



**HALIFAX  
GILBERT AND  
SULLIVAN SOCIETY**



*Producer: Margaret Schofield  
Musical Director: Colin Akers*



*Tuesday November 4 to  
Saturday November 8 2003*

**M  
I  
K  
A  
D  
O**





## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It seems no time at all since I welcomed our supporters to our production of *Ruddigore*, but twelve months have since elapsed, and I now take great pleasure in welcoming you all to our new production of *The Mikado*.

This is without doubt the most popular and successful of the Savoy operas, and ran for some 672 performances after it first opened at the Savoy Theatre in 1885.

Last year's team of Colin Akers (with the baton) and Margaret Schofield (with the book) have again combined to put us through our paces, and we have been blessed with a most accomplished and responsive rehearsal pianist in Catherine Warwick.



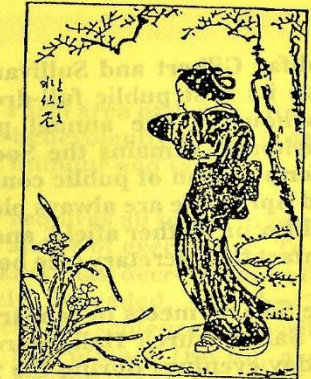
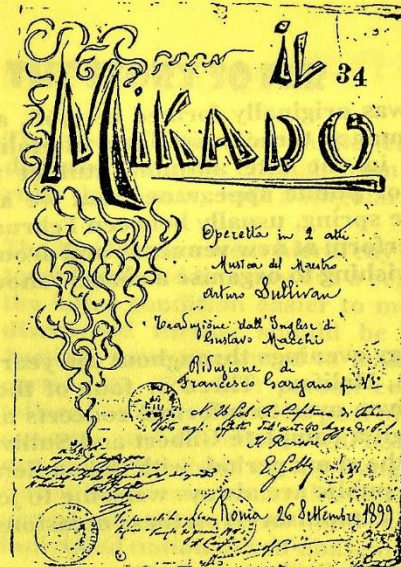
Behind the scenes John Worriow and Mike Whitwam have designed and built another set for us, and we are grateful to both of them for the many hours they have put in. Embellishing this set (and the cast) once more are Ian Stead's costumes – how lucky we are to have such a skilled costumier on hand for help and advice.

Finally, our heartfelt thanks to you, our audience, who are the final ingredient in the recipe for a successful show. We may work and rehearse all we like, but without somebody to respond to our efforts and spark off the essential reaction, it would all go for nothing.

If you support us regularly, may you long continue to do so. If you are new to us, please look at the Society's information page later in the programme and consider becoming a member or a patron and taking part in our year-round activities.

In the meantime, have a very enjoyable evening.

Trevor Roberts

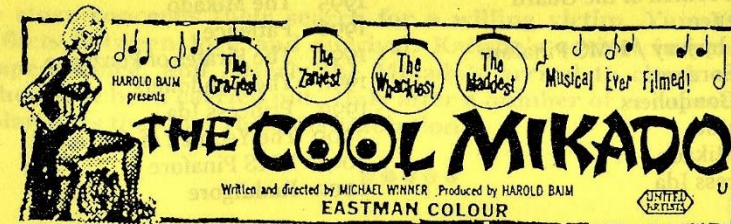


Three little maids from school are we,  
Pert as a school girl well can be,  
Filled to the brim with girlish glee,  
Three little maids from school etc.  
Koko will seine Braut umarmen – ein kurzer  
Streit über die Schicklichkeit dieser Zumuthung: doch  
Pitti und Puh-Bah finden es ganz in der Ordnung.

More than any of the other operas, *The Mikado* has been seen regularly on continental Europe. Above are pictures of an Italian prompt book from 1899, and a brochure for a German tour. Many German opera houses still keep *Der Mikado* in their repertoires.



Cool or hot? The film *The Cool Mikado* (see poster below) was probably not a great deal different in flavour from the currently successful *Hot Mikado*.





Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society was originally formed in 1968, and gave its first public full-dress performance three years later at Halifax Playhouse. The annual production in the late autumn, still at the Playhouse, remains the Society's major public appearance, but we also offer a season of public concerts in the spring, usually between February and April. We are always pleased to perform at new venues in and around Halifax or further afield, and anyone wishing to organise a concert should contact the Secretary (see below).

The Society meets to rehearse on Friday evenings throughout the year at All Saint Church Hall, Skircoat Green, Halifax. Three or four of these Friday evenings during the year are given over to informal concerts and Club Nights, where we will sing through a complete Gilbert and Sullivan opera, or perhaps another piece from the same period, with the audience providing the chorus. Members of the public are always welcome to join us (and sing with us, although that's not compulsory!) on these occasions.

If you would like to sing with or support the Society yourself, you are very welcome to turn up at the rehearsal room on a Friday evening (7.45 onwards). Alternatively you may contact the Secretary, Kathryn Buxton, 34 Fir Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4JE (01484-301291). If you don't sing yourself, but can perhaps offer organisational or other practical skills, you will be equally welcome. We look forward to seeing you in the future!



The Society's previous productions

1971	HMS Pinafore	1987	Cox and Box / Pirates
1972	Iolanthe	1988	Ruddigore
1973	The Sorcerer	1989	Utopia Limited
1974	The Pirates of Penzance	1990	The Gondoliers
1975	The Gondoliers	1991	The Yeoman of the Guard
1976	Princess Ida	1992	The Zoo / HMS Pinafore
1977	The Mikado	1993	The Sorcerer
1978	Ruddigore	1994	Iolanthe
1979	The Yeomen of the Guard	1995	The Mikado
1980	Patience	1996	Patience
1981	Trial by jury / HMS Pinafore	1997	The Pirates of Penzance
1982	The Sorcerer	1998	The Gondoliers
1983	The Gondoliers	1999	Princess Ida
1984	Iolanthe	2000	The Yeomen of the Guard
1985	The Mikado	2001	HMS Pinafore
1986	Princess Ida	2002	Ruddigore

## THE STORY SO FAR

The town of Titipu lies on the seashore in a rural area of Japan. It is some distance from the Capital, from where the benevolently despotic Mikado rules the country with a singular mixture of humour and sadism.

The local government hierarchy apparently requires all towns to possess a town band and to carry out a regular programme of executions. To make the latter condition easier to meet the Mikado has decreed that all men discovered flirting should be immediately beheaded, but the Titipu Justices have attempted to make this Draconian sentence impossible to carry out. The first person convicted of this offence (Ko-Ko, a cheap tailor) has been given the post of Lord High Executioner, so that before he executes anybody else he will have to execute himself. This subterfuge has not endeared itself to the haughty officers of state, who have resigned rather than serve under this upstart – all but Pooh-Bah, whose decision to accept all their posts (and accompanying salaries) is based on an individual notion of self-abasement.

It is graduation day at the local Ladies' Academy, and for one girl, Yum-Yum, it brings the prospect of marriage with Ko-Ko, whose duties evidently include the guardianship of wards of court. She is not overwhelmed at the prospect, and is overjoyed when a stranger whom she remembers from a fleeting encounter a year ago arrives in Titipu. This is Nanki-Poo, who has been on the run from the Imperial court to escape a matrimonial contract with a certain Katisha, an elderly lady among the Mikado's attendants. He appears in the guise of a wandering minstrel, but Yum-Yum discovers his considerably more exalted true identity. It seems, however, that there is little chance of Ko-Ko releasing her to marry Nanki-Poo.

In the meantime notice has been received from the Imperial court that the Mikado is disturbed at the absence of reported executions from Titipu, and that he threatens to reduce the town to the rank of village, with consequent ruin for all. Ko-Ko and his companions have to find a compliant head to be chopped off, and to find it quickly.

The story concerns their search for a willing victim, Yum-Yum's inner conflicts between love and survival, Katisha's arrival in search of her escaped fiancé, and latterly the Mikado's arrival to check whether his wishes have been carried out. Only after a number of unexpected changes of plan does the story reach its resolution.





## THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

The Mikado of Japan	Colin Fine
Nanki-Poo (his Son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum)	Richard Buxton
Ko-Ko (Lord High Executioner of Titipu)	Mike Whitwam
Pooh-Bah (Lord High Everything Else)	Robert Thurman
Pish-Tush (a Noble Lord)	Trevor Roberts
Yum-Yum }	Christine Roberts
Pitti-Sing } (wards of Ko-Ko)	Clare Williams
Peep-Bo }	Kate Johnson
Katisha (an Elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo)	Kathryn Buxton



## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF TITIPU

Stephanie Bolton	Harold Galley
Carole Engel	Liam Johnson
Carol Fleming	Paul Matthews
Julia Haigh	Paul Ratcliffe
Sarah Haigh	Leyland Smith
Helen Matthews	Peter Sugden
Rachel Prosser	Leon Waksberg
Janice Roberts	



## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### Act One

- If you want to know who we are (*Men's chorus*)
- A wandering minstrel I (*Nanki-Poo, Men's chorus*)
- Our great Mikado, virtuous man (*Pish-Tush, Men's chorus*)
- Young man, despair, likewise go to (*Pooh-Bah, with Nanki-Poo, Pish-Tush*)
- Behold the Lord High Executioner! (*Men's chorus, with Ko-Ko*)
- As some day it may happen that a victim must be found (*Ko-Ko, Men's chorus*)
- Comes a train of little ladies (*Women's chorus*)
- Three little maids from school are we (*Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo, Women's chorus*)
- So please you, sir, we much regret (*The same, with Pooh-Bah*)
- Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted (*Nanki-Poo, Yum-Yum*)
- I am so proud (*Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko, Pish-Tush*)
- Finale to Act One: With aspect stern and gloomy stride ... The threatened cloud has passed away ... Your revels cease! Assist me, all of you! ... For he's going to marry Yum-Yum ... The hour of gladness is dead and gone ... Ye torrents roar! Ye tempests howl!

### Act Two

- Braid the raven hair (*Women's chorus, with Pitti-Sing*)
- The sun whose rays are all ablaze (*Yum-Yum*)
- Brightly dawns our wedding day [Madrigal] (*Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Nanki-Poo, Pish-Tush*)
- Here's a how-de-do (*Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko*)
- Mi-ya-sa-ma, Mi-ya-sa-ma (*Chorus, with Mikado, Katisha*)
- A more humane Mikado never did in Japan exist (*Mikado, Chorus*)
- The criminal cried as he dropped him down in a state of wild alarm (*Ko-Ko, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah, Chorus*)
- See how the Fates their gifts allot (*Mikado, Katisha, Ko-Ko, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah*)
- The flowers that bloom in the spring (*Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko, Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah*)
- Alone, and yet alive! ... Hearts do not break (*Katisha*)
- On a tree by a river a little tom-tit [Tit-willow] (*Ko-Ko*)
- There is beauty in the bellow of the blast (*Katisha, Ko-Ko*)
- Finale to Act Two: For he's gone and married Yum-Yum ... The threatened cloud has passed away





## PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCER Margaret Schofield  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Colin Akers  
PRINCIPAL REHEARSAL PIANIST Catherine Warwick  
PIANISTS Mavis Dean, Barbara Thompson

Members of the WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA,  
SQUARE CHAPEL ORCHESTRA and FRIENDS

SET DESIGNED BY John WorriLOW  
AND MADE BY Mike Whitwam  
PAINTING BY John WorriLOW  
ASSISTANCE WITH SET Members of the Society

STAGE MANAGER Andrew Stopford  
LIGHTING DESIGNED BY Stuart Render

COSTUMES AND WIGS Ian Stead Theatrical Costumes  
FANS Paul Lazell  
PROPERTIES Christine Johnson, Kathryn Buxton  
PROMPTERS Shirley Mitchell, Brenda Priestley  
ORCHESTRAL PARTS James Newby Music

TICKET SALES Stephanie Bolton  
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER Stuart Summerscales  
PUBLICITY Kathryn Buxton, Peter Sugden  
FOYER DISPLAY Kathryn Buxton  
POSTER AND PROGRAMME ARTWORK Kate McFarlane



## HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

PRESIDENT Andrew Stopford  
CHAIRMAN Trevor Roberts  
VICE-CHAIRMAN Stuart Summerscales  
SECRETARY Kathryn Buxton  
TREASURER Richard Buxton

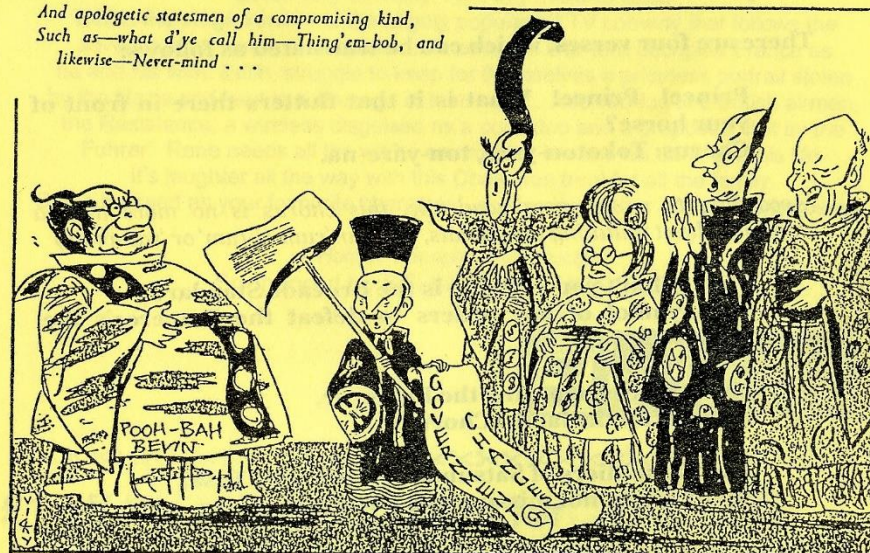
COMMITTEE MEMBERS Stephanie Bolton, Christine Johnson,  
Rachel Prosser, Paul Ratcliffe, Sheila Simpson, Anne Watson



The society gratefully acknowledges help from:

**PINK ZEBRA** for assistance with costumes and props  
**DEWSBURY ARTS COUNCIL** for loan of pom-poms  
**PARADISE GREEN PRODUCTIONS** for loan of electrical materials  
**IMAGE TRANSFER (G.M.) COMPANY** for printing services

*And apologetic statesmen of a compromising kind,  
Such as—what d'ye call him—Thing'em-bob, and  
likewise—Never-mind . . .*



*In 1949 the suggestion was discussed in the London Press that the Government should take over the copyright in the operas after its expiry, to safeguard the tradition of these works. 'Vicky' of the 'News Chronicle' gave his own version of the nationalization of Gilbert and Sullivan in this cartoon of the Socialist cabinet—Bevin, Attlee, Cripps, Morrison, Strachey, Dalton*

Programme illustrations have been taken from

Leslie Baily *The Gilbert and Sullivan Book* (London: Spring Books, 1966)  
Arthur Jacobs *Gilbert and Sullivan* (London: Max Parrish, 1951)  
Reginald Allen *Sir Arthur Sullivan* (New York: Pierpoint Morgan Library, 1975)



## MI-YA-SA-MA

The Japanese chorus to which the Mikado eventually makes his entrance in Act 2 is based on an original song written at a time of civil war in the 1860s. The Restoration Army conscripts (opponents of the Mikado of the time) were little trained and unable to march in step, so Commanders Yajirô Shinagawa and Masujirô Ohmura respectively wrote some words and music for the troops to sing, so that they could march in a more disciplined manner.

There are four verses, which can be translated as follows:

**Prince! Prince! What is it that flutters there in front of your horse?**

**Chorus: Tokoton-yare, ton-yare-na.**

*(According to a Japanese academic, this chorus is no more than a rhythmic chant imitating drumbeats, like our 'rum-ti-tum' or 'rataplan')*

**That – don't you know? – is the Brocade Standard,  
The symbol of our orders to defeat the Emperor's foe.  
(Chorus)**

**Those forces opposing the Emperor,  
Ruler of all the land, (Chorus)**

**We, the soldiers of Satsuma, Chôshû, and Tosa,  
Shoot down, not missing one. (Chorus)**

The original tune, which Sullivan may have got from a former Secretary to the British Legation in Tokyo, has survived with very little alteration into the score.

The song must have had some effect on discipline, because the Emperor was restored at the Mikado's expense in 1868. We will, however, only be singing the first of these somewhat belligerent verses tonight!

*(Information from The Japanese March in 'The Mikado', by Paul Seeley, Musical Times, Vol.126 no.1710, August 1985, pp.454-456)*



# 'Allo 'Allo

*The stage version of the hit TV comedy  
by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft*

Saturday 6 December to Saturday 13 December at 7.30pm  
Saturday matinée on 13 December at 2.30pm

Listen very carefully, I will say this only once.

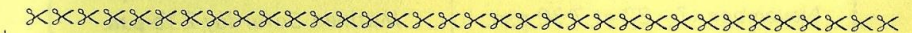
This is the stage version of the hugely popular hit TV comedy that follows the adventures of Rene, the hapless café owner in war-torn occupied France as he and his wife, Edith, struggle to keep for themselves a priceless portrait stolen by the Nazis and kept in a sausage in their cellar. Add two fugitive British airmen, the Resistance, a wireless disguised as a cockatoo and a proposed visit by the Fuhrer. Rene needs all the wit he can muster to save his café, and his life.

It's laughter all the way with this Christmas treat for all the family.

Come dressed as your favourite character – a prize is on offer at each performance.

*A Halifax Thespians Production*

Sponsored by STONEDAM FURNITURE



## £1 off the price of a ticket for 'Allo 'Allo

This voucher entitles the holder to £1 off the price of a normal adult ticket for the performance of 'Allo 'Allo presented by Halifax Thespians at Halifax Playhouse on either Tuesday 9 December or Wednesday 10 December 2003.

It must be presented at the Halifax Playhouse Box Office in King Cross Street at the time of booking and cannot be used for telephone bookings. A separate voucher must be presented for each discounted ticket. This voucher has no monetary value and cannot be used to obtain a discount against any other ticket price or performance.

Name: ..... Postcode: .....

If you would like to be added to our computer mailing list please complete:

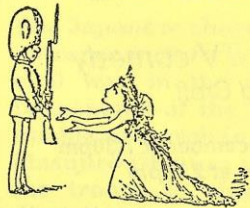
Address: .....

.....

How often have you been to the Halifax Playhouse before? Never / Occasionally / Frequently



HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY  
WILL PRESENT



# Iolanthe



From Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2004

Come back and see us then, or better still come and sing with us!  
Auditions for principal parts will be held towards the end of  
April 2004.

Details available from the Secretary, 01484 301291

Coming soon locally:

Haworth West Lane A.O.S.

## Ruddigore

Haworth West Lane  
Baptist Chapel

November 17 - 22 at 7.30 p.m.

£6.00 Concessions £5.00

Bookings 01535 643425

Meltham Parish Church G & S

## The Gondoliers

Church Hall, Meltham

November 18 - 22 at 7.30 p.m.

Matinee Saturday 2.15 p.m.

£6.00 Concessions £5.00

Bookings 01484 303591

