



1977

PRODUCTION OF THE  
**HALIFAX**  
**GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY**

# The Mikado

or

**THE TOWN OF TITIPU**

by

**W. S. GILBERT AND ARTHUR SULLIVAN**

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## *DRAMATIS PERSONAE*

The Mikado of Japan ... ..	KEITH WORSMAN	<b>Chorus of School-girls, Nobles, Guards, and Coolies</b>
Nanki-Poo (his Son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum) ... ..	PAUL KERSHAW	Betty Brooksby
Ko-Ko (Lord High Executioner of Titipu) ... ..	STEVEN MELLOR	Patricia Castle
Pooh-Bah (Lord High Everything Else) ... ..	BRIAN PRIESTLEY	Angela Child
Pish-Tush (a Noble Lord) ... ..	JOHN CHILD	Carol Fleming
Yum-Yum	ANGELA HORNER	Betty Helliwell
Pitti-Sing	CELIA PORTER	Shirley King
Peep-Bo	LESLEY HENDERSON	Mary Mitchell
Katisha (an elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo) ... ..	SHEILA PRIESTLEY	Laraine Needham
		Mary Normanton
		Pamela Page
		Glenis Ratcliffe
		Margaret Root
		Wendy Sanders
		Susan Smedley
		Pauline Swailes
		Gillian Wilkinson
		Jenny Woodcock
		Brian Bach
		Leslie Bolland
		Edgar Brook
		Ian Henderson
		Donald McLoughlin
		John Rammell
		Geoffrey Seed
		Howard Seed

## MUSICAL ITEMS

Overture		
	ACT I	
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 and Chorus)	... ..	(Our great Mikado, virtuous man)
4. Song (Pooh-Bah, with Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush)	... ..	(Young man, despair, likewise go to)
4a. Recit. (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 (Ko-Ko, 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, and Pitti-Sing, with Chorus of Girls)	... ..	(Three little maids from school are we)
8. Quartet (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	
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. Glee (Pitti-Sing, Katisha, Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah, and Mikado)	... ..	(See how the Fates their gifts allot)
9. Duet (Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko, with Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, and Pooh-Bah)	... ..	(The flowers that bloom in the spring)
10. Recit. and 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 and Ko-Ko)	... ..	(There is beauty in the bellow of the blast)
13. Finale, Act II	... ..	(For he's gone and married Yum-Yum)

### OFFICIALS and COMMITTEE

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### PRODUCTION

Producer	... ..	GEOFFREY BECK
Musical Director	... ..	DAVID ROOT
Accompanist	... ..	PETER BLAMIRE
Stage Manager	... ..	LES MEEK
Wardrobes	... ..	LADIES' COMMITTEE
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Publicity	... ..	R. J. HORNER
Lighting	... ..	PAUL SANDERS
Fans	... ..	GEORGE COOK
Ticket Secretary	... ..	JOHN NEEDHAM
House Manager	... ..	FRANK HARTLEY
Prompt	... ..	JUDITH MILLS
		ANITA WHITWORTH

Set designed and made by GEOFFREY BECK

## THE STORY

KO-KO, a cheap tailor of Titipu, having been condemned to death for flirting, is reprieved at the last moment and raised to the exalted rank of Lord High Executioner. In this capacity it is his daily duty to carry out executions in Titipu.

To Titipu comes one Nanki-Poo (none other than the son of the Mikado), who in order to escape the attentions of an elderly lady named Katisha has fled from his father's court disguised as a second trombone. He falls madly in love with Yum-Yum, the ward of Ko-Ko, but, alas, she is already betrothed to her elderly guardian and so, although they love each other to distraction, their case seems a hopeless one.

Indeed, the preparations for the wedding are already in progress when a letter arrives from the Mikado, announcing that unless somebody is beheaded within a month the post of Lord High Executioner will be abolished and the city reduced to the rank of a village. It is obvious that this will involve everyone in irretrievable ruin, so after consultation with Pooh-Bah, a gentleman who occupies every conceivable post from Private Secretary to First Lord of the Treasury, and the salaries attached to each, it is decided that a victim must be found at once. The only difficulty is, who shall it be? Fortunately Nanki-Poo, overcome with grief at his inability to wed Yum-Yum, announces his intention of committing suicide. Ko-Ko sees a way out of the difficulty, and places his suggestion before Nanki-Poo. "Why waste yourself" he argues, "by committing suicide when you can be beheaded handsomely at the hands of the Public Executioner in a month's time?" Nanki-Poo agrees only on the condition that he shall marry Yum-Yum at once, to which Ko-Ko reluctantly assents, for he realises that she will be a widow in a month and thus free to marry him. But alas, a flaw in this convenient arrangement arises, for it is discovered that when a married man is beheaded, his wife is buried alive. A most unpleasant situation, and such a stuffy death! In the midst of this dilemma the approach of the Mikado is announced. Matters are serious for Ko-Ko, but his ready wit saves him. "Why" he says "should I kill anyone when making an affidavit that he has been beheaded will do just as well?" Pooh-Bah, on being grossly insulted and insisting that the "insult" shall be "cash down" agrees to endorse the fiction.

But the Mikado announces that he has come about a totally different matter, namely the disappearance of his son from the Imperial Court. It is now discovered that in their zeal to carry out the Emperor's wishes they have all unwittingly sworn to the execution of the heir to the throne. There is but one penalty for such a crime and the wretched Ko-Ko and his accomplices are given the choice of boiling oil or melted lead. Again the resourceful Ko-Ko comes to the rescue. Nanki-Poo must come to life again! A timely decision, because he was just about to start on his honeymoon. But even then the penalty is only averted by Ko-Ko sacrificing himself on the matrimonial altar with that elderly and ugly spinster, Katisha, who secures a reprieve for the offenders. And thus all are saved, but at what a cost! Poor Ko-Ko!

ACT I - COURTYARD OF KO-KO'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE.

ACT II - KO-KO'S GARDEN.

Once more the Society extends a warm welcome to our 7th annual production to all our patrons and supporters. "The Mikado" is the best known of all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and we hope you enjoy our performance as much as we enjoy giving it.

It was with regret that the Society received the resignations of both Miss Mavis Dean, our Musical Director, and Mr. Jack McGhee, our Producer. We take this opportunity to wish them both success in the future.

We are delighted to welcome back Mr. David Root as Musical Director and again look forward to continued success under his baton.

We are also pleased to welcome as our Producer Mr. Geoffrey Beck. Geoffrey is a new face to this Society but is very well known in the local amateur operatic circles.

Finally I hope you enjoy your evening with us and we hope to see you next year when our production will be "RUDDIGORE,"

K. WORSMAN (President).

### Life Vice-President:

Dr. B. M. ROSOVSKÉ

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### Acknowledgements

The Members of the Society offer their sincere thanks to the Patrons and all who have given assistance in this production, especially:—

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