

REVIEW - 'NODA' review of Hot Mikado – April 2013



SERVING AMATEUR THEATRE SINCE 1899

Director: Tom Newall
Musical Director: Tom Newall
Choreographer: Seb Singh

Review

Author: Michael Jones-McCaw

Mid Cheshire Musical Theatre offered an explosion of musical theatre excellence in their latest production of Hot Mikado. From the outset the music took us on an oriental journey with pace and energy under the Direction of Tom Newall. The music isn't the easiest to work with and is certainly not the easiest sing however the principal cast and company tackled the score with ease.

The choreography by Seb Singh was fresh and executed with tons of energy by everyone. With plenty for the company to get stuck in to, they made the scenes really come to life – well done!

Jon Hall was probably the best Nanki-Poo I've seen capturing every single element this role requires. His vocals were very strong across the octaves and he brought Nanki-Poo to life with such wonderful charisma and plenty of charm. His counter part, Emma Johnson as Yum-Yum was just as strong with lovely expressions and a lovely on stage relationship with her Nanky where they both retained the tongue in cheek humour throughout. 'This is What I'll Never Do' was a particular highlight for me.

Sarah Sherwood was a strong Katisha, the 'Man eating Temptress delivering fine vocals and a fierce attitude. Her rendition of 'Alone and Yet Alive' was spot on.

Ko-Ko, played by Jeff Burgess brought more humour to the production and Ian Whitfield as Pooh-Bah and Seb Singh as Pish Tush both added to the strength to the male principal line up with some good delivery and direction.

Rob Stevens took the title role of The Mikado and a fine job he did too. With great vocals and dance ability he was the perfect choice for this role. Further congratulations must be offered to Rob for taking on the role at such short notice – a very professional performance.

The production was costumed with oriental flare and mixed with some lovely lighting it made for a great production.

This production had me walking out beaming from ear to ear -I even downloaded the soundtrack for the journey home! A great production – well done to everyone involved.

Hope all is going well with your next production.

Michael Jones-McCaw