

Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Society
is so very proud to present the eternal favourite

THE MIKADO

WED 15 To SAT 18 NOV 2023
NIGHTLY 7:30pm SAT MATINEE 2:30pm

HALIFAX PLAYHOUSE

Programme £1.00



From the chairman

Welcome to our 2023 production, 'The Mikado'. This year we are delighted to welcome Christine Roberts in her debut as Artistic Director and Keira Watson as our Musical Director.

The reshuffle at the top has allowed Richard Buxton to return to the stage in a principal role after a gap of some years.

In an unplanned reshuffle, Leon Waksberg has replaced Peter Skelton in the role of Koko. We wish Peter a speedy recovery and thank Leon for taking on the role at short notice.

We have had another busy year of concerts, club nights and social events. It will all begin again immediately after the show when we will begin preparing our programme of Christmas events and a Burns night in January.

We are always delighted to welcome new members, so why not think about joining us.

Thank you for supporting the show.

Now sit back and enjoy your trip to Titipu.

Stephanie Bolton



HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

Andrew Stopford (President), Stephanie Bolton (Chairman), Stuart Summercales (Vice-Chairman), Kathryn Buxton (Secretary), Fintan O'Shea (Treasurer)

Richard Buxton, Sue Bythell, Steven Greenwood, Deborah Hammond, Peter Skelton (Committee members)



With best wishes from your friends at All Souls' Amateur Operatic Society

Hebden Bridge Light Opera – The Boy Friend, June 2024

The Society

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 March and June. 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).



Kathryn Buxton
Society Secretary

The Society meets to rehearse on Friday evenings throughout the year at All Saints 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!

Check what's happening on our website - www.halifaxgands.org.uk
You can also find our Facebook page



Come to our Christmas Pot-Pourri

at All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skircoat Green
on Friday 8 December at 7.45 pm



A miscellany of songs, poems, carols and anything else that people want to offer.
Contact Trevor Roberts (07565 700170) if you fancy doing something
Admission free, with retiring collection

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 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 three of the students in particular are bubbling over with youthful exuberance and mischievous pranks. One of the girls, Yum-Yum, is also celebrating her last day of independence, as she is now due to marry her guardian, Ko-Ko. She is underwhelmed 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.

Production Team

MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Keira Watson
STAGE DIRECTOR	Christine Roberts
PRINCIPAL REHEARSAL PIANIST	Philip Sutcliffe
Members of the WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA, SQUARE CHAPEL ORCHESTRA and FRIENDS	
STAGE MANAGER	Paul Matthews
SET PROVIDED BY	West Yorkshire Savoyards
LIGHTING DESIGNED BY	Karl Eaton
COSTUMES	West Yorkshire Savoyards
PROPS	Deborah Hammond
FANS	Wakefield G & S Society
MAKE-UP	Huddersfield Make-up Team
ORCHESTRAL PARTS	James Newby Music
TICKET SALES	Stephanie Bolton
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER	Andrew Stopford
PUBLICITY	Peter Sugden
FOYER DISPLAY	Stephanie Bolton
PROGRAMME	Richard Buxton



Christine Roberts (Stage Director)



Keira Watson (Musical Director)

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!



(L-R)

Leon Waksberg (*Ko-Ko*),
Trevor Roberts, Fintan
O'Shea, David Prosser,
Eoin O'Shea, Richard Buxton
(*Pish-Tush*), Peter Sugden
(missing : Phil Haley)

Stephen and Stephanie Roe are pleased to sponsor this page

Fond memories of our dear friend David Welch, 12 March 1963 to 27 September 2022. He
this realm far too soon, sadly missed. Stuart & Phil

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



Back row (L-R)

Léonie Thornton, Stephanie Boltor
Helen Matthews, Sue Bythell,
Carole Engel, Deirdre O'Shea (Pee,
Bo)

Front row (L-R)

Rachel Prosser, Kathryn Buxton,
Rebecca Mosley, Deborah
Hammond

Anne and Phil Haley "Brightly dawned our wedding day"

The Characters in the story

The Mikado of Japan	Steven Greenwood
Nanki-Poo (his Son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum)	John Tattersall
Ko-Ko (Lord High Executioner of Titipu)	Leon Waksberg
Pooh-Bah (Lord High Everything Else)	Edward Thornton
Pish-Tush (a Noble Lord)	Richard Buxton
Yum-Yum } Pitti-Sing } (wards of Ko-Ko) Peep-Bo }	Rowena Thornton Clare Williams Deirdre O'Shea
Katisha (an Elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo)	Anna Trent

Ladies and Gentlemen of Titipu

Stephanie Bolton	Eoin O'Shea
Kathryn Buxton	Fintan O'Shea
Sue Bythell	David Prosser
Carole Engel	Rachel Prosser
Philip Haley	Trevor Roberts
Deborah Hammond	Peter Sugden
Helen Matthews	Léonie Thornton
Rebecca Mosley	



Amiam, Pippa and Pizzi,
the three little maids in
San Francisco
Lamplighters' Italian re-
make of "Il Ducato"

(see also opposite)

Fond memories of Audrey Greenwood, from Steven and Jean



Steven Greenwood (*The Mikado*) and Anna Trent (*Katisha*)



Rowena Thornton (*Yum-Yum*) and John Tattersall (*Nanki-Poo*)



Edward Thornton (*Pooh-Bah*)



Clare Williams (*Pitti-Sing*)



Pooba and Piccia Tuccia

In 2016 the Lamplighters Company of San Francisco transformed *The Mikado* into *Il Ducato*, setting the opera in the Italian town of Tirmisu. Director M Jane Irwin says "This story, for me, is entirely about self-interest, or Looking Out for Number One. Every character is in self-preservation mode. And this is such a perfect fit for Lamplighters reimagined setting of the Renaissance, a historical period where so much had been upended after a pandemic. The characters find themselves scrambling to get or hang on to power so as not to be, say, beheaded or maybe buried alive."

This page sponsored by John and Margaret Holliss

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 Yajirō Shinagawa and Masujirō 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 'run-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, Chōshū, 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)

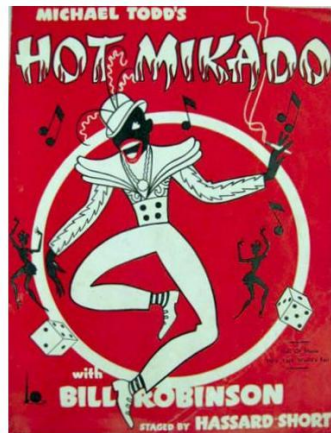
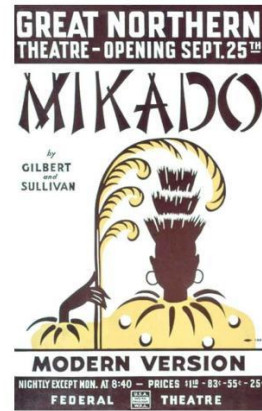


"The one in the middle is my bride elect"

This page sponsored by Penny McGoverin in thankful memory of Auntie Kitty

Mikado plus

The Swing Mikado was a production of the Chicago division of the Federal Theatre Project. The production was conceived, staged, and directed by Harry Minturn, with swing re-orchestrations of Arthur Sullivan's music by Gentry Warden. It featured a setting transposed from Japan to a tropical island. The show was first staged by an all-black company in Chicago, Illinois, in 1938. Later that year, it transferred to Broadway. Other changes from the original work included the re-scoring of five of the musical numbers in "swing" style, the insertion of popular dance sequences including *The Truck* and *the Cakewalk*, and the rewriting of some of the dialogue in an attempt at black dialect. Other than that, the original dialogue and score of 1885 were used. The photograph shows the Jitterbug Chorus



Mike Todd produced *The Hot Mikado* after the Federal Theatre Project turned down his offer to manage the WPA production of *The Swing Mikado*. Todd's adaptation was jazzier than *The Swing Mikado* and had a "full-voiced, star-studded cast to back up its sass." It follows both the story line of *The Mikado* and the spectacle of the original and was noted for its wild costuming. The musical was first produced at the Broadhurst Theatre on West 44th Street from March 23, 1939, to June 3, 1939, running for 85 performances. The original cast included Bill "Bojangles" Robinson as The Mikado; The 1939–1940 New York World's Fair production of *The Hot Mikado* lasted for two seasons and was reportedly one of the most popular attractions at the fair. The show was produced on a large scale there, employing 150 actors.

This page sponsored by David Glover



A photo from the 1939 *Hot Mikado*

(In the 1980s, disappointed that they could not find much of the script and arrangements for *The Hot Mikado*, writer David H. Bell and musician Rob Bowman created a new jazzy adaptation, *Hot Mikado*, which is the version that is widely performed today).

The Cool Mikado is a British musical film released in 1963, directed by Michael Winner, with music arranged by Martin Slavin and John Barry. It starred Frankie Howerd as Ko-Ko, Lionel Blair and Stubby Kaye (as Judge Herbert Mikado). Mike and Bernie Winters also pop up regularly. The script was written by Michael Winner, from an adaptation by Maurice Browning. (Photo below shows Frankie Howerd as Ko-Ko and Tommy Cooper as Pooh-Bah)



The plot is reset into contemporary Japan as a comic gangster story. The dialogue is largely rewritten, and several of the well-known musical items are omitted. The music that remains is re-orchestrated into styles popular in the early 1960s, including the twist, and the Cha-Cha-Cha.



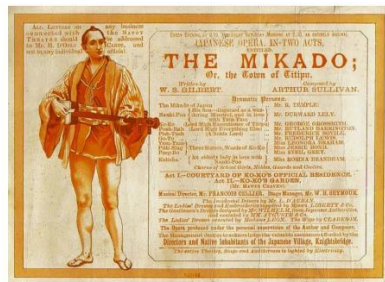
Hank, the son of American judge Herbert Mikado, refuses to marry Katie Shaw, whom his father wishes him to marry, and so joins the army. He is stationed in Japan where he falls in love with a Tokyo art student, Yum-Yum. However, her fiancé, Ko-Ko, an American gangster operating in Japan, is determined to keep Hank and Yum-Yum apart (Hank's father had also sentenced Ko-Ko's brother to prison)

This page sponsored by Janet Cowley, in memory of Frank Hogan, long time Society member

Andrew Roberts in *The Independent* in 2013 wrote: "Who else but Winner could have directed a musical containing the rousing number 'Tit Willow Twist', as played by the John Barry Seven and as interpreted by Lionel Blair and His Dancers? To this day, Winner's bold attempt to combine Gilbert and Sullivan with the comic talents of Mike and Bernie Winters stands as a prime example of how British cinema can, occasionally but always memorably, produce films that are the celluloid equivalent of those relatives who are only wheeled out at family weddings, and who are then studiously avoided at the reception."

If all this excites a morbid curiosity, the whole film is available to watch on Youtube www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5RJSEqJk7Q&t=3579s

(Thanks to *Wikipedia* for most of the content of this article)




Vickie & Gary & Wendy
 wish Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society
 all the best for their production of The
 Mikado

Why not visit us in Penrith – plenty of Lake
 District places to reach from here.

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This page sponsored by Wendy Sanders, in memory of Paul Sanders
 (both members of the Society during its first fifteen years)

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society is
 affiliated to the National Operatic and
 Dramatic Association



Affiliated to the
 National Operatic and
 Dramatic Association

Founded in 1899, it is the
 main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. It has a
 membership of some 2500 amateur/community theatre groups and
 3000 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK, staging musicals,
 operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of
 performing venues, ranging from the country's leading theatres to
 village halls.

NODA is divided into 11 National Regions, each headed by a
 Regional Councillor who sits on the Council, the ruling body of the
 Association. They are supported by a network of Regional
 Representatives and other volunteers, who are the vital links to the
 grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre companies
 themselves. The Association is administered from its Headquarters
 in Peterborough, with knowledgeable and friendly staff able to deal

with virtually any enquiry relating to amateur theatre.

NODA aims

- to give a shared voice to the amateur theatre sector
- to help amateur societies and individuals to achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance
- to provide leadership and advice to enable the amateur theatre sector to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century

National Operatic and Drama Association,

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. PE2 7UH;

Tel : 01733 865790; E-mail : info@noda.org.uk; Web site : www.noda.org.uk



Advertisement from the
 programme, March 1885

In memory of Derrick and Michael Stopford and Betty Crowther,
 from Andrew and Sally Stopford

**Previous productions of Halifax
Gilbert and Sullivan Society**

1971	HMS Pinafore	2007	The Pirates of Penzance
1972	Iolanthe	2008	The Sorcerer
1973	The Sorcerer	2009	The Gondoliers
1974	The Pirates of Penzance	2010	The Yeomen of the Guard
1975	The Gondoliers	2011	HMS Pinafore
1976	Princess Ida	2012	Princess Ida
1977	The Mikado	2013	The Mikado
1978	Ruddigore	2014	The Pirates of Penzance
1979	The Yeomen of the Guard	2015	Ruddigore
1980	Patience	2016	Iolanthe
1981	Trial by Jury / HMS Pinafore	2017	Patience
1982	The Sorcerer	2018	Utopia Limited
1983	The Gondoliers	2019	The Sorcerer
1984	Iolanthe	2022	The Yeomen of the Guard
1985	The Mikado		
1986	Princess Ida		
1987	Cox and Box / Pirates of Penzance		
1988	Ruddigore		
1989	Utopia Limited		
1990	The Gondoliers		
1991	The Yeomen of the Guard		
1992	The Zoo / HMS Pinafore		
1993	The Sorcerer		
1994	Iolanthe		
1995	The Mikado		
1996	Patience		
1997	The Pirates of Penzance		
1998	The Gondoliers		
1999	Princess Ida		
2000	The Yeomen of the Guard		
2001	HMS Pinafore		
2002	Ruddigore		
2003	The Mikado		
2004	Iolanthe		
2005	The Grand Duke		
2006	The Zoo / Cox & Box / Trial by Jury		

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David Wood

Directed by
Sharon Old
& Karen Stuart

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