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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Theater Performance at Kent State Stark

Kent State Stark Theatre Presents *The Mikado*



Music by
Arthur Sullivan

Libretto by
W.S. Gilbert

(Jackson Township, OH – January 23, 2009) Kent State University Stark presents this season's musical theatre production, *The Mikado*, with music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by W.S. Gilbert. Performances take place at 8 p.m. on February 13, 14, 20 and 21. The matinee performances are scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on February 15 and 2. Opening night is Scholarship Night. All of the proceeds from the February 13 performance will benefit music and theatre scholarships. The production will take place in the Kent State Stark Fine Arts Theatre, 6000 Frank Avenue NW in Jackson Township. This event is presented in conjunction with the *Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota* exhibition, opening on February 8 at the Canton Museum of Art.

The ninth of Gilbert and Sullivan's operatic collaborations, *The Mikado* is regarded as one of their finest efforts. A year before the action of this opera begins, Nanki-Poo, son of the Mikado of Japan, flees his father's imperial court to escape marriage to the elderly Katisha. He meets and falls in love with Yum-Yum, the young ward of Ko-Ko, a tailor in the town of Titipu. Yum-Yum, however, is already betrothed to her guardian, and Nanki-Poo leaves Titipu in despair. In a way that only Gilbert and Sullivan could, some of life's deepest emotions are portrayed with swift, razor-sharp comedic and satirical wit.

Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$5 for non-Kent State students, children under 17 and Senior Citizens. All Kent State students are admitted free of charge with student ID. For reservations and group rates, contact the Kent State Stark Theatre Box Office, Mondays through Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m. at 330-244-3348.

Directing *The Mikado* is Phillip Robb, assistant professor of theatre at Kent State Stark. Louis Williams is the scenic and lighting designer. Susan Blurton is the costume designer.

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About Kent State University Stark:

Kent State Stark is the largest regional campus of Kent State University and serves 10,000 students each year, comprised of 5,300 enrolled in academic coursework and 4,700 enrolled in professional development courses. Kent State Stark offers 11 bachelor's degrees and two master's degrees, in addition to associate degrees. The campus is located in Jackson Township and consists of seven major buildings. The University Center – Professional Education and Conference Center, which houses The Office of Corporate and Community Services and the Small Business Development Center, is accredited under the stringent guidelines of the International Association of Conference Centers. Always striving to enhance education through technological advancement, Kent State Stark features indoor and outdoor, campus-wide wireless Internet. Combining the best of a major university and a liberal arts college, Kent State University Stark serves our region as a key intellectual resource providing access to academic, economic and cultural advancement through excellence in teaching and learning. To learn more about Kent State Stark, visit www.stark.kent.edu.