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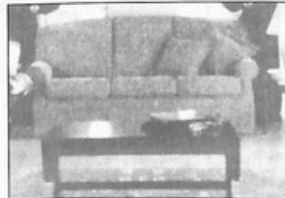
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IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HALL

The fitting of an induction loop system and improvements to the lighting board have been funded by Witham Amateur Operatic Society, Witham Operatic Workshop, Carlow Players and Witham Dramtic Club, with assistance from Braintree District Council and Braintree District Arts Council.

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THE MIKADO

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PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

1922	HMS Pinafore	1957	The White Horse Inn	1974	The Pajama Game	HMS Pinafore	
1923	The Pirates of Penzance	1958	The Gipsy Princess		Yeomen of the Guard	1988	Kismet
1924	Ruddigore	1959	The Merry Widow	1975	The Merry Widow		Half a Sixpence
1925	Patience	1960	Bless the Bride		Patience	1989	Fiddler on the Roof
1926	Yeomen of the Guard	1961	The Boy Friend	1976	South Pacific		The Gondoliers
1927	Dorothy	1962	Grab Me a Gondola		Ruddigore	1990	Die Fledermaus
1928	Les Cloches de Corneville	1963	The Quaker Girl	1977	Guys & Dolls		The King and I
1929	The Mikado	1964	The New Moon		Utopia Ltd	1991	Carousel
1930	The Gondoliers		The Mikado (CV)	1978	The White Horse Inn		Patience
1931	Falka	1965	The Maid of the Mountains		The Mikado	1992	Annie Get Your Gun
1932	HMS Pinafore		The Pirates of Penzance	1979	Brigadoon		Bless the Bride
1933	Merrile England		Penzance (CV)		Princess Ida	1993	Brigadoon
1934	Tom Jones	1966	Gipsy Love	1980	Orpheus in the Underworld		Ruddigore
1935	The Geisha		HMS Pinafore (CV)		Underworld	1994	My Fair Lady
1936	Dorothy	1967	Call Me Madam		Iolanthe		South Pacific
1937	The Maid of the Mountains	1968	The Desert Song	1981	Summer Song	1995	Kiss Me, Kate
			Patience (CV)	1982	The Quaker Girl		Oliver!
1938	The Street Singer		Rose Marie		The Desert Song	1996	Anything Goes
1939	Goodnight Vienna	1969	The Mikado	1983	Cox & Box & The Sorcerer		Guys & Dolls
1947	Miss Hook of Holland		Free As Air		Oklahoma!	1997	Orpheus in the Underworld
1948	Maritza	1970	The Pirates of Penzance	1984	My Fair Lady		The Pirates of Penzance
1949	Kalinka		Oklahoma!		Free As Air	1998	The Pajama Game
1950	The Lilac Domino	1971	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	1985	Showboat		The Merry Widow
1951	Rio Rita		HMS Pinafore		La Vie Parisienne	1999	Kismet
1952	Wild Violets		The Merry Widow	1986	Yeomen of the Guard		Calamity Jane
1953	Magyar Melody	1972	The Gondoliers		The Sound of Music		
1954	Carissima		Carousel	1987	The Merry Widow		
1955	Rose Marie	1973	Iolanthe		Trial by Jury &		
1956	Tulip Time						

CV = Concert Version

WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

President: Mr G.H. Coverdale **Hon. Life members:** Mrs K.M. Adams, Miss A. R. Brewer, Mrs P. Briggs, Mr N. H. O. Clough, Mr D. P. M. Collins, Mr G. H. Coverdale, Mrs C. M. Draper, Mrs R. Enfield, Mr J. E. Gunson, Mrs J. Hawkes, Mrs N. Hinchliffe, Mr R. Howe, Mrs H. Jones, Mrs J. Lyon MBE, Mrs P. Page, Mrs A. Sheppard, Mr T. J. Sheppard.

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For Further details about becoming a Vice President, please contact our Hon. Membership Secretary.

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WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE MIKADO

OR

THE TOWN OF TITIDU

BY W. S. GILBERT AND ARTHUR SULLIVAN

AT THE
WITHAM PUBLIC HALL

MONDAY 10TH TO
SATURDAY 15TH
APRIL 2000

NIGHTLY 7.30 PM
SATURDAY MATINEE 2.30 PM



WITHAM AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY was inaugurated in 1921, is a registered charity (number 265029), and is affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association (NODA).



THE MIKADO PLOT

Act I opens on the courtyard of Ko-Ko's Palace in the town of Titipu. It is filled with Japanese noblemen who sing "If you want to know who we are, we are gentlemen of Japan", just in case you hadn't noticed. Actually, Sullivan is playing a nice joke here because this chorus is set in the pentatonic scale in which Japanese music was traditionally written (*that's enough technical stuff. Ed*). Enter Nanki-Poo in great excitement, desperately seeking the appropriately named Yum-Yum. Of course, he is the heir to the throne travelling in disguise as a second trombone - but we don't know that yet (the 'second trombone' is a Gilbertian dig at Sullivan who complained that his Savoy orchestra only had one trombone - he eventually got a second one. *That's enough Gilbertian digs. Ed*). At first Nanki is received coldly, but on singing "A Wand 'ring Minstrel I" the gentlemen warm to him and Pish-Tush enters and asks what business he has with Yum-Yum. Nanki explains that he is in love with her, but he had given up hope because he knew she was engaged to her ward Ko-Ko. However, he had recently heard that Ko-Ko had been condemned to death for flirting and had hurried back in the hope of finding her again. Pish confirms that this is the case, but disappoints Nanki by telling him that Ko-Ko is not dead, because the town council came up with an ingenious wheeze to stop the execution (listen carefully to Pish-Tush's song "Our great Mikado, virtuous man"). Pooh-Bah tells him she is engaged to Ko-Ko and will marry him this afternoon ("Young man, despair"). Enter Ko-Ko, with his famous "little list" of all the undesirables we would all like to be rid of, followed shortly by a train of delightful little ladies, including Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, and Peep-Bo, who give us the wonderful "Three little maids from school". This is another example of the Englishness of the humour - Pitti Sing is Gilbertian baby-talk for 'Pretty Thing', and of course Peep-Bo is none other than Bo-Peep. Young lovers Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo finally meet again, but decide that etiquette would never allow them to flirt (well, hardly ever) ("Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted). Things start to get serious now. Pish arrives with a letter from the Mikado asking why no executions have taken place, and threatening to reduce Titipu to the rank of Hatfield Peverel if nobody is beheaded. The entire town council (i.e. Pooh-Bah) demands that Ko-Ko behead the next person on the list (himself) or find a substitute - all three of them decline the role ("I am so proud"). Ko-Ko is just wondering how he can find a substitute when Nanki Poo enters, carrying a rope with which to hang himself. Why? asks Ko-Ko. Because you are going to marry the girl I adore, replies Nanki. A huge neon sign lights up in Ko-Ko's brain. It says "substitute"! Ko-Ko persuades Nanki-Poo to be executed in a month, but Nanki only agrees if he can marry Yum-Yum (after all, Ko-Ko can marry her in a month when Nanki-Poo is beheaded). Ko-Ko reluctantly agrees, and relates this arrangement to the ensemble ("With aspect stern"). Then in a dramatic finale, Katisha, who

his hand in marriage. Yum-Yum, knowing that Katisha is about to reveal his true identity, orchestrates the chorus to drown out Katisha, who vows to return and seek a terrible vengeance!

Act Two opens in Ko-Ko's Garden on Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo's wedding morn, with the girls singing two of Sullivan's most delightful songs - "Braid the raven hair", and "The sun, whose rays". Pitti, Peep and Pish condole with Yum-Yum and Nanki on the apparent shortterm nature of their future together (a month), but all decide not to be too downhearted ("Brightly dawns our wedding day"). Now comes another twist. Ko-Ko has just learnt that, under the Mikado's law, when a married man is beheaded his wife has to be buried alive. This puts rather a different complexion on the wedding day and gives Yum an impossible choice - marry the man she loves, and then be buried alive, or spend a lifetime with Ko-Ko! ("Here's a how-do-do!"). The plot is further complicated by the early arrival of the Mikado and Katisha ("Mi-ya-sa-ma"). Then follows the Mikado's magnificent "A more humane Mikado never did in Japan exist", which was originally cut at the dress rehearsal and only reinstated after a deputation from the company changed Gilbert's mind. Ko-Ko, Poo and Pitti arrive to inform the Mikado that they have had an execution (which they haven't. Yum and Nanki have merely been got out of the way, and Pooh has signed a false death certificate to say the execution has taken place). The Mikado asks for more detail, and they oblige with graphic details ("The criminal cried"). The Mikado announces that he had not, after all, come to check up on the executions, but to look for his son, Nanki-Poo. Now, this is extremely awkward, because the death certificate in Katisha's hands describes how they have just beheaded one Nanki-Poo. Oh, dear, oh dear. The Mikado regrets that they will all have to be beheaded, and he is very sorry for them all - after all 'virtue is triumphant only in theatrical performances' ("See how the Fates their gifts allot"). Nanki-Poo explains to Ko-Ko that the only way of escaping death is to divert Katisha's amorous attentions away from him (Nanki) and onto him (Ko-Ko), so that she will not have any further claim on him (Nanki), and it will be safe for him (Nanki) to "come back to life" and save them all from execution (*just run that past me again. Ed*). Katisha arrives and sings a touching account of a loveless life ("Alone and yet alive"), closely followed by Ko-Ko who must woo her to save his life, which he does with the charming "On a tree by a river, a little Tom-tit". Faced with this charm offensive, Katisha yields immediately, and the new loving couple swap scary hobbies ("There is beauty in the bellow of a blast"). Enter Mikado (and suite) expecting to see the execution of KoKo, Pitti and Poo, only to be confronted with Katisha pleading for their lives and explaining that she and Ko-Ko have just married before the registrar (Pooh). Enter the newly wed Nanki and Yum to the great surprise and relief of daddy, who decides on seeing his son alive, and realising he is rid of Katisha, that he could



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"This is by way of a welcoming note and to say that we hope you enjoy your brief visit to the town of Titipu. *The Mikado* is usually considered to be the most popular of the Savoy operas. It is so full of fun, and the music - well, that used to set the errand boy a-whistling and is still as pleasing for today's audiences. So thank you for coming, settle down in your seats and let us entertain you. And may we look forward to your company for the next show?"



THE DIRECTOR - PAT O'CONNELL

Although he has often trod the boards in Witham Public Hall as a member of the South Anglia Savoy Players, this is Pat's debut with WAOS, and we are happy to welcome him to the little town of Titipu/Witham as Director of our fourth production of *The Mikado*.

Pat has been in love with music all his life. He comes from a musical family - even the sewing machine was a Singer! He has been attached to various operatic societies since he was a boy and has probably done everything on stage from playing a butler to being the back end of a horse. His tally is roughly 130 shows in 35 years as a performer, dancer (though you may not believe it!), impresario, producer and, for the last six years, as a director.



THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR - DAVID CAWDELL

We are pleased to welcome as our Musical Director for *The Mikado* David Cawdell, on his debut with the society. David has conducted a wide range of over thirty shows for operatic societies in Essex and Suffolk as well as bands, orchestras and choirs. He is currently also rehearsing the Clacton Operatic Society in their May production of *My Fair Lady*.

David started his musical career in the Salvation Army at Luton and moved to Essex in 1959. He served for several years as a soloist (playing trombone among other instruments) with the band of the Irish Guards, travelling extensively on concert tours throughout America, Canada, Australia and Europe. Having taken early retirement from BT as National Public Relations Manager, David divides his time between PR consultancy work, music, Rotary and his church at Little Horkesley where he enjoys singing in the choir. David is also Festival Director of the Colchester Rotary Festival of Music and Dance, a two-week long competitive festival which takes place in June and July.

David said recently how impressed he has been with the standard of singing and the high level of commitment from every member of the society during rehearsals for *The Mikado*, and looks forward to a very happy week of the show.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Dramatis Personae

The Mikado of Japan		Richard Cowen
Nanki-Poo	(his Son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum)	Jonathan Baron
Ko-Ko	(Lord High Executioner of Titipu)	Patrick O'Brien
Pooh-Bah	(Lord High Everything Else)	Nicholas Clough
Pish-Tush	(A Noble Lord)	Colin Bellett
Yum-Yum	Three sisters, wards of Ko Ko	Natalie Cudlip
Pitti-Sing	" " " " "	Helen Fox
Peep-Bo	" " " " "	Carolyn Wash
Katisha	(an elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo)	Janet Wash



Chorus of School-girls, Nobles, Guards and Coolies.

Katrina Brooks, Howard Brooks, Bill Chaplin, Lydia Clough, Anita Collings, Cynthia Draper, Steve Draper, Alf Farmer, Graham Green, Natalie Hawkes, Judy Henderson, Richard Herring, David Hunt, Marea Irving, Helene Jones, Sandra Moorhouse, Danny Mullane, Muriel Loveridge, Julia Reed, Joyce Ryder, Tim Sheppard, Sue Siddalls, Liz Watson, Pam Whelan, Tom Whelan, Kath Weedy, Anne Wilson.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Overture

Act One Courtyard of Ko-Ko's official Residence

Chorus of men	If you want to know who we are
Song and Chorus (<i>Nanki-Poo</i>)	A Wand'ring Minstrel I
Song (<i>Pish-Tush and Chorus</i>)	Our great Mikado, virtuous man.
Song (<i>Pooh-Bah, Nanki-Poo, Pish-Tush</i>)	Young man, despair, likewise go to
Recit. (<i>Nanki-Poo and Pooh Bah</i>)	And have I journeyed for a month
Chorus with Solo (<i>Ko-Ko</i>)	Behold the Lord High Executioner!
Song (<i>Ko-Ko, with chorus of men</i>)	As some day it may happen
Chorus of Girls	Comes a train of little ladies
Trio (<i>Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing, chorus</i>)	Three little maids from school are we
Quartet (<i>Yum, Peep, Pitti, Pooh with chorus</i>)	So please you, sir, we much regret
Duet (<i>Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo</i>)	Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted
Trio (<i>Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pish Tush</i>)	I am so proud
Finale Act I	With aspect stern and gloomy stride

Act Two Ko-Ko's Garden

Solo (<i>Pitti-Sing and Chorus of Girls</i>)	Braid the raven hair
Song (<i>Yum-Yum</i>)	The sun, whose rays are all ablaze
Madrigal (<i>Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sin, Nank, Pish</i>)	Brightly dawns our wedding day
Trio (<i>Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sin, and Ko-Ko</i>)	Here's a how-de-do! If I marry you
Entrance of Mikado and Katisha	Mi-ya-sa-ma, mi-ya-sa-ma
Song (<i>Mikado and chorus</i>)	A more humane Mikado never did in Japan exist
Trio (<i>Pitti-Sing, Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah, Chorus</i>)	The criminal cried as he dropped him down
Glee (<i>Pitti-Sing, Katisha, Ko-Ko, Pooh, Mikado</i>)	See how the Fates their gifts allot
Duet (<i>Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko with Yum, Pitti & Pooh</i>)	The flowers that bloom in the spring
Recit. and Song (<i>Katisha</i>)	Alone and yet alive
Song (<i>Ko-Ko</i>)	On a tree by a river, a little Tom-tit
Duet (<i>Katisha and Ko-Ko</i>)	There is beauty in the bellow of a blast
Finale Act II	For he's gone and married Yum-Yum

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director:	Patrick O'Connell
Stage Manager:	Graham Green, assisted by David Hunt, Keith Radley, Mark Tinworth
Scenery:	Paul Lazell (Scenery)
Lighting design operated by	Rhuddian Davies, Darren White, Brian White, Richard Ould
Lighting equips:	Braintree District Arts Council, Richard Heinz Electrics, Colchester Theatre Arts Action.
Sound:	Paul Galley
Properties Manager:	Janice Hawkes assisted by: Helen Clarke, Angie Crimmins, Fitz Smith, Chris Willison
Wardrobe by:	Jane Furnival, assisted by Pat Ladd
Costume Hire:	The Costume Store, and the Company
Make-up:	Cynthia Draper,
assisted by:	Liz Watson, Marea Irving
Wigs:	Patsy Page, and the Company
Prompt:	Anne Sheppard
Production Secretary:	Lavinia Farmer
Box Office Manager:	Tom Whelan
Front of House Manager:	Richard Wash
assisted by:	Lydia Clough
Foyer Display:	Audrey King
Bar Manager:	Ron Howe,
assisted by :	Tony Furnival
Flowers by:	Michelle
Publicity & programme photography:	Peter McKay
Programme Cover & Poster Artwork:	Tim Sheppard
Programme by:	Howard Brooks
Publicity team:	Sue Rogers, Elisabeth Ladd, Natalie Hawkes, Steve Rogers, Tom Whelan. Sue Siddalls

ORCHESTRAL CREDITS

Musical Director	David Cawdell
Leader	Peter Ivey
Violins	Deborah Dowe Bryony Rees
Viola	Helen Goatley
Cello	Paul Lockyear
Bass	Lesley Harwood
Flute	Rebecca Lilley
Clarinets	Christine Taylor Madu Vidyarthi
Oboe	Caroline Brooks
Bassoon	Chris Lawrence
Trumpet	John Malam Jill Betts
Trombone	Martyn Potts
Percussion	Peter McClean
Rehearsal accompanist	Ruth le Poidevin

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Witham Operatic Society
BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS
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Public Hall, Witham



1929 Mikado
Seated Centre are Musical Director N. Linley
Howlett and Producer Ashley Cooper. Yum - Yum
was performed by May West.



Derek Collins - Ko-Ko and Director in 1969



Three Little Maids 1969
Kathleen Adams, Pat Briggs, Pamela Adams

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE SOCIETY?

We are always looking out for new acting/singing members. If you would like to join us, please come to our first *Whorehouse* rehearsal at Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill on Wednesday 26th April at 7.30pm, or contact our secretary Anne Marsden on (01376) 519629 for more details.

Please note - auditions for new members will be held at 7.30pm on 10th May at Spring Lodge.

Or are you young enough to be a WOW?

Witham Operatic Workshop (WOW) was formed in 1995 as a junior section of WAOS, with the long term aim of instructing members in all aspects of musical theatre. WOW has already staged *Joseph, West Side Story, Annie, The Boy Friend*, and *42nd Street* to great acclaim from audiences and critics alike. A production of *The Wiz* is planned for next year. Don't miss it!

WOW has been fortunate to gather together many talented young people, who, apart from gaining useful experience in the shows, have taken part in various master-classes and a variety of social events, meeting new friends and forging new relationships in the process. Members of WOW automatically become members of WAOS at the age of sixteen, and can join the senior group if they so desire. If you would like to join WOW (and remember you must be **11 to 18 yrs old** inclusive) please contact me on (01206) 513275.

Nicholas Clough

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THE MIKADO CAST 2000

This is our fourth production of *Mikado*. Both Anne and Tim Sheppard were in the 1969 production. Helene Jones, Cynthia Draper, Judy Henderson, Lydia Clough, Tim Sheppard and Howard Brooks (Pish-Tush) were all in the 1978 production, and Nick Clough repeats his 1978 role of Pooh-Bah this year

THE SOCIETY'S GRATEFUL THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO:

... not only the individuals and organisations credited in this programme, but also to the many others who have contributed in any way to the preparation or production of our show.

In particular:

- the media; those who have freely donated window space for the display of our posters;
- our advertisers - without whom the production of this programme would not have been possible;
- the Red Cross;
- Witham Dramatic Club for the use of the raised seating;
- Colin Etheridge and Derek Elliot at the Public Hall;
- Spring Lodge for their rehearsal facilities.
- those involved with box office, stewarding, programme and raffle ticket selling, refreshments and the bar; backstage, transportation, and all those who have made, designed, or provided costumes and properties;
- all our Vice Presidents for their financial support;
- Tim Sheppard for the programme cover and poster work.
- Jean Birks of Southend Operatic and Dramatic Society for loan of the wonderful fans
- Jean Birks of Southend Operatic and Dramatic Society for loan of the wonderful fans
- Howbridge Junior and White Nottley Primary School for the hockey sticks
- The Cheap Shop of Tiptree for the loan of a Parasol and Mellons of Kelvedon for Katisha's screen
- ... and anyone else who has helped in any way.

FINALLY, WE THANK YOU, OUR AUDIENCE, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THE AUTUMN FOR THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE