

MIKADO



THE

LIBERTY & SULLIVAN'S

FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS



October/November 2003

Director
Fiona Hale

Musical Director
John Batterham

October 30 and 31
November 1, 6, 7 and 8
at 8pm

November 1 and 8
at 2pm

Queanbeyan Bicentennial Function Centre
Crawford Street, Queanbeyan



QUEANBEYAN
BICENTENNIAL
FUNCTION CENTRE
PRESENTS

THE

MIKADO

Presented in association with the
Canberra Nara Sister City 10th
Anniversary Celebrations



10th ANNIVERSARY 2003

From the Director

When I heard Queanbeyan Players were looking for a director for *The Mikado*, I hesitated only 5 minutes before offering my services. It is one of my favourite Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and has played a large role in my life, being dragged to countless dress rehearsals by my mother, who was lead violin in many amateur productions across Sydney.

My partnership with *The Mikado* continued when, as a teenager, I began performing in the chorus, then worked my way up to play Yum-Yum, my first true leading role, when I was still young and charming. My most recent contact with *The Mikado* was in Wollongong in 1999, when I landed the wonderfully bubbly role of Pitti-Sing. As a result of all this immersion in *The Mikado*, I felt I had plenty of background history to direct this, the most loved and well-known of all the G&S operettas.

When I first began thinking how I would present this production, I was struck by the unusual juxtaposition of the exquisite musical score and the absurd storyline. I built on this "sublime/ridiculous" idea and decided to support the "quirky" plot with the most divine backdrop, both visually and musically.

I have been fortunate to work with the most fabulous team. John Batterham has been the most enthusiastic, competent and inspiring musical expert and has truly brought the written notes to glorious life. Any cast member will tell you John's warmups made it worth going to rehearsals on all those cold winter nights.

Imogen and Simon Wall have been collaborating with me since December last year and have researched Japanese designs and artwork so thoroughly they could write a book on the subject. I want to thank them for their tireless work creating the wonderfully exquisite set as well as the artwork on the poster and in this program.

Gail Guiliano and Mary Bowron as Costume Creators have also contributed to making this production look magnificent.

I would like to thank them and all the dedicated, competent and skilled individuals (Production Team, Cast, Crew, Orchestra, Committee, Front-of-House) who have all pooled their amazing talents and magic to create the "sublime/ridiculous" spectacle you are about to enjoy.

PRODUCTION

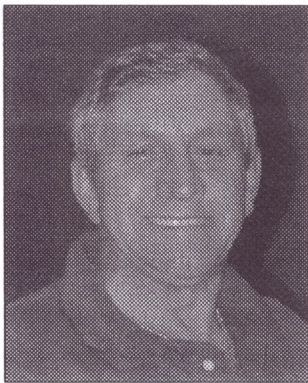
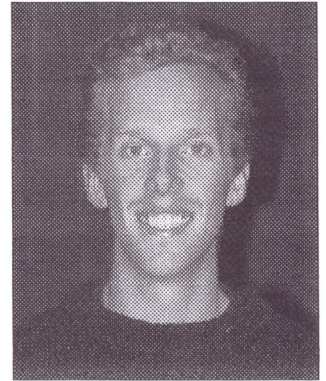


Director – Fiona Hale

Fiona has been involved in every facet of theatre for more than 25 years. *The Mikado* is her fourth directing experience for the Queanbeyan Players, following *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Irresistible Albert* and *The Man in the Bowler Hat*. Some favourite roles as a performer have been Mother Superior in *Nunsense*, Peggy in *Godspell*, Prudence in *La Traviata* and Yum-Yum in *Mikado*.

Musical Director – John Batterham

This is John's first Gilbert and Sullivan as Musical Director. He began his musical theatre career as a pirate in Queanbeyan's *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1999. Credits as musical director with Queanbeyan Players include *The King and I* and *Oklahoma!*. John has recently been working as Resident Musical Director with G String Productions.

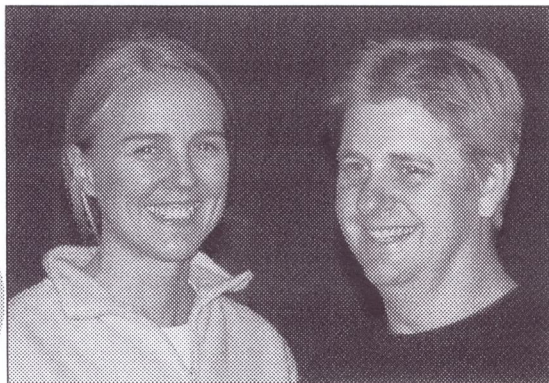


Production Manager – Bill Lord

Bill has been involved with the Queanbeyan Players since 1995. He is the current President of the society and loves being part of such a happy, friendly team. This time around he is taking a break from his usual position on the stage to help with all the other things involved in producing a great show.

Stage Manager – Leanne Lord

During the past 14 years Leanne has worked backstage as stage manager and crew for Queanbeyan Players, Supa and Phoenix. After a five year break from the job of stage manager (to give birth to, and spend time with, a new stage-manager-in-training!), she is enjoying being back in the "hot seat" for *The Mikado* and watching such a great show come to life!



**Simon and Imogen Wall –
Production design**

Simon and Imogen would like to thank Fiona and Queanbeyan Players for giving them their first chance at designing for a whole show. When Fiona said she wanted the set to be "exquisite – like a Japanese brush painting", they thought they'd take her literally and make the set a painting come to life. The Japanese theme of *The Mikado* inspired some very

enjoyable research into Japanese art, including several trips to the Japanese Garden at Cowra. Imogen and Simon love the friendly, community atmosphere of Queanbeyan Players and couldn't have done without the support, help and guidance of long-time Queanbeyan Players set guru Trevor Roach. They hope no one misses the grey stone pit cover too much!

The story

As the story begins, Nanki-Poo has fled the court of his father, the Mikado of Japan, and marriage to the elderly Katisha. Disguised as a musician, he has fallen in love with Yum-Yum, whose guardian, Ko-Ko, wishes to marry her himself.

Ko-Ko, escaping a death sentence by becoming the executioner himself, receives a letter from the Mikado demanding he execute someone or lose his position. When Nanki-Poo seems bent on suicide because he cannot marry Yum-Yum, Ko-Ko agrees to let him marry her for a month in exchange for public execution at the end of that time. The solution is marred only by the arrival of Katisha, who threatens to go to the Mikado.

Things begin to go seriously wrong when Ko-Ko discovers a law that wives must be buried alive upon the death of their husbands. They come up with a new solution – a false affidavit that the death has taken place.

The Mikado arrives and, on hearing of the execution of his son, condemns Ko-Ko and his accomplices to death. Their only hope is to admit to the false affidavit but, as Nanki-Poo has already married Yum-Yum, Katisha will surely insist on their deaths.

Ko-Ko solves the problem in the only way he is able – by offering his hand to Katisha – and the show ends with “joyous shouting and ringing cheers”.

List of songs

Act 1

If you want to know who we are
A wand’ring minstrel I
Our great Mikado, virtuous man
Young man, despair
Behold the Lord High Executioner
As some day it may happen
Comes a train of little ladies
Three little maids from school are we
So please you, Sir, we much regret
Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted
I am so proud
With aspect stern and gloomy stride

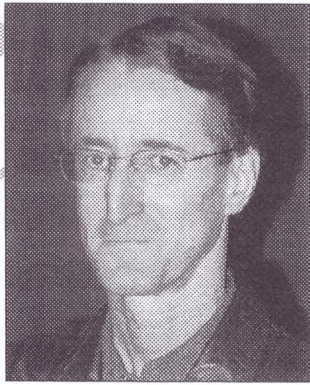
Men
Nanki-Poo, Pish-Tush and Men
Pish-Tush and Men
Pooh-Bah, Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush
Ko-Ko and Men
Ko-Ko and Men
Girls
Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing and Girls
Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah and Girls
Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo
Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko and Pish-Tush
Ensemble

Act 2

Braid the raven hair
The sun, whose rays are all ablaze
Brightly dawns our wedding day
Here’s a how-de-do!
Mi-ya sa-ma
A more humane Mikado
The criminal cried as he dropped him down
See how the Fates their gifts allot
The flowers that bloom in the spring
Alone, and yet alive!
Willow, tit-willow
There is beauty in the bellow of the blast
For he’s gone and married Yum-Yum

Peep-Bo and Girls
Yum-Yum
Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing, Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush
Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko
Mikado, Katisha, Girls and Men
Mikado, Girls and Men
Ko-Ko, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah, Girls and Men
Mikado, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko and Katisha
Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko, Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing and Pooh-Bah
Katisha
Ko-Ko
Katisha and Ko-Ko
Ensemble

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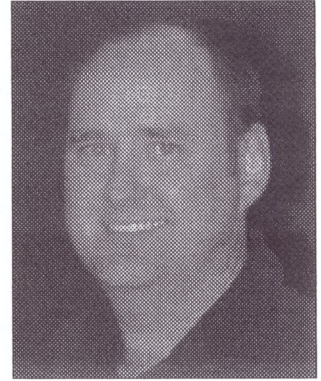


Peter Dark as the Mikado of Japan

Peter is an experienced performer whose interest in G&S began with the Queanbeyan Players in 1977. He has performed with many other companies, and is no stranger to *The Mikado*, having played Ko-Ko in Philharmonic's 1992 production. He is delighted to be back on stage with the Queanbeyan Players after a break from performing, which he is amazed to realise lasted ten years.

Greg Wallace as Nanki-Poo

Greg has enjoyed a long association with the Queanbeyan Players on- and offstage since the late 1980s. Recently he appeared in *The Music Man* (for the second time), returning to the stage after a lengthy absence. While rehearsing at home, Greg enjoys being corrected musically by his six-year-old daughter, and could not do without the unsolicited acting tips from his eight-year-old son.

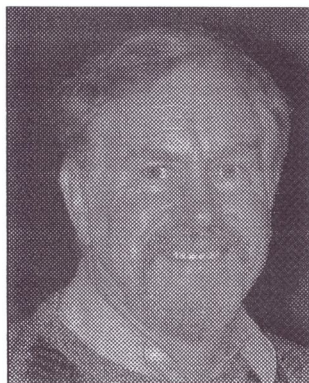
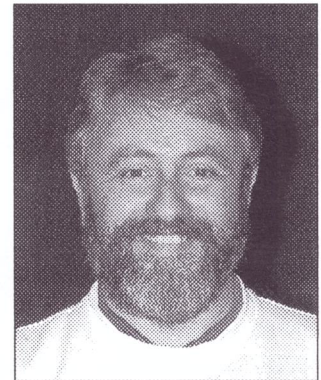


David Cannell as Ko-Ko

David has performed in more than 70 musicals and other shows. He performs most days for recalcitrant kiddies with "The Excited Particles", Questacon's professional theatrical group. Last year he won a CAT award for best performance in a variety show for *Old Time Music Hall*. He is delighted to have the opportunity to play Ko-Ko and to re-write "The List" – apologies to Mr Gilbert!

Chris Stevenson as Pooh-Bah

Chris' first show in the Canberra-Queanbeyan region was the Queanbeyan Players last production of *The Mikado* in 1987. He has appeared in numerous shows, including *The Gondoliers*, *The Grand Duke*, *Iolanthe*, *Les Miserables*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Calamity Jane*, *Thunderbolt* and *Guys and Dolls*. He is delighted to be performing one of his favourite roles in the G&S repertoire.



Peter Smith as Pish-Tush (and understudy Pooh-Bah)

Peter has performed in most of the shows presented by the Queanbeyan Players in the last few years, including as the Sergeant of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Sir Edward Ramsey in *The King and I*, Cord Elam in *Oklahoma!*, and Don Alhambra del Bolero in *The Gondoliers*, for which he received a CAT Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical.

Jessica Taylor as Yum-Yum

This is Jessica's second Queanbeyan Players show, having appeared as Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof* in 1999. This year Jessica has performed as a soloist in Canberra Philharmonic's *We Got Rhythm*, as Velma Kelly in *Chicago*, and in a one-off cabaret performance at the National Press Club. She has appeared professionally in the play *Deja Vu* with SoulArt Productions.



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Judith Colquhoun as Pitti-Sing

Judith is thrilled to be taking part in the show that introduced her to amateur theatre and to performing such shows as *The Music Man*, *The Gondoliers*, *Old Time Music Hall* (2002), and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Playing Pitti-Sing has given Judith an opportunity to develop as a performer and the journey has been great.

Michelle Klemke as Peep-Bo

This is Michelle's third show with the Queanbeyan Players, recently having the confusing experience of playing Mrs. Paroo and understudying (and performing) her daughter Marian in *The Music Man*. She also played Celia in QP's *Iolanthe* in 2001. She won a CAT Award in 1997 for her portrayal of Grace in Alpha's *Annie*. Recently Michelle completed the Honours year of her BMus.



Janene Broere as Katisha

Janene has been training as a classical vocalist for 20 years and can be seen at the eisteddfod and concerts throughout the year. This is her first principal role and she is enjoying playing Katisha – an assertive woman who finally gets her man (well – a man). She has particularly enjoyed beating up Ko-Ko throughout rehearsals (but is still disappointed the director wouldn't let her have a whip).



Rob Grice understudying The Mikado

Since moving to Canberra ten years ago, Rob has appeared in *Camelot*, *Annie*, *South Pacific*, *Gypsy*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Me and My Girl*, and *The Gondoliers*, to name just a few. He recently played the bad-tempered womaniser Charlie Cowell in *The Music Man*.



Steven Hines understudying Pish-Tush

Stephen has appeared in every Queanbeyan Players show since he rediscovered theatre with *Iolanthe* in 2001. His most recent appearance was as one quarter of a barbershop quartet in *The Music Man*. This is Stephen's first role as an understudy, and he's learning a great deal from musical theatre veteran Peter Smith.



Jane Barban understudying Yum-Yum

Jane has played lead roles in *Oliver With A Twist*, *Salad Days* and *No, No, Nanette*. She has sung in many choirs, including the United Nations Choir in Rome. Last spring, she had the pleasure of playing Mrs. Whitehead in *Ride, Ride*, a musical about the life of John Wesley. She has enjoyed understudying the role of Yum-Yum as well as being part of the chorus for *The Mikado*.



C A S T



Georgia Pike understudying Peep-Bo

Georgia Pike is currently studying musicology and law at ANU. She has been singing since kindergarten, and spent a year in New York studying with Claire Alexander (former voice coach of Frank Sinatra). She has performed in various jazz and classical concerts in Australia and in New York. *The Mikado* is her first show.

Anna Wise understudying Pitti-Sing

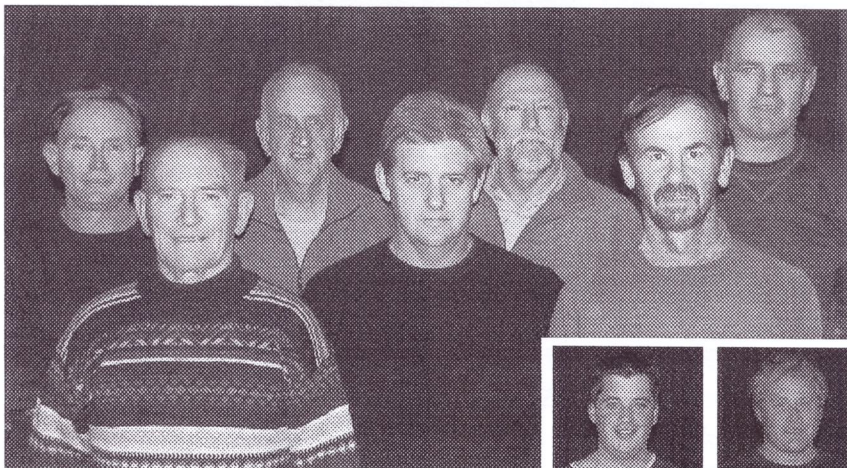
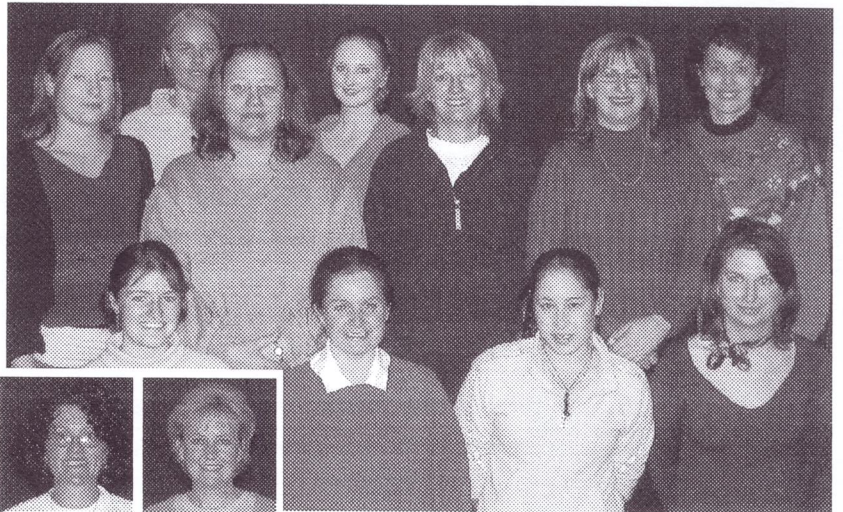
A devoted Gilbert and Sullivan fan, Anna has appeared in every G&S operetta presented by the Queanbeyan Players since 1998. She performed the principal mezzo-soprano role in three of these, the most recent being *The Gondoliers*, in which she played Tessa.



Jenny Grinlinton understudying Katisha

Jenny has performed in countless Queanbeyan Players shows, beginning with *The Yeoman of the Guard* in 1986. Her most recent appearances have been Alma Hix in *The Music Man* and the Duchess of Plaza-Toro in *The Gondoliers*.

Back: Melissa Foulcher, Imogen Wall, Kimmie O'Hare, Libby Donald, Anne-Marie Collins, Gaby Schmid, Patricia Pullen
Front: Katie Barnes, Penny Le Couteur, Rebecca Harman, Clare Boutchard
Inset: Robyn Amann, Sue Walker



Mark Collins, Jock O'Donnell, Alan Johnson, Simon Wall, Paul Adams, Tom Jordan, John Herlihy
Inset: Nick Wooldridge, Brendan Smart

The Orchestra

Violins

Marilyn Moir
Cheryl Pepper
Fiona McKergow
Monica Boyton
Erin Lamson
Mandy Phillipse
Justine Givvings
Peter McDonald

Viola

Cello

Bass

Flute

Bernadette Evans
Tracey Kauffman
Leanora Bellhouse
Fran Nagy

Clarinet

Kara Morton
Ian Mallyon
Ewan Harwood

Oboe

Bassoon

French Horn

Alicia Whaling
Matt Gaul

Trumpet

Sarah Hibbard
Dana

Trombone

Dana Parker
Felicity Boxall

Percussion

Ron Tito

Original Gilbert & Sullivan parts for the D'Oyley Carte edition on hire from Pit Parts, sole agency in Australasia for the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company.

(Telephone: (03) 9458 1797; Facsimile: (03) 9459 5237)

The Crew

Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Crew

Leanne Lord
Andrew Thomson
Jane Smidmore
Peter Grinlinton
Leigh Wilmington
Bevan Noble
Diana Thomson,
Amy Noble
Moya Ewin
Helen McIntyre

Lighting and Sound

Props

B
A
C
K
S
T
A
G
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The Mikado Production Team

Director/Choreographer	Fiona Hale
Musical Director	John Batterham
Production Manager	Bill Lord
Stage Manager	Leanne Lord
Set Design	Simon and Imogen Wall, Fiona Hale
Set Construction	Trevor Roach, Bruce George, Simon Wall and Cast
Set Painting	Michelle Heppard, Lauren Davis, Janet Copland, Sarah Young
Set Artwork	Simon and Imogen Wall, Georgia Pike, Andrew Lamont, Sue Walker
Costume Design	Fiona Hale
Costume Construction	Gail Giuliano, Mary Bowron, Janetta McRae, Norma Roach and Cast
Rehearsal pianist	Iris Willett
Standby pianists	Lachlan Cotter, Jim Bowring
Fan Design/Construction	Jane Smidmore, Annie Colquhoun, Melina Saltori, Judith Colquhoun, Andrew Thomson, Fiona Hale
Wigs/Hair Stylist	Gaby Schmid, Janette Humphrey
Makeup	Janette Humphrey, Melina Saltori
Tickets	Janetta McRae, Elizabeth Turton
Ticket Agencies	Country Heir Interiors, Canberra Ticketing
Publicity	Jon Garland
Poster Design	Simon and Imogen Wall
Program Production	Jon Garland
Front-of-House photography	Ollie Garside
Front-of-House coordinator	Debbie Hourigan
Program sales	Erin and Erin
Rehearsal refreshments	Gail Giuliano, Carmel Bourke, Janetta McRae

The Queanbeyan Players

Queanbeyan Players Committee

President – Bill Lord, Vice-President – Anna Wise, Treasurer – Peter Smith

Secretary – Gail Giuliano, Public Officer – Norma Roach

Carmel Bourke, Jon Garland, Gary Gledhill, Debbie Hourigan, Janetta McRae, Trevor Roach

Membership Secretary – Anthony McGlynn

Honourary Life

Members

Roddy Beamish
Moya Ewin
Rodney Johnston
Anthony McGlynn
Janetta McRae
Ian 'Floyd' Patterson
Norma Roach
Trevor Roach
Marcia Stevenson

Patrons

Frank Pangallo
Mayor of Queanbeyan
Robyn Robertson
of Legacy
Councillor Ann Rocca

Address details

The Queanbeyan Players
PO Box 390
Queanbeyan NSW 2620
Phone 6297 0888

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Alan Johnston
Ewan Harwood
Guild Theatre Wollongong



Queanbeyan Players Presents

Kismet

A musical Arabian night

Director – Peter Smith

Assistant Director – Norma Roach

Musical Director – Jennifer Groom

Choreography – Belinda Hassall

Auditions – November 22 and 23

*Contact Janetta McRae on 6231 6073 during business hours from November 10
for an audition appointment.*

Performances – May/June 2004

Interested in theatre?

Queanbeyan Players is always looking for new members – and you don't have to be able to sing! There are many other roles that need to be filled for every production – stage crew, front of house, set design and construction, props... to mention just a few! It's a great way to make new friends.

If you are interested in joining the Players, or would like more information about the organisation, ask our front-of-house crew for a membership form, or ring us on 6297 0888.



Queanbeyan Players Presents

Coming in October/November 2004

Ruddigore

*Watch The Queanbeyan Age, The Chronicle and
The Canberra Times for details.*