

CURTAIN CALL REVIEW

‘HOT MIKADO’

South Downe Musical Society

Ferneham Hall, Fareham

Saturday 23rd April 2016

Perhaps not one for Gilbert and Sullivan purists, but a tremendously enjoyable, high-quality, production that marked Alan Jenkins’ directorial debut. Set in a Forties night club, with the occasional nod to the original Japanese setting, wandering minstrel Nanki Poo arrives in town and falls for Yum-Yum. Alex Hillman and Helen Stoddart gave excellent performances, with Stoddart’s solo *Sun and I* beautifully delivered. The potentially-fatal consequences of their romance are resolved by the arrival of The Mikado and Perry Ralls didn’t disappoint in this iconic role. The *Tit Willow* seduction of jilted Katisha by Ko-Ko was comedy gold with Nick Williams hamming it up wonderfully and Jane Pegler’s earlier *Alone and yet alive* was another highlight among many in this good-looking, vibrant, show. The stunning set and expanded stage gave Kate Walsh scope to choreograph a variety of inventive routines for the large cast, with Alan Pring’s orchestra as impressive as ever. Hot stuff indeed!

Alan Johns