



## 'KINKY BOOTS' THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CAST

BY ALONDRA LEMUS



**D**azzle, sparkle, lights, dance, and harmony will fill the stage for "Kinky Boots," when the curtain goes up on Thursday, May 25 - 27 at 8 p.m., in the main Quad.

The Grammy and Tony Award winning musical is being produced by the Theatre Academy and admission is free. Donations will be accepted at the door and Parking Lot 4 will be free as well.

The show will unfold on an open-air stage in front of the Theatre Academy Building.

The musical was chosen by none other than L.A. City College President Mary Gallagher. The cast consists of 23 members.

"The audience should be prepared to see a wonderful group of hardworking individuals having the time of their life on a magical outdoor stage," said Anna Kupersmidt, the stage manager. While "Kinky Boots" is famous for the red, high-heeled boots, most of the cast agrees that one of their favorite parts about producing the musical is the costumes.

"My favorite part is definitely the dancing, and energy of the play," said cast member Lucas Sheppe, "as well as the amazing costumes, the costume department put together to help tell this story."

Many members of the ensemble cast say there is a family-like connection between them.

The musical is based on a true story, one that is meant to be inspiring, passionate and about acceptance the crew has been putting in the work to portray just that.

"My favorite part about Kinky Boots is the music and how it tightens our bond even stronger," said Melanie Hatzzenbühler, a member of the cast ensemble playing Trish. "Singing together feels like a magical connection that we carry throughout our performance."

The musical follows the life of Charlie Price, a man who inherits his family's shoe company after the death of his father. The struggling company needs a miracle to stay open, and that miracle is none other than Lola. She is a drag queen who inspires all those around to never stop being themselves. Together, Charlie and Lola create the famous kinky boot.

"I think the Theatre Academy has done a good job of being inclusive and creating safe spaces for their students where they can listen to," said cast member Cristian Venegas.

Get ready to, dance, sing, laugh and grow emotional with songs written by Cindy Lauper, sung by the talented performers of the LACC Theatre Academy.





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PHOTOS BY LOUIS WHITE

1. "Kinky Boots," a book by Harvey Fierstein inspired a film and a musical with music and lyrics by Cyndi Lauper. An eager full house audience awaits the opening curtain on May 19, 2023.
2. The Theatre Academy's impressive and diverse cast ebbs and flows high-octane energy and tranquil moving scenes on opening night of "Kinky Boots," beneath the stars at their open air stage set in the Quad on May 19, 2023.
3. "Charlie Price" and "Lola," a cabaret drag performer turned shoe designer slay triumphant in the musical directed and choreographed by Roger Castellano on May 19, 2023.
4. Composer Cyndi Lauper's music comes to life under the guidance of music director Ben Ginsberg in the Theatre Academy's production of "Kinky Boots," at Los Angeles City College on May 19, 2023.
5. "Kinky Boots," a book turned film, now musical, delivers laughs and heartfelt moments at Los Angeles City College on May 19, 2023.
6. "Charlie Price," inherits a declining shoe factory from his father with a bright idea to turn the factory around and save jobs at Los Angeles City College. The Theatre Academy delivers curtain to curtain on May 19, 2023.