

# PRESS RELEASE

## TONY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL ARRIVES IN WINNIPEG

February 5, 2007 – Nominated for 10 Tony Awards on Broadway and winner of 3 awards, *Urinetown: The Musical* will be produced by Gray Academy of Jewish Education from March 5-8, 2007.

*Urinetown* began its genesis on Broadway in 2002 and Liz Smith, syndicated New York columnist, wrote at the time of its debut, "Like everyone else who first heard of a show called *Urinetown: The Musical*, I made a face and expressed disgust at the title. But so much has been written about this work that I risked it. I had the time of my life! *Urinetown* is one of the cleverest, most adroit, funniest evenings I've spent in many a season."

"**Better than *The Producers!***" proclaimed Richard Zoglin, Time Magazine.

"Adventurous and ground-breaking musicals can provoke us, engage us in fresh ways, push the boundaries of the form, makes a real emotional connection with the people on stage. Musicals like '*Urinetown*', the sell-out hit that aims for comic heights and keeps the audience soaring."

*Urinetown* begins with a friendly welcome from our narrator, Officer Lockstock who along with the adorable moppet Little Sally fills us in on the story. As the result of a terrible water shortage, private toilets have become unthinkable. All restroom activities are handled through a private corporation, the Urine Good Company. To control water consumption, people have to pay to use public toilets for their "private business." As Lockstock says, "That's the central conceit of the show."

Masses huddle in line, desperate to use Public Amenity Number 9, one of the poorest urinals in town, run by Penny Pennywise and her assistant, young everyman Bobby Strong. Trouble ensues when Bobby's father, Joseph "Old Man" Strong can't afford his urinal admission for the day. When Old Man Strong asks Pennywise to let him go for free just this once, Penny is forced to draw the line.

Under the direction of teachers Miriam Bronstein, Brenda Borzykowski and Judy Doctoroff, the musical will be held at the **Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain from Monday March 5 – Thursday March 8 at 7 pm, with a 1 pm matinee on Wednesday March 7**. Ticket prices are \$10 for regular tickets, \$5 for the matinee and \$3 for students. Please call 477-7410 for your tickets!

"The characters in *Urinetown: The Musical* are a real 'interesting' bunch and I am so delighted with the casting. This musical will give students a chance to shine. It is a musical of characters and will be fun to direct and perform in," said Miriam Bronstein, Director.

The *Urinetown* logo for the school production was designed by grade 9 student Hadera Short.

For further information about the production and/or to interview the Director, Production team and cast, please contact:

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