

## MEDIA RELEASE

10 March 2015

# THE 3 MIKADOS

## COMEDIANS COLIN LANE AND DAVID COLLINS JOINED BY ESTHER HANNAFORD IN G&S CLASSIC

Leading lady of the stage, Esther Hannaford, joins comedy double act veterans, Colin Lane (Lano from Lano and Woodley) and David Collins (the hairy one from The Umbilical Brothers), in the witty musical romp that is ***The 3 Mikados***.

Most recently seen as Ann Darrow, in *King Kong: The Musical*, Esther will swap one giant monkey for two smaller ones as she teams up with Colin and David to tackle a Gilbert and Sullivan classic.

***The 3 Mikados*** begins preview performances on **Thursday 26 March 2015** at **The Famous Spiegeltent, Arts Centre Melbourne**, as part of the **2015 Melbourne International Comedy Festival**, and officially opens on **Wednesday 1 April 2015**.

In ***The 3 Mikados*** a casting mishap means only three actors and a pianist, musical director John Thorn, make it to the theatre. A fast-paced and hilarious run through of all of the characters, songs and near beheadings from *The Mikado* ensues. The cast take on multiple characters and tempers fray as Colin gives himself all the choice roles and leaves David carrying the spears. While Colin and David bicker over the billing, accomplished musical theatre performer Esther is forced to carry the show as leading lady Yum Yum.

***The 3 Mikados*** offers a refreshing new take for G&S fans with faithful renderings of some of the operetta's most popular songs. Colin and David hatched this plan while working together on a more traditional version of *The Mikado*. Rather than create a parody of the original this is the story of two idiots doing their best to mount their own Mikado – with limited success but riotous, feel-good results.

Directed by Russell Fletcher who has himself performed with the Reduced Shakespeare Company, ***The 3 Mikados*** is an entertaining, funny and endearing new take on the high camp Gilbert and Sullivan classic.

Presented by Token Events, the show was written by Colin and David with a little help from Gilbert and Sullivan.

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

**COLIN LANE** In almost 20 years as Lano and Woodley, Colin Lane and his comedy partner won the coveted Perrier Award for best show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, starred in their own television series and toured sold out shows across the country. They called it quits in 2006 with a national tour seen by more than more 125,000 people. Since then Colin has hosted Network Ten's *Ready Steady Cook* and appeared in various theatre productions and TV programs including *Spicks and Specks*, *Good News Week*, *Slideshow* and the UK's critically acclaimed *Qi* alongside Stephen Fry and Alan Davis.

**DAVID COLLINS** As one half of the Umbilical Brothers, David Collins has performed around the world from the West End to Broadway, won two BAFTA's, a Critic's Choice and a Helpmann Award and even performed for the Queen. As a dramatic and comedy actor he has popped up everywhere from *All Saints* to Australian film *Maya the Bee* and *Happy Feet 2*. He co-wrote and performed *The Luck Child* at Sydney Theatre Co, which was the recipient of Best Production for Children at both The Sydney Theatre Awards and Adelaide Fringe.

**ESTHER HANNAFORD** Esther Hannaford's performance in *King Kong: The Musical* earned her a Green Room Award for Best Leading Actress and a Helpmann Award nomination. More recently Esther appeared in the Nick Enright musical, *Miracle City*. Other theatre credits include *Hairspray*, *Hair*, *The Boyfriend*, *Once We Lived Here*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Burn The Floor*. She picked up the Green Room Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Amy in *Once We Lived Here*, and both a Green Room and Helpmann Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role for her performance as Penny in *Hairspray*. Esther will star in The Production Company's *Nice Work if You Can Get It* in August.

**GILBERT & SULLIVAN** Librettist WS Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan wrote 14 comic operas together, the most famous of which is arguably *The Mikado*. It premiered at the Savoy Theatre in London on 14 March 1885 and played for some 672 performances, becoming the pair's longest running hit. Within a year 150 other companies were performing the operetta in England and the United States. Over the past 130 years its influence has been felt around the world in politics, literature, film, popular music and television. Among the famous names to star in adaptations of the production are Eric Idle, Bill Oddie, Dudley Moore and even Groucho Marx.

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### The 3 Mikados

The Famous Spiegeltent, Arts Centre Melbourne  
100 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne, VIC 3004  
Bookings: 1300 660 013 | [comedyfestival.com.au](http://comedyfestival.com.au)

#### Dates:

Thursday 26 March - Sunday 19 April, 2015 (No Mondays)

Preview Performances: From Thursday 26 March 2015

Opening Night: Wednesday 1 April 2015

#### Ticket Prices:

Prv \$25.00, Tue\$28.00, Wed-Thu &Sun A\$38.00 C\$35.00, Fri & Sat \$44.90

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<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8374appgfb2g117/AADqYruUwaGksBLEmMuyLeJ6a?dl=0>