

Eve Sicular: On DER RIGHTIGA MIKADO, Tamiment /1939 to Hollywood /WWII

1) “If You Want to Know Who We Are” (Gentlemen From Japan)

Az ihr vilt vissen vehr mir zennen  
Vir zennen chassidim fin Japennin  
Mir usin an elocution  
Mit dem richtigen mamelushn

**Tamiment:**

Mir sunnen nit fun Rumania  
un nit fin Lithuania  
Mir kumen fin Pennsylvania [... *“un nit fin” Pennsylvania: handwritten revision*]  
**Ah** — — — — —

**Hollywood: (*handwritten revisions on italic words, both copies*)**

Mir kimmen nit fin ***Estunia***  
Mir kimmen nit fin ***Rumunia***  
Mir kimmen fin ***Califunia***  
**Ai** — — — — —

2) POO-BAH enters

***Declaims***

Ich bin der chazin fun die shkutzim  
Die shamus fin chalutzim...

**Tamiment version 1939, continue:**

Ich bin der doctor in der lawyer  
Der Louis Waldman end Max Steuer  
[NOTE: handwritten revision, “Mannie Rosenthal” for Louis Waldman ~?]

**Hollywood /WWII, continue:**

Ich mach de rations fin de coffees  
Ich bin der William Morris Office....

3) NANKI-POO enters: “A Wand’ring Minstrel I” (Danny Kaye 1939)

A klezmer doos bin ich  
Mit alte schich und schmattes  
Mit lecher und mit lattes  
Und schaina liederlach  
Ich hub a [typed cross-out: “groisser stuck” under xxx’s] — repertoire  
Mit music kan ich handlin  
Mit ruzhinkas end mandlin  
End uff dem pripichuk  
End uff dem pripichik

**(continues, in California version only, to BRIDGE)**

Vilst du a liederla vin lieb

Ich hab es du...

# Vilst du a liederla vin glick

Ich hab es du....Ai..si...si...etc..

["Ai ut er gedavent!"]

4) KO-KO enters: **“Behold the Lord High Executioner”**

**ALL: Luz sein shah – Ut kimt Koko.**

**(Sing)**

## Du kimt de **Lord High Executioner**

A bucher [voos — xxxx'd out] ver is shain end shtark and single

A groisser macher end a **kibitzer** [crossed out for pencil: "gin spieler"]

Ay, ay ehr is a gantz gefairlach yingle

{Tselaig zach, Tzelaig zach

Far der Lord High Executioner} x2

**(in California version, note scansion change)**

## Du kimt de **Lo-ord High Gehargete**

A bucher ver is shain end shtark and single

## A groisser macher end a **tummeler**

Ay, ay ehr is a gantz gefairlach yingle

{Tselaig zach, Tzelaig zach

Far der Lo-ord High Gehargete} x2

### 5. “As Someday It May Happen” [aka “I’ve Got a Little List”]

## Dialogue intro

**Koko:** Ah voos tiht sich eppis in shtettel, Pooh Bah?

**Pooh Bah:** Macht a lebn, Koko.

**Koko:** Tz'is [Siz] eppis du a bissel gesheft far de Lord High Executioner [Gehargete]?

***[Further intro, California only]***

**Pooh Bah:** Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmm =====

**Koko:** Voos mmmmmmmmm-kis ...Si muz zein etliche nudnicks voos der Lord High Gehargete ken derhargenen...

***(Sings)***

*Note: the following text is from Tamiment script only; the “List” song is missing from both sets of the California typescript — numbered Pg 2 not present in the LOC Archive Hollywood copies; each California wartime script continues pagination on number 3, despite “Sings” stage direction at end of Page 1.*

**Koko (Sings)**

Tz'is du a sach paskuniaks

Mir kennen zay gants gut

Ikh hub a klenem list

Ikh hub a klenem list

Der minister in England [*hand-crossed out, repl: **Der Painter dort in Deutschland***]

Ver macht alles ding kaput

Ich hub ihm aff dem list

Ich hub ihm aff dem list

Tz'is du der Father Coughlin

End der leader fun der Bunt

Ich vinch zay nit kein tzuris

Zay zullen bleiben umgezunt

End der grubyan Mussolini

End der Mayor Hague's excuse

End der gonnif dort in Dietschland

Mit dem schventzel by dem noos

End der aisel General Franco

Der Spamisher Fascist

Ich hub zay aff dem list

Ich hub zay aff dem list

Tz'is du in Camp some nudniks

Vus darfen gain in draird

Ich hub a klenem list

Ich hub a klenem list

Der yingatch vus macht vitzen

Ven zeih zitzen aff a faird

Ich hub ihm aff der list

Ich hub ihm aff der list

Tz'is du der eisgelassena maidel

Vus macht dir goo goo eyes

End der maidel voos is bashful

Yaiden kvetch is a surprise

End der sving bend vus ess shpielt du

Der music haiss — nit zeiss

Die menner vus zay tantzen

Mit die hent nit mit die fiss

Die Sandyvillians in die first row

Farshpraiensach umzist

Ich hub zay aff dem list

Ich hub zay aff dem list

## 6. “Three Little Maids from School Are We”

### *Dialogue intro*

**Koko:** Pooh Bah, mach a chassina.  
**Pooh Bah:** In velcher capacity, a rebba udder a Justic of the Peace?  
**Koko:** Capacity — schmacity — Abi a chassina.  
**Pooh Bah:** Vi(e) is [iz] der kalla [kolla]?  
**Koko:** **Tamiment** — Yum Yum is mit iehr tzvai friendiner.  
**Hollywood** — Yum Yum iz mit iehr tzvai Sorority Sisters.  
**1st Man:** Taka?  
**Koko:** [**Hollywood**] Taka.  
Zai lairnen [*lairnin*] by dem zaida  
[All/Tamiment;  
**Koko/Hollywood**] — Ut kimmen zai fun chaida.

“(3 girls enter and go into song)” - Tamiment

“(Three Little Maids enter. One sings)” - Hollywood

Drei klaina vaibalach [*veibelach*] fin shule  
Shain end glentzen vi(e) a jewel  
Kik uns ibber nuch a mul [*mool*]  
Drei vaibalach\* fin shule  
Alles ding is shain und siess [*this line omitted /Tamiment: likely typo*]  
Mir tantzen mit die klaina feiss  
Mir bringin fun der zaida a greiss  
Drei vaibalach\* fin shule  
Drei vaibalach\* - drei guta [gute] fixers  
Mit di[e] menner mir zint mixers [*zennen mir mixers*]  
Ich zing alain vai'll zay zunnen schicksas [*veil zay zennen schicksas*]  
Drei vaibalach\* fin shule  
Drei vaibalach\* fin shule

Hollywood-only note follows:

(Swing version.. Danny or men)

## 7. “Were You Not to Koko Plighted”

### *Spoken intro*

**Nanki Pooh:** Di bist vi di Blum - blum - blumen - Yum Yum  
(He is agog with love)  
**Yum Yum:** Voos retz du eppis Nanki Pooh?  
**Nanki Pooh:** (Stutters) Tze klupt dy mir dus hartz, Yum Yum.

**Yum Yum:** Behave sach, Nanki Pooh.

**Nanki Pooh:** (Stuttering) Ubber ich ken iss nit helfin - Ich vill dir — as ich — as ich —  
(etc.) Ich hub iss in draird, I love you.

**SONG (as per Hollywood script, alternating lines Nanki Pooh/Yum Yum)**

Men ken leiben nor men luzt nit  
Koko hut der vort fun mir  
Iss macht mir feelin so disgusted  
Ich vill bleiben nor by dir

Du bist mir gantz gut gefallen  
Nanki Pooh vill zein mein ying  
Luszen mir a chuppa shtellen  
I love you like anyting

*[Hollywood alternate spellings:*

*S-s-s-si k-k-klupt b-b-by mir d-d-dus...*

*Uber ich k-k-ken iss n-n-nit **helfen**. Ich - ich -ich hub es...*

*SONG*

*Man, lebn, lust, luzzen; ennyting]*

**8. “Tit Willow”**

***Spoken intro (Enter Koko)***

**Koko:** Voos tit sach du eppis?

*[Hollywood only, adds] — Hah? Voos tit sach?*

**Nanki Pooh:** Zei nit azoi ibberasht, Koko — Buck up, old boy.

**Koko:** Vi azoi ken ich sech up bucken ven tse tiht sach eppis? *[vie /sach /up-buckin]*

**Nanki Pooh:** Vair tit?

*[Hollywood only, Koko & Nanki Poo continue]*

**Koko:** Vair tit?

**Nanki Pooh:** Yeah, vair tit?

**Koko:** Er —

**Koko:** Tit Willow.

**Nanki Pooh:** Tit Willow? (To Yum Yum as they go off) Tit Willow

*[Hollywood ending]*

**Nanki Pooh:** *Tit Willow, (Derisively to Yum Yum as he goes off with her)*  
*Tit Willow.*

**SONG:**

**Tamiment 1939 version, Verse One**

Aff a baim by a vasser  
Der Chamberlain zitzt  
Tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit

Tz'is alles farblunzhet  
Die menshen farschvitzt  
Ehr tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit  
Die velt is farkairt  
Yaider ainer farhitzt  
Ess reigent, ess paret, ess dinnert, ess blitzt  
Ehr macht uff dem umbrella  
End ehr zitzt , and ehr zitzt  
Ehr tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit.

**Tamiment 1939 version, Verse Two**

By a vasser in Flushing  
Grover Whalen hut tzuris  
Tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit  
Der business aff World's Fair  
Is yetzt aff kapuris  
Ehr tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit  
Ess kimt dortn menshen ubber nit gantz genug  
Zay zugen tsu Whalen aff dir is a klug  
Ess cost du a fortune far a kleinem hot dug  
Ehr tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit

**Hollywood version, Verse One**

**Koko -- (Sings)**

In a goldenem office, Sam Goldwyn, er zitzt,  
Tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit  
Don Hartman, er arbeit, er schreit und er schvitzt,  
Sam — tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit  
Die directors und schreibers zennen busy vie bees  
Electricians und actors zennen schvach in de knees  
Sam Goldwyn, er zugt, “Just include me out, please!”  
Tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit.

**Hollywood version, Verse Two**

Sam Goldwyn, er zugt, er ken machen a star  
Mit goornit, mit goornit, mit goornit  
S'iz a zeu vie man nemmt fin a kind halavah  
Mit goornit, mit goornit, mit goornit  
Sam macht a gevald, schreit “Gollossal!” und den  
Er macht a campaign, kust ihm finf million yen,  
Uber voos hat passiert mit sein star, Anna Sten?  
Tit goornit, tit goornit, tit goornit.

## 9. “Miyasama”

### Spoken intro

**Pooh Bah:** Luz sein shah kinderlach. A glick hot ins befaalin. Der shtetel fin Titti Poo hut a groisser gast. Tz’it gekimmen furin der Mikada. *[befallen /groiser]*

**All:** Hey Hey. *[Hey, hey.]*

**Pooh Bah:** Yetzt vet alles zein Oi Kay. *[Oh Kay]*

### All — — — — (Sing)

Tut tut kimt ehr  
Tut tut kimt ehr  
Yetzt vet alles sein O.K.  
Tut tut gait ehr  
Tut tut shtait ehr  
Luz mir gibben a hooray.  
HOORAY.

### *[Hollywood only, adds interplay with Nanki Pooh below]*

Luz mir gib - luz mir gibben a hooray

**Nanki Pooh:** Oi oi voos zugst di

**All:** Gib - luz mir gibben a hooray

**Nanki Pooh:** Oi oi voos redst di

**All:** Gib - luz mir gibben a hooray

**Nanki Pooh:** Oi ov zaluchis

**All:** Gib luz mir gibben a hooray

## 10. “My Object All Sublime” [aka “Let the Punishment Fit the Crime”]

### prologue

**All:** Der Mikada?

**Mikado:** Avada.

**All:** Avada?

**Mikado:** Mikada!

*[Hollywood adds article “Der” to final line, uncharacteristically worsening comic timing]*

### Tamiment version:

Ich kim fin Kolomai  
Ehr kimt fun Kolomai  
I happen to be passing by  
On my way from Kolomai  
Tz’iz alles A.B.C.  
I’ll fix dot one, two, tree  
He likes she and she likes he  
I’ll fix dot one, two, tree

(Chorus repeats song — and dance)

**Hollywood version *handwritten over first 4 crossed-out Tamiment lines:***

**Mikado:** Ich bin der groisse knocker  
**All:** Ai takeh, takeh, taken  
**Mikado:** Ich bin der L.B. Mayer here  
**All:** Aha! An alter kocker  
**Mikado:** S’iz ’iz alles A.B.C.  
I’ll fix it one, two, tree  
He likes she and she likes he  
I’ll fix it one, two, tree

(Chorus swings the same chorus. Mikado shim shams. Dance encores until the cheers die)

## 11. “For He’s Going to Marry Yum-Yum” (Finale)

Ehr gait chassina machen Yum Yum - Yum Yum  
Mi gait machen whoopee  
Mit shtellen a choopee  
Der music vet shpielen Bum bum - Bum Bum [*De music... bim bum*]  
Mit gibben de maidlach a hug  
Mir vell machin a gantze tararum [*vill machen... tara-rum rum tum*]  
Mit trinkin end essen [*trinken*]  
Mit tantzen end fressin [*fressen*]  
Mit branfin end whiskey end rum - rum rum [***whiskey end soda end rum***]  
Mit laibin a chasin hin tug. [*mit laiben a chasishen tug..*]

**Hollywood only, continues:**

Die music vet shpielen bim bum - bim bum  
Die music vet shpielen bim bum [*this final line crossed out on 2nd Hollywood copy*]  
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## SONG LIST:

1. “If You Want to Know Who We Are” [aka “Gentlemen From Japan”]
2. Koko Declaims
3. “A Wand’ring Minstrel I”
4. “Behold the Lord High Executioner”
5. “As Someday It May Happen” [aka “I’ve Got a Little List”]
6. “Three Little Maids from School Are We”
7. “Were You Not to Koko Plighted”
8. “Tit Willow”
9. “Miyasama”
10. “My Object All Sublime” [aka “Let the Punishment Fit the Crime”]
11. “For He’s Going to Marry Yum-Yum” (Finale)



**Below: Suggested listening** (sourced from YouTube, Jan 2022 links) to hear the Gilbert & Sullivan songs in their original English versions, for familiarizing /refreshing recall as to underlying musical & lyrical material upon which the “Richtiga Mikado” sketches are based. There are no archival recordings of the Yinglish work. Please note that *Koko Declaims* listed in the script is a short rhymed text without a musical reference link below. Many more G&S recordings abound online, as well as numerous sites to review full Mikado lyrics and history. Several of the links below are excerpts from film versions of THE MIKADO, including the 1938/39 British feature as well as “play within a film” 1999 movie TOPSY-TURVY about the making of the 1885 original work in London.

**An illustrated SYNOPSIS** of the history and context of the original operetta “The Mikado; or, The Town of Titipu” /Opera in Two Acts, is here:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Mikado>

**VIDEO examples** of English-language Mikado songs are listed here in same order as sequenced in the Yinglish comedy-revue adaptation scripts. The Tamiment /Hollywood “sketch” version includes all of these listed, but the full original Mikado also features copious additional material and characters not featured in the “Richtiga Mikado” parody.

**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO WE ARE (“Gentlemen of Japan”)**

<https://youtu.be/k3AtbsazrLA>

**A WAND’RING MINSTREL I**

<https://youtu.be/QmK4VaUSATg>

**BEHOLD THE LORD HIGH EXECUTIONER**

<https://youtu.be/u1qd3bwv3N4>

**AS SOMEDAY IT MAY HAPPEN (“I’ve Got A Little List”)**

<https://youtu.be/TPGcBvrbcNw>

**THREE LITTLE MAIDS FROM SCHOOL ARE WE**

<https://youtu.be/mXWklZUPmDY>

**WERE YOU NOT TO KOKO PLIGHTED (1938-39)**

[https://youtu.be/5AzJoEq\\_XV8](https://youtu.be/5AzJoEq_XV8)

**TIT WILLOW**

<https://youtu.be/qO8zVY6xspg>

**MY OBJECT ALL SUBLIME (“Let The Punishment Fit the Crime”)**

<https://youtu.be/KbE0wZaXiLI>

**MIYASAMA**

<https://youtu.be/qqG7iDCxgqc>

**FOR HE’S GOING TO MARRY YUM YUM /FINALE**

<https://youtu.be/qq1-0bqaLTk>

LOC source files for “Der Richtiga /Richtige Mikado” [www.loc.gov/item/ih.200183514/](http://www.loc.gov/item/ih.200183514/)