

PERFORMANCE ACTIVITY

The Art of the Director

The stage production of *Madama Butterfly* seen in this *Live in HD* presentation was conceived by the late Anthony Minghella, best known as the director of films such as *The English Patient* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. Minghella's staging includes a number of actions and designs not mentioned in Puccini's score or Giacosa and Illica's libretto. We've listed a selection below. Look for them in the production, and then write a few words about what you think about the director's innovations. Why did he make the creative choices he did, and how do you interpret those choices?

The opening dance: _____

Cio-Cio-San prays while Suzuki sings her own prayers: _____

Cio-Cio-San wears a cross around her neck: _____

Flower petals hang frozen in the air during Act II: _____

Puppet household servants: _____

Depiction of the child as a puppet: _____

Falling flower petals during the love duet: _____

Representation of Cio-Cio-San's dream: _____

Cio-Cio-San's vision of Pinkerton at the beginning of Act II: _____

Puppet birds: _____

Pinkerton's representation as an empty armchair: _____

Depiction of Cio-Cio-San's death at the opera's close: _____
