppini |
| 2005 | The Taming of the Shrew | Lino Farrugia |
| 2006 | The Merry Wives of Windsor | Chris Gatt |
| 2007 | A Midsummer Night's Dream | Chris Gatt |
| 2008 | Macbeth | Geoffrey Borny |
| 2009 | The Two Gentlemen of Verona | Polly March |
| 2010 | Shakespeare Revisited | Marylu Coppini |
| 2011 | Twelfth Night | Dave Barton |
| 2012 | A Winter's Tale | Polly March |
| 2013 | Much Ado About Nothing | Chris Gatt |
| 2014 | The Merchant of Venice | Joe Friggieri |
| 2015 | Romeo and Juliet | Luke Farrugia |
| 2016 | A Midsummer Night's Dream | Nanette Brimmer |

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

As You Like It

Directed by
Philip Leone Ganado

SAN ANTON GARDENS JULY 2018

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION



We are experts in Customer Experience and Training.

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