



THE MIKADO

AN OPERETTA.

BY GILBERT & SULLIVAN



THE MIKADO
OR
THE TOWN OF TITIPU
by

W S Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan

'The Mikado', which has become over the years perhaps the best known of all Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas, opened at the Savoy Theatre in London on 14 March, 1885, just one hundred years to the day from our opening night at KGV.

The fanciful plot centres around Ko-Ko, a cheap tailor, who has recently been reprieved from a death sentence (imposed for flirting) and raised to the rank of Lord High Executioner, on the grounds that he could not cut off anyone else's head until he had cut his own off! He is the guardian of three sisters, one of whom, Yum-Yum, has fallen in love with Nanki-Poo, the son of the Mikado (Emperor of Japan). Nanki-Poo, disguised as a musician in the Titipu Town Band, has fled the Court to avoid having to comply with his father's order to marry Katisha, 'an elderly lady' of the Imperial entourage. However, Nanki-Poo's love for Yum-Yum appears doomed as Ko-Ko intends to marry his ward himself.

At this point a letter from the Mikado arrives, noting that no executions have taken place for a year and decreeing that unless someone is beheaded within a month, Ko-Ko's post will be abolished and Titipu reduced to the rank of a village.

Convinced that life without Yum-Yum is not worth living, Nanki-Poo prepares to hang himself, but is stopped by Ko-Ko, who persuades him to be beheaded 'handsomely' instead at the hands of the Public Executioner. In return for this agreement, Nanki-Poo will be allowed to be married to Yum-Yum for a month before his execution, after which Ko-Ko will marry her himself. - General rejoicing at this arrangement is cut short dramatically by the arrival of Katisha, who claims her 'perjur'd lover', Nanki-Poo. The lovers, backed by everyone else, decide to ignore Katisha's demands and marry anyway.

Act II opens with preparations for the wedding, but again the lovers' hopes are dashed when they learn that, according to the Mikado's law, when a married man is beheaded, his wife must be buried alive. This discovery cools the lovers' ardour somewhat and they part.

We next hear that the Mikado and his suite are approaching the city, to see whether the imperial decree to behead someone has been acted upon. Ko-Ko confesses to Nanki-Poo and Pooh-Bah (Lord High Everything Else) that he couldn't really kill even a fly and all agree to swear to the fiction that Nanki-Poo's execution has taken place. A certificate of death is then produced and handed to the Mikado on his arrival in Titipu. Unfortunately, Katisha recognises Nanki-Poo's name on the certificate and the horrible realisation that the Heir Apparent has been slain dawns on everyone. Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pitti-Sing (Yum-Yum's sister) are subsequently condemned to death for their part in this 'crime'.

A way out of the situation is provided by Ko-Ko, who persuades Katisha to marry him. This frees Nanki-Poo from his obligation to her and he is left free to marry Yum-Yum. Ko-Ko and his accomplices are pardoned by the Mikado when the truth is made known and the Finale opens with rejoicing at the news that Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum are now married.

J.H.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

THE MIKADO OF JAPAN

NANKI-POO (his son, disguised as a
wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum)

ROBERT PASWATERS

JOHN ARMSTRONG

KO-KO (Lord High Executioner of Titipu)

BRIAN WEIDEMANN

ASSISTANT TO KO-KO

DANIEL YOUNG

POOH-BAH (Lord High Everything Else)

HUW BEMENT

PISH-TUSH (A Noble Lord)

JEFFREY LIU

YUM-YUM

DEIRDRE TATLOW

PITTI-SING Three sisters, Wards of Ko-Ko

JEAN BRODIE

PEEP-BO

LAURA BRAY

KATISHA (an Elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo)

RACHEL CROSSLEY

CHORUS OF SCHOOLGIRLS, NOBLES AND GUARDS

Eilen	Bengtsson	Jetty	Lee	Yvonne	Withers
Aimi	Bhatt	Jane	Lee	Vivien	Wong
Alison	Bowley	Keena	Leung	Semele	Yuen
Samantha	Brown	Winnie	Li	David	Barrass
Sunita	Chainrai	Yun Yun	Mak	Raymond	Chee
Bonita	Chaw	Rozana	Marzook	Timothy	Chow
Emily	Chin	Gillian	McCormack	Martin	Coe
I-Han	Chou	Sunita	Mirpuri	James	Epp
Joanna	Clinton	Natalie	Murrell	Jason	Holdaway
Jacqui	Cutting	Enakshi	Navaratnarajah	Jonathan	Hoy
Heeru	Dadlani	Jennie	Oliveiro	Myron	Hsu
Alison	Daniel	Cheng	Ong	Joseph	Leigh
Amanda	Fleming	Tamara	Pereira	Kevin	Morris
Amanda	Hall	Laura	Remedios	Gordon	Palmer
Katrina	Hall	Patricia	Remedios	Dale	Raynes
Julie-Anne	Harrison	Carole	Robson	Paul	Reid
Mary	Hay	Sujatha	Simon	Geoffrey	Siddle
Imogene	Heathcote	Sun Ching	Siu	Philip	Sohn
Emma	Holdaway	Miranda	Stewart	Arron	Tun
Lisa	Ip	Jennie	Tse	David	Van Tassel
Nita	Jeswani	Mona	Vaswani	Cliff	Watson
Carline	Lee	Natalie	Ward	Keith	Weng

MUSICAL NUMBERS
ACT I

- No.
1. CHORUS OF MEN
"If you want to know who we are"
 2. SONG AND CHORUS (Nanki-Poo)
"A wand'ring minstrel I"
 3. SONG (Pish-Tush Chorus)
"Our great Mikado, virtuous man"
 4. SONG (Pooh-Bah, with Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush)
"Young man, despair, likewise go to"
 - 4a. RECITATIVE (Nanki-Poo and Pooh-Bah)
"And have I journey'd for a month"
 5. CHORUS WITH SOLO (Ko-Ko)
"Behold the Lord High Executioner"
 - 5a. SONG (Koko, with Chorus of Men)
"As some day it may happen"
 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. QUARTER (Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing and Pooh-Bah, with Chorus of Girls)
"So please you, sir, we much regret"
 9. DUET (Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo)
"Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted"
 10. TRIO (Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pish-Tush)
"I am so proud"
 11. FINALE, ACT I
"With aspect stern and gloomy stride"

ACT II

- No.
1. SOLO (Pitti-Sing and 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, and Pish-Tush)
"Brightly dawns our wedding day"
 4. TRIO (Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo, and Ko-Ko)
"Here's a how-de-do! If I marry you"
 5. ENTRANCE OF MIKADO AND KATISHA
"Mi-ya-sa-ma, mi-ya-sa-ma"
 6. SONG (Mikado and Chorus)
"A more humane Mikado never did in Japan exist"
 7. TRIO AND CHORUS (Pitti-Sing, Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah, and Chorus)
"The criminal cried as he dropped him down"
 8. DUET (Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko, with Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, and Pooh-Bah)
"The flowers that bloom in the spring"
 9. RECITATIVE AND SONG (Katisha)
"Alone and yet alive"
 10. SONG (Ko-Ko)
"On a tree by a river, a little Tom-tit sang, Willow, tit-willow"
 11. DUET (Katisha and Ko-Ko)
"There is a beauty in the bellow of the blast"
 12. FINALE, ACT II
"For he's gone and married Yum-Yum"

PRODUCTION TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

SET DESIGN

PROGRAMME AND POSTER DESIGN

COSTUME DESIGN AND
PRODUCTION

STAGE MANAGEMENT

SET CONSTRUCTION

Bill Thomson

Jim Henderson

Peter Hindes

Ying-Mei Chong

Ying-Mei Chong

Sue Lonsdale
(assisted by Immy Ryan)

Rusty Fone

Alan Cutting
(assisted by Carole Robson)

Peter Doyle
Terry Byrnes
Mr Chan Shing Foon
Mr Lee Shing

Assisted by:
Joseph Leigh
Timothy Chow
Nicholas O'Dell
Kevin Morris
Frances Galloway
Katrina Hall
and many others.

MAKE-UP

Sue Charlton
Patricia Remedios
and their assistants
(under the supervision of Mrs K T Chin)

Pauline Remedios
Carmen Anderson

DECORATION OF FANS

Paula Holloway

LIGHTING

Geoff Coombs
Richard Stevenson
and assistants

Andrew Robinson
Mr Tao Sui Yuen

PROMPTERS AND
CURTAIN OPERATORS

Julia Deas
Jarrod Poynton

Vicki Steil

FRONT OF HOUSE

Tony Gough

REFRESHMENTS

Kathy Raynes

PUBLICITY

Rod Minns

CAR PARKING

Dave Eames

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