

Belgrade Theatre



THE MIKADO

The Mikado of Japan ANTHONY CRYER
 Nanki-Poo (his son, disguised as a wandering minstrel, and in love with Yum-Yum) ALAN HAWKE
 Ko-Ko (Lord High Executioner of Titipu) JOHN FENNER
 Pooh-Bah (Lord High Everything Else) BRIAN DANIELS
 Pish-Tush (A Noble Lord) BARRY JONES
 Co-To ROBERT JAMES
 Yum-Yum } Three Sisters, AUDREY DANIELS
 Peep-Bo } Wards of Ko-Ko PAT BATES
 Pitti-Sing } KATHLEEN GRIFFITHS
 Katisha (an Elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo) AUDREY BISHOP

Chorus of School-Girls, Nobles, Guards and Coolies :
 Ladies
 S. Aves, E. Aves, D. Annon, M. Bates, J. Barker, J. Cox, S. Cousins, L. Fomer, P. Gibbons, V. Humphrey, J. Holmes, E. Hope, D. Haywood, S. Lee, G. McCoway, R. Parry, D. Presser, J. Stewart, P. Sachwell, A. Stanley, S. Sanders, F. Venus, M. Withers, G. Walker, A. Wheeler, S. Washbrook
 Gentlemen
 A. Britton, J. Bowen, B. Boniface, M. Crowe, J. Cox, A. Cousins, N. Davis, D. Flood, D. King, R. Mounter, R. Pheasey, F. Robb, F. Stokes, G. Suddens, P. Trew, R. Washbrook

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT 1
 Courtyard of Ko-Ko's Official Residence
 Interval of 15 minutes
 ACT 2
 Ko-Ko's Garden

Producer DOROTHY DILLAM
 Musical Director JOHN AVES

The Mikado

... at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry.

THE wealth of talent among Coventry's amateur dramatic and operatic societies is fairly universal, and of high standard. Certainly in the premier league is the Coventry Savoy Opera Society, and perhaps these members exemplify, more than any others, the skill, devotion, the enthusiasm and creditable efforts of local people for the musical stage and Gilbert and Sullivan in particular.

The age-old, but ever refreshing, appealing story is simply and beautifully told by a well-spoken company, expert in choral work and dance routine; unobtrusive when necessary and essentially interesting in its facial expressions and groupings.

Producer Dorothy Dillam should indeed be proud of this near-professional result of this great effort by the amateurs. The all-important mood for what proves to be a delightful evening in Japan is set in equally delightful style by a highly promising overture by the orchestra, conducted by John Aves. From the opening men's chorus of the rousing *If you want to know who we are to the merry Three little maids*, played splendidly by Audrey Daniels as Yum-Yum, Pat Bates as Peep-Bo and Kathleen Griffiths as Pitti-Sing, to the popular *How do do*, and the soft, and *Tit Willow*, the performance abounds with capable interpreted and sincere all-round effort and achievement.

In particular, there is the wandering minstrel of Nanki-poo, taken by Alan Hawke, whose voice is pleasing, ever-growing in strength and confidence. Next the essential roles of the Mikado (Anthony Cryer) and Ko-Ko (John Fenner) who right from the start are both winners of the audience. The latter's *Free me a little rest* is well sung and adds greatly to the fun and general pace.

C.N.S.

Modern 'Mikado' bursts into life

THE Coventry Savoy Opera Company has come up with one of its best productions in recent years with "The Mikado," which opened a week's run at the Belgrade Theatre last night.

Dorothy Dillam, who has been success Alan Hawke, as Nanki-Poo, has a good tenor voice and shows the right degree of tenderness in the romantic lead. Playing opposite him is Audrey Daniels who is in the right mould as the traditional Yum-Yum. Her husband, Bernard, could not be bettered as the haughty and proud Pooh-Bah.

John Fenner is outstanding as Ko-Ko and takes full advantage of the comedy situations while Anthony Cryer makes an excellent Pish-Tush. The music is well sung and adds greatly to the fun and general pace.

Three new principals are a big Mikado.

