14 Preshow + House

ACT I

Scene 1

Early morning. The poorest, filthiest urinal in town. Above the entrance to the urinal hangs a sign that reads Public Amenity #9. THE POOR lie sprawled across the stage, sleeping quietly. Music for "Urinetown" plays softly in the background. OFFICER LOCKSTOCK enters from the house, inspecting the theater for orderliness. Satisfied,

he takes his place onstage and addresses the audience directly.

LOCKSTOCK: Well, hello there. And welcome—to Urinetown! (Pause.) Not the place, of course. The musical. Urinetown "the place" is . . . well, it's a place you'll hear people referring to a lot throughout the show.

(PENELOPE PENNYWISE and BOBBY STRONG enter. They carry with them a small table upon which rests a ledger.)

DEPENNY: You hear the news? They carted Old So-and-So off to Urinetown the other day.

BOBBY: Is that so? What he do?

PENNY: Oh, such-and-such, I hear.

вовву: Well, what do you know? Old So-and-So.

(Bobby and Penny set up their workstation, placing the table beside the entrance to the amenity as THE POOR begin to rise.)

LOCKSTOCK: It's kind of a mythical place, you understand. A bad place. A place you won't see until Act Two. And then . . . ? Well, let's just say it's filled with symbolism and things like

(THE POOR sing the "Urinetown" theme on an "ooh" ever so softly as they prepare for another day. LITTLE SALLY enters, counting her pennies.)

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Gspot Jack that.

LOCKSTOCK: But Urinetown "the musical," well, here we are. Welcome. It takes place in a town like any town . . . that you might find in a musical. This here's the first setting for the show. As the sign says, it's a "public amenity," meaning public toiler. These people have been waiting for hours to get in; it's the only amenity they can afford to get into.

(LITTLE SALLY approaches LOCKSTOCK.)

LITTLE SALLY: Say, Officer Lockstock, is this where you tell the audience about the water shortage?

LOCKSTOCK: What's that, Little Sally?

LITTLE SALLY: You know, the water shortage. The hard times. The drought. A shortage so awful that private toilets eventually became unthinkable. A premise so absurd that-

LOCKSTOCK: Whoa there, Little Sally. Not all at once. They'll hear more about the water shortage in the next scene.

LITTLE SALLY: Oh. I guess you don't want to overload them with too much exposition, huh?

LOCKSTOCK: Everything in its time, Little Sally. You're too young to understand it now, but nothing can kill a show like too much exposition. SB 116

LITTLE SALLY: How about bad subject matter?

LOCKSTOCK: Well-

LITTLE SALLY: Or a bad title, even? That could kill a show pretty good.

LOCKSTOCK: Well, Little Sally, suffice it to say that in Urinetown (the musical) everyone has to use public bathrooms in order to take care of their private business. That's the central conceit of the showw! (He sings.)

Better hope your pennies Add up to the fee-For free.

We can't have you peeing

If you do, we'll catch you.

110

SB MICS

MIC ON: 8-10

We, we never fail!

And we never bother with jail.

(MCQUEEN, FIPP, and BARREL enter. All sing.)

ALL:

You'll get Urinetown!

Off you'll go to Urinetown!

Away with you to Urinetown!

LOCKSTOCK:

You won't need bail.

(HOPE CLADWELL enters. As LOCKSTOCK and LITTLE SALL, HOPE approaches BOBBY at his table.)

SB LI8

SB MIC

LOCKSTOCK: Later on you'll learn that these public bathrooms are controlled by a private company. They keep admission high, generally, so if you're down on your luck, you have to come to a place like this—one of the poorest, filthiest urinals in town.

LITTLE SALLY: And you can't just go in the bushes either—there's laws against it.

LOCKSTOCK: That's right, Little Sally. Harsh laws, too. That's why Little Sally here's counting her pennies. Isn't that so, Little Sally?

LITTLE SALLY: I'm very close, Officer. Only a few pennies away.

LOCKSTOCK: Aren't we all, Little Sally. Aren't we all.

(LITTLE SALLY keeps counting.)

HOPE: Excuse me, sir, but can you tell me the way to the private company that controls these public bathrooms?

вовву: You mean Urine Good Company?

HOPE: That's the one.

LOCKSTOCK: (To the audience) You'll meet the guy who runs Urine Good Company later. That there's his daughter.

BOBBY: It's quite a ways from here, ma'am. This here's the bad part of town.

HOPE: So it is.

Musical spi

MICON; 3

120

The Musical

11

SB 120

вовву: But if you squint, you can just make out their headquar-

ters rising above the skyline.

HOPE: The gleaming tower on the hill?

вовву: That's the one. норе: Gosh, it's beautiful.

вовву: You most certainly are.

HOPE: Pardon?

вовву: It most certainly is.

HOPE: Oh dear, I'm late already. Thanks ever so much for the di-

rections and such. Bye! (She exits.)

вовву: Anytime.

LOCKSTOCK: (To the audience) Well, we've talked on long enough, I imagine. Enjoy the show. And welcome—to Urinetown (the musical)!

(All sing.)

WOMEN:

You, our humble

audience.

You have come to

see

What it's like when

People can't pee

free.

MEN:

You, our humble

audience,

You have come to

see

People can't pee,

People can't pee free,

Can't pee free.

First act lasts an

hour.

Don't assume you're

fine.

Best go now, there

often is a

line.

First act lasts an

hour.

Don't assume you're

fine.

Often is a,

Often is a line.

L21 MIC OFF:3 ALL:

This is Urinetown!

One restroom here at Urinetown!

It's unisex at Urinetown!

All by design.

LOCKSTOCK, MCQUEEN, FIPP, BARREL:

It's the oldest story—

Masses are oppressed;

Faces, clothes, and bladders

All distressed.

Rich folks get the good life,

Poor folks get the woe.

In the end, it's nothing you don't know.

ALL:

You're at Urinetown! Your ticket should say "Urinetown"!

No refunds, this is Urinetown!

We'll keep that dough!

SOPRANOS:

ALTOS:

TENORS:

BASSES:

This is

This is

Urinetown!

Here we are in It's the oldest

SB LAMP

can't pee free!

Urinetown!

Here we are in Urinetown!

story!

People

People

Urinetown!

This, this is

It's the oldest

can't pee free!

This is

Urinetown!

story!

People

Urinetown!

Here we are in It's the oldest

can't pee free, they Here we are in Urinetown! Yes, story, with

Urinetown!

can't pee free in

Urinetown,

Urinetown!

here we are in

masses op-

yes this is

Urinetown! Urinetown!

pressed! Masses,

Yes, this is

pots out

Urinetown!

Urinetown!

Urinetown!

masses

Yes, this is

oppressed

in

Urinetown!

Urinetown!

Urinetown!

Urinetown!

ALL:

On with the show!

MIC OFF: 1010

(LOCKSTOCK, BARREL, MCQUEEN, and FIPP exit as PENNY shouts out instructions to THE POOR.)

PENNY: All right, folks, you know the drill. Form a line and have yer money ready. We'll not be repeating yesterday's fiasco, and that means you, Old Man Strong.

(THE POOR crowd around the amenity, forming a line.)

and ninety-seven. Just a few more.

(MCQUEEN enters, now on his way to work. LITTLE SALLY rushes toward him, her hand stretched out in supplication.)

LITTLE SALLY: Penny for a pee, sir? Mz'zn

(MCQUEEN exits. SENATOR FIPP enters.)

LITTLE SALLY: Please, sir, spare a penny for a morning pee, sir?

FIPP: What's that?

LITTLE SALLY: Or a nickel or a dime?

FIPP: Out of my way, child! I've peeing of my own to tend to.

LITTLE SALLY: But—

(FIPP exits. LITTLE SALLY joins the crowd. At the entrance to the amenity OLD MAN STRONG is arguing with PENNY.)

OLD MAN STRONG: I haven't got it!

PENNY: Then go get it!

OLD MAN STRONG: C'mon, Penny, I'm good for it.

PENNY: That's what you said last week and I still haven't seen

penny one. And it's Ms. Pennywise to you.

MIC OFF: 8-9

OLD MAN STRONG: Bobby! Bobby, reason with the woman. I'm a little short this morning.

тіму том: No shorter than yesterday. Unless I've grown.

BOBBY: He's my pa, Ms. Pennywise. Can't he come in for free? Just this once?

PENNY: Get your head out of the clouds, Bobby Strong. No one gets in for free.

old man strong: Now, Ms. Pennywise, we've all he special . . . arrangements with people in high places over the years. Why not let this one be ours?

SOUPY SUE: If Old Man Strong gets in for free, then so do I!

TINY TOM: And I!

LITTLE BECKY TWO-SHOES: And I!

Don't you think I have bills of my own to pay?! Don't you think I have taxes and tariffs and payoffs to meet, too?! Well, I do! (Musical vamp for "It's a Privilege to Pee" begins.) And I don't pay them with promises, see. I pay them with cash! Cold hard cash. Every morning you all come here. And every morning some of you got reasons why ya ain't gonna pay. And I'm here to tell ya, ya is gonna pay!

вовву: But, Ms. Penny—

PENNY: No buts, Bobby.

OLD MAN STRONG: In the name of God, Penny, what difference could it make?

PENNY: What difference?!! (Outraged, she sings.)

"Times are hard."

"Our cash is tight."

"You've got no right!" I've heard it all before.

"Just this once"

Is once too much,

For once they've onced, they'll want to once once more.

The Musical

I run the only toilet in this part of town, you see. So, if you've got to go, You've got to go through me.

It's a privilege to pee.

Water's worth its weight in gold these days.

No more bathrooms like the olden days.

You come here and pay a fee

For the privilege to pee.

Twenty years we've had the drought, And our reservoirs have all dried up. I take my baths now in a coffee cup. I boil what's left of it for tea, And it's a privilege to pee.

SB Mic

The politicians in their wisdom saw
That there should be a law.
The politicians taxed the toilets
And made illegal
Public urination and defecation.

MICON: 17

So, come and give your coins to me.

Write your name here in the record book.

The authorities will want to look

If you've been regular with me,

If you've paid the proper fee,

For the privilege to pee.

(THE POOR sing the refrain "It's a privilege to pee" under the following.)

вовву: But, Ms. Pennywise—

PENNY: I said no buts, Bobby. You're a sweet-lookin' boy and I likes to keep you around, but this man ain't comin' in without payin'. Not this time.

128

OLD MAN STRONG: I can't wait much longer, Bobby. There's no tellin' what I might do!

PENNY:

You think you've got some kind of right?

THE POOR:

Kind of right, kind of right!

PENNY:

You think you'll come in here and go for free?

THE POOR:

Snag a freebie!

PENNY:

The only thing you'll get is "no" for free!

THE POOR:

Negatory!

PENNY:

I'm a business gal, you see.

THE POOR:

Business gal, you see!

PENNY:

THE POOR:

I sell the privilege to pee!

It's a privilege to pee!

PENNY:

The good Lord made us so we'd piss each day
Until we piss away.
The good Lord made sure that what goes in men
Must soon come out again,
So you're no different, then,
From lowly me.

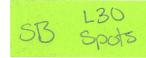
THE POOR:

Me,

Lowly me,

Lowly me,

The Musical



Lowly me,

Lowly me!

BOBBY: But, Ms. Pennywise-

OLD MAN STRONG: That's enough, Bobby.

PENNY:

And I think I'll charge you twice,

No need to jeopardize your position.

Or better yet, have you arrested

OLD MAN STRONG: I'm through with all this, you see.

PENNY:

Since you prefer the law gets tested.

OLD MAN STRONG: Scrapin' cash three times a day.

PENNY:

And in Urinetown you'll see

OLD MAN STRONG: Crazy with the nitrates half the time.

PENNY:

Why it's dumb to fight with me

OLD MAN STRONG: It's no way to live, I tells ya! No way to live!

PENNY:

For the privilege to pee!

POOR:

BUMP 523 Wah! Wah!

PENNY AND POOR:

MIC OFF: 17

(OLD MAN STRONG finds a wall and undoes his pants to pee.)

BOBBY: Pa! Pa, what are ya doin'?! Have ya lost your mind?!

OLD MAN STRONG: More than that, boy! A whole lot more than that! (He starts peeing. A police whistle is heard in the distance.)

SOUPY SUE: Looky there!

ROBBY THE STOCKFISH: It's Old Man Strong! He ain't waitin'!

URINETOWN

OLD MAN STRONG:

PENNY:

SB

Wah!

SB MICS

18

LITTLE BECKY TWO-SHOES: He's peein' right there on the pave-

ment, he is!

MIC ON: 1410

тиму том: If he's goin', then I'm goin'!

(OFFICERS LOCKSTOCK and BARREL enter.)

LOCKSTOCK: Oh no, you're not!

BARREL: All right, then! Make way!

LOCKSTOCK: Make way, damn you! Make way!

OLD MAN STRONG: Ahhh. That's better. BARREL: So, if it ain't Old Man Strong.

OLD MAN STRONG: The same.

LOCKSTOCK: Is this your doing, Strong?

OLD MAN STRONG: It is. LOCKSTOCK: Seize him!

(BARREL seizes OLD MAN STRONG.)

THE POOR: [Gasp.]

LOCKSTOCK: You've done a terrible thing here today, Strong.

OLD MAN STRONG: I did what I thought was necessary.

PENNY: Grab a mop, Bobby. Never thought I'd live to see the day.

LOCKSTOCK: Breaking the Public Health Act is an exiling of-

fense, Strong.

BARREL: Quite exiling.

OLD MAN STRONG: What if it is? I feel better now, and that's all I cares about.

вовву: Oh, Pa.

LOCKSTOCK: Always knew we'd get you in the end, Joseph

Strong. Take him away!

(BARREL drags OLD MAN STRONG away.)

OLD MAN STRONG: Bobby!

вовву: Ра!

OLD MAN STRONG: Don't forget me, Bobby!

вовву: I won't, Pa!

OLD MAN STRONG: And tell yer mother . . . tell yer mother that I

love her!

BOBBY: I will, Pa! I will!

OLD MAN STRONG: Remember me, boys! Oh God, what have I

done?! Remember me!

(They exit. LOCKSTOCK sings.) MIC OFF: 7410

LOCKSTOCK:

Remember, Bobby, what became of him.

THE POOR:

Remember!

LOCKSTOCK:

How he indulged a whim.

THE POOR:

Remember!

LOCKSTOCK:

Remember how he made a mockery.

He shunned the crockery.

Off to the dockery!

Don't be like him.

(THE POOR sing the refrain "Don't be like him" under the following.)

BOBBY: "What became of him"? What do you mean by that?

LOCKSTOCK: Just keep your head out of the clouds, that's all I'm

saying. Good day. (He exits.)

FENNY: All right, who's ready to pay?!

SOUPY SUE: It's my last few dollars, but I'll pay.

TINY TOM: Me, too!

LITTLE BECKY TWO-SHOES: Me, too!

SOUPY SUE: We'll all pay, Bobby Strong! Always and forever, just

so long as you keep lettin' us pay!

BOBBY: Oh, Pa! What's to become of you?

PENNY: Back to work, then, Bobby! The morning rush is on!

Spots cut

MIC OUT: ALL

MIC OFF: 1

SB Mics

URINETOWN

20

