

# 'Urinetown, the Musical' Performs Thru March 9

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Kate McDermott and Richard Tabor in "Urinetown." (Photo by Seth Thygesen)"Urinetown, the Musical," a hit comedy on the Broadway stage, comes to the California State University, East Bay's Studio Theatre for 8 p.m. performances for the next two Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 29 and March 1 and March 7 and 8 and for a 2 p.m. start time on Sunday, March 9. The Studio Theatre is located on the northeast side of Cal State East Bay's Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.

"This is possibly the most uproariously funny musical in Broadway history," said Thomas Hird, chair of CSUEB's Department of Theatre and Dance.

The politically conscious satire tells the story of a future world where water is so scarce, private bathrooms are outlawed and people have to pay to urinate. The tale is of greed, love and revolution in a time when flushing the toilet is considered a luxury, controlled by the Urine Good Company, which profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs.

"The irony is that since the show was written in the late-'90s, the theme of water shortages and a looming environmental disaster are all too real," said director Marc Jacobs, a member of the university's faculty.

According to Jacobs, Urinetown pokes fun at the corporate world and the ensuing evolution. The songs satirize everything from Bertolt Brecht to "Fiddler on the Roof" and "West Side Story." The CSUEB production has included bits from Michael Jackson videos, the Oscar-winning film "Titanic," and Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth."

"Anyone who comes to see this show is going to laugh a lot," said Jacobs. "If they also walk away with a bit more consciousness about not wasting natural resources, that's a wonderful bonus."

"Urinetown, the Musical, with music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, and book and lyrics by Greg Kotis, has won three Tony Awards. For CSUEB's production, Marianna Wolff is musical director, Eric Kupers is choreographer, and Angela Demmel is co-choreographer.

Tickets are \$14 for general admission; \$12 for seniors, youth, staff, Cal State East Bay Alumni Association members, and students from other colleges and universities; and \$8 for CSUEB students. Tickets may be reserved by sending an e-mail to [tickets@csueastbay.edu](mailto:tickets@csueastbay.edu) or by calling (510) 885-3261.

Campus parking is free from 5 p.m. on Friday until 8 a.m. on Monday.

Cal State East Bay welcomes persons with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodation upon request. Please call (510) 885-3118 in advance if a special accommodation is needed.