

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair
Auditions for

THE MIKADO

Stage Director: Denise Gutierrez (Dora [Mrs. Reginald] Foghorn)
Music Director: Barry Koron (Professor Koron)
Assistant Director / Stage Manager: Paul Sinasohn (Reginald Foghorn)
Producers: Cat Taylor & Robert Young

The Mikado is probably the best-loved and most well-known of all the Gilbert & Sullivan comic operas, and was featured in the Oscar-winning film *Topsy Turvy*. On the surface it appears to make fun of Japan and the Japanese, but the "Japan" of *The Mikado* is really a fantasy kingdom serving as a setting for a satire on English society and manners – satire that rings amazingly true today, in the US over a hundred years later.

Denise Gutierrez and Paul Sinasohn have created a one-hour adaptation of the show (similar to what has been done for *Pirates of Penzance* in the past.) which will be performed on the Victoria & Albert Music Hall Stage twice each Fair day.

Director Info: Denise Gutierrez is a theatrical professional, specializing in wigs and makeup. She has 30 years of experience with G&S shows, having worked with Lamplighters (the Bay Area's premier G&S performing troupe) since 1979. She has been with San Francisco Opera for 26 years and has been a department head at Festival Opera (Walnut Creek) for the past 15 years. She is new to the Dickens Fair. Denise's husband Paul Sinasohn has been performing and directing at the Dickens Fair since 2000 and has extensive G&S performing experience with Lamplighters and other Bay Area ensembles.

PRINCIPAL ROLES

We are looking for strong singer/actors for the following roles. Experience with Gilbert & Sullivan not necessary if you can sing and act the role. Some roles may be double-cast or understudied.

KO-KO * Patter Baritone * Lord High Executioner of the town of Titipu, guardian of (and in love with) the lovely young Yum-Yum.

NANKI-POO * Tenor * romantic lead. Son of the Mikado (Emperor), who has fled the imperial court and come to Titipu disguised as a wandering minstrel.

POOH-BAH * Bass/Baritone * Titipu's Lord High Everything Else, an extremely haughty and exclusive person.

THE MIKADO * Bass/Baritone * The fierce emperor of Japan, whose governing philosophy is "let the punishment fit the crime."

PISH-TUSH * Baritone * Strong chorister who sings in "Big Black Block" trio. Remaining solos have been cut in this adaptation.

YUM-YUM * Soprano * Ko-Ko's ward, lovely, irresistible, and fully aware of her charms. In love with Nanki-Poo.

PITTI-SING * Mezzo * Yum-Yum's somewhat bold and irreverent friend.

PEEP-BO * Soprano * Another of Yum-Yum's friends. Member of the chorus.

KATISHA * Contralto * an older lady in love with Nanki-Poo and determined to get him back at any cost.

CHORUS OF SCHOOLGIRLS, NOBLES, GUARDS AND TOWNSPEOPLE: As with most Gilbert & Sullivan shows, the chorus is a very important part of the action, and has much stage time and wonderful music.

We need 2 each sopranos, altos, tenors and basses.

AUDITION INFORMATION:

Auditions will be held Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

AUDITIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please send an EMAIL to regfoghorn@yahoo.com requesting an audition appointment. Give your first and second choices of times (i.e. first choice – between 3:30 – 4:00; second choice – around 6 PM). You will be notified by return email of the time and place of your audition appointment. If you do not have email, you may call 510-368-1178 – but email communication is greatly preferred.

PREPARE A SONG: Please come to the preliminary audition with one song in English, preferably from opera or operetta, that you feel will show off your voice well. An accompanist will be provided. Bring sheet music (if possible) in the key in which you will sing. Also bring your calendar so that you can give us any conflicts that you may have during the rehearsal period. Headshot and resume are optional. If you are needed for a callback, you will be notified.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

THERE WILL BE TWO PERFORMANCES EACH DAY OF FAIR: sometime between 11:30AM and 5:00PM Cast members may be needed to help move set pieces on and off stage before or after the show.

REHEARSALS will begin in late September. Music rehearsals are set to accommodate everyone's schedule; in the past this has meant some Friday nights for music rehearsals. Staging/blocking rehearsals are scheduled to start the first weekend of Dickens Fair workshops, Nov. 7/8, but may start sooner if we have an appropriate location.

THE ABBREVIATED VOCAL SCORE and script will be made available to you; if you wish to buy one on your own and mark it up, please get the G. Schirmer edition.

PLEASE NOTE: Cast members may be asked to donate a few hours to help with costumes, etc. Some cast members will need to help move the minimal set pieces on and off stage before/after the show. We will be asking cast members to wear part of their normal Dickens Fair costume as part of their Mikado costumes. Cast members will need to provide their own hairpieces needed to achieve proper Victorian hairstyles. Ladies must have petticoats, not hoops, available due to stage space limitations.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO DICKENS FAIR: Please note that you will need to acquire or create a Victorian-era costume, complete with period hair, shoes, and head covering. This can be done relatively inexpensively, and advice is available, as are reference materials. Also, there is a \$10 participant fee for each performer covering the run of Fair, this basically covers the cost of onsite EMT and general insurance. Parking at the Cow Palace costs \$10 per day, but you can purchase a run-of-fair parking pass for about \$55 (a very good bargain).

The Dickens Christmas Fair runs Friday November 27th and weekends through December 20th. More information on the Great Dickens Christmas Fair can be found at <http://www.dickensfair.com/>, performer information can be found at <http://dickensfair.com/performerinfo.htm>

Workshops and rehearsals for the Dickens Fair will be held in Pacifica for two weekends: November 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th, then one weekend: November 21st and 22nd at the Cow Palace in Daly City.