

A Note From the Director

Some plays are enjoyable to watch but don't have much to say; others have lots to teach us but are tedious or laborious to get through; if there's one creative team who has been able to achieve the best of both, it's Gilbert and Sullivan. Their entire body of work is loved and praised the world over, but when it came time to choose one to direct, The Mikedo was the worthiest contender. It is a masterpiece whose irrepressible wit and charm is equalled only by the exquisite beauty of its music. There is a timeless quality to it, and its thematic malleability has lent itself to a great number and variety of productions since it was first performed in 1885.

At the time of the play's conception, Japan had only recently opened its cultural doors to the rest of the world, and Britain especially became enamoured of the exoticism of the Japanese aesthetic. Gilbert capitalized on this interest, situating his newest comic opera in Japan to disguise his satire of British institutions such as the propriety of social hierarchy and the often nonsensical nature of professional duty and law. As a result, The Mikado's Japan is a counterfeit one, flavoured with Gilbert's whimsical topsyturyydom and ultimately intercultural. Its commentary transcends any one culture or demographic; it has something to say to each and every one of us.

That said, the interpretive possibilities are endless. It is easy to envision The Mikedo taking place just about anywhere there are human beings to fall in love, get in trouble, make fools of themselves, etc. Indeed, many imaginative creative teams have relocated the play in both time and space without losing any of its punch. However, our own little Town of Titipu evokes a more traditional presentation; instead of imposing a new context, I wanted to push the existing material to its full potential, and while far from authentic, the seductive beauty of the Japanese aesthetic is suggested in the production's design. There were a couple of opportunities for modernization that I couldn't resist, but hopefully they are interwoven into the play's fabric in such a way that would make Gilbert and Sullivan proud.

We are excited to be sharing this classic with the Kingston audiences and I hope that you take as much pleasure in watching it as we did in putting it together.

The Production Team

Producer Director Production Manager Technical Director Stage Manager Set Designer

Head of Carpentry
Costume Designer
Head of Wardrobe
Lighting Designer
Vocal Director
Music Director
Choreographer
On-Campus Publicity Manager
Off-Campus Publicity Manager
Sponsorship Manager

Assistant Stage Managers

Props Managers

Scenic Painter

Carp Crew Costume Crew

QMT Board Representative

Michael Sheppard Matt Stewart Rebecca Whalev Allison Vanek Keri Poupore Cameron Lapp Stephanie Mechanic **Henry Whittle** Faith Pember Gillian Wilson **Kevin Tanner Edward Larocque** Réjean Campbell Mitch Munro Havley Saramaki Jayme Cocoran Hilary Cameron Anastasiya Boika Michelle Yagi Nicole Betty Kenett Ng Rebecca Lee Kathleen Xu Victoria Hurrell Katie Pierce Anna Speyer Shanil Vaja Jim Steele Sylvia Slee

Steven Suepaul

This Production is Dedicated to

Andrew Stewart, who first introduced me to G&S and whose tireless love and support is definitely worthy of joyous shout and ringing cheer.

The Cast

Nanki-Poo

Pish-Tush

Pooh-Bah/Ensemble

Ko-Ko/Ensemble

The Mikado/Ensemble

Yum-Yum

Peep-Bo

Pitti-Sing

Katisha

Ensemble

Andrew Fraser

Richard Albin

Carl Jackson

Peter Nielsen

Michael Hodgson

Alana Sargeant

Suzette Janse van Rensburg

Miri Makin

Katie Hinchliffe

Chris Blackwell

Paul Dyck

Jacky Lam

Martin Lam

Aimee Bouchard

Sophie Boisvert

Marissa Heintzman

Laura Laing

Darienne Lancaster

Fiona Peden

Claire Renouf

Jennifer Schwartz

The Orchestra

Violin

Sung-Hee Yoon, Concertmaster

Jacob Bryce
Zhi-yan Chen
Jamie Cho
Matt Kaiser
Chance Kellner
Kevin ORiordan
Louis Zhou

Viola

Susan Kim

Cello

Mackenzie Bromstad Kathryn Knowles

Bass

Megan Chandler

Flute

Jenny Kim

Elisabeth Manouchehri

Oboe

Francesca Ruddick

Clarinet

Samantha Hotte Maddy Crawford

Bassoon

Joel Marcus

French Horn

Benedict Chang Margaret MacLaren

Trumpet

Peter McNichol Anna Zhuo

Trombone

Sheila Huynh

Thompson Hamilton

Percussion

Sarah Varty

Special Thanks

We'd like to offer thank you's to the following people and groups who helped us create this production

The Board of Queen's Musical Theatre Mark Hunt Tim Fort Adair Redish Anne Redish Mike Fergusson The Queen's Drama Department Ryan Rose Jenn Stephenson Dianne Zemba Larry Stafford Rebecca Brown Peter & Carol Stewart Andrew Stewart Nancy Van den Steen Bill Sheppard Cathy Sheppard Martha Tanner Hollie Campbell Bill Hall

And to our Sponsors

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A Message From the QMT Board

Welcome to Queen's Musical Theatre's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado. The show you are about to see marks our 55th production since the club's inception in 1969. Over the past 42 years, Queen's students have come together to stage musicals that have represented a wide range of eras, styles, and composers. With The Mikado, we are excited to revisit the roots of our club - an organization formerly known as the "Queen's Glee Club" and which was once entirely devoted to producing Gilbert and Sullivan shows. Although QMT has grown and evolved with time, our dedication to presenting high-quality student-run musical theatre for the Queen's and Kingston community has remained strong. We are proud to be performing in The Grand Theatre once again, a venue that highlights the spectacular nature of this show.

The entire team of *The Mikado* has been working tirelessly on this production since they began in March of last year. Their creativity, patience, and perseverance have been evident throughout every step of the process, and the QMT Board of Directors is thrilled with the show they have brought to life. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and wish the production a heartfelt congratulations.

Thank you for supporting QMT and we hope to see you at our Spring production of City of Angels, opening April 7th in the Rotunda Theatre!

Emily Herczeg President, Queen's Musical Theatre

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