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The Denver Post

# RAIN

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Tonight!

7:30 PM

Rudder Auditorium

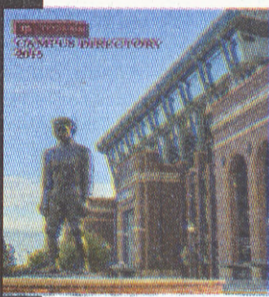
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## Lights, camera, academics

Q&amp;A: Grad student talks acting in B-CS



**James Cho** balances acting at a local theatre and earning a doctorate in telecommunication media studies.

Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

*Sam Scott, news reporter, sits down with James Cho, telecommunication and media studies graduate student and actor in the local play "Kiss Me Kate" for The Theatre Company in Bryan. Cho shares his experiences in balancing life as a student, an academic and an actor.*

**THE BATTALION:** Since performances for "Kiss Me Kate" began last Friday at The Theatre Company in Bryan, can you give us a short synopsis of the play?

**CHO:** The play, it's actually a musical that's based on the William Shakespeare play "The Taming of the Shrew," which is about a character who comes to a place in Italy called Padua, basically seeking to become rich, and he tries to marry into a very wealthy family. But the daughter that he has to marry is a very, very quarrelsome, very strong-headed woman, and it's just kind of a story of gender relations and things. It was actually kind of subversive for its time because it talked about the gender relations but, toward the end, it sort of undercuts that, and so it's just an interesting story. The musical "Kiss Me Kate" is sort of a play within a play — it's like the "Inception" of plays. So the musical is about the actors,

who put on the play, but they're also dealing with offstage life and relationships and things, and so you get to actually see two levels of things happening in the show.

**THE BATTALION:** You're playing a character named Bill Calhoun, who is also playing Lucentio. What sort of character is he?

**CHO:** Bill Calhoun, you learn very quickly that he's a compulsive gambler and he's also really sort of head over heels for one of the other characters named Lois, who's also in the production. Lois is a very loose woman, to say the least, but Bill's sort of unaware of that. He's sort of like the dupe who gets caught up in having these rose-colored glasses through which he views her. So that's the character that I play. Now the Shakespearean character that Bill plays, if you're still following me, is a character who wants to marry the younger daughter, the woman who is the younger daughter of the wealthy man, but back in the day she couldn't get married until the older daughter got married, right?

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