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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have fond memories of *The Mikado*. In 1962 it was my initiation into the Society. With the talent and interest in Musical Theatre around at the time I was, I think, lucky even to be selected to sell programmes! It was also one of the first times I saw the late, great Horace Taylor and dear Dorothy Crosby perform together. In my view Horace, had he chosen to turn professional, would have become one of the most successful operatic basses in the country but insistence on family business interests prevailed.

It has been suggested that a Japanese sword which hung on a wall in W.S.Gilbert's study suddenly fell down giving Gilbert the idea to cease, for a while, satirising his own country and write the libretto for *The Town of Titipu*.

Apparently the Japanese were ambivalent about *The Mikado* not knowing whether it was lampooning their Emperor. Some thought it offensive but Prince Komatsu Akihito saw the production in London in 1886 and took no offence. *The Mikado*, was to become Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular offering. By the end of 1885 it was estimated that at least 150 companies worldwide were producing the opera.

Believe it or not Groucho Marx starred as Ko-Ko and others to have portrayed this 'unfortunate and miserable' individual include Bill Oddie (probably because he wanted to sing 'Tit Willow!'), Eric Idle and even Dudley Moore.

I have to say that I have never appeared in *The Mikado*, not as a 'second or even third' trombone. Ian Crowe has brought our Mikado up to date and I am looking forward to the production.

Thank you to everyone who puts so much time into the Society. Those on stage get all the plaudits but there are countless tasks undertaken by willing, or even unwilling, volunteers. The Society is grateful to them all and, of course, you, our audiences, for supporting us. Enjoy the evening.

Richard Steel

## VICE PRESIDENTS AND HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

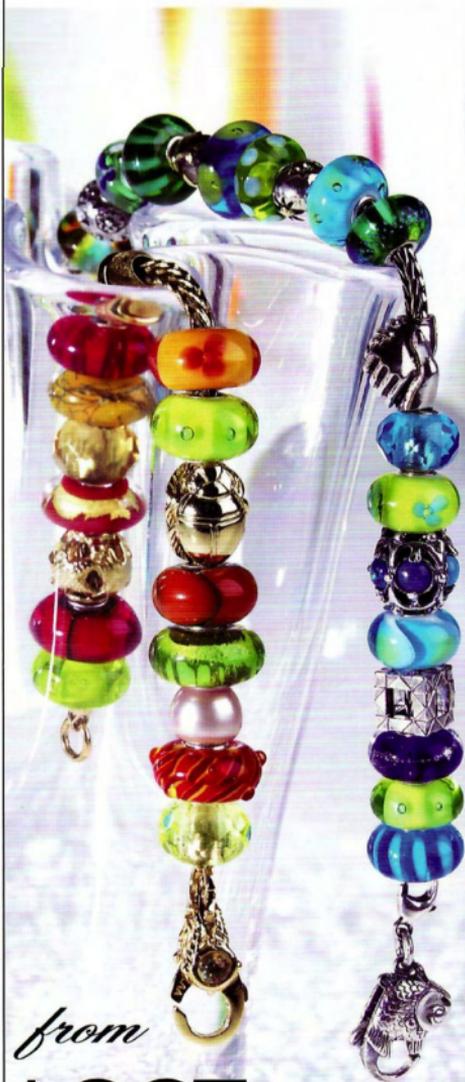
Fred Allgood, Valerie Bell, Margaret Bone, Jo Burnaby, Geoffrey Burnaby, Eileen Evans, Brian Hurst, Bob Jones, The Mayor of Winchester, Pamela Peskett, James Sabben-Clare, Richard Steel, Dick Trower, Christine Walters, David Weait, Michael Williams.

## COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT + COMMITTEE (2008-2009)

Richard Steel (President), Susan Beckett, Brian Hurst, Martin Lacombe (Company Secretary), Adrian Hickford (Hon. Treasurer), Sue Aiken, David Anderson, Anne Croudass (Chairman), Louise Hodson, Pamela Jones, Colin Paice, Claire Smith, Gill Russell (Hon. Secretary), Vernon Tottle.

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## SYNOPSIS

Winchester welcomes the 2009 World Trade Fair where people from across the World gather to display their Nation's exportable products. It is the day before the Fair opens its doors to the public and the representatives are preparing for when the general public are admitted. **The International Trade and Industry Promotion Unit (TITIPU)** is an NGO set up by the Japanese to show and demonstrate the industries of their country.

Initially the National reps are doubtful of their competition rivals and treat each other with some suspicion, but gradually curiosity sets in and they become anxious to learn about each other's countries and working conditions and procedures, and friendships develop.

**TITIPU** for instance has strict rules for personnel in the workplace, where there is zero tolerance for signs of sexual harassment, and the condition that if anyone is fired their spouse has also to leave the Unit.

Nanki-Poo, who has taken time out from the Unit, returns searching for Yum-Yum, who had attracted him previously, and on meeting they declare their love for each other. But Ko-Ko, needing to protect his job for firing someone, chooses him as the 'volunteer' for sacking.

Unfortunately Katisha arrives, reveals that Nanki-Poo is in fact the Mikado's son, and that she has first claim on him as her husband. Public opinion disabuses her of this and insists that he marries Yum-Yum.

A compromise is arrived at such that the marriage can take place but that both are to be given the chop at the end of the month. A wedding is hastily organised, and a special licence is given for it to take place at the Trade Centre that afternoon.

The Mikado arrives to check that his commands with reference to sacking are being carried out, and so some economical with the truth evidence is provided that a victim has been found.

Katisha is devastated by the news that Nanki-Poo is to be married to another, and Ko-Ko, seizing the moment that he can improve his lot, proposes to her and is reluctantly accepted.

And so all appears to be satisfactorily agreed, Nations are speaking to Nations, and with joyous shout and ringing cheer, an International Celebration ensues prior to the opening of business the next day.

Gilbert has been determined to leave his own country behind and look elsewhere for a subject to suit his peculiar humour. He was pacing in his library one day when a large Japanese sword fell from the wall and clattered on the floor. His perambulations stopped as it 'suggested the broad idea'. Quick to seize on topicalities his thoughts turned to a Japanese exhibition which had recently opened in the neighbourhood. Gilbert had seen the little Japanese men and women from the Exhibition shuffling in their exotic robes through the streets of Knightsbridge. This background story was dramatised in the 1999 film Topsy-Turvy.

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**Ian Crowe**

Ian, in a reminiscent state, has been reviewing his various contacts with W.(A).O.S.

Over the years some of the shows he has appeared in include *La Vie Parisienne*, *Merry Widow*, *Utopia Ltd*, and most recently *Pajama Game*. He has directed amongst other things *HMS Pinafore*, *Me and My Girl*, and *Princess Ida*. Only once did he serve on the Committee, an experience which succeeded in turning him off that idea for good.

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR

**Derek Beck**

This is Derek's thirteenth appearance (lucky for some) as a 'demented windmill' since he first worked with WOS over a decade ago. Born in Lancashire, he read music and various magazines at Durham University and, as a Rotary International Fellow, studied conducting at the University of Washington, USA. He taught on Merseyside (where he sang, produced and conducted much Gilbert & Sullivan), the Isle of Wight and latterly at Peter Symonds College in Winchester as well as being a music tutor for the Open University. Director of Music at St. Cross Hospital in the city, Derek also conducts the 80-voice Twyford Singers and is now the musical director of the Winchester & County Music Festival. This supports seven mixed choirs in annual concerts in Romsey Abbey and in Winchester Cathedral, where he'll be in charge of around 300 performers in Karl Jenkins' *ARMED MAN MASS* next month. In his spare time he has composed and arranged music for many of the groups with which he has been associated and he recently qualified as a Cathedral Guide.

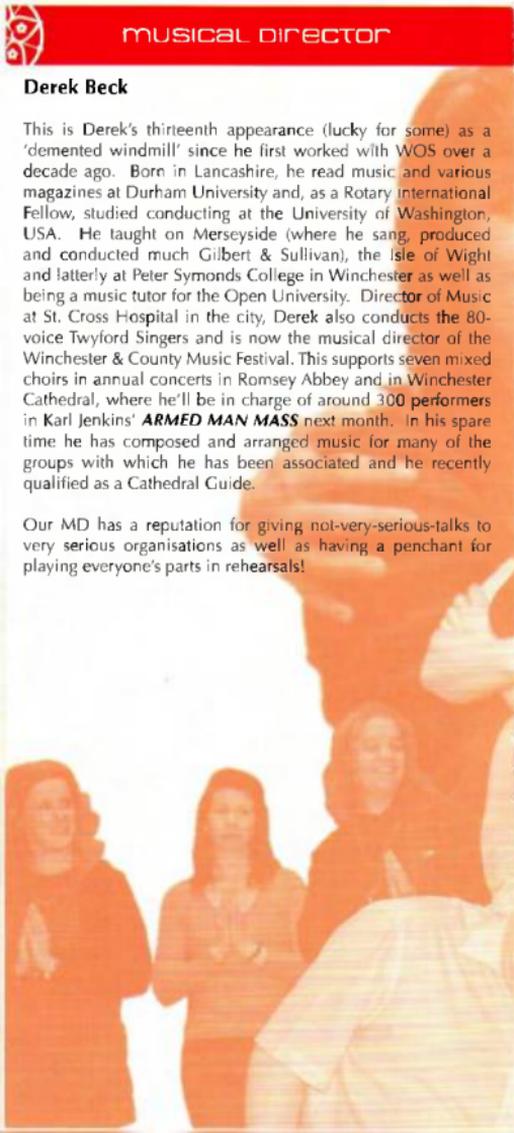
Our MD has a reputation for giving not-very-serious-talks to very serious organisations as well as having a penchant for playing everyone's parts in rehearsals!

**Suzanne Hall**

Suzanne has choreographed several recent WOS shows including *Oklahoma!*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *La Vie Parisienne* and *Pajama Game* which she also directed. She also performs and directs with West Meon Theatre, her next production being *Cider With Rosie* in July.

**Louise Hodson**

Louise has been working as a choreographer with WOS for several years. Most recently with their last production of *Carousel*. She is a professional dance teacher in Hampshire and trained at King Alfred's, Winchester.



Michio Kato  
Nanki-Poo  
Ko-Ko  
Pooh-Bah  
Pish-Tush  
Yum-Yum  
Pitti-ing  
Peep-Bo  
Katisha

Clive Hilton  
Dan Hickson  
Adrian Hickford  
Tony Blackshaw  
Rick Bremner  
Sophie Pentecost  
Katie Hickson  
Helen O'Sullivan  
Penny Bullough

## CHORUS

Sue Aiken  
David Anderson  
Gill Beck  
Jacqui Beckingham  
Hilary Bradshaw  
Clare Britton  
Deborah Cleary  
Stephanie Crockford  
Anne Croudass  
Julie Edwards  
Jill Fitzpatrick  
Lizzie Gilbert  
Stephen Gleed  
Jan Gwynne-Howell  
Annette Hilton  
Louise Hodson  
Grace Honeysett  
Bob Jones

Pamela Jones  
Emily Leslie  
Graham Light  
Carole Lilly  
Alan Matheson  
Anne McDonald  
Hamish McDonald  
Rhian McNaughton  
Colin Paice  
Heather Reid  
Tony Reid  
David Rowe  
Claire Smith  
Frances Stirrup  
Vernon Tottle  
Geraldine Turner  
Mary Twomey  
Mike Vokes

## ORCHESTRA

Violins  
Viola  
Cello  
Bass  
Flute  
Oboe  
Clarinets  
Trumpet  
Trombone  
Percussion

Judith Burchett & Jon Visanji  
Jane Houghton  
Sam McKay  
Julia Casson  
Loraine Brazier  
Barry Collison  
Mandy Moffat & Ann Clausen  
Shaun Moffat  
Roger Longcroft  
Paul Lovegrove

At the Trade Fair

In the garden of  
the Trade Fair

Interval 20 minutes

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT 1

If you want to know who we are  
A wand'ring minstrel I  
Our great Mikado, virtuous man  
Young man, despair, likewise go to

Mens chorus  
Nanki-Poo  
Pish-Tush with chorus  
Pooh-Bah,  
Nanki-Poo, Pish-Tush  
Nanki-Poo, Pooh-Bah

And have I journey'd for a month  
Behold the Lord High Executioner  
As some day it may happen

Ko-Ko with chorus  
Ko-Ko with  
mens chorus

Comes a train of little ladies  
Three little maids from school

Ladies chorus  
Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo,  
Pitti-Sing with  
ladies chorus

So please you, sir, we much regret

Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo,  
Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah  
with ladies chorus

Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted  
I am so proud

Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo  
Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah,  
Pish-Tush

With aspect stern and gloomy stride

Finale

## ACT 2

Braid the raven hair

Pitti-Sing with  
ladies chorus

The sun, whose rays are all ablaze  
Brightly dawns our wedding day

Yum-Yum  
Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing,  
Nanki-Poo, Pish-Tush

Here's a how-de-do

Yum-Yum,  
Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko

Mi-ya-sa-ma, mi-ya-sa-ma

Ensemble  
Mikado with chorus

A more humane Mikado never  
did in Japan exist

The criminal cried as he  
dropped him down

Pitti-Sing, Ko-Ko,  
Pooh-Bah with  
chorus

See how the Fates their gifts allot

Pitti-Sing, Katisha,  
Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah,  
Mikado

The flowers that bloom in the spring

Nanki-Poo, Ko-Ko,  
Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing,  
Pooh-Bah

Alone, and yet alive

Katisha

On a tree by a river, a little Tom-tit  
sang 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

Finale

**Pooh-Bah – Tony Blackshaw**

He makes claim to be the Head of many and various Departments, and unashamedly expects to receive undisclosed bonuses for each of his special services.

**Pish-Tush – Rick Bremner**

As the Media Liaison Officer his duties include announcing press releases, and promoting the Unit across the business and public world.

**Katisha – Penny Bullough**

She is the Personal Assistant to Michio Kato. Mature and single she wields great power within the Unit, and is disdainful of lesser members of staff, particularly younger colleagues.

**Ko-Ko – Adrian Hickford**

To the surprise of all, not least himself, he was promoted from menial work in the Post Room to the prestigious position of Head of Human Resources. He is in trouble with Michio because he has not been reaching his target for firing staff.

**Nanki-Poo – Dan Hickson**

He has just returned ostensibly from a year of market research for the Unit, but in fact has been travelling as an itinerant musician. He is searching for Yum-Yum whom he met earlier hoping that they can become an item.

**Michio Kato – Clive Hilton**

Otherwise known as 'The Mikado', he is the President of the NGO, entitled TITIPU, and was appointed to that position for allegedly providing financial favours to those in high office.

**Yum-Yum – Sophie Pentecost**

A recent graduate from Uni she is working as the Personal Assistant to Ko-Ko, who is grooming her to become his future bride. However she is delighted to meet up again with Nanki-Poo.

**Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo – Katie Hickson and Helen O'Sullivan**

They too have just received degrees from Uni, are employed in TITIPU as junior members of staff, and have become friends with Yum-Yum.

Stage Manager

Angie Barks

Production Team

Anne Croudass, Louise Hodson, Pamela Jones

Orchestra Secretary

Gill Beck

Set Design &amp; Construction

Sue Aiken with David Anderson, Brian Bush Rick Bremner, Colin Paice

Make Up

Pamela Jones, Liz Petley-Jones, Libby Crawford, Christine Harding, Lucy Houghton, Jenny Khatum, Sian Woodruff

Costumes

Hilary Bradshaw, Rosemary Bushell, Anne Croudass, Pamela Jones

Props Team

Trisha Feltham, Talia Hedström with Sylvia Jobling, Sue Lewcock, Nicky Moore, Kaile Timbrell

Prompt

Rosemary Merchant, Mike Palette

Lighting Design

Adrian Davis

Lighting &amp; Technical

Theatre Royal

Backstage

David Fancett, David Ilsley, Tony Lawther, Mark Smith, Anne Waggott

Rehearsal Accompanist

Christine Webster

Rehearsal Refreshments

David Rowe

Sales &amp; Marketing

Gill Russell &amp; Vernon Tottle

Programme

Sue Aiken

Front of House

Richard &amp; Iain Steel

Blue Apple Theatre



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CONTACT: [info@blueappletheatre.com](mailto:info@blueappletheatre.com) or Louise Sarton, Admin Officer via the Tower Arts Centre, Romsey Road, Winchester SO22 5PW 01962 867986

[www.blueappletheatre.com](http://www.blueappletheatre.com)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society acknowledges the generous help given by;

Head Teacher, Western Primary School, Mr Paul Budd,  
Caretaker Western Primary School.  
The Theatre Royal Management.

Hendy Mazda for their generous sponsorship

Programme photography – James Larcombe

Show and location photography – Peter Sillick

Hampshire Wardrobe

Lyrics Adaptation - Ian Crowe, Anne Croudass,  
Adrian Hickford, Nichola McKinley, Vernon Tottle

Japanese National Tourist Organisation

## Why Not Become a Friend of the Society?

For further information contact:

**Mr David Rowe, Friends' Secretary**

5 Western Road, Winchester SO21 5AH  
01962 854980

**Membership Secretary:**

Pamela Jones 01962 863826  
email: pamjones@btinternet.com



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## FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

Like what you've seen and want to get involved? Whether on stage, backstage or front of house? WOS are always looking for new members. We are currently recruiting for our future productions of *Cavalleria Rusticana* / *Trial by Jury* in November 2009 and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in Spring 2010. For further information please contact production secretary Louise Hodson on 07870 348951 or come along to our information evening for *Cav/Trail* on Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> at Western Primary School, Browning Drive, Winchester at 7.30pm.

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