

Urinetown The Musical Coming March 31 through April 5 at SWOSU

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University students will present *Urinetown: The Musical* starting March 31 through April 5 on the Weatherford campus. Among the SWOSU students involved in the production are (front row from left): Casey McKay, Lone Wolf; Justin Hayes, Hurst TX; Emma Brown, Clinton; Eryn Brooks, Woodward; Dakota Jones, Yukon; and Eric Martin, Weatherford. Second row from left—Riley McCallay, Hammon; Daniel Serna, Oklahoma City; Bethany Schmidt, Enid; Megan Alspach, Elk City; Cody Carnahan, Sayre; and Adam Boothby, Guymon. Third row from left—De'Andre Moore, Midwest City; Ashley Howard, Fort Worth TX; David Day, Morris; Sara Christoff, Prague; Tanner Fisher, Calumet; Sara Molnar, Fay; and Ashley Underwood, Forgan. Back standing to left—Kayla Argo, Plains KS; and Shanna Clark, Marlow. Not pictured are Tyler Powell, Woodward; Randi Rowland, Tuttle; and JJ Witt, Guymon.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University Theatre will present *Urinetown: The Musical* starting March 31 through April 5 on the Weatherford campus.

One of the most uproariously funny musicals in recent years, according to director Steve Strickler, *Urinetown* is a hilarious tale of greed, corruption, love and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. A terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single greedy corporation that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs.

Amidst the people, a hero decides he has had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom. *Urinetown* is a satire—a cultural parody. It is a satire of almost every musical (*Les Miserables*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story*, to name a few) and it parodies the traditions of musicals as a whole in terms of style, structure and story. It also takes jabs at the legal system, capitalism, corrupt corporations and waste.

"Don't let the title scare you away—the show actively encourages the audience not to take the play too seriously," Strickler said.

In spite of its title, the play proved quite successful in New York. Opening on Broadway on September 20, 2001, *Urinetown* was nominated for an impressive 10 Tony Awards, winning for best book, score and direction. It also won the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Musical.

Urinetown will take place at the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre at 7:30 p.m. nightly on March 31, April 1, 2, 4 and 5 and at 2 p.m. on April 3. The Hilltop Theatre box office will open on March 21 for reservations. Reservations can be made at the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre box office Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. or by calling 580.774.6046.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for non-SWOSU students and free for individuals with a valid SWOSU ID.