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Globe Productions set to raise curtain on 'The Mikado'

By **DOUG MacDOUGALL**

Special to the Independent/Free Press

On Thursday, May 6, the sights and sounds of ancient Japan will come alive on stage at the John Elliott Theatre here in Georgetown, as Georgetown Globe Productions presents Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta *The Mikado*.

The performance dates are May 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 at 8 p.m. with a special Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m. on May 9. Tickets are available from Royal LePage Real Estate, 170 Guelph St. For best selection, reserve your tickets in person. For more information please call 877-4323 or 877-5545.

This is Globe's first venture into the world of light opera and it is quite exhilarating to say the least! The genius that is Gilbert and Sullivan is a true artistic challenge, both in words and music. And in keeping with this, Globe is very fortunate to have secured the services of two professional directors: Elise Dewsberry and Greg Diakun.

Elise Dewsberry, native of Toronto, comes to us originally from the Chicago area. She has had a long involvement with the Toronto area community theatre scene from a very early age. Her credentials include a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Boston Conservatory of Music as well as a degree in Speech Arts from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto.

Her acting experience includes chorus work in Stratford's *Mikado* and H.M.S. Pinafore, as well as the roles of Lady Macbeth in Virginia's Shakespeare Festival and most recently, the role of Katisha in the Drayton Festival's *Mikado*. This summer, Elise is looking forward to the challenge of starring in a one-woman show entitled *Nine Months*.

Elise's expertise in the field of artistic direction has garnered her a THEA nomination for Scarborough Players' comedy Chapter Two and the production went on to receive a special Adjudicator's Award for Ensemble



ELISE DEWSBERRY



GREG DIAKUN

Cast work, a reflection on Elise's hard work and determination. Other directorial efforts include *I Do, I Do*, *Fireweeds* and *The Princess and the Handmaiden* to name a few.

Her latest dramatic endeavor is a collaboration with Virginia Reh in the Toronto-based Script Lab, which develops new Canadian script writers.

On a more personal note, Elise Dewsberry is "ecstatically married

to accomplished cellist, Stephen Green and they are the proud parents of the incomparable Rebecca Rose."

This is Elise's first venture as artistic director and choreographer for Globe and it has been a most exhilarating experience. Elise enjoys working with such an enthusiastic cast and appreciates their talent and full range of vocal ability necessary to create the mood for Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*.

Greg Diakun, a native of Grey County, was born in Winnipeg and raised in the London area. His credentials include a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from York University and study in orchestration and film scoring with acclaimed arranger, Don Sebesky in New York City. His many film and television credits include the score for *Beyond*

Reality, *The Darkside* and *Freakshow*.

Most recently, Greg was hired on as pianist arranger for the World Cruise Tour of the QE2 and he has also assisted the musical director of the Drayton Festival's *Mikado* last summer.

This, too, is Greg Diakun's first endeavor as musical director for Globe. His vision with *The Mikado* is to enhance the "layers of subtle craftsmanship" and remain true to the brilliance of Gilbert and Sullivan. Greg, too, finds the ensemble cast and principals to be most enthusiastic and devoted to striving for the best vocally and professionally.

With the likes of Greg and Elise at the helm, Globe's spring showing of *The Mikado* is destined for artistic and musical success!

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The Moment of Creation
The Moment of Creation, an exhibition of paintings, drawings and original prints by Rudolf Bickers, George Hawken and Edward Schleimer is at the Gallery House Sol, 45 Charles Street, Georgetown until May 9.

My G-g-g-generation! is an exhibit of the art produced by students within the secondary school of the north area of the Halton Board of Education. The exhibition is in the Gallery at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre. Participating schools are Acton District High School, E.C. Drury High School, Georgetown District High School and Milton District High School.

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