

SAGE/PRIME GENTLEMEN MOVIE



The entrances of drag queen Lola in *Kinky Boots* are a thing to behold – rising from a trapdoor draped in a floor-length crimson gown and wearing a curly blond wig, part Diana Ross, part Whitney Houston. The musical is based on the 2005 film inspired by the real-life story of a troubled Northampton shoe factory that switches to making thigh-high boots for drag queens. It’s a riot of feathers and sparkles, with the production going all out on the costumes.

The foil to Lola’s otherworldly glamour is the everyman character Charlie Price. Charlie is likable, directionless, pulled back home from London by the death of his father to reluctantly take over the ailing family business. A chance encounter with Lola and her friends leads to a mad scheme to save the factory, and a bit of culture clash comedy. *Kinky Boots* approaches gender and sexuality in a warm, good-humored way, and lightly explores themes of fathers and sons, expectations and acceptance.

Harvey Fierstein’s book offers a fair amount of “tell don’t show” along the way. “We may have been born in a small factory town but I sure as hell don’t intend to stay!” Charlie’s fiancé explains. **Cyndi Lauper’s** lyrics have pop music predictability, although you couldn’t call her paean to stilettos obvious (*Sex Is in the Heel*). The poppy/rock energy drives the show. And there is some Latin flair in the upfront and versatile choreography. *Kinky Boots: The Musical* is an extremely enjoyable night out, and a brilliantly unlikely story.

FRIDAY, JULY 17TH, 2026

1:30PM at the PRIDE CENTER

FREE POPCORN and SODA