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For further information please contact the School Secretary on **01924 422215** or by email to admin@dhschool.freemove.co.uk and see our website www.dhschool.co.uk

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in all areas October 2013 -
ISI Inspection Report

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Acknowledgements

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Musical Director
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Understudy for Yum-Yum
Bookings Team
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Nicholas Whitaker
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Debbie Moores
Robert Thurman
Tracey Hook
James Newby Music
Stephanie Roe

*With thanks to our Orchestra, front of house staff
and all who have helped with this production*

Society Officials

President: Stephanie Roe, **Secretary:** Lyndsey Hall **Treasurer:** Robert Thurman
Executive Committee: Ali Burton, Tracey Hook, Deirdre O'Shea,
Catherine Roberts, Debbie Moores

Honorary Life Members of the Society

Mrs M Harrap, Mr K Horner, Mrs M Newell, Mrs S L Roe, Mrs S Roberts,
Mr C R Thurman, Mr G Weston

NODA Long Service Medal Holders

Mr K Horner, Mrs C Parkinson, Mr M G Parkinson, Mrs S Roberts, Mrs S L Roe,
Mr C J Sowerby, Mr C R Thurman, Mrs K Thurman, Mr I Townend

Invited Guests

The Auditions Panel: Mrs Jayne Griffin, Mr Ian Abbott and Mr Michael Littlewood
The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Kirklees, Cllr Ken Smith and Cllr Christine Smith
Representatives from Leeds, Halifax, Harrogate, Wakefield and Haworth
G & S Societies, Batley Amateur Thespians Society, Carlinghow Theatre Company,
Dewsbury Arts Group and Dewsbury Collegians, Mr Noel Rigg & Guest (NODA)
Mr Malcolm Haigh

In memory of Tracey, a much loved friend, with love from Debbie and Rob

Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society

社長からの歓迎

Welcome from the President

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to *The Mikado*, our 66th production and the eighth time we have presented this particular show in our history.

The Mikado was written at a time when relations between Gilbert and Sullivan were strained and the partnership in danger of being dissolved. The story goes that a Japanese executioner's sword fell from the wall of Gilbert's study and crashed to the floor. This incident, it is alleged, inspired Gilbert to set the next opera in Japan with an executioner as one of its leading characters. The result was *The Mikado*, Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular opera which enjoyed an initial run of 672 performances at the Savoy Theatre starting from 14th March 1885.

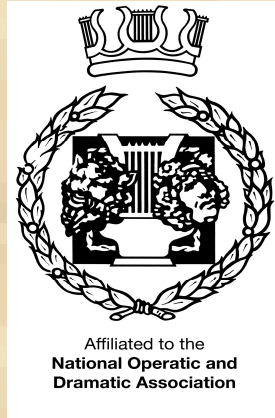
Our production this year is dedicated to the memory of Barry Pearson, one of our life members who died last year and who joined the Society in 1959.

We have a new direction team this year: we are pleased to welcome Nicholas Whitaker as our Musical Director and it is a great honour for me to have been invited to make my directorial debut with the Society. It is in fact also a role reversal as our director from last year, Becky Gregson-Flynn, joined the cast this year in the role of Katisha, a part I have taken on the last two occasions the Society has presented *The Mikado*.

So please sit back and join us on our visit to the Japanese seaside town of Titipu where you will find our town band, noble lords and our three little maids with their school friends and guardians as they make preparations for the visit of the Emperor of Japan and entourage.

We hope you enjoy the performance as much as we have enjoyed rehearsing for it. Thank you once again for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you back next year for our double bill of *Trial By Jury* and *HMS Pinafore*.

Stephanie Roe



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Would you like to join us?

We rehearse every Wednesday at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Hall, Purlwell, Batley.

For further details visit our illustrated website www.batleygands.org.uk

or contact Lyndsey Hall on 01924 525417

The plot

ACT I - In the Courtyard of Ko-Ko's Official Residence in Titipu.

The act opens with a group of Japanese nobles in characteristic attitudes. Nanki-Poo, the son of the Mikado masquerading as a musician, returns to Titipu eagerly seeking Yum-Yum, as he has heard that Ko-Ko was condemned to death for flirting. He introduces himself, and, to his dismay, he learns from Pish-Tush that although Ko-Ko was indeed to have been beheaded, he was reprieved at the last moment and made Lord High Executioner instead. As the criminals must be executed in order, and Ko-Ko was next to be executed, no one else can be executed until Ko-Ko cuts off his own head.

For a small fee, Pooh-Bah, a ponderous aggregation of conflicts of interest, reveals that Yum-Yum is on her way home from school and will be wed to Ko-Ko this very afternoon. The nobles herald the appearance of Ko-Ko who explains how he became the Lord High Executioner. He is full of ideas for his first official victim. He discusses with Pooh-Bah the plans for his forthcoming marriage.

A procession of school girls arrives, followed by Yum-Yum and her sisters, Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo. Yum-Yum greets her betrothed decidedly less enthusiastically than she does Nanki-Poo. Ko-Ko introduces Pooh-Bah, who greets the girls very reluctantly. They respond teasingly.

Taking advantage of a few minutes alone with Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo declares his love and shares with her the secret of his identity. Because of the excessive laws against flirting, Yum-Yum urges him to stay away from her. Nanki-Poo devises a plan to flirt by considering what they could do if it weren't for the law.

Ko-Ko, meanwhile, has received a letter from the Mikado, who is concerned that there have been no recent executions in Titipu and threatens severe repercussions if one does not take place within a month, including reducing the town to the rank of a village. Although, as Pooh-Bah points out, Ko-Ko is next in line for that honour, Ko-Ko understandably would prefer to find a substitute. Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah, and Pish-Tush debate who should be executed.

Ko-Ko discovers Nanki-Poo preparing to terminate his existence rather than face life without Yum-Yum, and the two men strike a bargain: Ko-Ko agrees to let Nanki-Poo marry Yum-Yum now, and, in return, Nanki-Poo agrees to let Ko-Ko behead him at the end of the month and marry his widow.

The townsmen want to know how Ko-Ko will comply with the Mikado's decree. Ko-Ko introduces Nanki-Poo as his volunteer, and Nanki-Poo embraces Yum-Yum. All rejoice over this resolution, but the festivities are rudely interrupted by the appearance of Katisha. All cower except Pitti-Sing, who taunts Katisha. Katisha grieves her lost love. Furious at Nanki-Poo's rejection, she attempts to reveal his true identity. She is silenced by the crowd, but vows revenge.

This page has been sponsored by Keith Horner with thanks to all those who have assisted with scenery production over the last eleven years

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The ladies chorus

Kathryn Thurman, Caroline Pringle, Carol Parkinson, Deirdre O'Shea, Jennifer Day, Lyndsey Hall, Debbie Moores, Helen Carbutt, Catherine Roberts, Martina O'Rourke, Tracey Hook



The gentlemen's chorus

Fintan O'Shea, Alan Evans, Kelvyn Waites, AJ Jno-Baptiste, Eoin O'Shea, Clive Daniel

ACT II - Ko-Ko's Garden, Later the Same Day

As the act begins, Yum-Yum's sisters and friends are helping her make ready for her wedding. She concludes that she is more lovely than any other woman because she is a child of nature and takes after her mother.

Yum-Yum and her sisters are sad at the thought of the very brief marriage, and Nanki-Poo enters and tries to lift their spirits. The wedding plans are disrupted by Ko-Ko's revelation that, under the Mikado's law, when a married man is beheaded, his wife must be buried alive. Yum-Yum's enthusiasm for the marriage is suddenly diminished.

To spare Yum-Yum this grim fate, Nanki-Poo decides to kill himself at once. This, however, would leave Ko-Ko with nobody to behead - just as word arrives that the Mikado is at this very minute approaching Titipu. Nanki-Poo offers himself for immediate decapitation, but Ko-Ko is not equal to the task. Ko-Ko realizes, though, that he can accomplish the same purpose by swearing a false affidavit that he has done the deed, provided that Nanki-Poo leaves at once and never comes back. Since Nanki-Poo will not leave otherwise, Ko-Ko sends Yum-Yum with him, and the happy couple goes off to be married just as the Mikado enters the town.

As the Mikado enters, he describes how he, in a fatherly kind of way, governs each tribe and sect. Then he describes how he wants to make the punishment fit the crime.

The Mikado is delighted that an execution has taken place, and is eager to hear the details. Ko-Ko, assisted by Pitti-Sing and Pooh-Bah, provides a highly creative description of the execution.

The Mikado's visit, however, concerns another matter: at Katisha's prompting, he is seeking the whereabouts of his son. Unfortunately, this turns out to be Nanki-Poo, the man Ko-Ko has just testified he beheaded. Ko-Ko and his accomplices are declared guilty of "compassing the death of the Heir Apparent" and scheduled to die after luncheon - "something humorous, but lingering, with either boiling oil or melted lead."

The Mikado declares that he is sorry for them, but it is an unjust world, and virtue is triumphant only in theatrical performances. Their only hope is to admit the falsehood of the affidavit and of their testimony, and produce Nanki-Poo alive and well. Nanki-Poo, however, having already married Yum-Yum, is no longer free to marry Katisha and thus cannot reveal himself without risking both his own life and his wife's. Ko-Ko is left with no other choice but to woo, win, and wed Katisha himself.

Katisha is very upset over the loss of Nanki-Poo. She at first refuses Ko-Ko, but on hearing him sing the touching ballad Tit Willow, she relents and accepts him.

Nanki-Poo then returns to life and presents himself - and his new bride - to his father. Ko-Ko devises an explanation of his subterfuge that satisfies the Mikado, who commutes his death sentence to one of life with Katisha. All ends with laughing song and merry dance.

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Accompanist - John Hall



This is John's sixth show with Batley G & S. Over the years he has accompanied Dewsbury Collegians, Batley Amateur Thespian Society and Dewsbury Concert Society. He is a member of Mirfield Choral Society and also sings with the Longcauseway Church Choir in Dewsbury.

John is a valued member of our team and we enjoy working with him. Thanks for all your hard work!

Scenic Artist - Keith Horner



Keith joined the Society in 1976 as a performer, taking principal roles in most of Gilbert & Sullivan's operettas. He was also a member of our committee for many years. On retiring from the stage, he offered his artistic talents, becoming our designer and scenic artist, producing some wonderful sets over the last eleven years. Keith has now decided to close up his paint box and lay down Auntie Elsie's yardstick. The Society has been provided with some truly wonderful sets and thanks Keith for the many hours of hard work he has given, wishing him a happy 'retirement'.

The Mikado David Parker

This is David's fourth show at Batley, having made his first appearance as Guiseppe in *The Gondoliers* at the Little Theatre in 2008. He is well versed in the lore of Gilbert & Sullivan, and has performed with many local Societies, including Leeds and Wakefield. David also performs a wide variety of roles and is currently in rehearsal with Dewsbury Collegians as Emile de Becque in Rogers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. He is delighted to be back in Batley in the familiar role of the Mikado of Japan.



Katisha Becky Gregson-Flynn

Becky has been performing in Gilbert & Sullivan for a number of years now. Having gained a first class honours undergraduate degree in Music & Classics from Keele University (specialising in Opera and American Music), she returned home where she was roped into G & S as Pitti-Sing and has never looked back. Katisha is the one remaining female G & S role she wanted to do. Becky has more recently used her experience in stage direction, producing Batley's presentation of *Ruddigore* in the Town Hall last year.



Pish-Tush David Hall

David Hall has been involved with Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society for fifteen years, his first show being *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1999. His principal performances have included Captain Corcoran (*HMS Pinafore*), Pish-Tush (*The Mikado*), Richard Dauntless (*Ruddigore*), Antonio (*The Gondoliers*), and The Pirate King (*The Pirates of Penzance*). He was the society's Musical Director for *Princess Ida* in 2004, *The Sorcerer* in 2008 and *The Yeomen of the Guard* in 2012, and has also been MD for Batley Amateur Thespian Society, Carlinghow Theatre Company and the Batley Jubilee Chorus.

David has held the position of conductor of Mirfield Choral Society since 1998. Besides conducting, performing and teaching, he is organist and choirmaster at Longcauseway Church.



This page has been kindly sponsored by Councillor and Mrs David Hall

Barry Pearson 1933 - 2013

Barry was born in Hunsworth, Cleckheaton. He grew up in Liversedge and attended Heckmondwike Grammar School. He trained as a teacher and worked at Birkenshaw Junior School, before going on to become a head teacher at a tiny infants school in Norwood Green, Halifax. He subsequently worked in North Yorkshire standing in for absent head teachers.

He enjoyed ballroom dancing and amateur operatics, joining Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 1959, both as a performer and later as an active member of the committee. He was elected President for a two year term in 1976. Even after his retirement from the stage, Barry continued to participate in concerts and served as Treasurer for several years. He was awarded life membership and continued to attend rehearsals, where he prepared refreshments for the interval.

Barry in 'The Sorcerer'

Barry had an eclectic taste in music although he had an aversion to piped music being played in shops. He was a member of an organisation called 'Pipe Down'. Along with

his neighbour, Jean, he was instrumental in stopping Sainsbury's café playing piped music.

It was Barry who first welcomed me to the Society when I joined in 1976. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. When I in turn became President of the Society I had the great honour in 2009 of presenting him with his NODA gold medal to celebrate fifty years' service to the amateur stage, which he was very proud to receive.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



A rollicking band - Pirates of Penzance, 1989



With good friend, Eddie Thompson in 1969

*Robert Thurman
with thanks to Diane, Jean and Bev*



Previous Mikado productions

Yum-Yum

Anna Trent

Anna graduated from the University of Huddersfield in 2006 after completing a BMus (Hons) and an M.A. in performance. Since then she has received frequent invitations to perform in concerts and recitals up and down the country. Anna has taken many of the lead Gilbert & Sullivan soprano roles for local societies in West Yorkshire and is pleased to return for a fourth year to Batley.



Pitti-Sing Liz Blount

The first Gilbert & Sullivan show Liz appeared in was *The Mikado*, where she played the part of Pitti-Sing and at that time was indeed a little maid from school. In a bid to prove you are never too old to hang up your kimono, she is delighted to be revisiting the part in this year's show. She joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 2012 and took the part of Phoebe in *Yeomen of the Guard*. During her time in amateur dramatics, she has played a wide spectrum of roles from Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* to the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*. Her favourite role however has to be Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. Liz wishes you an enjoyable theatrical interlude, and hopes it ticks every box on your little list.



Peep-Bo Rebekah Barker

Working in logistics for a generator hire company, Rebekah's G & S life began in Leeds when she appeared in the chorus of *Ruddigore* and *Princess Ida*. Rebekah was fascinated with music from a very young age - her parents realised that it was going to get interesting when she began playing TV theme tunes by ear on her sister's recorder as a toddler. She trained as a classical guitarist and pianist before beginning singing lessons at 16 when she began studying for her A-Levels in Music and Music Technology. Since then she has enjoyed performing as a soloist and with mixed choirs across Lancashire, North and West Yorkshire and is now excited to be undertaking her first principal role as Peep-Bo. When not tormenting her husband with hours of practice in their Batley home Rebekah enjoys reading fantasy fiction and baking tasty treats.





Nanki-Poo Leon Waksberg

Leon began singing in 2000 when he joined the Gilbert & Sullivan Society at Bradford University, playing Pish-Tush in *The Mikado*. Since then he has stayed in the area, and has played all but one of the leading tenor and 'juvenile baritone' roles in many of the local G & S societies. Leon has also performed major tenor roles in operas by Mozart, Verdi, Weber, Massenet, Prokofiev, Smetana and a few others, as well as a small number of musicals. Last year, Leon composed and played the music for an original musical theatre piece "47 Sonnets of Self-Repair", which was performed at the Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds. Next month, Leon will be making his professional G & S debut when he will be take part in a production of *The Gondoliers* with Opera Della Luna at the Salford Lowry.

Pooh-Bah Robert Thurman

Robert joined the Society in 1976 and has performed principal roles in all thirteen of Gilbert & Sullivan's operettas, including the rarely staged *Grand Duke*. He was introduced to G & S by his parents, who had performed in local church societies: his grandfather being Musical Director for the Springfield Amateur Dramatic Society's productions of *Yeomen of The Guard* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Pooh-Bah is a particular favourite for Robert, who won a NODA award for playing the part in Halifax in 2005. Robert has also performed with Heckmondwike Players in the lead role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and as Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady*.



Ko-Ko Chris Hall

Chris has been involved with local amateur theatre for over ten years, and even has a little badge to prove it (if you ask him nicely he might show it to you). He has taken parts both large and small in musicals from *Oklahoma* to *Little Shop of Horrors*, with societies including Batley Amateur Thespians, Carlinghow Theatre Company and Heckmondwike Players. Last year he joined the chorus of Batley G & S for their production of *Ruddigore* and found it so much fun he auditioned for and was given the part of Ko-Ko, following in the footsteps of his brother David, who played the part over 25 years ago with the Dewsbury Junior Collegians. Chris hopes to be a part of future productions with the Society and has already volunteered to design and help build the scenery for next year's show.



Our Production Team

Stephanie Roe - Director



Stephanie was introduced to Gilbert & Sullivan at a very tender age and the first show she saw was *The Mikado*. A member of the society since 1967, the first show she appeared in was *The Mikado* so it is appropriate that she also chose it for her directorial debut. Performing and directing both run in the family as her grandmother was a singer and her great-aunt directed *The Mikado* in the 1930s at the Gospel Hall, Mount Pleasant.

She has taken many principal roles over the years with the Society including Yum-Yum, Katisha and a female version of Pish-Tush (*Mikado*), Mabel (*Pirates*), Rose, Mad Margaret and last year Dame Hannah (*Ruddigore*), Tessa, Casilda and the Duchess (*Gondoliers*), Phoebe and Dame Carruthers (*Yeomen*) to name but a few.

Nicholas Whitaker Musical Director

In this, his first season with Batley G & S, Nicholas is proud to be continuing the family tradition of making his directing debut with *The Mikado*; his father, Martin, now known locally for taking bass principal roles, did exactly the same with Halifax YMCA.

Hailing originally from the North Riding, Nicholas began his musical education as a chorister at Wakefield Cathedral under Jonathan Bielby. While reading for an Honours degree in music at Edinburgh, he studied the organ with John Kitchen and conducting with David Lawrence. He also held a choral scholarship at S. Mary's Cathedral - the only cathedral in Scotland maintaining a daily, 'English' choral tradition. After postgraduate study down south (the Scottish weather was becoming a nuisance) he returned to his native Yorkshire in 2010.

As well as directing at Batley, Nicholas is Chorus Master to Harrogate Gilbert & Sullivan Society and after Easter will take up the post of Choral Director at S. Bartholomew's Church, Armley in Leeds, working with the world-famous Schulze organ.

In his free time, of which there is precious little, Nicholas enjoys real ale, cricket, driving his convertible MG and trying to shock societies with the violence of the socks he wears while conducting.



Dramatis Personae

The Mikado of Japan

Nanki-Poo (*his Son, disguised as a wandering minstrel. in love with Yum Yum*)

Ko-Ko (*Lord High Executioner of Titipu*)

Pooh-Bah (*Lord High Everything Else*)

Pish Tush (*a Noble Lord*)

Yum-Yum

Pitti-Sing *Three Sisters - Wards of Ko-Ko*

Peep-Bo

Katisha (*an elderly lady, in love with Nanki-Poo*)

David Parker

Leon Waksberg

Chris Hall

Robert Thurman

David Hall

Anna Trent

Liz Blount

Rebekah Barker

Becky Gregson-Flynn

Chorus of Schoolgirls, and Nobles

Helen Carbutt, Clive Daniel, Jennifer Day, Alan Evans, Lyndsey Hall,
Tracey Hook, AJ Jno-Baptiste, Debbie Moores, Martina O'Rourke,
Deirdre O'Shea, Eoin O'Shea, Fintan O'Shea, Carol Parkinson,
Caroline Pringle, Catherine Roberts, Kathryn Thurman and Kelvyn Waites

Musical Numbers

Act I Overture

1. "If you want to know who we are!" *Chorus of Nobles*
2. "A wand'ring minstrel I" *Nanki-Poo and chorus of nobles*
3. "Our great Mikado, virtuous man" *Pish-Tush and chorus of nobles*
4. "Young man, despair, likewise go to" *Pooh-Bah, Pish-Tush and Nanki-Poo*
- 4a. "And have I journey'd for a month" *Nanki-Poo and Pooh-Bah*
5. "Behold the Lord High Executioner" *Ko-Ko with chorus of nobles*
- 5a. "As some day it may happen" *Ko-Ko with chorus of nobles*
6. "Comes a train of little ladies" *Chorus of girls*
7. "Three little maids from school are we" *Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo and chorus of girls*
8. "So please you, sir, we much regret" *Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo, Pooh-Bah and chorus of girls*
9. "Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted" *Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo*
10. "I am so proud" *Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pish-Tush*
11. Finale Act I "With aspect stern and gloomy stride"

Act II

12. "Braid the raven hair" *Pitti-Sing and chorus of girls*
13. "The sun, whose rays are all ablaze" *Yum-Yum*
14. "Brightly dawns our wedding day" *Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo, Pitti-Sing and Pish-Tush*
15. "Here's a how-de-do! If I marry you" *Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko*
16. "Mi-ya-sa-ma, mi-ya-sa-ma!" *Katisha, The Mikado and chorus*
17. "A more humane Mikado never did in Japan exist" *The Mikado and chorus*
18. "The criminal cried as he dropped him down" *Ko-Ko, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah and chorus*
19. "See how the fates their gifts allot" *The Mikado, Katisha, Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pitti-Sing*
20. "The flowers that bloom in the spring" *Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum with Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pitti-Sing*
21. "Alone, and yet alive" *Katisha*
22. "On a tree by a willow a little Tom-tit sang Willow, Tit-willow" *Ko-Ko*
23. "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast" *Katisha and Ko-Ko*
24. Finale Act II "For he's gone and married Yum-Yum"

Our 2015 production will be.....

'HMS Pinafore' & 'Trial by Jury'



Batley Town Hall, 22nd ~ 25th April 2015