



June 10, 11, 12
16, 17, 18
24, 25

The Mikado

June 19

Down Yonder

July 15, 16, 17

Manitoulin Art Tour

July 17

Down Yonder

July 21, 22, 23, 24

The Mikado

August 14

Down Yonder

August 20

Rick Fines Trio in Concert

September 4

Down Yonder

For extra information call 705-859-3808

Burns Wharf Theatre Players

presents

Gilbert & Sullivan's



The Mikado

June 10 – 12
June 16 – 18
June 24 – 25

July 21 – 24

STORYLINE

The story begins when Nanki-Poo, a wandering minstrel, returns to the small city of Titipu. Having escaped the affections of the hideous and much-older Katisha, he meets a group of noblemen and questions them as to the whereabouts of the beautiful maiden, Yum-Yum, whom he had seen a year ago while playing second trombone in the Titipu Town Band. Nanki-Poo explains that he would now be able to marry Yum-Yum as he had heard rumours that Ko-Ko, the guardian of Yum-Yum, had been condemned to death for flirting. Pish-Tush and Pooh-Bah defeat Nanki-Poo's plans when they describe the 'remarkable circumstances' that led Ko-Ko, a cheap tailor, to escape his death sentence and be raised to the exalted rank of Lord High Executioner.



The Great Mikado, ruler of Japan, sends word that he expects an execution to take place in Titipu within one month. In a panic, Ko-Ko devises a plan that will save his own head at the cost of Nanki-Poo's. With the arrival of Katisha and the Mikado a mix of reverie and fear abounds – depending, of course, on which side of the executioner's axe you happen to be on.

All works out in the end, with many laughs along the way.

THE MIKADO - A Short History

The Mikado is the eighth production by G&S, and is arguably their best and most popular comic opera. The play opened at London's Savoy Theatre in 1885 and ran for 672 shows. (BWTP are only doing 12!)

During this time period, London was enamored with the newly discovered Japanese culture – to the point where a Japanese 'town' was set up in one London district. As legend has it, W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan were going through a particularly challenging time in their partnership. Under pressure to create a new opera, neither man could agree on the plot line the next production should take.

One day, while Gilbert was in his study, a decorative Japanese sword fell off the wall. The wheels instantly started turning and in fairly short order, Gilbert created this much-loved libretto to which Sullivan eagerly composed the music.

Although the theme of death and cruelty pervade the story, it is Gilbert's trivial treatment of those themes that has appealed to audiences for over a hundred years.



THANKS TO...

Burns Wharf Theatre Players is thrilled to present our fourth major musical production in a venue of which we are incredibly proud. If you are an audience member who has been with us from our humble beginnings, we thank you for your continued patronage and support. If you are a first time attendee, we hope we give you a reason to return next year.

The cast and crew would like to give special thanks to Dorothy Anstice, Susan Hart and Marilyn Wohlberg for their countless hours of service in bringing this musical to life.



Of course, in a production of this scale, the list of people who deserve thanks is quite extensive. The entire cast gave generously of their time and energy; attending numerous rehearsals, providing their own ideas and keeping their sense of humour through it all. Also, thanks to the families who had to endure months of rehearsals and probably know the play as well as the cast does.

Special thanks goes to...

Lighting: Chris Mara, Nathan Hovingh

Costume Co-ordinator: Christianna Jones

Costumes: Christianna Jones, Christina Jones, Jackie White, Kathleen Harasym, Linda Vanderveen, Vivian Villeneuve, Freda Bond, Marg Martin

Set Design: Susan Hart

Set Artwork: Susan Hart, Gerry Closs

Set Construction: Peter Baumgarten

Makeup: Lori Thompson, Elyse Labelle, Marilyn Sparham

Props: Ron Nesbitt, Christine McNaughton, Patrick O'Leary

House managers: Brian Sprack, Hugh Moggy, Elwood Wohlberg

Additional Lyrics: Peter Baumgarten, Dorothy Anstice

Ticket master and Bookkeeper: Elwood Wohlberg

Publicity: Peter Baumgarten, Marilyn Wohlberg

Program: Peter Baumgarten

Stage crew: Marilyn Sparham, Christianna Jones, Elyse Labelle

Videography: Robert Maxwell, Steve Maxwell

Sound Effects: Janice Mastelko

Rehearsal Space: Knox United Church, Assiginack Public School

The entire cast offers a heartfelt thanks to Carolee and Geoff Mason of Perth for so generously sharing their time and expertise.

Special Note: No Cole Bowermans were harmed in the making of this production. At least not seriously.

CAST

Noblemen

Hayato
Shinji
Takumi
Sonichiba
Takahiro
Naoki

Chris Theijsmeijer
Cole Bowerman
Henry Hoy
Richard Brunet
Wayne Sparham
Ron Nesbitt

School Girls

Peep-Tok
Pitti-Tok
Chieko
Yamashita
Chiba
Miho
Kyoko
Midori
Kiku
Chiaki
Sakura

Kailey Gelaznikas
Carole Labelle
Janice Mastelko
Audrey Jones
Laura Hovingh
Mary Buie
Kristen McKenzie
Sharon Ferguson
Wendy Gauthier
Rachel Bondi
Natalia Bell



In Memoriam



The Burns Wharf Theatre Players would like to recognize the contributions of the late Karen King to our team during our first three seasons. We will never forget her dedication to our previous productions, *HMS Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Iolanthe*. She had a kindness, humour, and beautiful smile that was infectious and appreciated by all who knew her.

We miss you, Karen!

PROGRAM

The Courtyard of Ko-Ko's Palace

Act I

1. If you want to know who we are (*Chorus of Men*)
2. A Wand'ring Minstrel I (*Nanki-Poo and Men*)
3. Our Great Mikado, virtuous man (*Pish-Tush and Men*)
4. Young man, despair (*Pooh-Bah, Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush*)
- 4a. Recit., And have I journey'd for a month (*Pooh-Bah, Nanki-Poo*)
5. Behold the Lord High Executioner (*Ko-Ko and Men*)
- 5a. As some day it may happen (*Ko-Ko and men*)
6. Comes a train of little ladies (*Girls*)
7. Three little maids from school (*Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing, and Girls*)
8. So please you, Sir (*Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah, and Girls*)
9. Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted (*Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo*)
10. I am so proud (*Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko and Pish-Tush*)
11. Finale Act I (*Ensemble*)

With aspect stern and gloomy stride
The threatened cloud has passed away
Your revels cease!
For he's going to marry Yum-Yum
The hour of gladness
Ye torrents roar!



INTERMISSION – 15 minutes

Act II

12. Braid the raven hair (*Peep Tok, Kiku and Girls*)
13. The sun whose rays are all ablaze (*Yum-Yum*)
14. Brightly dawns our wedding day (*Yum-Yum, Peep Bo, Nanki-Poo and Pooh-Bah*)
15. Here's a how-de-do (*Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko*)
16. Mi-ya Sa-ma (*Chorus*)
- 16a. From every kind of man obedience I expect (*Mikado, Katisha, Chorus*)
17. A more humane Mikado (*Mikado, Chorus*)
18. The criminal cried as he dropped him down (*Ko-Ko, Peep Bo, Pooh-Bah, Chorus*)
19. The flowers that bloom in the spring (*Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko, Yum-Yum, Peep Bo, Pooh-Bah*)
21. Alone, and yet alive (*Katisha*)
22. On a tree by a river (*Ko-Ko*)
23. There is beauty in the bellow of the blast (*Katisha and Ko-Ko*)
24. Finale Act II (*Ensemble*)



PRODUCTION



Dorothy Anstice, Director – Dorothy has been director of the Island Singers community choir since 1987 and is the organist at St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church in Mindemoya. This is the fifth BWTP production in which she is involved. When not pursuing musical endeavours, Dorothy works with her family operating Oshadenah Holsteins.

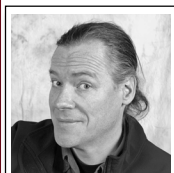


Susan Hart, Director – Susan is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Design Department. She has worked in the capacities of set/costume designer, scenic painter, props person, project manager, production assistant, stage manager and pit orchestra musician for productions in both Sudbury and Montreal. She moved to Manitoulin in 1993, disguised as a wandering minstrel.



Marilyn Wohlberg, Producer – This is Marilyn's fourth amazing season with the BWTP. She wears two hats this year as accompanist and producer. *The Mikado* is Marilyn's favourite G&S play and she has had a wonderful time working with the talented and fun-loving cast. Marilyn wishes to thank her husband, Elwood, for his caring support and encouragement.

CAST



Peter Baumgarten, Ko-Ko – Peter is thrilled to return to the Burns Wharf stage for his fifth production. Previous G&S incarnations include 'Ralph Rackstraw' in *HMS Pinafore*, 'Frederick' in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and 'Lord Tolloler' in *Iolanthe*. He enjoys the company of a wonderful family, loves photography and thoroughly enjoys teaching high school science and graphic design. He also has a particular fancy for the show's costume co-ordinator!



Rhonda Bondi, Pitti-Sing – Rhonda's love of music began years ago in Marysville, Michigan with piano lessons, stage and marching band, and high school productions of *Oklahoma* and *The Sound of Music*. BWTP productions include *HMS Pinafore*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and *Iolanthe*. "Everything is a source of fun" with the BWTP. Thanks to all my 'sisters', especially 'Chiaki'.



Karen Doughty, Peep-Bo – After a fifteen-year hiatus, Karen is excited to return to the stage as one of the new members of the BWTP. Karen and her husband recently relocated to Manitoulin from Windsor where she was a Starbucks Store Manager. Topping out at 5'10", she might just be the tallest 'Little Maid' in recorded G&S history. When not pretending to be a Japanese maiden, Karen enjoys life and can't believe the amazing good fortune that allows her to live her life on this Island.



Robert Maxwell, Nanki-Poo – *The Mikado* is Robert's second Burns Wharf Theatre production, and he considers it one of the most enjoyable things he's done all year. Robert runs his own video production business on western Manitoulin, and has sung so many *Mikado* tunes at home over the last six months that his family knows his lines at least as well as he does.



Patrick O'Leary, Pish-Tush – Patrick is currently researching obscure Eurasian Plains yak-herding folk music for an upcoming multimedia project that aims to elucidate the usage of certain human throat-singing phonemes, to map landscapes devoid of any easily discernable landmarks. In his spare time he enjoys baking tarts of all sorts. Editor's note: In the real world, this is Patrick's second year with BWTP, having played 'Private Willis' in *Iolanthe*.



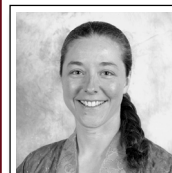
Debbie Robinson, Katisha – Her previous Wharf productions include *HMS Pinafore*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Iolanthe*. It is wonderful being part of a backstage family of 'Players' who support each other. She has an understanding family, a great job and plenty of opportunities to sing at church and with the country band 'Down Yonder.'



Ray Scott, Pooh-Bah – Ray's previous G&S roles include 'Captain Corcoran' and the 'Boatswain' in *HMS Pinafore*, the 'Major General' in *Pirates of Penzance*, the 'Judge' and 'Usher' in *Trial by Jury* and the 'Lord Chancellor' in *Iolanthe*. Ray teaches at Assignack P.S. where he recently directed *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He is married to Ann-Marie and is the proud father of William, James, Marjorie and Maisy the dog.



Chris Theijsmeijer, The Mikado – Chris has a long history of choral singing and he completed formal musical training at the University of Western Ontario. This is his first adventure on stage though, and he is thoroughly enjoying the experience. The chance to be the 'Emperor' is especially sweet, as his 'subjects' have to listen to him, unlike at his day-job at Manitoulin Secondary School.



Heather Theijsmeijer, Yum-Yum – Though an avid chorister for 23 years, and no stranger to the mysteries of technical theatre, this is the first time Heather finds herself in front of the lights onstage. In addition to *The Mikado*, Heather's other Japanese pursuits include kendo, origami and writing haiku.

