



Our Lady of Good Counsel - Urinetown

Oppression of a people can take many forms: the physical act of putting down an angry mob, the use of propaganda to push an agenda, or the deprivation of a basic human necessity: the need to urinate. Our Lady of Good Counsel managed to create an excellent show that was full of depth.

Urinetown premiered on Broadway in 2001. It received the Tony for Best Original Book and Best Original Score of a Musical. Urinetown, created by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollmann, takes place in a not so distant future where private toilets have been banned and public toilets require a fee to enter. When people can no longer pay, the raised fee prices they are sent to a horrible place known as Urinetown. Can public facilities assistant Bobby Strong defeat the evil Urine Good Company, or will everyone be sent to Urinetown?

Bobby Strong, played by Francis Hoag, and Hope Cladwell, played by Elsa Harlor, were great together. Their harmonies were crisp and clear, while their choices added to the shows emphasized the difference of the city's slums and upper class areas. This was parroted by the show's poor and UGC ensembles. The poor ensemble had more erratic movements with a great background, acting that emphasized their struggle and continued suffering under the UGC. The corporate ensemble, however, had very clean and connected movements which effectively symbolized the corporate machine. They were a part of. The dancing of these ensembles were outstanding together and provided beautiful effects such as when Hope was lifted up and the ensemble moved in different directions symbolizing a river.

The show's set crew, led by Lily Sarfaraz and Mimi Wise, were incredibly swift and efficient. Add one moment in the sewers stools were brought onto the stage while none of the audience was alerted: a chief example of an efficient stage crew. This set up the lighting crew (Jude Buber, Madison Boddie and Ryan Bukowski). The lighting continued to show a clear difference between poor and rich segments, casting the poor areas in green sickly lights, with the corporate areas set in a cool-toned, more polished lighting style.

Urinetown was an incredible display of Our Lady of Good Counsel's talents. It was an incredible time to see Good Counsel's beautiful demonstration of this wonderful, thought-provoking show.