Cabrillo puts spin on classic opera

By ERIC CHALHOUB
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — Cabrillo College’s Theatre Arts department is in the midst of performing “The Mikado,” a reimagined version of Gilbert and Sullivan’s light opera, “The Mikado.”

The play, directed by Cabrillo drama instructor Kathryn Adkins, will be performed Friday and Saturday nights through May 6 at 7:30 p.m. Matinees at 2:30 p.m. will be performed this Sunday and May 5-6.

Cabrillo’s transformation

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of the original play casts the role of the Mikado to a woman, hence the name change to “The Mikado.” Gilbert and Sullivan’s play first opened in 1885.

“The Cabrillo production of “The Mikado” continues the original intent of the show,” Adkins stated in a press release. “Which is to satirize the politics, class differences and popular culture of contemporary audiences. Gilbert and Sullivan were the Steven Colbert and John Stewart of Victorian England.

The story takes place in the mythical land of Napa. According to Adkins, “the Mikado decrees that anyone caught flirting will be executed. The town of Titiopo responds by electing a criminal flirter as executioner. The question is how do you cut off your own head to satisfy the law? And what do you do when the young go against the elders’ rule?”

“Cabrillo audiences will find today’s political and social climate a hilarious match in this updated version of “The Mikado.”

At a glance
WHAT: “The Mikado.”
WHEN: Friday and Saturday nights through May 6 at 7:30 p.m. Matinees at 2:30 p.m. will be performed this Sunday and May 5-6.
WHERE: Cabrillo College’s Crocker Theater, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos.
TICKETS: $23 for general admission, $18 for students with activity card and seniors, and $13 for children under 10. Tickets can be purchased by calling 479-6154, or at www.cabrillovapa.com.