

A View On Access –Kiss Me Kate at the Sheffield Crucible theatre on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 at 7.15pm.

Click [here](#) for the Audio of this Review.

There was no touch tour on this occasion.

The Audio Description was delivered by volunteer describers - Jill Mason and Alison Boyce.

There was an introduction to the show at 7pm through the headsets that were issued by the customer service team on arrival at the theatre.

The Crucible is a fabulous theatre part in the round in the centre of Sheffield that produces original and adaptations of plays and shows throughout the year often breaking new ground and setting bar high.

They also excel when it comes to Audio Described and access performances making theatre totally inclusive and accessible for all, offering it for every new show that comes along.

This fresh new production of classic musical – Kiss Me Kate that first opened in Philadelphia in 1948 and has been thrilling audiences worldwide ever since centres on a production of a musical version of [William Shakespeare's \*The Taming of the Shrew\*](#) and the conflict on and off-stage between Fred Graham, the show's director, producer, and star, and his leading lady, his ex-wife Lilli Vanessi. A secondary romance concerns Lois Lane, the actress playing [Bianca](#), and her gambler boyfriend, Bill, who runs afoul of some gangsters.

This was a fun filled entertaining staging with an excellent cast and production values and engaged the audience for nearly 3 hours

The audio description through the infrared sennheiser headsets provided by Jill and Alison was passionately delivered and well prepared.

In the introduction the describers gave an overview of the show, dictated the stage, sets, props and costumes, the characters and all the actors playing them – this gave an invaluable insight and prepared all those visually impaired for all the action that was about to unfold on stage.

Despite a few technical hiccups of interference with the headsets during the introduction this was soon resolved and produced a smoother ride for part 1 and 2 which went to great lengths to fully illustrate all of the drama and dance that was coming to life before our eyes in a very light hearted informative way as the describers became like a friend in my ear accompanying me on the journey and punctuating every visual element effectively.

The customer service team should also be commended as they are well trained and go the extra mile to make sure everything is working correctly and that every need is catered for.

The next audio described performances at Sheffield theatres are:

The Mousetrap at the Lyceum Theatre on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February at 7.45 pm with a touch tour at 6.15pm.

Rutherford and sons at the Crucible theatre on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of February at 2.30pm.

A touch tour and ad for this play is on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February with the touch tour at 6pm and play starting at 7.30pm, with an audio introduction to the show beforehand at 7.15pm.

The Rocky Horror Show at the Lyceum Theatre on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February at 7.45pm and a touch tour at 6.15pm.

Saturday Night Fever at the Lyceum theatre on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 at 7.45pm with a touch tour at 6.15pm.

Club Tropicana the musical at the Lyceum theatre on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March at 7.45pm with a touch tour at 6.15pm.

Hang on at the Studio theatre on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at 7.45pm with a touch tour at 6.15pm.

Victoria from the northern ballet on at the Lyceum Theatre on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at 3pm with a touch tour at 12.30pm.

American Idiot on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March at 7.45pm with a touch tour at 6.15pm.

Standing at the Sky's edge at the Crucible theatre on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of April at 7.30pm with a touch tour at 6pm.

To book tickets or for further information call the box office on 0114 249 6000 for access enquiries email [access@sheffieldtheatres.co.uk](mailto:access@sheffieldtheatres.co.uk)

Sheffield theatres also have an extensive access page on the website filled with lots of information, listings of all the audio described performances coming up and contact details etc.

So you a friend or family member go to the website

<https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/> selecting my visit and clicking on access and facilities.