

Act I
Scene 1

#1 Prelude

(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.

#2 Urinetown

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

PENNY

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.

BOBBY

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 that.

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

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

LOCKSTOCK (CONT'D)

the sign says it's a "public amenity," meaning public toilet. 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.

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 showww!

(LOCKSTOCK sings.)

BETTER HOPE YOUR PENNIES

ADD UP TO THE FEE –

WE CAN'T HAVE YOU PEEING

FOR FREE.

IF YOU DO, WE'LL CATCH YOU.

WE, WE NEVER FAIL!

LOCKSTOCK (CONT'D)
 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 SALLY speak, HOPE approaches BOBBY at his table.)

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?

BOBBY
 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.

BOBBY

But if you squint, you can just make out their headquarters rising above the skyline.

HOPE

The gleaming tower on the hill?

BOBBY

That's the one.

HOPE

Gosh, it's beautiful.

BOBBY

You most certainly are.

HOPE

Pardon?

BOBBY

It most certainly is.

HOPE

Oh dear, I'm late already. Thanks ever so much for the directions and such. Bye!
(*HOPE exits.*)

BOBBY

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

MEN

YOU OUR HUMBLE
AUDIENCE,
YOU HAVE COME TO
SEE

WOMEN (CONT'D)

PEOPLE CAN'T PEE
FREE.

FIRST ACT LASTS AN
HOUR.
DON'T ASSUME YOU'RE
FINE.
BEST GO NOW, THERE
OFTEN IS A
LINE.

MEN (CONT'D)

PEOPLE CAN'T PEE,
PEOPLE CAN'T PEE FREE,
CAN'T PEE FREE.

FIRST ACT LASTS AN
HOUR.
DON'T ASSUME YOU'RE
FINE.
OFTEN IS A,
OFTEN IS A LINE.

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

PEOPLE
CAN'T PEE FREE!
PEOPLE
CAN'T PEE FREE!
PEOPLE
CAN'T PEE FREE,
THEY
CAN'T PEE FREE IN

ALTOS

THIS IS
URINETOWN!
HERE WE ARE IN
URINETOWN!
THIS IS
URINETOWN!
HERE WE ARE IN
URINETOWN, YES
THIS IS

TENORS

THIS IS
URINETOWN!
HERE WE ARE IN
URINETOWN!
THIS, THIS IS
URINETOWN!
HERE WE ARE IN
URINETOWN! YES,
HERE WE ARE IN
URINETOWN!

BASSES

IT'S THE OLDEST
STORY!
IT'S THE OLDEST
STORY!
IT'S THE OLDEST
STORY, WITH
MASSES OP-

SOPRANOS	ALTOS	TENORS	BASSES
URINETOWN!	URINETOWN!	URINETOWN! YES,	MASSES OPPRESSED
URINETOWN!	URINETOWN!	THIS IS	IN
		URINETOWN!	URINETOWN!

ALL

ON WITH THE SHOW!

*(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.)

LITTLE SALLY

...Four hundred and ninety-six. Four hundred 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.)*

Penny for a pee, sir?

(MCQUEEN exits. SENATOR FIPP enters.)

Please, sir, spare a penny for a morning pee, sir?

SENATOR FIPP

What's that?

LITTLE SALLY

Or a nickel or a dime?

SENATOR 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.

OLD MAN STRONG

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

TINY TOM

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 had to make 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!

PENNY

Quiet back there! No one's gettin' anywhere for free! 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.)

#3A It's A Privilege To Pee

PENNY

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!

BOBBY

But Ms. Penny-

PENNY

No buts, Bobby.

OLD MAN STRONG

In the name of God, Penny, what difference could it make?

#3a It's A Privilege To Pee

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.

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.

THE POLITICIANS IN THEIR WISDOM SAW

THAT THERE SHOULD BE A LAW.

THE POLITICIANS TAXED THE TOILETS

AND MADE ILLEGAL

PUBLIC URINATION AND DEFECATION.

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 HAVE PAID THE PROPER FEE,

FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO PEE.

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