

It's a pleasure to see University High School's "Urinetown" written by J.D. Cavalluzzi, a sophomore at El Dorado High School

The darkly comedic Urinetown explores the dangers of corporate greed amidst a backdrop of an apocalyptic world where citizens are forced to pay to pee. The musical follows star-crossed lovers Hope Cladwell and Bobby Strong, who meet as a violent uprising breaks out against the higher corporate powers.

A single spotlight shines on Brian Bajak (Officer Longstock) as he glares at the audience with a hilariously overdramatic look, informing the viewers that they are not watching a happy musical. Throughout the remainder of the show, Bajak masterfully portrays this comically menacing character, utilizing a wide range of similarly comedic facial expressions and providing an anti-hero the audience can't help but enjoy.

Bajak is often joined by Mallika Cadin (Little Sally) who, to the audience's delight, plays into her character's spunky nature, earnestly asking the Officer comedic questions and flawlessly executing her dance moves with the perfect amount of sass.

Izzy Klein (Hope Cladwell) wanders on stage sweetly as the doe-eyed innocent daughter of corporate villain, Caldwell B. Cladwell. Klein maintains this sweetness throughout the first act, tossing her curls back and forth and gently pressing her ear to the heart of Frankie Ochoa (Bobby Strong). Klein showcases an impressive range by Act Two, portraying a disillusioned Hope through an underlying strength in her singing and her frequent return to a somber expression.

Propaganda-filled billboards, an oversized fish tank, and other visually stunning projections enhance the show's atmosphere. These projections and other innovative special effects, designed by Max Dickson, are just a few of its many professional-quality technical elements.

The entire technical team demonstrates a keen eye for detail; from the patches on Little Sally's stuffed bunny to the hand-crocheted tops to the multi-textured set, each element is well-planned, well-thought-out, and well-executed.

The members of Urine Good Company march on stage dressed in crisp black and white business attire, providing a sharp contrast to the neutral-toned shabby outfits of the rebel poor. This cleverly subtle work of costume designer Karin Chin enhances the thematic class conflict. Chin allows the actors to fully become their characters and her costumes bring the audience into the world of Urinetown.

The stellar cast and crew of "Urinetown" provide audiences with a night of laughter and a new perspective on using the restroom.