

# Urinetown The Musical

## *Audition Brief*

*"A sidesplitting sendup of greed, love, revolution (and musicals!), in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. (Is it not still?)"*

### Production Synopsis

Winner of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards and two Obie Awards, Urinetown is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics and musical theatre itself! Hilariously funny and touchingly honest, Urinetown provides a fresh perspective on one of America's greatest art forms.

In a Gotham-like city, 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 malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom!

Inspired by the works of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, Urinetown is an irreverently humorous satire in which no one is safe from scrutiny. Praised for reinvigorating the very notion of what a musical could be, Urinetown catapults the "comedic romp" into the new millennium with its outrageous perspective, wickedly modern wit and sustained ability to produce gales of unbridled laughter.

### Heart Strings Theatre Co

Heartstrings Theatre Co. is Canberra's newest semi-professional Musical Theatre company. We are committed to paying every artist a fee for their involvement with a profit share arrangement that is dedicated to trying to return as much as we can to our artists. If you know you are not available for the show but interested in being involved with the company in the future, then we would love to see you at auditions. There will be two different artist fees; one for professional artist with three years of professional training or equivalent professional experience and one for emerging artists who we believe have the skills to keep up with a professional level process. We are really trying as a company to acknowledge professional training without devaluing what the experienced amateur or emerging professional brings to the table.

We look forward to hearing from you and working towards a brighter future for professional and emerging artists in Canberra.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director – Ylaria Rogers

Musical Director – Leisa Keen

Choreographer – Anette Sharpe

Audition Date:

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2021: 9:30am – 5:30pm

Audition slots will be an hour including a 'fake it till you make it' dance audition.

Call Backs:

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2021: 6 – 10pm

Rehearsals:

Start Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Cast will be given music as soon as casting has been confirmed. This will allow those cast time to start learning music. This will not be a process that involves sitting round and note bashing. Music rehearsals will be about cementing harmonies and tightening the work. We are hoping to make the process as tight and professional as possible.

Rehearsals will be - Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7:30 – 10:30, Sunday 11 - 4 in Woden Area.

You will only be called if required. Please stipulate all unavailable dates on your audition form. We can work around N/A's if we know during the casting process.

Production Dates:

12<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS/PREP

All roles require a high standard of acting, singing and movement. The production will also require a moderate level of 'pretending you can dance'. If you cannot, then we absolutely recommend 'fake it, till you make it'. An American accent is required for all roles.

The cast size will be 12 with all supporting roles doubling. Ability to change both voice and physicality in an instant will be paramount.

What to prepare:

In the interest of time, it is preferred auditionees sing a verse and a chorus from the show if auditioning for a major role (Hope, Bobby, Penny, Cladwell), even for a supporting role singing an excerpt from the show is preferred (Snuff that Girl is recommended for Harry, Little Becky, Ma Strong). Please also bring a verse and a chorus of something you are incredibly comfortable with and love to sing on a day when the world feels against you.

Submissions from artists of all ethnicities, backgrounds, and body types are strongly encouraged by the production team for all roles.

Stylistically, the show lives in a world of classic archetypes and while there is a camp familiar nature to the style of the production, the characters shouldn't move into the world of cliché or caricature, find their 'heart' and 'truth'. The parody should come from the writing not in the way the material is played.

## **Roles;**

### **Officer Lockstock: All Genders, 30-55**

Police"man" and narrator of the show, strong acting ability and excellent comic timing, moves well;

Vocal range: A2 - A4

### **Little Sally: All Genders, 15-35**

A child to played by an adult, poor street urchin, co-narrator of the show, out-spoken and forthright in a childlike way, strong acting, singing, and comic timing, moves well; mezzo soprano.

Vocal range: A3 – E5

Will double as one of the rich.

### **Bobby Strong: Male Identifying, 20-35**

"Hero" of the show, an earnest young man who is assistant custodian at the poorest urinal in town, a rebel and leader of the poor and not afraid to stand up for what he believes is right, falls in love with Hope, strong acting, singing, and comic timing, moves well; tenor.

Vocal range: A2 - C5

### **Hope Cladwell: Female Identifying, 20-35**

Ingenue type but quirky, Cladwell's good hearted daughter, fresh out of Most Expensive University in the World and about to work for father's company UGC, naive and believes there is good in everyone, falls in love with Bobby, strong acting, singing and comic timing, moves well; soprano.

Vocal range: A3 - A5

### **Caldwell B. Cladwell: Male Identifying, 35-65**

CEO of Urine Good Company (UGC), greedy, manipulative and vicious villain of the show, Hope's father, strong acting, singing, and excellent comic timing; baritone.

Could double as Old Man Strong

Vocal range: A2 - G4

### **Penelope Pennywise: Female, 35-65**

Proprietor of the Public Amenity #9, tough broad, harbors a secret (she is Hope's mother), strong acting, singing, and excellent comic timing, moves well; mezzo with a high belt.

Vocal range: A3 - C6

### **Senator Fipp: Male Identifying, 30+**

A corrupt man who hides all his crimes through politics, creepy character who seems to lurk in all the wrong places, strong acting, singing and movement required as well as good

comic timing.

Vocal range is open, will double as one of the poor.

**McQueen: All Genders, Age Open**

A sneaky individual who will do anything to save themselves, one of Cladwell's 'men': head lackey, always following in Cladwell's footsteps, too weak to step out of the shadows, strong acting and movement required.

Vocal range is open, will double as one of the poor.

**Officer Barrel: All genders, 25-40**

A police 'man' and Lockstock's trusty sidekick, idolizes and secretly in love with Lockstock;

Vocal range: G2 - F4, will double as one of the poor in Act 2.

**Hot Blades Harry: All Genders, Age Open**

one of the poor/rebels, a little crazy and volatile, featured in "Snuff that Girl," moves well.;

Vocal range is open, will double as one of the rich.

**Little Becky Two-Shoes: Female identifying, 18-35**

One of the poor/ rebels, a little crazy, Hot Blades Harry's counterpart, featured in "Snuff that Girl," moves well; mix with belt.

Vocal range is open, will double as one of the rich.

**Soupy Sue: All Genders, Age Open**

One of the poor/rebels;

Vocal range is open, will double as one of the rich.

**Tiny Tom: All Genders, Age Open**

One of the poor/rebels, always references lack of height, could also be very tall; Vocal range is open, will double as one of the rich.

**Joseph 'Old Man' Strong: Male Identifying, 40-60**

Bobby's father who gets killed early in the play but returns as ghost, will also double as an executive of Cladwell's and policeman; baritone/tenor.

Vocal range is open, will double as one of the rich. Could be played by Cladwell Or 'Ma' Strong

**Josephine 'Old Ma' Strong: Female Identifying, 40-60**

Bobby's good-hearted mother, a sensitive woman with some rebellious feelings; Vocal range is open, will double as one of the rich. Could play 'Pa' Strong.

**Cladwell's Secretary: All Genders, 30-55**

One of Cladwell's "men," straight laced and efficient;

Vocal range is open, will double as one of the poor

**Mrs. Millenium: All Genders, Age Open**

One of Cladwell's "men," aspiring to be Cladwell's secretary some day.

Vocal range is open, will double as one of the poor

**Dr. Billeaux: All Genders, 30-50**

One of Cladwells "men," the scientist at UGC;  
Vocal range is open, will double as one of the poor

**4 Police and UGC Executives: All Genders, Age Open**

Will be played by poor and rich 'supporting' roles.

The show requires diverse character actors who can act, sing, move and 'fake it' well. Vocal ranges for roles that double will be considered when trying to work out blend and vocal requirements across the cast, so please pick a song that shows off your range. Actors of any religion, ethnicity, class, gender or sexual orientation are encouraged to apply.

**SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Audition submissions are open to all artists of strong dramatic and vocal ability.

Please forward a headshot and CV to [heartstringstheatreco@outlook.com](mailto:heartstringstheatreco@outlook.com)

Please also indicate any instruments played to a proficient level upon submission.

**VIDEO SUBMISSION**

Please submit a verse and a chorus from the show and an excerpt of something you love to sing on any day of the week. Prepare audition sides for the character you are interested in, as well as Lockstock's opening monologue. (We are interested in what you do with it. American accents are a must). Please submit by 3pm Saturday 29 May along with your headshot and CV.

Any problems, please let us know.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The production will operate under a co-operative agreement. Under such agreements, production members receive a guaranteed fee covering all rehearsals and performances in addition to an equal share of all profits generated by the production.

There will be two different artist fees one for professional artist with three years of professional training or equivalent professional experience and one for emerging artists who we believe have the skills to keep up with a professional level process. We are really trying as a company to acknowledge professional training without devaluing what the experienced amateur or emerging professional brings to the table. Please indicate which category you feel you are in on application; this may be discussed in auditions if required.

Due to the nature of the production all applicants must be Canberra based.