



Audition Pack: The Intergalactic Mikado

The character: Pooh-Bah (Bass-Baritone)

Pooh-Bah is the ultimate officious and corrupt bureaucrat. He is a state of the art AI who can trace his initial coding back to the early days of AI on Earth, a fact of which he is very proud. Over the centuries, as the Empire expanded and got rid of politicians and independent governance, the civil service duties of the state were automated and gradually subsumed into one AI unit.

Although Pooh-Bah doesn't have ambitions to challenge the Mikado for leadership, he does enjoy the power of the bureaucrat and control over the minutiae of protocol, process and pedantry. Along with the salaries of all the offices he has assumed, he is also open to bribery. The accumulation of wealth is important to him as it allows him to purchase expensive upgrades, plus he likes to see the numbers in his bank account multiplying.

Although he isn't human, his long contact with humans has led to him developing some human traits: in particular, a sense of his own importance and an enjoyment of playing games with those around him as he out-maneuvres and bewilders them with his ability to move between often-contradictory roles.

The Song: Young Man Despair!

Some lines in the song have been altered to fit with the intergalactic theme, but for the audition, it's ok to use the original. The revised lyrics are included here, should you wish to use them.

Young man, despair, Likewise go to,
Yum-Yum the fair You must not woo,
It will not do: I'm sorry for you,
You uncalibrated solutioner!

This very day The fair Yum-Yum
Will wend her way, And homeward come,
With a laser hum And a digital drum,
To wed the Lord High Executioner!

And the screens will flash, And the sirens bray,
And they'll cut a dash On their wedding day.
She'll toddle away, as all aver,
With the Lord High Executioner!

NANKI-POO & POOH

And the screens will flash, And the sirens bray,
And they'll cut a dash On their wedding day.

ALL

She'll toddle away, as all aver,
With the Lord High Executioner!

POOH-BAH

It's a hopeless case, As you may see,
And in your place Away I'd flee;
But don't blame me— I'm sorry to be
Of your pleasure a diminutioner.
They'll vow their pact Extremely soon,
In point of fact This afternoon
Her honeymoon With that buffoon
At seven, commences, so you shun her!

And the screens will flash, And the sirens bray,
And they'll cut a dash On their wedding day.
She'll toddle away, as all aver,
With the Lord High Executioner!

The Libretto

KO-KO . Pooh-Bah, it seems that the festivities in connection with my approaching marriage must last a week. I should like to do it handsomely, and I want to consult you as to how much of the Central Command Core budget should I allocate for the wedding gala?

POOH-BAH: Well, Ko-Ko, that depends entirely on which of my corporate modules you are addressing - Chancellor of the Exchequer, Director of State Ceremonies, Titipu Chief Justice of the Intergalactic High Court or Personal Legal Counsel.

KO-KO . Suppose we say as Director of State Ceremonies?

POOH-BAH: I should say that a Lord High Executioner cannot possibly be married in a low-resolution, budget format. It must be a premium, high-bandwidth, inter-planetary event! Holographic light shows, synchronised drone displays, champagne synthesizers running at maximum capacity! To do anything less would damage our credit rating across the entire sector. You must spare no expense, and put the entire bill on the public tab.

KO-KO That's what I was thinking! And that is your advice?

POOH-BAH As Director of State Ceremonies. Of course you will understand that, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, I am bound to see that due economy is observed. If you spend so much as a single digital credit on your own personal matrimony, I shall be forced to freeze your assets, audit your data-stream, and publish your tax-dodges to the entire network!

KO-KO But you just said spare no expense!

POOH As Director of State Ceremonies.

KO-KO And now you say that due economy must be observed.

POOH As Chancellor of the Exchequer.

KO-KO Can I speak to my personal legal counsel. Now, how do you advise me to deal with this difficulty?

POOH Oh, as your personal legal counsel, I'd say Chance it!

KO-KO Thank you, I will!

POOH Were it not that, as Chief Justice I am bound to see that the law isn't violated.

KO-KO I see. Can I speak to the First Lord of the Treasury?

POOH. Of course, as First Lord of the Treasury, I could propose a special vote that would cover all expenses, if it were not that, as Leader of the Opposition, it would be my duty to resist it, tooth and nail. Or, as Paymaster-General, I could be so creative with the accounts that, as Lord High Auditor, I should never discover the fraud. But then, as Archbishop of Titipu, it would be my duty to denounce my dishonesty and give myself into my own custody as First Commissioner of Police.

KO-KO That's extremely awkward

POOH-BAH: Well... it is a very difficult internal processing paradox. *(Leaning in)* Of course, as a private contractor... I *do* accept a nominal "system optimisation fee" to manually override my Chancellor App while my Ceremonies App is running.

KO-KO . The matter shall have my careful consideration. But my bride and her friends approach, and any little compliment on your part, such as a manual override of your facial circuits into a characteristic expression of joyful welcome, would be esteemed a favour."

POOH. No money - no smile! (Exeunt)