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William Schwenck Gilbert
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William Schwenck Gilbert : The Mikado (Dover Thrift Editions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mikado (Dover Thrift Editions):

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Great rendition! Small flaws
By Customer
The video/DVD is of a staged Canadian production, filmed from the proscenium-audience point of view with some close-ups, in full costume and makeup appropriate to the GS script and score. The score is very well sung although the songs are dubbed, you

have to pay special attention to notice this. The lip-sync is very, very good and since they don't have to worry about singing perfectly "live" with the camera, they can do more acting while mouthing their parts, and it all works very well. Some wonderfully stylized performances make it fun, especially from Pooh Bah who is the tallest actor I've ever seen in a GS opera! Folks who are addicted to perfect-score singing will notice some deviations (not bad ones, just different) but overall it's well-done and includes encores that are usually performed of the most popular numbers at high speed for an appreciative audience. I recommend this version to Mikado-lovers.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Don't hesitate to buy this one! By AH This is a superb performance of *The Mikado*. The acting and the music are first-rate. Don't hesitate for one second to get it. Shortly after purchasing and viewing this video, I saw *The Mikado* performed live by the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, a top-notch troupe whom I have seen in action many times and always loved. I must say that the Stratford performance held its own against even these masters, and I think I actually preferred the Stratford in many ways. Objections raised in the other reviews include: 1) The scenery is too simple. I, however, found that the simplicity of the scenery actually enhanced the performance. It allowed me to concentrate more fully on that which is really important, and really good: the actors and the music. 2) There are allusions to people and events in Canadian culture that not everybody will understand. But that is true of any performance. In songs such as "I've got a little list" and "My object all sublime", nobody will sing the original Gilbert lyrics today, which would have very little comic effect; everybody has to substitute something contemporary. In five years from now, the substitutions I heard here in New York, very funny for me, will no longer be comprehensible to most people. So don't worry about that tiny detail. The overall effect of this performance is powerful. Enjoy it!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A charming production By Ela Green I'm not a great fan of operettas, but I saw this performance many years ago on TV, and was charmed and captivated by it. Since I remembered nothing about the production, it's been a long time until I found it, but now that I did - it met all my expectations and surpassed my memories. A colourful, quick paced production, saucy and humorous, with wonderful singers-actors. While looking for it I had watched some other productions - this one is by far the best. Even if - like me - you don't really like the genre - it's highly recommended.

A lighthearted burlesque of Victorian English culture and the vagaries of love, *The Mikado* offers an ideal matching of William Schwenck Gilbert's elegant comedic gifts with Arthur Sullivan's agile and refined musicianship. The tale unfolds amid a fanciful version of Japanese society, in which a wandering minstrel has the misfortune to fall in love with the beautiful ward of the Lord High Executioner of Titipu. The sparkling lyrics and witty dialogue of this comic masterpiece are as much a delight to read as they are to hear with musical accompaniment. The complete libretto is reprinted in this edition from the standard performance text of *The Mikado*, complete with nine charming illustrations drawn by W. S. Gilbert himself.

.com A video of a 1982 performance at Canada's Stratford Festival (live, though with some singing dubbed), this is very much a theatrical experience, with the buoyancy of a show played before an audience. The cast and spectators take obvious pleasure in each other, and in classic Gilbert and Sullivan tradition, several numbers are encored. Subtlety is not this production's strong point, but you don't look to GS for subtlety. As Ko-Ko, Eric Donkin doesn't exactly create a character. His performance is that of a vaudeville clown--he even wears a Japanese version of baggy pants. But his straight-to-the-audience delivery is irresistible. Gidon Saks plays the title role in Japanese-theater style, drawing out his syllables, rising to a scream at the end of a sentence. Though these mannerisms are a bit much, his demented tyrant of a Mikado is gripping and even spooky. The production is not lavish, with a single, unadorned set and fairly basic staging. But there are some brilliant effects such as the entrance of the Mikado, enclosed in a litter, which his carriers open to reveal him standing magnificently in a miniature interior. Many of the comic lines have been updated, and with impressive wit. It's too bad that their topicality results in a lot of 1980s Canadian references, which will leave 21st-century non-Canadians feeling left out. Still, this is a highly satisfying interpretation of a classic. --David Olivenbaum From the Back Cover A lighthearted burlesque of Japanese culture and the vagaries of love, and one of the most widely admired of all the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. The sparkling lyrics and witty dialogue of this comic masterpiece are as much a delight to read as they are to hear with musical accompaniment. The complete libretto is reprinted in this edition from the standard performance text of "*The Mikado*," complete with 9 charming illustrations drawn by W. S. Gilbert himself. About the Author English playwright, librettist, and poet William Schwenck Gilbert (1836–1911) is chiefly remembered for the comic operas he created in collaboration with Sir Arthur Sullivan. Their best known works include *The Pirates of Penzance* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*.