

what IS URINETOWN?

The spring musical *Urinetown* told a unique story that left audiences amazed. "It's about a community where there's a drought that happened and you need to pay to pee, and if you don't pay you get sent to Urinetown. They're really strict about it, like you can try to pee wherever you want, but they always end up finding you. And in the second act, you find out what Urinetown is like," Sophia Miranda (10) said.

The musical was essentially an allegory about the problems with resource management, income equality, and the struggles of dealing with problems within a society.

Compared to recent shows, *Urinetown* was an unconventional experience for the audience as well as the cast. "We could have just done *Aladdin* or something else that everyone else has done, but I prefer doing something that nobody else has seen,"

said Jack Baziuk (12) who portrayed the villainous Mr. Cladwell.

Many factors went into the one-of-a-kind musical. In this case, actors were striving for the right portrayals of their characters.

"In the early stages, you can do a scene over and over and you can change certain things. For example, for one of [the scenes], one of the first times I played it really sort of chill, very calm, and then on the next day that I did it, I did a very forceful [portrayal], angry, very police brutality," Wyatt Lowrie (12) said.

After all the hard work during rehearsals, actors enjoyed seeing the whole musical come together in the end.

"The transition from going off book to actually doing it on stage with the set, choreography, with lights, and everything is a really amazing change. I really enjoy that part of production because it just shows how much work everyone's put into the production," Baziuk said.

page by kayla root, erica matthes, and natalie hunt



photo by emma baziuk

pay TO PEE

Brooke Newell (12) as Pennywise and Jack Baziuk (12) as Mr. Cladwell stand outside of the bathrooms asking for donations.

"We thought it was fitting for the show, and a good way to get donations since we weren't selling concessions," Newell said.

Newell used the experience to help develop more improvisational acting skills.

"It was actually a lot of fun! Jack and I both have improv experience, so it was really cool to explore our characters further through improv. I think it's one of the most valuable skills to have as an actor," Newell said.



photo by bonnie katzive



photo by emma baziuk

SETTING THE SCENE The cast and ensemble of sings the opening song, really getting into character with their parts. "I got a bigger role this year. I was a part of everything, so it was a lot of running around doing quick changes. But it was a lot easier because i knew what to expect, and how much work I needed to put into it, but it also made it harder because i had to put more work into it," Sophia Miranda (10) said.



photo by emma baziuk



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COP SONG Wyatt Lowrie (12) and Richmund Cowan (11) as officers Lockstock and Barrel performing "The Cop Song." Miranda Hunt (12), Grace Hardwick (12), and Isabella Dove (12) choreographed the musical. "We were all taught the group part, and then the choreographers sent the group away. It was really good because they focused on just us to work out the duet part... that was a big help," Lowrie said. **FAN FAVORITES** Lowrie and Cowan's dance shows their characters' exaggerated personalities. Cowan enjoyed the chance to be "really outrageous and over the top with it."

PRIVILEGE TO PEE Brooke Newell (12) as Pennywise leads the ensemble in the song "Privilege to Pee," including Sophia Miranda (10), Matisse Kellner (10), Kasia Hires (10), Ava Reisman (11), and Hannah Rowton (9). The show tackled issues of water insecurity and income inequality, "It was not a very well-known show, but I think it changed peoples' perceptions and told a new story," Newell said.