

EVERYMAN THEATRE CARDIFF LTD

OPEN AIR FESTIVAL 2012

at St Fagans National History Museum



THE MIKADO

music by Sir Arthur Sullivan

Lyrics and Libretto by WS Gilbert

AUDITION NOTICE

Director
Rich Tunley

Musical Director
Gareth Wyn Griffiths

THE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION:

The most popular Gilbert and Sullivan opera, and arguably the most popular opera ever written, *The Mikado* has delighted audiences for more than a century and spawned a number of imitations.

The story of *The Mikado* revolves around a young fellow named Nanki-Poo who has banished himself from the little town of Titipu. Nanki-Poo, it seems, has fallen in love with a beautiful young lady called Yum-Yum. Unfortunately, Yum-Yum is engaged to be married to her guardian, the tailor Ko-Ko. However, when Nanki-Poo hears that Ko-Ko has been condemned to death for the capital crime of flirting, he hastily returns to Titipu, only to learn that Ko-Ko has not only been granted a reprieve, but has been promoted to the post of Lord High Executioner. Apparently, those in power, wishing to slow down the rash of executions, reason that since Ko-Ko was next in line for execution, he can't cut off anyone else's head until he cuts off his own! The Mikado, however, soon takes notice of the lack of executions in Titipu and decrees that if no executions take place within the time of one month, the city shall be reduced to the status of a village. Ko-Ko, desperate to avoid cutting off his own head, vows to find a substitute, and as luck would have it, just at that moment, Nanki-Poo wanders onto the stage with a rope determined to take his own life rather than live life without his beloved Yum-Yum. Ko-Ko immediately seizes on this opportunity and offers the young lad one month of luxurious living at the end of which he would be relatively painlessly decapitated. Nanki-Poo agrees on the condition that he be married to Yum-Yum right away so that he can spend his last month in wedded bliss. But just as the wedding celebration begins, a law is discovered, much to Yum-Yum's distress, which decrees that a condemned man's wife must be buried alive with his corpse!

THIS PRODUCTION:

It is 1929 - between the two World Wars!

The Welsh Rarebits, a failing concert party arrive to perform their latest venture Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Things don't always go as planned.

This production presents the G&S classic as a play-within-a-play [or an operetta-within-an-operetta!]. Traditionalists, however, needn't worry. The G&S version remains intact with this production injecting energy and fun into what is a time-tested theatrical treat.

Brought to you by the same creative team that directed *Pirates Of Penzance* at last year's Festival, this production promises the same level of production values and the same level of fun [especially during rehearsals!].

Cast of Characters		
The Welsh Rarebits	Playing in THE MIKADO	
<i>Harry Harrison 40's+</i>	The Mikado of Japan	<i>bass-baritone</i>
<i>Jimmy Russo 20+</i>	Nanki-Poo, his son	<i>tenor</i>
<i>Des 'Dimples' Davies 25+</i>	Ko-Ko, The Lord High Executioner	<i>comic baritone</i>
<i>CJ Macintosh 30+</i>	Pooh-Bah, The Lord High Everything Else	<i>baritone</i>
<i>Trevor Herbert 20+</i>	Pish-Tush, A Noble Lord	<i>baritone</i>
<i>Mikey Jacks 20+</i>	Go-To, A Noble Lord	<i>Bass</i>
<i>Polly Raymond 18+</i>	Yum-Yum, Ward of & engaged to Ko-Ko	<i>soprano</i>
<i>Jessie Edwards 18+</i>	Pitti-Sing, Ward of Ko-Ko	<i>mezzo-soprano</i>
<i>Geraldine Rose 18+</i>	Peep-Bo, Ward of Ko-Ko	<i>mezzo-soprano</i>
<i>Lesley Blethyn-Glyndwr 35+</i>	Katisha, In love with Nanki-Poo	<i>contralto</i>
<i>Ensemble - mixed ages</i>	School Girls, Nobles, Guards etc. etc.	<i>mixed</i>

**PLEASE NOTE: Stated age ranges are 'playing age' and can be considered approximate

Performance Dates: Wed.11th-Sat.21st July 2012

**[matinees on Saturdays 14th & 21st,
no performance on Sunday 15th July]**

Dress Rehearsal: Tues.10th July

Technical Rehearsals: Sunday 8th & Monday 9th July

Rehearsal period : to be confirmed

Rehearsal days : to be confirmed

NB - all rehearsals are timed calls

THE AUDITIONS

Before auditioning, please take a moment to consider the necessary level of commitment. Take careful note of the rehearsal period and be honest about your availability within it. Although the rehearsal process takes place over a number of weeks, consistent and punctual attendance is essential, as we will be operating within a very tight schedule. A high level of unavailability, persistent lateness and/or no-show will regrettably result in you being asked to leave the production. Those interested in auditioning and who have worked with Rich and/or Gareth previously will know that rehearsal time is always used well.

- The auditions will take place at Chapter Arts Centre on **Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th February** with further auditions/recalls, if necessary at a later date to be confirmed.
- **Please prepare a song and bring the music with you.** It can be from *The Mikado*, any another Gilbert and Sullivan operetta or from another piece of musical theatre. **If you wish to use a backing track, please let us know in advance.**
- If you are auditioning for a **principal role**, you may be asked to **read some dialogue**.
- When booking an audition, please consider the above character breakdown.
- Please turn up 15min before your audition slot and bring with you your completed audition form [p.5] with photograph. Spare audition forms will be available.

To book an audition: contact Margaret Bourke
email amabourke@gmail.com or phone 01656 890371

We look forward to seeing you!

EVERYMAN SUMMER THEATRE FESTIVAL 2012

Audition form for - *THE MIKADO*

To book your audition time please contact
Margaret Bourke on
01656 890371
amabourke@gmail.com

Please put a
[current] photo
of yourself here!

Please don't forget to bring this form
complete with photograph to your audition!

Name.....

Date of audition.....time.....

Address.....

Postcode.....email address.....

Tel.no [home].....[work/mobile].....

Date of birth if **under 16** on 1st April 2012playing age.....

ANY SPECIAL SKILLS - *eg, dancing, singing, juggling, musical instrument playing, etc*

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE [continue overleaf if necessary].....

Are you already a member of Everyman Theatre? yes/no
PLEASE NOTE - everyone cast must become an Everyman member.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

NOTES:

Not cast/recalled/cast as.....written acceptance rec'd **yes/no**