

Media Release:

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***The Mikado* to Marvel Audiences at Araluen**

Experience a modern twist on a classic production with the nationally touring musical *The Mikado* from the Gilbert and Sullivan Company of Australia, showing at the Araluen Arts Centre on Thursday, 24 March 2011.

Araluen Arts Centre Director Tim Rollason said *The Mikado* is a musical comedy set in Japan that follows the story of The Mikado (the Emperor) who declares flirting is a punishable crime.

"*The Mikado* is a production that has entertained audiences across the globe and to have a show of this calibre come to Araluen provides a wonderful opportunity for Alice Springs audiences," Mr Rollason said.

"A classic show that has been enjoyed in many forms and for generations, this latest version is performed in full costume with spectacular scenery painted by Australian company Scenic Studios.

"Combining music and comedy, it follows the trials and tribulations of The Mikado and the objections of his people to the ruling that flirting is a punishable crime.

"Highly acclaimed actor Brian Hannan comes to life as the comic leading role of KoKo, bringing his popular comedic acting to delight audiences with surprise guest impersonations that include Peter Allen, Dean Martin and Kamahl.

"Alison Rai Jones from Opera Australia, will play the role of "Yum Yum", while Philip Wheeldon and Caroline Vercoe are also among the entertaining cast of six that will have audiences in stitches of laughter."

The Mikado shows at the Araluen Arts Centre at 8pm on Thursday, 24 March 2011.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for Friends of the Araluen Arts Centre or \$30 for concession.

For more information about upcoming events at the Araluen Cultural Precinct go to www.araluen.nt.gov.au

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Tim Rollason on 8951 1126.

Image – Cast of the Gilbert and Sullivan Company of Australia production *The Mikado*

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