

The Mikado was brought to you by Pirate Productions. We are an amateur theatre group in Luxembourg, usually presenting two musical productions a year. Our first piece, thirteen years ago was "Pirates of Penzance", hence our name, and over the years we have presented many different musical works. Recent successes have been, "Fiddler on the Roof", performed at the Esch theatre and "Old Time Music Hall", performed earlier this year at this theatre in Bettembourg. Plans are currently under way for the first of next year's productions, "Oklahoma", a joint venture with the American International School, to be performed at the Athenee School in Belair. If you are interested in auditioning for a part on stage or would prefer to offer your talents back stage, please come to the audition, to be held on Sunday, October 20th in the auditorium of the American International School, 188 ave de la Faiencerie, Limpertsberg, from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. If you are unable to come then please phone the director, Eileen Nober, on 25 42 80. If you would just like to become a member of Pirates and to think about being on or back stage, please contact Brian Parker on 25 27 84 and he will arrange membership and newsletters for you. We are open to all people, young and old, who enjoy theatre. You don't have to be a singer or a dancer to join us. Annual General Meeting of Pirate Productions asbl takes place on October at 20.00 at the Am Duerff in rue de Kirchberg, Weimerskirch. This is a chance for all members to have their say and hear what the committee have tried to do over the year. Also an opportunity to elect new members to the committee.

Future Productions by other theatre groups.

*The Round Tower Players* are presenting 'Playtoy of the Western World', very soon. This is being directed by John Brigg.

*New World Theatre* are presenting another of their regular Cafe Villion evenings on the 29th October. This is an opportunity to watch or take part in several short plays or parts of plays. Always an enjoyable evening. Phone Julian Ness on 367955 for further details.

*Carrie O'Brien and Easy Productions* are producing 'Beyond Therapy' at the Den Atelier, rue de Hollerich, from November 25th to 30th. The director has asked us to point out that this play has four instances of 'bad' language, but no bad behaviour in it !!

Final thanks to The American International School, Liz Turner, Fay Wolstencroft, Margaret Love, Steve Russon, The Luxembourg News, Radio ARA and Socio Culturel, Angela Mann, Brian Parker, Graham Chambers and anyone else who helped along the way.  
Stuart Alexander.

IF THERE'S MUSIC IN THE AIR IT'S MOST  
PROBABLY COMING FROM

PIANOS KELLY

FOR ALL YOUR PIANO NEEDS

SALES RENTALS REPAIRS TUNING

17 Rue de Munsbach L-6941 Niederaven

Tel: 34 70 69

Fax: 34 07 16

PIRATE PRODUCTIONS

THE  
MIKADO

AN OPERETTA  
IN TWO ACTS

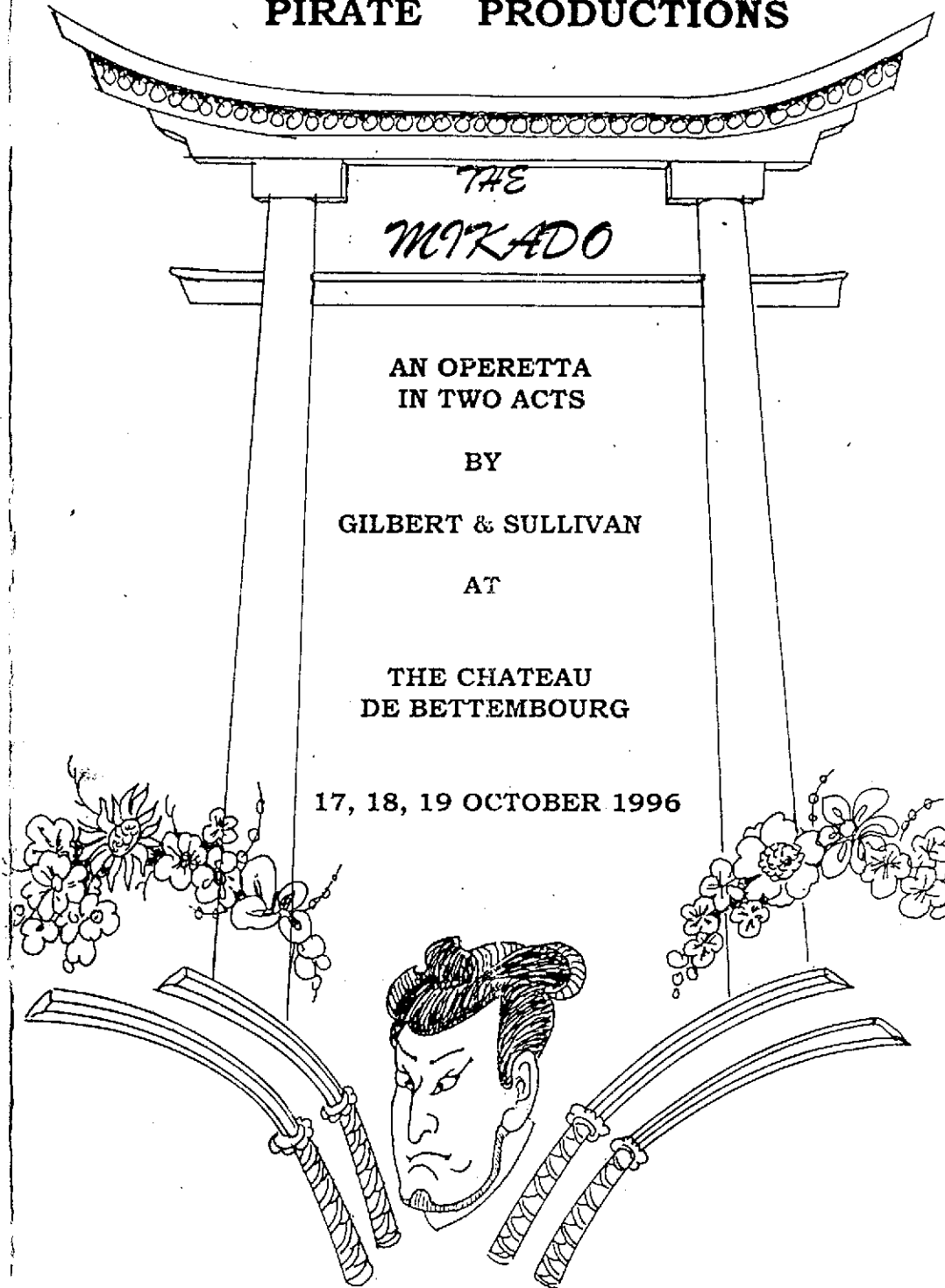
BY

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

AT

THE CHATEAU  
DE BETTEMBOURG

17, 18, 19 OCTOBER 1996



## THE MIKADO - An Operetta in two acts by Gilbert & Sullivan.

Written just over 100 years ago "The Mikado" or "The Town of Titipu" is a tale of romance set in the seemingly timeless Japan of the 19th century. The plot of the operetta is one of boy meets girl, they fall in love and eventually live happily ever after. This of course is an over simplification of the story line which in true G & S style has several complicating factors thrown in for good measure. So for those of you who have not seen "The Mikado" before, a few preparatory notes are listed below:

The Story So Far. Nanki-Poo a "Wandering Minstrel" has fallen in love with "Yum-Yum" whilst playing with the local band. He cannot live without her, so returns to the town of Titipu to claim her hand in marriage, only to find that she is engaged to marry Ko-Ko the Lord High Executioner. Ko-Ko is also her guardian and was until recently the town's tailor.

The plot thickens. Ko-Ko had been condemned to death for flirting, which was a capital offence, which only applied to single men. However, as the job of Lord High Executioner was vacant he contrived to have himself appointed to the post. This meant that being both the condemned man and the executioner he was effectively reprieved because he could not cut off his own head. The rest of the town's officials resigned in disgust and the local "Lord of the Manor", Pooh-Bah, conveniently stepped into the breach and assumed all the roles at once, collecting the salaries that go with the jobs at the same time.

And then Yum-Yum discovers that Nanki-Poo is back in town and explains that she cannot wed him because she is going to marry Ko-Ko. Yum-Yum does not want to marry Ko-Ko but as he is also her guardian there is no way that he would let her marry Nanki-Poo. Nanki-Poo then reveals to Yum-Yum that he is no other than the son of the Mikado, the Emperor of Japan, and is travelling in disguise as a second trombone. Yum-Yum explains to Nanki-Poo that she is duty bound to marry Ko-Ko despite her obvious love for him. Nanki-Poo is heartbroken at the news and decides to end it all, not wanting to live without the girl he adores.

However in the meantime the Mikado has written to the Town to enquire why no executions have been carried out recently. He further threatens to demote the status of the town to a village if an execution is not carried out immediately. Ko-Ko, who is still under the death penalty, is the obvious choice unless he finds a substitute.

Enter Nanki-Poo preparing to commit suicide. Ko-Ko persuades Nanki-Poo to let him do the job properly and Nanki-Poo agrees on condition that he is allowed to marry Yum-Yum for a month and then be beheaded.

Then catastrophe falls in the shape of Katisha an ageing matron of the Emperor's court to whom Nanki-Poo was engaged to be married. She was also the reason he fled from his father's court and is in disguise as a musician. Katisha tries to trap her ex-fiancee without success and is sent packing at the end of act one.

Act two opens as Yum-Yum is preparing for her wedding to Nanki-Poo. She expresses her aspirations of greatness as she daydreams in song, and is brought down to earth again by her two friends. Ko-Ko has also contrived to spoil their happiness with a stern reminder that when a wife's husband is beheaded the wife is buried alive afterwards. This has a rather demotivating effect on Yum-Yum.

Ko-Ko's little scheme is again frustrated by the arrival of the Mikado and Katisha. Ko-Ko convinces the Mikado that he has performed the necessary execution and everything seems to be going his way until the Mikado reveals the reason he is visiting Titipu. He is looking for his son, Nanki-Poo. Katisha then discovers that Ko-Ko has executed Nanki-Poo and this news lands Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pitti-Sing under sentence of death for circumventing the death of the heir apparent.

They try, in vain, to persuade Nanki-Poo to come back to life. There remains only one solution to the problem. Ko-Ko must persuade Katisha to marry him.....How he resolves this dilemma I shall leave for you to discover, suffice it to say that they all live happily ever after, in the end.

## The Players

Campbell Thomson.....	The Mikado
Jonathan Hearfield.....	Nanki-Poo
Alan Carlisle.....	Ko-Ko
Steve Preston.....	Pooh-Bah
Colin Fraser.....	Pish-Tush
Fran Potasnik.....	Yum-Yum
Carolyn Emslie.....	Pitti-Sing
Erica Bastian.....	Peep-Bo
Fiona Turner.....	Katisha
Ernie Hocking.....	Ping-Pong

Anita De Viell	Maria-Pilar Salso
Anna-Louise Kroon	Pam Hocking
Barbara Thomson	Ros Jones
Candice Allen	
Caroline Brady-Heys	Julian Presber
Glenda Wall	Mark Pearson
Gudrun Smalle	Neil Johnson
Jan Mee	Simon Critchlow
Lene Sorensen	Stuart Alexander

## The Orchestra

Violins	Chris Birch	Flutes	Jozina Dekka
	Gertud Hilf		Ulrike Wiedenbach
	Wendy Hall	Oboe	John Schadeck
	Vivien Flynn	Clarinets	Bert Kwant
	Ute Seinecke		Antoine Cipriana
	Betty Steinmetz	Bassoon	Lana Smith
	Wolfgang Rumstadt	Trumpet	Phil Warner
	Torielle Perreur-Lloyd	Trombones	Peggy Jenks
			Nadine Heritier
Viola	Barbara Halloran	Percussion	Jean-Paul Barthel
Cello	Augustina Seymour	Keyboard	Jackie Fleming

Rehearsal Pianist David Jackson

## Those Who Give Orders

Artistic Director.....	Stuart Alexander
Musical Director.....	Dafydd Bullock
Assistant Director.....	Jane Philpott
Producer.....	Pauline Saunders
Stage Manager.....	Chris Wilson

## Those Who Follow Orders

Costume Design.....	Annabel Shand
Mistresses of the Wardrobe.....	Alice Rowland & Lauren Hayward
Seamstresses.....	Rosemary Schol, Pam Hocking, Jane Philpott & Liz Alexander
Japanese Obis.....	Matsuko Miyama
Make-up.....	Sally Cardew, Judy-Anne Milne, Maireadh Cranfield, Melanie Cardew & Phillipa Seymour
Hair.....	Tekla Skowronski
Prompt.....	Anna Vaudrey
Poster and Set Design.....	Rosalind Simpson
Set Builders.....	Malcolm Turner, Roger Clough & Ken Saunders
Lighting.....	Simon Kelly & Graham Thomson
Publicity.....	Colin Moorcroft
Programme.....	Geoff Stevens
Video.....	Chris Atkinson
Ticket Booking.....	Pamela Carlisle
Front of House.....	Geoff Stevens, Pamela Carlisle & Suzanne Gardner
Bar.....	David Bennett

Thanks to the American International School and Simon Kelly  
for use of rehearsal rooms.

## THE MIKADO

When I proposed to the Pirates Committee that their Autumn show should be the Mikado, little did I think that I would be directing and actually singing in the chorus; but that is another story.

The interpretation which I present to you today is not the usual traditional Mikado, but a 20th century, 50s or 60s version. The theme of the Mikado I have tried to develop is one of youth versus the establishment. Gilbert, always a very clever political satirist would have, I hope, been amused by the results.

The members of the chorus and the three little maids are the rebels and are therefore dressed in western dress. Ko-Ko and Pooh-Bah are more conservative, but still want to follow the fashion. It is only when confronted by tradition or symbols of authority ( The Mikado himself and Katisha ) that they allow themselves to conform.

I remember the first Gilbert and Sullivan I ever saw some . . . . years ago. It was Iolanthe and I can still remember parts of it today. I do hope that the magic of Gilbert's words and Sullivan's music, with a few topical updates, remain intact. If you have enjoyed this performance I sincerely hope that you will continue to support Pirates in the future.

Stuart Alexander.

---

**ANNABEL SHAND** **DESIGN**  
**EXPERIENCED DRESSMAKER**

Do you have . . .

An idea but can't find it,

No idea but know what you like,

or just a favourite that is irreplaceable ?

If so, call Annabel Shand. Tel 00 44 171 221 4865 or for an appointment leave a message with Jane Philpott in Luxembourg on 66 10 85

Have you heard the good news ?

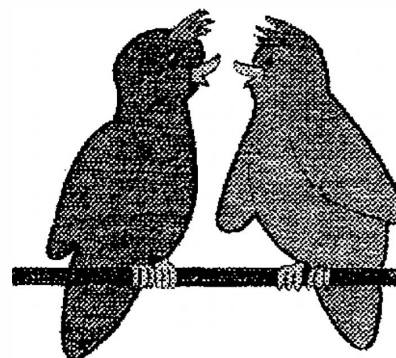
No, tell me

Nadine & Ann are opening a

*new shop selling*

**BRITISH PRODUCTS**

**Very Soon**



Where ?

206-210 route d' Arlon  
L-8010 STRASSEN

Will I be able to buy food, sweets, gifts, books, cards,  
Sunday newspapers and magazines ?

Of course, *Little Britain sarl*  
sells it all and many other  
things.....

*See you soon !*

