

The Corporate Mikado'

- or Titipu plc

It's clear that this modern take on the Gilbert & Sullivan classic, presented in the Public Hall, Beccles, from 21st to 24th April 2004, must go down as yet another success and a fitting tribute to our 50yr anniversary. The updated show cast Nanki-Poo as a travelling karaoke salesman in a world where the Emperor of Japan has taken over the UK and runs it as "Titipu plc" as part of his global empire - "Mikado Inc". Cue lots of topical references and opportunities for jokes at the expense of every part of the British and corporate establishment, superbly handled by the experienced David Ivins as Ko-Ko, in his first role for WLOG.

The scenery was magnificent, the costumes wonderful, the orchestra tuneful. Congratulations are due to Stage Director Sheila Pascal for pulling everything together in the nick of time and to Musical Director Chris Steed for ensuring that not too many of the cast were still singing the "old" words!! Stage Manager Terry Dentith and his team worked wonders (just how did they get that helicopter on stage??); the makeup team led by Stella Brownsea (is there no end to her versatility?) ran like a well-oiled machine, and the Front-of-House and backstage teams all contributed to an excellent production and a very enjoyable week.

This is the first time WLOG have presented a fully-staged show in the spring, hopefully leading up to a series of productions designed to encourage new members and new audiences by introducing a more modern element to our proceedings. As a further innovation, this year we tried raised seating so that everyone in the audience had an excellent view of the stage: feedback has been good, with many people commenting how comfortable the new seats were, so they look like being a fixture from now on.