

TURANDOT

THE LIVE COMICS ADAPTATION

NESSUN
DORMA!



DRAWN BY
MIKE RUSSELL
DURING THE
PORTLAND
OPERA'S
"COMIC ARTIST
NIGHT"
REHEARSAL OF
"TURANDOT"

—
MONDAY,
JAN. 31, 2011

On Monday, Jan. 31, 2011, the Portland Opera invited me – and nearly 20 other, better cartoonists – to watch a dress rehearsal of Puccini’s “**Turandot**.”

Before the show, the Opera offered us complimentary food and wine at Morton’s. Then they gave us a backstage tour at the Keller Auditorium. And then – during the show’s dress rehearsal – we were asked to draw whatever we wanted.

I drew this “live comics adaptation” during the performance – mostly from my theater seat. All the pictures were speed-sketched in a spiral-bound sketchbook during the show. This comic book was assembled the next day from the drawings.

Thanks to the Portland Opera for letting me participate in yet another of their mad collisions of pulp and classical art. If you visit www.PortlandOpera.org, you’ll find dozens of sketches from the other artists – some of Portland’s finest cartoonists – all of them reacting in completely different ways to what was happening onstage.

And, once again, thank you to all the performing artists who let us scribble while they worked.

MIKE RUSSELL
www.CulturePulp.com



RE: THE AUTHOR

MIKE RUSSELL is a writer and cartoonist living in Portland, Oregon. You can find most of his stuff online at www.CulturePulp.com.

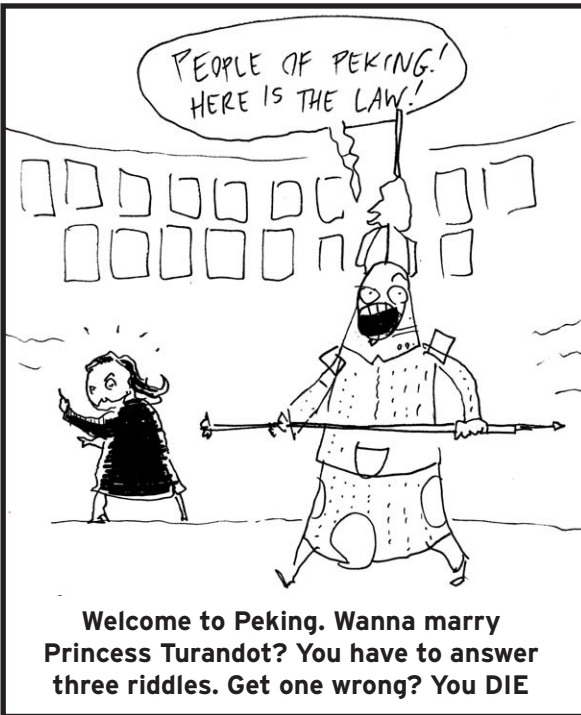
This is his fourth “live comics adaptation” of a Portland Opera production. The first was “Rigoletto” in May 2009. The second was “The Barber of Seville” in May 2010. The third was “Pagliacci” in September 2010.





Absurdly handsome conductor Leonardo Vordoni gives notes to the orchestra

and then it's time for

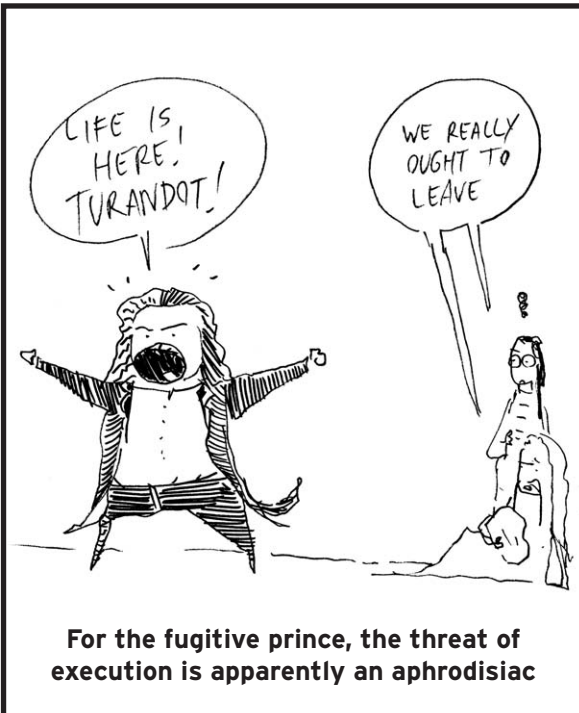
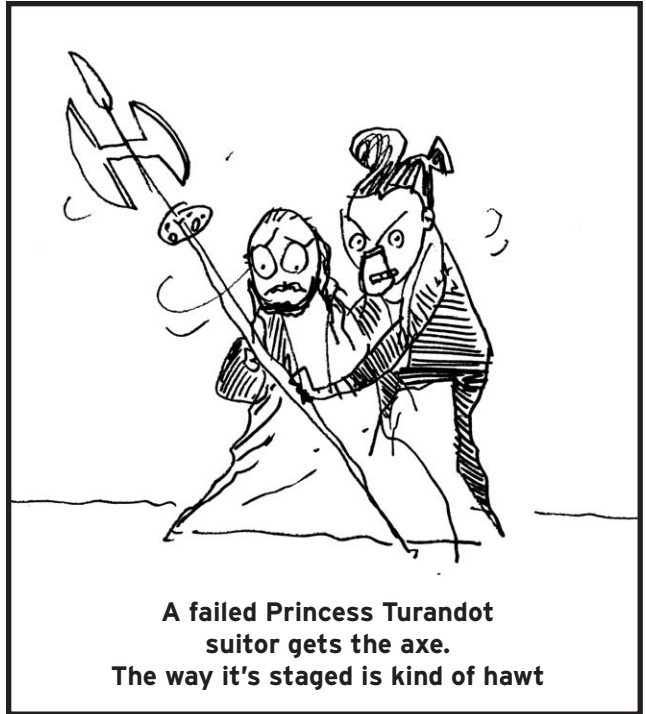


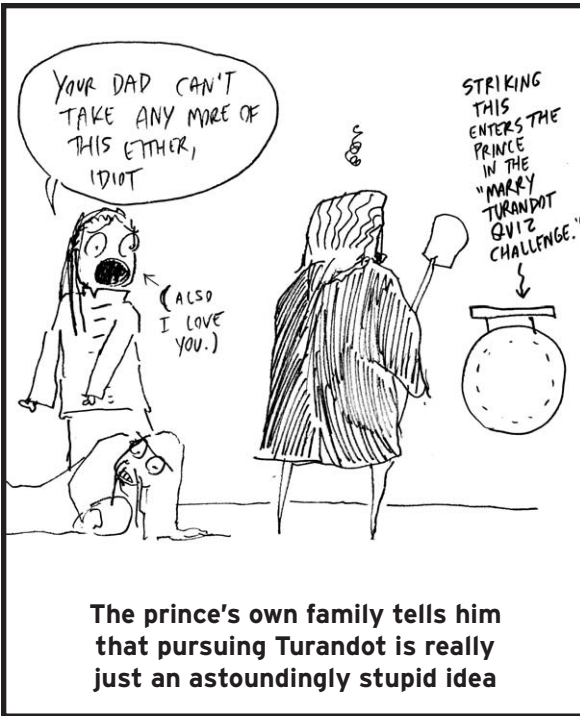
Welcome to Peking. Wanna marry Princess Turandot? You have to answer three riddles. Get one wrong? You DIE

ACT ONE



Into this screwy town wanders a royal family on the run – exiled old King Timur, lonely slave-girl Liù, and a lusty prince





The prince's own family tells him that pursuing Turandot is really just an astoundingly stupid idea

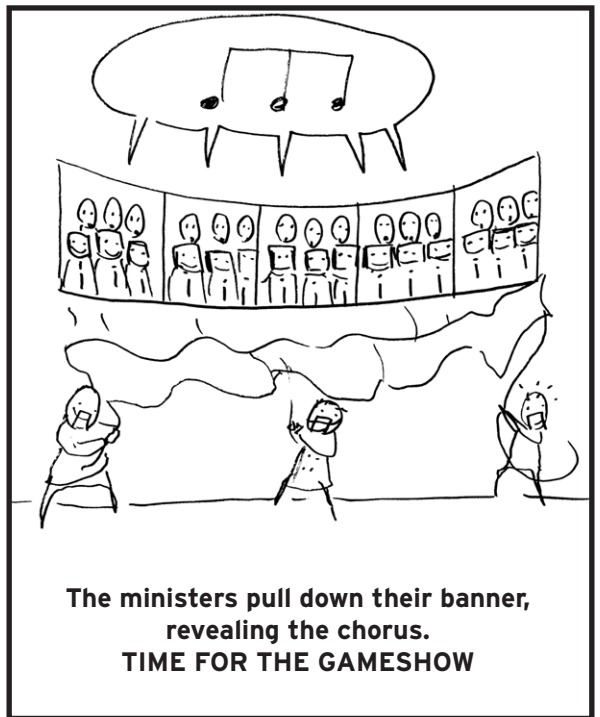


BUT THE DUDE WILL NOT BE SWAYED



And so the prince enters the world's worst dating game, and lo, he poses for Turandot's gallery of dead suitors, which he may soon join, and now it's time for

ACT TWO

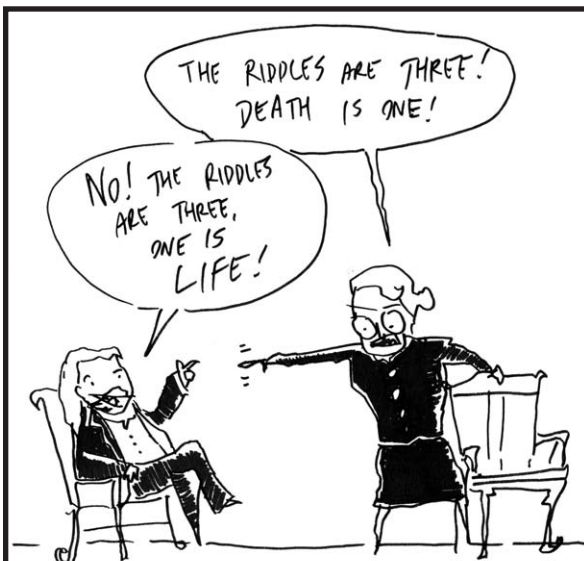




Enter the old Emperor.
AND YES PRINCE WE GET IT
YOU'RE READY FOR THE TEST



Princess Turandot shows up
and dishes some backstory:
This whole game is payback, basically



I have never seen a character
ignore this many warnings that
he is about to get himself killed



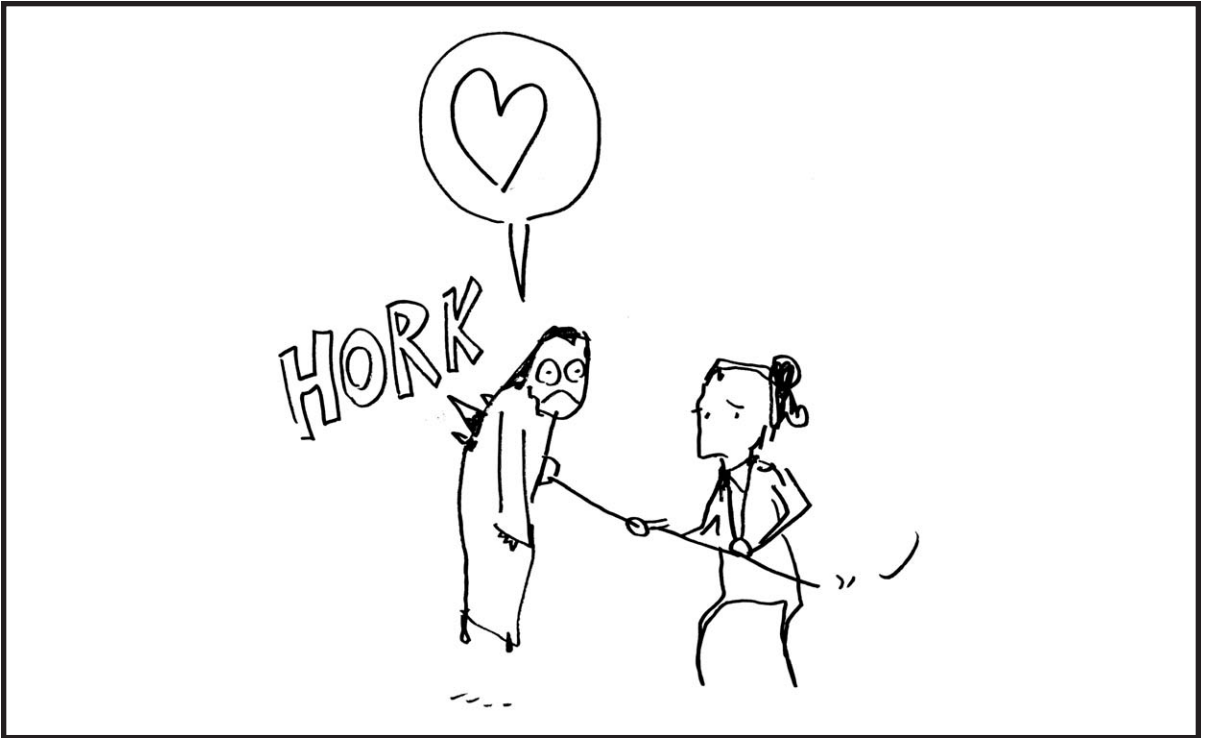
THE PRINCE JUST STRAIGHT-UP
ACES THE QUIZ (spoiler)



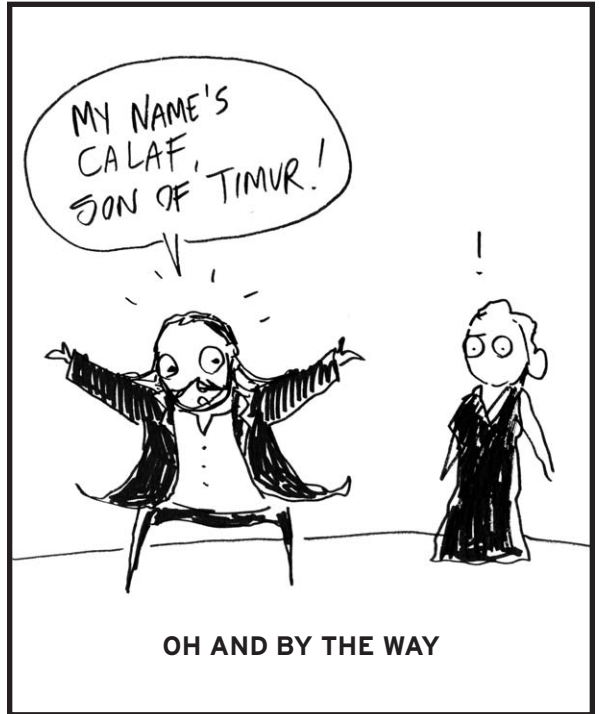
ACT 3



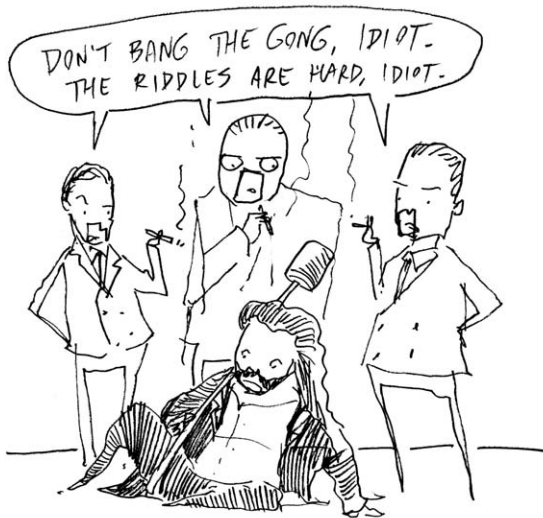




And now everyone is sad and scared of ghosts and feeling kind of terrible. OPERA.



**THE
END**



www.PortlandOpera.org