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## 'Mikado'

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niving woman who has set her sights on Nanki-poo, the son of the Mikado, the emperor of Japan. By exploiting a loophole in one of the Mikado's laws, Katisha has tricked him into agreeing that she and her son must marry. The alternative, the Mikado informs Nanki-poo, is death by hanging.

The dilemma sets the story in motion.

Katisha's entrance, Henderson said, is "the greatest ever composed," with thunderous music and effects.

"I feel like I should have electricity coming out of my fingers," she said. Playing such an intense character has been something of a marathon.

"She's a funny character, but you can't play her funny," Henderson said. "It's very difficult to hold this anger and frustration for hours on end."

In order to escape both Katisha and the royal life, Nanki-poo disguises himself as a strolling minstrel and runs away, ending up in the town of Titi-pu. Nanki-poo falls in love with Yum-yum, who is engaged to her guardian, Koko. Katisha, meanwhile, is hot on Nanki-poo's trail.

And those are only a few of the convolutions.

Weaver said he has emphasized the humorous aspects of the operetta. "Others try to take it more seriously," he said. "Don't be scared off by the fact that it's called an operetta," he cautions potential audience members, "because it's a lot of fun. You will laugh."

Performances are 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturday, and 7:30 p.m. on Sundays. Matinees are Wednesday and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$14 to \$26. To buy tickets, or for information, call 673-7515.