

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS

in association with David Spicer Productions and EssGee Entertainment

# THE MICKADO

**Conceived and Produced by Simon Gallaher**

**Based on the Operetta by W.S Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan**

New Orchestrations by Kevin Hocking

Additional Lyrics by Melvyn Morrow

**Director**

**Ashley Worsman**

**Musical Director**

**Carleen Steele**

7 - 22 February 2014

# MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

## Act I

If You Want to Know Who We Are	Pish Tush & Ensemble
A Wand'ring Minstrel,	Nanki-Poo & Ensemble
Our Great Mikado, Virtuous Man	Pooh-Bah & Ensemble
Young Man, Despair	Pooh-Bah, Nanki-Poo & Ensemble
And I Have Journeyed For A Month	Nanki-Poo & Pooh-Bah
Behold The Lord High Executioner	Ko-Ko & Ensemble
As Some Day It May Happen	Ko-Ko & Ensemble
Three Little Maids From School Are We	Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo & Yo-Ko
So Please You, Sir, We Much Regret	Yum-Yum, Pooh-Bah & Maids
Were You Not To Ko-Ko Plighted	Yum-Yum & Nanki-Poo
I Am So Proud	Pooh-Bah, Ko-Ko & Maids
Finale of Act I	Katisha & Company

## Act II

Braid The Raven Hair	Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo, Yo-Ko & Yum-Yum
The Sun Whose Rays Are All Ablaze	Yum-Yum
Here's A How-De-Do	Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko & Pooh-Bah
Mi-Ya Sa-Ma	Mikado, Katisha, Maids & Ensemble
A More Humane Mikado	Mikado, Maids & Ensemble
The Criminal Cried As He Dropped Him Down	Ko-Ko, Maids, Pooh-Bah & Ensemble
The Flowers That Bloom In The Spring	Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko, Yum-Yum, Maids & Pooh-Bah
Alone and Yet Alive	Katisha
Willow, Tit-Willow	Ko-Ko
There Is Beauty In The Bellow Of The Blast	Katisha & Ko-Ko
For He's Gone And Married Yum-Yum	Company (Finale of Act 2, 1885)
Finale 1996	Company



## Director **ASHLEY WORSMAN**

Since joining us in 1998 Ashley has truly been a loyal supporter of Sunnybank. We've seen him in many shows since early days as the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Wishy Washy* in the pantomime *Aladdin*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and many other musicals along the way right up to recent times of joining the chorus of *The Sound of Music*, for which he also designed and built the wonderful set. He has shown us his versatility as an actor, his great imagination for set and lighting design and his skills in direction with the great success of *A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum* at the end of 2011.

As a teenager Ashley saw his first G & S show on the ABC, *Pirates of Penzance* with Jon English and Simon Gallaher and was totally captivated. The following year in 1995 the live theatre production of *The Mikado* captured his imagination. Ashley realised that not everyone is keen to modernise classic shows, but as he saw *Mikado* return in 2008 to packed houses it proved that it worked, together with its updated music and script.



### **Directors Note**

The comic opera *Mikado* was written in the latter days of Gilbert and Sullivan's collaboration and much against Sullivan's wishes. During precarious health, with his eyes set on more serious music to compose, he felt he had written enough of the comic opera style with W S Gilbert. However, the production went on to be a phenomenal success. From March of 1885 it ran at the Savoy Theatre in London for 672 performances, the second longest run for any work of musical theatre, and by the end of 1885 at least 150 companies were producing the show in Europe and America. Translated into many languages it remains one of the most frequently played musical theatre pieces in history.

The plot concerns son of the *Mikado*, Nanki-Poo, who has fled his father's imperial court to escape marriage with Katisha, an elderly lady. He meets and falls in love with Yum-Yum, the young ward of Ko-Ko, a cheap tailor in the town of Titipu. Yum-Yum however, was already betrothed to her guardian, and Nanki-Poo leaves in despair. But Nanki-Poo returns prepared to lose his head all for the sake of his love for Yum-Yum with hilarious consequences.

Now, almost 130 years later with thanks to Simon Gallaher and his creative team, *The Mikado* continues to appeal to a diversified and new generation while still remaining true to its original idea - to poke fun at itself and the current times.

Seeing the show again in 2008 I noticed the young girl next to me was singing every song and never took her eyes off the stage. She reminded me of myself back in 1995, totally captivated!

I would like to take this opportunity to very sincerely thank Carleen for her skill, knowledge and talent and passing that on to everyone, it has been unforgettable. The countless hours getting the music of the show up and running with the help of Carleen's trusty side kick, Claire, has truly been a blessing. I must also acknowledge the amazing choreographer, Lynette, who has spent many hours scribbling down moves and translating them to the stage to make them look effective on the small space we have.

The cast have been amazing to work with. I thank them for allowing me to boss them around since October. It has been a challenging rehearsal period, but I hope the cast enjoyed it as much as I did to create a show that you, our audience, will hopefully be delighted with and give the cast the appreciation they richly deserve.

## Musical Director **Carleen Steele**



Carleen first began playing piano at the tender age of 2 and went on to conduct her first musical ensemble at her third birthday party, where she surprised unsuspecting friends with a variety of percussion instruments for her own arrangement of the classic Twinkle Twinkle. In her teens she was encouraged to try composition, which led to her being selected as one of three from around 33,000 entrants in Australia/Asia Pacific to be performed in a national concert. Carleen went on to study piano and composition at the University of Queensland as well as contributing to various Eisteddfods along with Yamaha Australia as a competitor and adjudicator. She has also composed theme and background music for television pilots and various multimedia resources.

Carleen considers her greatest productions to be her three children, all of whom now know the score of this and other musicals intimately! Over these last few years Carleen has been our Musical Director for many of our successful musicals including A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and more recently last years production of The Sound of Music. She is very excited to be a part of The Mikado, now her fourth collaboration with STG, and has loved working with such a wonderful bunch of creative people.



## Assistant Musical Director **CLAIRE IRWIN**

Claire has been playing the piano since the age of eight. Throughout her school years she took part in numerous musicals and concert items. After her first involvement with Sunnybank, working with the director Ashley and being in the band for A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, she once again joined her long-time friend, Carleen,

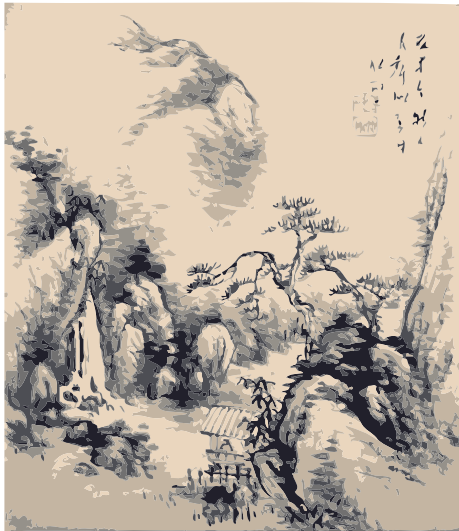
in the music team for last year's production of The Sound of Music. Claire has enjoyed the challenge of her first Gilbert & Sullivan production and is excited to add another musical to her varied repertoire.

## **Choreographer LYNETTE WOCKNER**

Lynette has been a dancer, teacher and adjudicator over the years but now very much enjoys choreographing for musical theatre. She has done classes in jazz, tap and ballroom but highland dancing gave her the technical training to enjoy the world of choreographing musicals. Oklahoma, with Ignatians Musical Society, was Lynette's first musical as a dancer, which was the beginning of a wonderful relationship with theatre. She has danced in many shows but her first venture into choreography was a children's show, Toad of Toad Hall with the Brisbane Arts Theatre. Since then she has choreographed many shows in and around Brisbane for various theatre groups. Last year she was our choreographer for The Sound of Music and in the same year she did Brigadoon with the Queensland Musical Theatre.



Lynette is very excited to be a part of The Mikado and to work with such a fantastic production team and cast and hopes you will enjoy a wonderful night at the theatre!



## **Stage Manager Sophie Rohweder**

It's time for Sophie to step back behind the curtain as she ably Stage Manages the show. There's no doubt you'll remember seeing Sophie in many of our musicals over the past couple of years, working with Ashley in A Funny Thing Happened of the Way to the Forum and as a 'Nun' in The Sound of Music. More recently she shared a lead role of 'Marge' in last year's Breaking Up is Hard to Do! With her high level of qualifications and University degrees in the Arts and a Teachers diploma she was delighted to accept the offer to take up the huge challenge to run our Sunnybank Youth Theatre, which she has been doing since 2012 with phenomenal success. The constant feedback that STG receives about the standard of our reasonably new Youth Theatre has been nothing short of overwhelming which is thanks to Sophie and her team of helpers. It is due to her dedication and skills that we will obviously be seeing the talents of many new actors on stage as they progress through the youth group and audition for roles to suit their ages as young adults. Now she is happy to be taking the reigns of running the show efficiently from curtain up!



# THE CAST

## Pooh Bah **ANDREW FRASER**



Andrew is a Brisbane based singer and actor. After graduating as captain of his high school drama program, Andrew was a regular around Brisbane's community theatre scene. Appearing as a lead in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Harriet*, *the Woman's Organisation* as well as the original ensemble production *The Battle of Brisbane* with *Underground Productions* and *The Wyrd Sisters* with *Nash Theatre*. During 2012/2013 Andrew was part of the *Harvest Rain Theatre Company's* musical theatre internship program and appeared in many shows such as *Working*, *Cabaret Del Arte*, *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Chicago*. Andrew recently made his professional stage debut in *Harvest Rain's* production of *Blood Brothers* at *QPAC's Cremorne Theatre* starring *Amanda Muggleton* and directed by *Tim O'Connor*. Andrew has recently finished performing in *Opera Queensland's Otello* at the *Lyric Theatre*, which marked his opera

debut. *The Mikado* is Andrew's first show with *STG*, he would like to give thanks to his friends and family and hopes you enjoy the show.



## Nanki Poo **Samuel Sandrousi**



Since before he could walk Samuel Sandroussi has always loved the power of the voice, always looking for different ways to express the beautiful gift, and the beauty that it gives to others. Currently attending *Mansfield State High School*, Samuel is heavily involved in their music program, always finding new opportunities in exciting areas. He has performed in their past three school productions, most recently filling the straw of the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*. Venturing out into the world of community theatre, Samuel is very excited to be debuting onstage with *Sunnybank Theatre Group*, and even more so with an amazing cast and crew to experience the journey with. Enjoying long walks on the beach and sunsets in the park, Samuel is a very motivating young performer and is looking forward to starring in more productions in the future.

## **Yum Yum Gabby Diaz**

Gabrielle has been performing since a young age and has always known she wants to be on the stage. She first started performing in musicals with Julie-Ann Lucas School of Dance at the age of 8. She appeared in *The Lion King*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and successfully cast in major lead roles in *Seussical* and *Starlight Express*. She was cast in a minor lead role in *The Pirates of Penzance* at Mansfield State High School and in 2012 was lucky enough to play the lead role of Dorothy in their production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Gabby plays professional level cello and actively participates in Mansfield's music program in the String Ensembles and Choral groups. She has participated in Creative Generation State Schools Onstage for three years now as a member of the orchestra, core choir and in 2012 was also selected as one of 8 backing vocalists. *The Mikado* is her third production with Sunnybank Theatre - patrons will remember her wonderful performance as Liesl in *The Sound of Music* and as Lynne in *Stepping Out* in 2013 and says she has had an amazing time playing Yum Yum.



## **Ko Ko Greg Johnson**

Greg is a very experienced actor and singer with many years of performing. He first appeared on stage at the tender age of 10 with Wynnum Mercury Youth Theatre. Since those days, whenever opportunity has permitted, he has appeared in Queensland community theatre in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Bundaberg. Amongst his many musical roles he has played Jud Fry in *Oklahoma*, Zsupan in *The Gypsy Baron* and Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*, King Arthur in *Camelot* and Mr Sowerberry in *Oliver!* His previous experience of Gilbert and Sullivan was playing Major-General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance* and has appeared in leading roles in several straight plays including *Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Keep* and *The Shifting Heart*. We've seen him a number of times here at Sunnybank, most recently, in *The Sound of Music* in 2013 and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in 2011.



## **Katisha Julie Jones**



Julie has been in the entertainment arena for over 25 years in various roles and capacities of stage productions, bands and management. Her performance roles have included playing Sister Hubert twice in Nunsense, Matron Mama Morton in Chicago, Katisha in The Mikado... yes, that's right, she is doing it again! She has also played Dreamcoat Diva and Wife in Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat and has had lead singer and character roles in over 20 professional musical revues. Julie comes from a wide and varied background working as comedian, MC, Maître de, Entertainer and Director professionally for over 10 years and has traveled throughout Queensland, New South Wales and New Zealand. With all her experience, nothing suits Julie more than coming 'home' to Sunnybank to perform with STG. However, as she is definitely one of the 'oldies' in this cast of young vibrant performers, her passion lies

behind the scenes directing and leaving the stage open to amazing upcoming entertainers.

## **Mikado Gary McEwen**



Gary returns to our stage here at Sunnybank Theatre after a 12 month theatrical hiatus. Much of 2013 for him was spent on domestic activity and of course, earning an income.

Performers though, need an outlet. The creative urge which flows through the lives of our people proved to be irresistible...to a point that in October last, he found his way back to auditions ... something he assures us he did not miss!!!

He is delighted to be cast as The Mikado's titular character. Regulars to our Sunnybank theatre will recall him playing many roles over the years. Most recently a wonderful performance as the somewhat mysterious Mr Paravinci in The Mousetrap and some time ago as Wild Bill Hickok in Calamity Jane and who could forget him putting a smile on many faces as they recall him playing that nutty Elvis character, Pharaoh, in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour

Dreamcoat.

Other credits include Mr Meyers in Witness for the Prosecution, Cheswick in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Chief Sitting Bull in Annie Get Your Gun and a personal favourite, as one of the two characters in that delightful life play Post Its.

Gary has relished his time with the creative team we have assembled for our production – Ashley Worsman as director, along with Carleen Steele as MD and Lynette Wockner as Choreographer.



# THE TITIPU SINGLETTES

## **Pitti Sing Joanne Sephton**

Joanne has been with STG for over ten years and really feels that she should call this place her home away from home. While she spends a lot of her time behind the scenes in a variety of roles, you will usually not see her as one of her main jobs in recent years is to sit in the dark of the lighting box shining the light on the actors. She came out from backstage in 2013 to play a nun in *The Sound of Music*. Now, with the lure of sparkly dresses, Joanne is happy and excited to take on the challenge of joining her fellow 'little maids' in *The Mikado*.



## **Peep Bo Lesley Davis**

Having been bitten by the theatrical 'bug' at a very early age, Lesley has spent close to 35 years bringing a wide range of characters to life in dramas, thrillers, comedies and musicals. Her most recent roles include Maria in Sunnybank's extremely successful production of *The Sound of Music* and the challenging blind role of Suzy in *Wait Until Dark*. She has had a very diverse theatrical career with community theatre, both on and off the stage. Also a director in her own right, Lesley has taken the reigns for many productions, including STG's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2007 and more recently STG's highly successful, excellent and very memorable 2013 presentation of Aaron Sorkin's *A Few Good Men* which, deservedly, received wonderful feedback from our patrons.



She now looks forward to letting her hair down in the sarcastically humorous role of a little maid.

## **Yo Ko Genevieve Suthers**

Genevieve has had a love for musical theatre from a young age and has always tried to be as involved in theatre as much as possible. She has had the privilege of being selected as a 2014 intern at Harvest Rain Theatre Company to pursue her passion and cannot wait to expand her skills.

Genevieve first discovered her voice in high school and tested the musical 'waters' playing roles such as Marty in *Grease*, Joanne in *Godspell* and Lady Catherine in *Pride and Prejudice*. Since those days she has joined us at STG playing roles in the pantomime *Aladdin*, and musicals *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and more recently in last years *The Sound of Music*. She is very excited to take on the role of a 'Maid' in *The Mikado* with a talented cast, an incredible director and an extremely talented musical director.



# THE GENTLEMEN OF JAPAN

## Liam Wigney



Liam is a young actor with many performances to his credit over the past 3 years. He began in his school's production of Oliver! performing in the lead role of Oliver. Soon after, he played a Munchkin in Harvest Rain's production of the The Wizard of Oz at QPAC. Other roles include Mushu in Mulan, Iago in Aladdin, four roles in Jungle Book, Rooster in Annie with Rokit Productions, and ensemble of Musical Theatre Project, Electric Avenue. Liam joined us for the first time to play Friedrich in The Sound of Music and with Ignatians Musical Society he played Young Peter in The Boy from Oz. Theatre magazine, Stage Whispers applauded this performance, with Peter Penne stating he thought Liam was "the best Young Peter he had ever seen". During 2013, he was a member of the ensemble in Redland's College Beauty and the Beast and in Risk Theatre's production of Cinderella. He also performed in Anne of Green

Gables, his first show with Villanova Players, and finished the year as Baby John in Queensland Musical Theatre's production of West Side Story. Liam is very happy to be working here again at Sunnybank in The Mikado.

## Tyler Goes



Tyler is an enthusiastic musician who has been involved in music since a young age. He has played bass guitar for 9 years and also plays the drums. Tyler is looking forward to a career in the music industry. In 2012 Tyler was involved in the production of The Wizard of Oz at Mansfield State High School where he is also actively taking part in the chorale and jazz combo. Tyler has been a member of the Generation Core choir for two years. This will be Tyler's first production with Sunnybank outside of the Theatre's Youth Group where he is discovering the fun side of theatre sports and games and the art of acting. He is very excited to be performing in The Mikado.

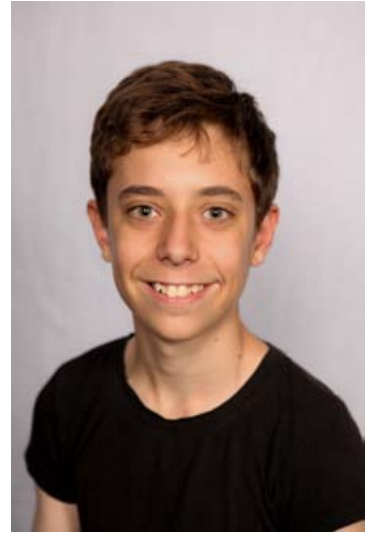
## Ben Barruel



Ben's interests include drama, music, and scriptwriting. With his love of performing, Ben enjoys the camaraderie of being a member of the Sunnybank Youth Theatre group, and has appeared in two high school musicals: The Wizard of Oz (2012) and Mansfield Ignites (2013). He also enjoys being in the Mansfield State High School Male Chorus and two school bands, in which he plays the clarinet. In his spare time, Ben likes playing the piano and writing songs and stories.

## **Liam Inglis**

Liam is 13 years of age and is the one of the youngest members in this production. It is Liam's first production with S.T.G. He has a great passion for drama and has experience in acting through his school and the Sunnybank Youth Theatre Group. Liam will shortly be taking on the lead role of Peter Pan in his upcoming school production. Liam is extremely excited to be part of the cast of The Mikado.



## **Zander McGrath**

Zander has loved being involved in productions from a young age. First appearing as John in Kidz-N-Co Talent Production of Peter Pan at the age of 11. He then went on to be in numerous productions including Opera Queensland's Pagliacci and Cavalleria Rusticana, and the Brisbane Arts Theatre productions of David Coombes Musical, Snugglepote and Cuddlepie.

He has been involved with the Imogen's Children's Chorale and was lucky enough to go on tour with them to Japan. Through his involvement with the production company Kidz-N-Co Talent, Zander has been in several children's theatre pantomimes such as Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty as well as numerous musicals, including Avenue Q, Rent and the role of 'Edna' in Hairspray. This role will be Zander's second performance at the Sunnybank Theatre and he is very excited to be involved in this musical.



## OUR CREW

Orchestral Musicians	Carleen Steele Claire Irwin
Stage Manager	Sophie Rohweder
Stage Crew	Laura May Stinton Zander McGrath
Set Design	Ashley Worsman
Set and Props Construction	Ashley Worsman
Costumes	Linda Hammond, Pam Cooper, Lyn Martin, Betty Peisley & Cathy O'Dowd
Costume Hire	Squids Theatrical Hire
Lighting Design/Operator	Ashley Worsman
Photography	Kayleen Gibson
Program and Media	Chris O'Leary Chris Guyler
Front of House/Green Room	Margaret Oakhill and many wonderful volunteers

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS  
in association with ORiGiN Theatrical



# HOLMES and the RIPPER

a thriller by Brian Clemens  
directed by Loretta Donnelly

28 March to April 12  
Box Office opens March 1