

GILBERT & SULLIVAN IS REVIVED IN LIMERICK

GILBERT and Sullivan operetta was revived in Limerick last night with a performance of "The Mikado" in the City Theatre by the newly-formed Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

There was nearly a capacity attendance for the opening night and the show will run for seven nights.

It was once more a stimulating experience to hear the magical music of Sullivan and the now quaint humour of Gilbert in one of their most brilliant scores. The two outstanding features of this production are the superb singing of the choruses and the splendid orchestral playing under conductor Mr M Quinn.

It is another matter when one comes to the principals. "The Mikado" requires top-class voices if the full potential and beauty of the score is to be realised. Numbers like a "A Wandering Minstrel I", "The Flowers That Bloom In the Spring" and "Were You Not To Ko-Ko Blighted" can be gems for the tenor voice of the right power and lyrical timbre. Alas the tenor of Gerard Lynn, while promising and stylish, failed to reach those people away back in the auditorium, and in truth, it must be said that he is hardly yet ready for such a difficult role. For me the highlight of the evening was the full-throated singing of Albert Copues as the "Mikado of Japan."