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**GILBERT & SULLIVAN
SOCIETY**



THE MIKADO

Souvenir Programme 25p

BATLEY TOWN HALL 29 APRIL - 3 MAY

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BATLEY GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY
Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association
Member of Yorkshire Arts Association
presents

THE MIKADO

or
"THE TOWN OF TITIPU"

by William S. Gilbert & Arthur S. Sullivan

AT BATLEY TOWN HALL

29th APRIL to 3rd MAY, 1986

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I have pleasure in welcoming you on behalf of the Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society to our 37th Annual Production. This will be the fifth time in our history of presenting "THE MIKADO" and it still remains a firm favourite.

We are pleased to have with us once again Jim Laidlaw as Musical Director and John Broadbent as Producer and we know their task has not been easy this year in keeping us under control !

We hope you enjoy your evening with us and thank you for your continued support. It is after all, you our audience, who make all this worthwhile.

STEPHANIE ROE, Acting President.

OFFICIALS OF THE SOCIETY

Acting President : Mrs. STEPHANIE L. ROE

Vice-Presidents : Mr. J. FARQUHARSON, Mr. K. RUMBOLD

Secretary : Mrs. M. E. HARRAP

Treasurer : Mrs. B. NEWELL

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OBITUARY — Mrs. Richmond Newsome

The Society are sorry to announce the recent death of Mrs. Richmond Newsome—a founder member and principal contralto of the Society for several years. She was always a loyal and enthusiastic member and one of the happiest memories was when she appeared with her daughter Barbara as Lady Blanche and Melissa in "Princess Ida". She will be sadly missed.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 2nd November, 1986—

"MUSIC FOR ALL" — Marilyn Hill Smith & Peter Morrison

1987 Annual Production—

"YEOMEN OF THE GUARD" — 7th-11th April, 1987

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"THE MIKADO"

SYNOPSIS

ACT 1.

Nanki-Poo, son of the Mikado, disguised as a wandering minstrel, seeks information as to the whereabouts of Yum-Yum, with whom he has fallen in love a year ago. Yum-Yum, alas, was betrothed to her guardian, Ko-Ko. Learning that Ko-Ko had been sentenced to death for flirting, Nanki-Poo has returned at once to renew his courtship. As nearly everyone in Titipu was addicted to flirting, Ko-Ko was released on bail. He was appointed Executioner, provided that he cut his own head off, before beheading anyone else! Poo-Bah tells Nanki-Poo that Yum-Yum is to become Ko-Ko's bride that afternoon. Nanki-Poo meets Yum-Yum alone, reaffirms his love and reveals his true identity, telling of his flight from the unwelcome matrimonial designs of the elderly Katisha. Yum-Yum, fearful of the laws against flirting, opts to keep within the law.

In a letter to Ko-Ko the Mikado complains that no executions have taken place in Titipu for a year, and that unless this is rectified within a month the office of Executioner will be abolished and the city's status reduced to that of a village. A dejected Nanki-Poo appears rope in hand, contemplating suicide. Ko-Ko, the opportunist, tells Nanki-Poo that if he is really determined to end his life, he should forego suicide and be beheaded handsomely by the Public Executioner. Eventually Nanki-Poo consents, on condition that he is allowed to marry Yum-Yum immediately. The marriage will last for one month after which time he will lose his head. Reluctantly, Ko-Ko agrees.

ACT 2.

Yum-Yum is supremely happy as she prepares for her wedding. Her dreams are soon shattered, however, when Ko-Ko discloses that by the Mikado's Law, when a man is beheaded his wife must be buried alive! Poo-Bah announces the imminent arrival of the Mikado, so Ko-Ko thinks fast, and proposes the swearing of an affidavit stating that Nanki-Poo has been executed. He overcomes Nanki-Poo's objections by sending the lovers to the Archbishop to be married immediately. With vivid imagination Ko-Ko, Poo-Bah, and Pitti-Sing tell the Mikado their concocted story of the execution, but the Mikado is more concerned with his son's disappearance. Believing his son to be in Titipu, masquerading as a musician under the name of Nanki-Poo, the Mikado demands that they produce him.

The outlook deteriorates for Ko-Ko when Katisha, reading the death certificate, discovers the identity of the victim. The Mikado's reaction is controlled but fiendish. He toys with the trio and while apparently exonerating their mistake, spells out the punishment for compassing the death of the heir apparent. [The dialogue is a real gem]. Ko-Ko decides that Nanki-Poo must be re-incarnated. He encounters the newly-weds, honeymoon bound, but the bridegroom flatly refuses to co-operate unless Katisha's attentions can be diverted, and suggests that Ko-Ko marries her himself. Ko-Ko strongly opposes this, but as Nanki-Poo is adamant, he has no alternative. After a lightning courtship he weds her. When the Mikado arrives to witness the execution, Katisha pleads for her husband's life. The Mikado is somewhat mystified but when Nanki-Poo re-appears with his bride and explains the situation, he concedes that nothing could be more satisfactory.

STEPHEN SIMPSON.

"THE MIKADO"

CAST

The Mikado of Japan..... LYNDON WILKINSON
Nanki-Poo [his son, disguised as a
wondering minstrel, in love with
Yum-Yum]..... DAVID RODGERS
Ko-Ko [Lord High Executioner
of Titipu]..... CHRIS SOWERBY
Poo-Bah [First Lord of the Treasury
& Lord High Everything Else]..... KEITH HORNER
Pish-Tush [a Noble Lord]..... ROBERT THURMAN
Yum-Yum } Three Sisters STEPHANIE ROE
Pitti-Sing } Wards of ALISON SOWERBY
Peep-Bo } Ko-Ko SALLY ROBERTS
Katisha [an Elderly Lady,
in love with Nanki-Poo]..... SARAH LEACH

CHORUS OF SCHOOLGIRLS, NOBLES, GUARDS & COOLIES

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Coolies : MELANIE JACKSON, RACHEL ROE

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RACHEL CROFT
JUDITH GILL
MARGARET LISTER
MARY LUDFORD
VERITY THOMAS
RUTH TROUT
DOROTHY WHITWORTH

Men's Chorus :

KEITH COOPER
PETER NEWELL
VERNON NEWMAN
MALCOLM PARKINSON
BARRY PEARSON
ERIC TESTER
IAN TOWNEND
JOHN WHITEHEAD

Act 1—Courtyard of Ko-Ko's Official Residence.

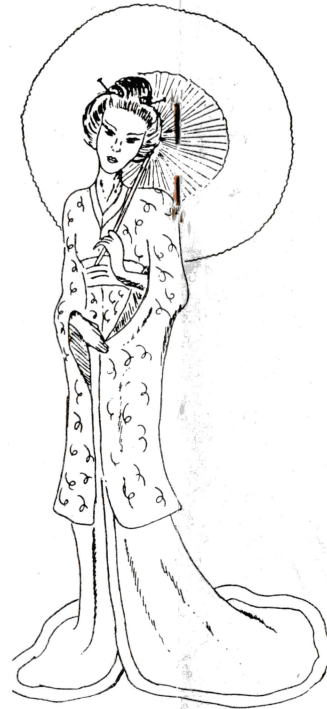
Act 2—Ko-Ko's Garden.

THE MIKADO

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

1. CHORUS OF MEN
"If you want to know who we are"
2. SONG & CHORUS [Nanki-Poo]
"A wand'ring minstrel I"
3. SONG [Pish-Tush & Chorus]
"Our great Mikado, virtuous man"
4. SONG [Poo-Bah, with Nanki-Poo & Pish-Tush]
"Young man, despair, likewise go to"
- 4a. RECITATIVE [Nanki-Poo & Poo-Bah]
"And have I journey'd for a month"
5. CHORUS WITH SOLO [Ko-Ko]
"Behold the Lord High Executioner"
6. CHORUS OF GIRLS
"Comes a train of little ladies"
7. TRIO [Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo & Pitti-Sing
with Chorus of Girls]
"Three little maids from school"
8. QUARTET [Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing
& Poo-Bah with Chorus of Girls]
"So please you, sir, we much regret"
9. DUET [Yum-Yum & Nanki-Poo]
"Were I not to Ko-Ko plighted"
10. SONG [Ko-Ko with Chorus of Men]
"As some day it may happen"
11. TRIO [Ko-Ko, Poo-Bah & Pish-Tush]
"I am so proud"
12. FINALE, ACT 1
"With aspect stern and gloomy stride"



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 2

1. SOLO [Pitti-Sing & Chorus of Girls]
"Braid the raven hair"
2. SONG [Yum-Yum]
"The sun, whose rays are all ablaze"
3. MADRIGAL [Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing,
Nanki-Poo & Pish-Tush]
"Brightly dawns our wedding day"
4. TRIO [Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo & Ko-Ko]
"Here's a how-de-do! If I marry you"
5. ENTRANCE OF MIKADO & KATISHA
"Mi-ya-sa-ma, mi-ya-sa-ma"
6. SONG [Mikado & Chorus]
"A more humane Mikado never did in
Japan exist"
7. TRIO & CHORUS [Pitti-Sing, Ko-Ko,
Poo-Bah & Chorus]
"The criminal cried as he dropped him down"
8. GLEE [Pitti-Sing, Katisha, Ko-Ko,
Poo-Bah & Mikado]
"See how the Fates their gifts allot"
9. DUET [Nanki-Poo & Ko-Ko
with Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing & Poo-Bah]
"The flowers that bloom in the spring"
10. RECITATIVE & SONG [Katisha]
"Alone, and yet alive"
11. SONG [Ko-Ko]
"On a tree by a river, a little
Tom-tit sang, Willow, tit-willow"
12. DUET [Katisha & Ko-Ko]
"There is beauty in the bellow of the blast"
13. FINALE, ACT 2
"For he's gone and married Yum-Yum"

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May we take this opportunity to express thanks to the following :

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Musical Director : JIM LAIDLAW
Accompanist : SUSAN WILKINSON
Orchestra : RAY THOMPSON
Scenic Artist : PETER STUBBINGS
Stage Crew : MAURICE HARRAP,
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To 'Aladdins Cave' and 'C. T. Autys' for acting as booking agents.

To any person not mentioned previously who have contributed in any way to the production.

BATLEY GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

The Society was formed in 1949 and has presented all the Gilbert & Sullivan operettas. Originally based at Hanover Street Congregational Church and Cross Bank United Church, the Society now meets to rehearse at St. Andrew's Church Schoolroom at Mount Pleasant on Wednesday evenings. Why not come and join us either to sing or help "backstage", you will be made very welcome.

Full details may be obtained from our Secretary :
Mrs. M. E. HARRAP,
197 Soothill Lane, Batley. Tel. Batley 472962

PRODUCER'S NOTES

The Mikado is undoubtedly the most popular of all the Gilbert & Sullivan operas; the very fact of its popularity brings its own problems—everyone has preconceptions of how it should be done. This production is essentially traditional but is different in one or two aspects from the usual presentation. Firstly the “list song” of Ko-Ko has been restored to its original position and Yum-Yum’s half of the “kissing duet” with Nanki-Poo has also been restored.

As always there have been numerous rehearsal problems—it is not easy to bring together the various members of the chorus and principals to rehearse the right bits on the right nights. Illness has also taken its toll hence our reduced chorus this year.

Much hard work has been put in by the members and I hope you enjoy the fruits of their labours.

JOHN BROADBENT.

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1949	The Mikado	1968	The Mikado
1950	Iolanthe	1969	The Grand Duke
1951	The Pirates of Penzance	1970	The Gondoliers
1952	The Gondoliers	1971	Patience
1953	Ruddigore	1972	Iolanthe
1954	H.M.S. Pinafore	1973	The Pirates of Penzance
1955	The Yeomen of the Guard	1974	Trial by Jury & H.M.S. Pinafore
1956	Princess Ida	1975	Ruddigore
1957	Utopia Ltd.	1976	Princess Ida
1958	Patience	1977	The Mikado
1959	The Mikado	1978	The Yeomen of the Guard
1960	Iolanthe	1979	The Pirates of Penzance
1961	The Gondoliers	1980	The Sorcerer
1962	The Pirates of Penzance	1981	The Gondoliers
1963	Ruddigore	1982	Princess Ida
1964	Princess Ida	1983	Iolanthe
1965	The Yeomen of the Guard	1984	Trial by Jury & H.M.S. Pinafore
1966	Trial by Jury & H.M.S. Pinafore	1985	Patience
1967	The Sorcerer		

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