



*Proudly Present*

*A Condensed Version of Gilbert and Sullivan's Comedy Classic*

# THE MIKADO



*Original set design of 1885*

*Directed by Dennis Britten*

*In*

*Two Friday night performances & Four Week-end Matinees*

*2013*

*A Note from the Director:*

What a joy a life in the theatre is! Years ago, I was corralled by a fellow worker in the sheet music department of San Francisco's Sherman Clay Music Company to join the ensemble of a little theatre company that played in a converted book store in the city center. That company, The Lamplighter's, performed only Gilbert & Sullivan and had only been in existence a short time, but they performed Friday, Saturday and Sunday year round. Shortly after that the company moved to their own abandoned vaudeville theatre with a thousand seats. That year, we ran *The Mikado* for nine months to keep the seats filled. Now, although they are in their sixtieth year of production, they, like so many other theaters, perform only three or four times a year but with a full orchestra.

By the time I left the company for New York, I had worked my way up through the chorus to main roles. It was the best kind of training a young performer could have, for when I landed in N.Y., Nanki-Poo was one of the first roles I played there with the Light Opera of Manhattan.

When I started my own theater company in Scottsdale, Arizona, one of the first shows we produced was this one. I was much older, of course, so I played *The Mikado*. Directing this production has taken me all the way from the ensemble to the directorship and I can't say which I have enjoyed the most except that having a wonderful group of actors performing for you feels like such a privilege. Directing has always felt to me like being transported back into the past where only the very well to do could afford to have a company perform just for you. I hope you enjoy watching and listening to these wonderful performers as much as I.



Proudly Presents a Condensed Version of

# The Mikado

By **W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan**

Directed by Dennis Britten

Act I – Courtyard of Ko-Ko's Residence

*Intermission*

Act II – Same, later

This production is dedicated to the person who originated these condensed versions of Gilbert and Sullivan operas,  
Ann Pool MacNab,  
the founding director of America's oldest Gilbert and Sullivan company,  
The San Francisco Lamplighters.

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.  
Kindly ask the house manager in the lobby for directions to the restrooms.

Please silence your cell phones.

**Please join the cast after the show at the Ice cream parlor across from the opera house for a Yum-Yum or Moo-kado sunday.**

# *Dairyville Players*

*In order of appearance*

Piano/Organist.....	David Rivas
Nanki-Poo.....	Rob Patrick
Pish-Tush.....	Scott Kelly
Pooh-Bah.....	Laurence Cox
Ko-Ko.....	Ron Swingen
Yum-Yum.....	Hayley Nasman
Piti-Sing.....	Jess Reed
Peep-Bo.....	Essie Canty Bertain
The Mikado.....	Ethan LaFrance
Katisha.....	Phyllis Fort
Stage Manager/Royal Guard.....	Tyson Redifer
Director, Co-Founder/ Royal Guard.....	Dennis Britten
House Manager, Co-founder.....	Paul Roder

## *Staff*

Costumes: Phyllis Fort, Dennis Britten and Marguerite Kendall

Script Advisor: Laurence Cox

Set Artist: Jon Allen

Props: Caitlin Cox, Tyson Redifer and Rob Patrick

**David Rivas** (Accompanist) is a locally raised and trained classical pianist, with a Bachelor's degree from Warner Pacific College and Master of Music in Performance degree from Portland State University. He is quite active in the area as an independent collaborative pianist, both for studio recitals and local competitions. In musical theatre, he's enjoyed being part of productions including *Les Miserables*, *The Fantasticks!*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. David is currently a Staff Accompanist at Pacific University in Forest Grove, and an Adjunct Professor of Piano at Portland State University. He also serves as the Music Director at Grace and Truth Community Church in Vancouver.

**Rob Patrick** (Nanki-Poo) is making his Dairyville Players debut. He performed in last years' Pratt Falls Power & Light Opera production of *It's Music, Man! Another Right-Down Rollicking Evening with Gilbert & Sullivan*. A member of Oregon Chorale, Rob has also performed as the Christmas and Easter Program narrator at Beaverton SDA Church in 2012. Rob is a graduate of West Linn High School, class of 1988, where he won first place at three rivers league and state for experienced duo acting and improvisation. Earning a Theatre scholarship to the University of Portland, he sang in the University Singers with Dr. Roger Doyle, and was a vocal student of Dr. Scott Tuomi. He is currently a vocal student of worldwide opera singer and vocal coach Kristina Jones.

**Scott Kelly** (Pish-Tush) was born and raised in Beaverton, and began performing with Beaverton Civic Theatre two years ago for their performance of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Since then he has played Jean-Francois Millet in *Is He Dead*, James Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, Snoopy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Sir Lionel in *Camelot* and much more. After completing *The Mikado*, Scott will move to Broadway Rose Theatre Company to join the Ensemble in their upcoming production of *My Fair Lady*.

**Laurence Cox** (Pooh-Bah) was born in London, and grew up around Windsor, before moving to the United States in 2009. Previous roles include Oberon and Snug the Joiner in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at HART Theatre, Dick Deadeye in *H.M.S. Pinafore* last year with Dairyville Players, Sir Dinadan in *Camelot with BCT*, as well as Miles Gloriosus in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, in England: Lord Dewhurst in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Noah in *Children of Eden*, Prince Orestes in *La Belle Helene*, Samuel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Ariel in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*.

**Ron Swingen** (Ko-Ko) is happy to reprise his role of Ko-Ko from a student-faculty production while teaching at Beaverton High School. Ron began performing in grade school and has continued to do so including his appearance as Captain Corcoran in last year's Dairyville Players' production of *HMS Pinafore*. He is a charter member of the Oregon Chorale (formerly Washington County Chorale) and also sings with The Westside Singers. As a member of the Oregon Chorale, he has had numerous opportunities to perform not only in concert settings but in original shows based upon G&S music.

**Hayley Nasman** (Yum-Yum) is glad once again to join the Dairyville Players in *The Mikado*, after having played Josephine in the group's inaugural show, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, last year. Since she has sang in Beaverton Civic Theater's *Camelot*, and continued to study microbiology at Portland State University. A SE Portland native, she was introduced to Beaverton in 2011 when BCT's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* needed courtesans. Before that she attended college at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY, where she took voice lessons at Eastman Conservatory.

**Jess Reed** (Piti-Sing) hails from New York and has performed with several companies around Long Island as well as Boston, Vancouver, and Edinburgh, Scotland. A veteran of Gilbert and Sullivan, previous roles include Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*, Celia in *Iolanthe*, Lady Ella in *Patience*, and the chorus of *The Gondoliers* and *Yeoman of the Guard*. Other roles: include Dora del Rio in *Suite Surrender*, Sally Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Beatrice in *Three Murders...and it's Only Monday!*, Jane in *Quilters*, Ricki Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Joanne in *Godspell*, Margaret More in *A Man for All Seasons*, and Sherri Shineer in *Etta Jenks*.

**Essie Canty Bertain** (Peep-Bo) is a graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, having graduated with honors from both their Conservatory in New York, as well as their Bachelor's program in Los Angeles with her B.F.A in Musical Theater. She is a well-rounded performer, singing choir and playing piano from the age of 4, to her most recent opera and musical theater performances, including Sue Snell in *Carrie: The Musical* (Los Angeles, CA) and Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* (Eureka, CA). She recently received the honor of being chosen to perform at an awards dinner for Mary Kay's 50th Anniversary Seminar in Dallas, TX this July.

**Ethan LaFrance** (The Mikado) was born in Tillamook, Oregon. He holds a bachelor's degree in theater arts from Portland State University. A former ballet dancer, Ethan has performed as a soloist with Ballet New England and as a principal dancer with Portland Community Ballet. He has made guest appearances with Columbia City Ballet, New Orleans Opera, Ballet Rogue, Portland Opera, and Washington State Ballet. Ethan's acting credits include *Guys and Dolls*, *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet* and he appeared most recently in Hillsboro Artists' Regional Theatre's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He currently lives in Portland and works for Stagecraft Industries, a contracting firm specializing in theater construction as well as teaching water exercise at Multnomah Athletic Club.

**Phyllis Fort** (Katisha) returns this year for her second stage performance with Dairyville Players and her second in Oregon. In Arizona she was a resident player with Phoenix Show Space Theatre where she played many roles in its original play series as well as playing Katisha in *The Mikado*, Buttercup in *HMS Pinafore* and Ruth in the *Pirates of Penzance* (which she repeated at Desert Foothills Theatre). Also in AZ, she played Mamma Rose in *Gypsy* at Theatre Works, Bertha in *Pippin* at Tempe Little Theater and an equity production of *Man of La Mancha* as the Housekeeper at Phoenix Theatre and many other roles all over the 'Valley of the Sun'.

**Tyson Redifer** (Stage Manager/Royal Guard) This is Tyson's 2<sup>nd</sup> performance on stage and 3<sup>rd</sup> serving as Stage Manager. He has previously been in *A Mid-Summer Nights Dream* at Hart Theater. He was also Assistant Stage Manager for Beaverton Civic Theater's production of *Camelot*. In his personal time, Tyson is an active volunteer with the City of Beaverton and his daughter's school.

**Dennis Britten** (Director, Co-Founder/ Royal Guard) was a member of the San Francisco Lamplighters, America's oldest G&S company, now in its 60<sup>th</sup> year of production, before relocating to NYC where he spent 26 years in professional theatre as a singer, actor and director, studying both there and in Europe. Among his favorite roles in NY are Prince Karl Franz in the Light Opera of Manhattan's *The Student Prince*, Mr. T and 105 in the original cast of *Promenade* with Madeline Kahn and as soloist for 3 years at Radio City Music Hall as well as Carnegie Hall with his own one man show, *Evening of American Song*. He also toured with the NY tour of *My Fair Lady* as Freddy Einsford Hill. Some of his favored directing credits are a production of Leonard Melfi's *Niagara Falls* and his own *If Wishes Were Horses* both in NYC, *Camelot*, last year with Beaverton Civic Theatre and many productions with his own theatre company, Phoenix Show Space Theatre (PSST!) in Arizona where he was also a theatre arts professor at Arizona State University.

**Paul Roder** (House Manager, Co-founder) is now in his second year as Co-Artistic Director of HART Theatre in Hillsboro and as Co-Founder of Dairyville Players. At HART in the past year, he directed both *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Paul began acting at age thirteen; he went on to obtain a BA in Theatre from San Diego State University, emphasizing stage management and directing. Since then he has continued to do all three, happily wearing the appropriate hat that he feels fits especially well. He likes to think he is a director/producer who can act a little.

### *Special Thanks Goes to:*

**Laurence Cox** for his help in expanding this condensed version from its original Lamplighter version.

**Ethan LaFrance** for his tireless help in the lighting and technical aspects of our show.

**Jim Larson** of Roackway Beach for his construction of the cubes used in this production.

**Norma Lee Cusanek** at Beaverton FedEx for her expert help with all the print material.

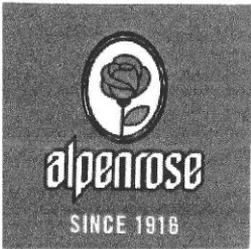
**Orchard Supply Hardware** in Tigard where you can purchase an arch like the one used in the town of Titipoo.

**Bethel Congregational Church** of Beaverton for their generous provision of rehearsal space without which this production would not have been possible.

**Beaverton Christian Church** for their loan of the chairs for stage seating.

And last but not least, **Tracey McKinnen of Alpenrose** for making the opera house available to us.

We Also Wish to Thank the Following for Their Help with  
This Production



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