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They'd None Of 'em Be Missed



Synopsis

Richard Suart, heir to the great Gilbert and Sullivan singers of the past, has made the role of Ko-Ko, Lord High Executioner, his own. Over the last 20 years his topical version of the Little List song has become a focus of audience expectation and hilarity. In this book he looks back over the Lists that have raised such laughter at the Coliseum and at the history of this immensely malleable song, taking in previous performers such as George Grossmith, Martyn Green, Groucho Marx, Frankie Howerd, and Eric Idle; not to mention poets as varied as John Hollander and Tim Rice. Early U. S. reaction to The Mikado is explored, and documents shown include a very rare brochure from the early days of Fort Worth, a New York Times cartoon, and a superb Little List by John Hollander about Nixon, illustrated by David Levine. An entire chapter is devoted to performances of The Mikado in NYC on the day after 9/11.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Amusing book. Well researched and documented but written in an entertaining style. Not as thorough on international coverage as I would have liked (seeing the tea ceremony done with Starbucks carry out tray was a highlight of a Seattle production a few years ago; Koko's lines are also well-tuned to current culture in the Seattle productions -- an internationally known group). But otherwise the book would be ten times longer to do justice to the myriad of local variations in "the list" as performed all over the world. Highly recommended for the G&S enthusiast (obviously) but still worth a look for anyone with an interest in light musical entertainment.

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