

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAMPLIGHTERS' UPCOMING *NEW MIKADO* – UNA COMMEDIA MUSICALE

SAN FRANCISCO, California (31 March, 2016) – This summer, Lamplighters Music Theatre will present Gilbert & Sullivan's masterpiece *THE MIKADO* in theatres throughout the Bay Area. This new production will be moved from the traditional setting of a fictitious Japanese village to a re-imagined Renaissance Italy, the home of rapid cultural exchange, scientific advancement and artistic creativity, the tradition of commedia dell'arte, and the favored setting for many of Shakespeare's greatest creations.

With its hilarious plot line, ingenious dialogue, memorable characters and wonderful music, *THE MIKADO* is very possibly the most popular musical comedy in the English language, and a playful satire of the timeless and universal frailties of our shared human nature. In a time when flirting was a capital offense, a handsome wandering minstrel has fallen in love with the beautiful fiancée to the recently appointed Lord High Executioner. Chaos, desperation, and comical mayhem ensue in classic Gilbert and Sullivan style, with impromptu marriages, substitute executionees, forged death certificates, and the revelation of a prince in disguise. The production will be changed visually to reflect the new setting, and a minimal number of necessary edits will be made to the names and dialogue, but this classic masterpiece will otherwise remain intact.

This will be the Lamplighters' 22nd production of *THE MIKADO* since 1953, and will be directed by Ellen Brooks, and conducted by Resident Music Director, Baker Peebles. Single tickets will be on sale in June.

Full details are posted at <http://lamplighters.org/season/season.html>. For further information call 415-227-4797 or email info@lamplighters.org.

WALNUT CREEK

WHERE: Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive
WHEN: Friday, August 5 at 8PM • Saturday, August 6 at 2PM & 8PM • Sunday, August 7 at 2PM

MOUNTAIN VIEW

WHERE: Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street
WHEN: Saturday, August 13 at 2PM & 8PM • Sunday, August 14 at 2PM

SAN FRANCISCO

WHERE: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco
WHEN: Thursday, August 18 at 8PM • Friday, August 19 at 8PM • Saturday, August 20 at 2PM & 8PM • Sunday, August 21 at 2PM

LIVERMORE

WHERE: Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore
WHEN: Saturday, August 27 at 8PM • Sunday, August 28 at 2PM

Stage Director: Ellen Brooks
Music Director/Conductor: Baker Peeples
Costume Designer: Miriam Lewis

Lamplighters Music Theatre was founded in 1952 to produce the comic operas of librettist W.S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, and is now recognized as one of the world's pre-eminent Gilbert & Sullivan companies. The Lamplighters' repertoire includes all the surviving works of these creative geniuses, as well as a select group of comic operas and classic musicals by other composers that exemplify their artistic vision. Critically acclaimed artistic successes for the Lamplighters include honors for Best Production and Best Director at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England and local awards in nearly every performance, direction, and design category, including Outstanding Production of a Musical at the 2015 Theatre Bay Area Awards for *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The hallmarks of a Lamplighters production are lavish costumes and sets, live orchestra, excellent comic acting, and gorgeous unamplified singing that showcases the beauty and purity of the human voice.