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# S Synops

The show opens in the town of Titipu where the chorus of nobles are joined by Nanki-Poo, disguised as a second mandolinist, who is looking for Yum-Yum, the ward of Ko-Ko. A noble lord named Pish-Tush asks what Nanki-Poo's business is with Yum-Yum, and learns that the minstrel had seen the girl a year ago when he was a member of the town band, and they had fallen in love. But Yum-Yum was betrothed to her guardian Ko-Ko, 'a cheap tailor.' However on learning that Ko-Ko was condemned to death for flirting, the minstrel has hurried back to try to claim Yum-Yum. Unfortunately on his return he finds that far from being dead, Ko-Ko has in fact been let out on bail, and appointed Lord High Executioner. There is worse to come as Pooh-Bah, who holds every major office of state, informs Nanki-Poo that Yum-Yum and Ko-Ko are to be married that very day.

Yum-Yum and her sisters, Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo, appear with their schoolfellows. When Yum-Yum finally catches sight of Nanki-Poo he reveals that he is the son of the Mikado, and when they are alone, she admits she does not love her guardian. The two lovers realise that their cause is hopeless. and Yum-Yum leaves Nanki-Poo who then tries to kill himself. Meanwhile, Ko-Ko has received a letter from the Mikado, who threatens to abolish the post of Lord High Executioner and reduce Titipu to the rank of a village unless a beheading takes place within a month. On seeing Nanki-Poo about to 'terminate an unendurable existence,' Ko-Ko points out that suicide is a capital offence, and offers to do the job professionally. Nanki-Poo agrees, on the condition that he can Marry Yum-Yum and enjoy one month of married life before he is beheaded. After the execution Ko-Ko will then be able to marry the widowed Yum-Yum. Amidst the celebrations in storms Katisha. having tracked down the object of her affections, Nanki-Poo, and threatens to reveal his true identity. She is outshouted by a chorus of Japanese syllables: " O ni! bikkuri shakkuri to!" (one of the many possible translations of which is "So surprised, we hiccup! Bah!"). But the town dwellers are not to be deterred and 'joy reigns everywhere around.'

#### Intermission

Act two opens with Yum-Yum being prepared for her wedding. But soon the awful fact is out that under the Mikado's law the widow of a beheaded man must be buried alive. This places Nanki-Poo in a dilemma, if he holds Yum-Yum to this marriage, she dies a hideous death, and if he releases her she must marry Ko-Ko at once. The marriage is off, and Nanki-Poo determines to do away with himself that afternoon unless Ko-Ko will kill him at once. But it turns out that Ko-Ko can't kill anything. To make matters worse, the Mikado and his suite are approaching the town and will arrive in ten minutes. In desperation Ko-Ko arranges to draw up an affidavit of Nanki-Poo's execution.

The Mikado arrives with Katisha who makes much of being his daughter-in-law elect. When Ko-Ko presents his certificate of execution. The Mikado reads it and says, 'My poor fellow, in your anxiety to carry out my wishes you have beheaded the heir to the throne of Japan!' Ko-Ko and Pooh-Bah find Nanki-Poo and beg him to present himself - alive - to his father, thereby absolving them of his death. But Nanki-Poo, now married to Yum-Yum, is afraid of Katisha's wrath. Unless Ko-Ko will agree to marry the old hag himself, he and Yum-Yum will leave on their honeymoon at once. Katisha, meanwhile, is mourning the death of Nanki-Poo, and when Ko-Ko tries to woo her, she is at first reluctant, but he wins the formidable lady with a pack of flattering lies and a sad, lovelorn song.

Katisha adds her powerful pleas to the Mikado for everyone to be pardoned. The Mikado, a bit bewildered by it all nonetheless pronounces that 'Nothing could possibly be more satisfactory!'

Synopsis by Andrew Lister, University of Warwick G&S Society

#### Cast

The Mikado of Japan Nanki-Poo Ko-Ko Pooh-Bah Pish-Tush Yum-Yum Pitti-Sing Peep-Bo Katisha Go-To

Ellen Abney Ashley Boyd Brianna Garrett Caelan Goss Kaitlyn Graves Kristin Griffin Meg Griffin Rebekah James Emma Jensen Scott Johnson David Lawshe Noya Levy Jessica Lister Justin Lockridge

Jarrod Lee Aaron Martin **Daniel Matchen** David Lawshe Macon Prickett Rebecca James, Debra Mantua Jessica Lister Scott Johnson Meg Griffin, Amber Quillin Justin Williams

#### Chorus

Debra Mantua Aaron Martin Daniel Matchen **Dylan McCombs** Matthew Palmer Macon Prickett Amber Quillin Marissia Simmons Aaron Smith Lacy Taylor Kevin Ward Justin Westley Samuel Wight

#### Orchestra

First Violin

Second Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Bass Flute

Oboe Bassoon Clarinet

Horn

4

11

Trumpet

Trombone Percussion Piano

Chloe Smith Camron Dilley Zachary Vascocu Matthew Keener **Enrique Williams** Kierra Irbv Kendall Gulledge **Bryce Anderson Trevor Stewart** Michael Greenwood Katelyn Mcgee Ethan Owens Christopher Knight Kristen Balschi Aundrenee' Jemison Daniel Marshall Corey Hyman Mark Knauss **Tim Chappell** David Dickson Jason Cole Kathy Gregory

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Jarrod Lee hails from Sylacauga, AL and presently lives in Baltimore, MD. Jarrod earned a Masters of Music from the Maryland Opera Studio where he worked extensively with Directors Leon Major, Pat Diamond, and Nick Olcott. Jarrod has studied voice with Dominic Cossa, Francois Loup and presently studies with Elizabeth Daniels. Jarrod is a scholarship recipient for the Aspen Music Festival and School, 2013 as a member of the Aspen Opera Theater. Jarrod earned a Bachelors of Arts in Music Education from Jacksonville State University and studied voice with Dr. Richard Armstrong. In appreciation for the experience at JSU, Jarrod returns

yearly to share experiences and offer coaching in voice and acting while organizing and raising funds for a scholarship awarded to voice students of JSU in honor of Dr. Richard Armstrong named the "Richard Armstrong Vocal Competition."

As a featured soloist, Jarrod sang for President Barack Obama and the First Family and for Rev. AL Sharpton during their respective visits to Metropolitan A.M.E Church in Washington D.C.

Operatic roles include: Basilio and Fiorello in IL Barbiere di Siviligia, Marchese in La Traviata, Simon in Naughty Marietta, Man with the Cornet Case in Postcard from Moracco, Jaggers in Miss Havisham's Fire, Talpa in IL Tabarro, The Officer in Amelia al ballo, Joe Louis in the world premiere of Shadowboxer, an opera based on the life of Joe Louis, The Duke and Capulet cover in Roméo et Juliette, the Mikado and Pish-Tush in Mikado, The Chief of Police and Samuel in The Pirates of Penzance, Second Yeoman in The Yeomen of the Guard, Giuseppi in The Gondoliers Captain, Zaretsky and Gremin cover in Eugene Onegin, Dulcamara in L'Elisir D'Amore and Love Potion #1, Sciarrone and Jailer in Tosca, the Sergeant in La Bohème , and Falstaff in The Merry Wives of Windsor.

Jarrod has worked with Opera Birmingham, Jacksonville Opera Theatre, Summer Opera Company of Washington D.C., Chesapeake Chamber Opera of Baltimore, Baltimore Concert Opera, The-In Series of Washington D.C., and Young Victorian Opera Theater of Baltimore. In addition, Jarrod has worked with Washington National Opera chorus and the Lyric Opera of Baltimore where he presently performs through the education program for Baltimore City and County Schools.



Ellen Abney (Chorus) is a native of Tallapoosa Georgia. Ellen is a senior at Jacksonville State University studying vocal music education under Mrs. Teresa Stricklin. This is Ellen's fifth production with Jacksonville Opera Theatre. She was previously seen as Patty in The Baby Shower, The Wife in The Fisher The Fish and The Wife, Gertrude in Romeo et Juliette, and the Notary in The Sorcerer. Outside of JOT Ellen has previously been seen as Rizzo in Grease, Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz, Ruth in Pirates of Penzance, Winthrop in The Music Man, and participating in JSU choral ensembles and Sigma Alpha lota music fraternity.



Ashley Boyd (Chorus) is excited about performing with JOT again this year! This is her seventh show with JOT; she was seen in the cast of The Mikado (Chorus), HMS Pinafore (Chorus), The Sorcerer (Chorus), Daniel and the Dreamcatcher (Effie/Dreamcatcher), Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters (Ellen), and Romeo et Juliette (Chorus). Ashley has served as a Marching Southerners clarinet section leader and as an A Cappella Choir/ Chamber Singers section leader for the past two years. Ashley is a Vocal Music Education Major, and she is also a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, a national honorary fraternity for college bandmembers.



Brianna Garrett is currently a Sophomore at Jacksonville State University where she is a theatre major with a minor in music while studying under the instruction of Dr. Nathan Wight. She also participates in A Capella choir as well as Chamber singers. This is her first opera, but is no stranger when it comes to performing at JSU. She was a chorus member/ Roger's mom in Rent, and played Iris in Pamela Glen's The Syringa Tree with JSU drama. Brianna is very grateful to be doing The Mikado as her first opera and hopes to continue to do more operas with JOT.



Caelan Goss (chorus) is currently a graduated senior of Piedmont High School. He graduated from his high school with honors in May of 2013. He has won many academic achievement awards throughout his high school career. He is thrilled to be in his first ever Jacksonville Opera Theatre production. After high school, Caelan plans to attend college to pursue a degree in liberal arts. He currently is studying voice with Dr. Nathan Wight. Though limited by his school's lack of an arts department, Caelan is an aspiring musician who is very passionate towards music and all that it has to do with.



Kaitlyn Graves (Chorus) is a student at JSU and is extremely excited to be in another JOT production. She has been seen in four other JOT productions: as the Princess in The Princess and the Pea; in the chorus of Gounod's Romeo et Juliette; in the chorus of The Fisher, the Fish, and the Wife; and most recently as Tracy McIntyre in the world premiere of Baby Shower. Kaitlyn is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and will graduate in the fall of 2013. She studies voice under Mrs. Teresa Stricklin and is involved in several university choirs. Kaitlyn is a member of Sigma Alpha lota International Women's Music Fraternity.









Kristin Griffin has just completed her 2nd year at Jacksonville State University. She is very excited about her debut performance as part of the chorus of Jacksonville Opera Theatre/s production of The Mikado. Although this is Kristin's first performance with the JOT, she is definitely not considered a 'rookie' on the stage. Kristin has spent many years of her life performing in musical productions. She is pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Music Education and plans to graduate in the fall of 2015. She studies voice under Dr. Patricia Corbin and is a member of JSU's A Cappella Choir, Chamber Singers and Encore! Show Choir.

Meg Griffin (Katisha) graduated from JSU in December 2011, with a BA in Music Education. She studied piano and voice and was a member of several university choirs. She has performed frequently in JOT productions, including Pirates of Penzance, Iolanthe, St. George and the Dragon, H.M.S. Pinafore, Daniel and the Dreamcatcher, In A Garden, The Sorcerer, and Gounod's Romeo et Juliette. Meg's past JSU drama appearances, include, Seussical! the Musical, Fiddler on the Roof, Sweeney Todd, Beauty and the Beast, and most recently as Fiona in Brigadoon. In the fall, she will begin her masters at University of Southern Mississippi.

Bekah James (Yum-Yum) is a graduate of Cleburne County High School. She is a sophomore at Jacksonville State University and is a vocal music education major, studying with Dr. Dani Jones. This is her second production with the Jacksonville Opera Theatre, the first being a chorus member in Romeo et Juliette. She is a member of the JSU A Cappella choir and she is also a member of Sigma Alpha lota, an international professional music fraternity for women. Outside of getting her college education, Bekah has recently recorded her own EP and performs around Alabama in her spare time.

Emma Jensen is a senior at Alexandria High School. She is a member of the Alexandria High School Senior Robed Choir and the Chamber Choir. She has been taking Private Voice with Eric Wilcox for Two years. She currently is the winner of the district four Outstanding Choral Student for 2012-2013. The Mikado will be her second year performing with the JSU Opera Theatre , previously she worked with the JOT in Romeo et Juliet. She plans to attend Jacksonville State University in the fall to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a Music Educator and teaching ages K-12.



Scott Johnson of Gadsden, AL is a senior vocal music education major at Jacksonville State University. He has devoted himself to several JOT performances including.Gounod's Roméo et Juliette and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore. Scott has been chorus master for three operas, but now has received this opportunity to perform as a principle character. He has also worked in the musical theater field conducting Shaiman's Hairspray, Flaherty's Ragtime, and Jacob and Casey's Grease. Scott is currently serving as the Director of Music at Heflin First United Methodist Church where he conducts the Chancel Choir, Men's Choir, and Handbell Choir.



David Lawshe (Pooh-Bah), is a Music student at JSU, studying Vocal Performance. A lyric baritone, David has participated in several Operas with JOT: A Question of Taste (Schofield), Signor Deluso (Magistrate), and Romeo et Juliette (Monsieur Capulet). Outside of JOT, David has been a member and featured performer for the Magic City Choral Society, a soloist for Handel's Messiah and many other works at Southminster Presbyterian Church and the First Baptist Church of Columbiana and was the Bass soloist in JSU Choral Department's performance of Moart's Requiem. David is the student of Dr. Ginger Beazley and Dr. Nathan Wight.



Noya Levy (Chorus) is a freshman at Jacksonville State University. This is her second performance at JSU, past performance was The Baby Shower. She is a General Music Major and loves everything about it. Noya has performed in shows such as Wicked, Annie, Guys and Dolls as Sarah, Jesus Christ Super Star, Grease as Rizzo, The Wiz, Pippin, and Les Miserables as Fantine. Noya also participates in A Capella Choir and Chamber Singers here at JSU. Her hobbies include singing, listening to music, and reading Noya is very grateful and honored to be working with such talented and wonderful people. Noya wishes everyone Toi Toi Toi



Jessica Lister (Pitti Sing) is a senior music education major at JSU. She studies voice with Teresa Stricklin and has performed with JSU Chamber Singers, A Cappella Choir, and the Contemporary Music Ensemble. Ms. Lister has also performed in three Madrigal Dinners and in 2010's performance of Carmina Burana. This is Jessica's fifth JOT production. She was previously seen as a chorus member in Iolanthe, HMS Pinafore, The Sorcerer, and Romeo et Juliette. Jessica is very excited to be performing her first principle role with JOT. Ms. Lister hails from Gadsden, Alabama and is a graduate of Southside High School.



Justin Lockridge (Goto) is an Instrumental Music Education from Heflin, Alabama. He is a primary euphonium student with a secondary focus in voice. He is in his fifth year of college at Jacksonville State University. This is Justin's third performance with Jacksonville Opera Theatre. He has been studying voice as a tenor with Dr. Nathan Wight for two years. Justin is a brother of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He has performed in multiple ensembles in his time at Jacksonville including Chamber Winds, Wind Ensemble, Tubaween, and others. Justin plans to continue on to graduate school for a masters in performance.



Debra Mantua (Yum Yum) is a student at JSU and is extremely excited to participate in her first JOT production. She was in JSU Drama Department's production of Brigadoon earlier this year. She has also been in the following shows: The Producers, All Shook Up!, Les Miserables, and Crazy for You (Irene Roth). Debra is a member of two of the universities choirs, Acappella Choir and Chamber Singers. She is a General Music major with a Drama minor. She is currently studying voice under Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Wight. She cannot wait to make her JOT debut in The Mikado.











Aaron Martin (Nannki-Poo) is a student at JSU and this is his first JOT production. Aaron is currently pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Drama – Performance and is hoping to graduate in the spring of 2015. He has been seen is three of the drama department musicals; as the chorus in RENT, as Linus in Snoopy the Musical, and Charlie Dalrymple in Brigadoon. He studies voice under Dr. Nathan Wight and is involved in JSU show choir Encore. In May, he will return to JOT's stage in The Mikado. Aaron Martin want to thank his family for all of their support.

Daniel Matchen (KoKo)- is a JSU transfer student from The University of Montevallo, and is so honored to have the opportunity to be in his first ever opera. He was recently in the JSU Drama Departments's production of Brigadoon. He is a Theatre Major and Music Minor and is studying voice with Dr. Wight. He is so thankful for all the work and trust Dr. Wight has invested in him. He is also thankful for his family and friends for supporting him through this whole theatre process. He has been in two productions so far at JSU, The Illusion, and was recently in Brigadoon, where he tried to sing and dance in a characteristic Scottish Fasion.

Dylan McCombs (Chorus) is a current student at Jacksonville State University. He is going into his third year majoring in vocal music education. Dylan has been in one other JOT production, Romeo et Juliette. He is also a member of JSU's A Cappella Choir, Chamber Singers, and Show Choir. He was also a section leader for one semester for A Cappella Choir and Chamber Singers. Dylan studies under Dr. Nathan Wight and is making great strides toward being great a tenor. Dylan aspires to be a future high school or college choir director. Music education is the most important thing in Dylan's life.

Matthew Palmer (Chorus) is a student at JSU and is from Ringgold, Georgia. Matt is very eager to perform in his first JOT production. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Instrumental Music Education and just completed his freshman year. He is very involved in the music department. Matt studies trombone under Dr. Dave Lambert and sings baritone/ bass. He is a member of Southerners, Wind Ensemble, Trombone Ensemble, Jazz II, two jazz combos, A cappella choir, and Chamber Singers. He loves music and participates in various activities. He is extremely thankful to be so involved in what he loves.

Macon Prickett (Pish Tush) is thrilled to be involved in Jacksonville Opera Theatre's production of the Mikado! He was also involved in the 2010 opera HMS Pinafore making this his second production with JOT! Mr. Prickett is a student at Jacksonville State University majoring in Communication Public Relations with a minor in Drama. He is active in three different choral ensembles including Encore Show Choir and A Capella Choir. He has recently performed in the JSU Drama Department's production of Brigadoon and is very involved with CharACTers Theatrics in Gadsden. He feels very excited and blessed for this wonderful opportunity!



Amber Conaway Quillin (Katisha/Chorus) Amber is a graduate of JSU where she earned a degree in Vocal Music in 2012. A former student of Mrs. Teresa Stricklin, she has previously been seen in the JOT productions of Baby Shower (Flo), The Sorceror (Constance), Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters(Helen), Daniel and the Dreamcatcher (Amanda/Ameliora), and St. George and the Dragon (Una). Amber is currently pursuing a second degree at JSU in instrumental music education. She is grateful for this opportunity to perform with JOT and would like to thank her family and friends for their support and encouragement.



Marissia Simmons (Chorus) is a student at Jacksonville State Univeristy and is truly proud to be starting her first time here in the Jacksonville Opera Theatre production in the chorus for the Mikado. She studies voice under Mrs. Dani Jones and is sings in A Cappella Choir, Civic Chorale, and Gospel Choir as well. Marissia will be pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in General Music and a minor in foreign language. She hopes to earn her masters in conducting in the near future after she graduates in he fall 2017.She enjoys being able to learn new things about music, and hopes to continue throughout her years here.



Aaron Smith (Chorus) is a graduating senior from Weaver High School and is excited to be apprenticing with the Jacksonville Opera Theatre. Aaron is also an incoming freshman to JSU, and music has paved his way through Opera and Band scholarships. He is planning to pursue a Music Education degree in instrumental music and go on to obtain a master's degree in performance. He has participated in the Alabama All-State Choir for the past two years. He also takes voice from Dr. Nathan Wight and is in several of Weaver High School's choirs. Aaron is excited to find his way into the opera world by performing in the Mikado.



Lacy Taylor (Chorus) Lacy is a vocal music education major at JSU. She has been on stage since age six as numerous roles at The Rome Little Theatre in her hometown, Rome, Georgia. Some of which include The Sound of Music, CATS, and select songs from My Fair Lady. You may have also seen her as "Nancy Lowe" in JOT's production of The Baby Shower. Lacy is also a member of A Cappella Choir, and plays trumpet in the Marching Southerners. She gives special thanks to all her friends and family. And of course, she gives special thanks to her wonderful parents for the support and money for her education and for where she is now.



Kevin Ward (Chorus) is a junior at Jacksonville State University. He is currently studying Music with a concentration in voice. He has been in several Jacksonville Opera Theatre productions such as, The Sorcerer, The Princess and the Pea, The Fish the Fisherman and the Wife, and Romeo and Juliette. Kevin is currently involved in Characters Entertainment, a community theater based in Gadsden that is performing Spamalot this July. Kevin is to give his junior recital in the fall and plans to graduate in April of 2014. After graduation Kevin hopes to work for Cirque du Soleil or another Opera company.





Justin Westley (Chorus), an 11th Grade homeschooled high school student, is thrilled to bein his first production with JOT. Besides being active in community theatre, Justin studies voice from Mrs. Jennie Wall, Piano from Dr. Susie Dempsey, and Organ from Dr. James Cook. Singing with the Oxford Christian School Concert Choir, he was been accepted into Alabama All-State High School SATB Chorus two years in a row. Recently, Justin competed at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Alabama Chapter Student auditions and placed first in his division. Justin is very excited to perform in the Mikado this May.

Samuel Wight (Chorus) makes his debut performance with Jacksonville Opera Theatre this season. Samuel attends school at Jacksonville High School, where he plays French Horn in the band. He is a member of the gifted program, and is an avid technology enthusiast, placing in the District Tech Fair and participating in the State Tech Fair in 2011 and 2012. He also studies piano with Mrs. Cheryl Wight and has competed in the Alabama Music Teachers Association competition. Samuel is also active in Boy Scout Troop 19. He also volunteers each summer for local mission works through Model City Missions.



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