

Photo dates

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For 'Mikado,' the key word is 'fun'

By Michael Cleveland

Cabaret Press editor

MILFORD—I thoroughly enjoyed the American Stage Festival's production of "The Mikado" for a variety of reasons.

Let's start from the beginning, with the first thing we see when the curtain goes up (or, in this case, is pulled to the side): David Potts' set. As it should, it sets the tone. It

is colorful without being pretentious, it is simple without being simplistic and it says immediately to the audience, "This could be fun." It's right immediately after that

One of the most interesting aspects of this production was how well the chorus performed.

we notice Alan Yeon's costumes, and they support the contention of the set that "The Mikado" is going to be a good time. They are bright, they are colorful, they are just right for this production.

After such a good start, where can we go but ... up! "The Mikado" in all of its forms turns out to be a delightful evening of musical comedy, whether you like Gilbert and Sullivan or not. Yes, there are still musical segments in which the untrained ear might exclaim, "Say what?" but they are few and far between and not as distracting as they might have been had not director Jim Weaver, associate director Matthew Parent (ASF's artistic director), and musical director Jim Rice somewhat toned down the operetta aspect of this production. This is not Gilbert and Sullivan at their most Gilbertish and Sullivanish, so fear not.

