



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Media contact: Kimberly Dooley, Producing Artistic Director
kimberly@berkeleyplayhouse.org | Office: (510) 845-8542 ext. 360

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS, CORPORATE GREED, RESISTANCE-MOVEMENTS,
AND KICK-LINES—
BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE TO PRESENT
*URINETOWN THE MUSICAL***

**TONY AWARD-WINNER TO PERFORM LIMITED ENGAGEMENT—
PERFORMANCES BEGIN APRIL 6**

BERKELEY, CA (March 17, 2017) – In a time when Bay Area headlines feature stories about corrupt politicians, global warming, drought updates, water conservation measures, grass-roots protests, *and* big, revolutionary Broadway shows coming to town, **Berkeley Playhouse** is proud to present the three-time Tony Award-winning musical about corrupt politicians, global warming, drought updates, water conservation measures, public protests, *and* big, revolutionary Broadway shows (but not *that* one)—*Urinetown, the Musical*. In a gotham like town in a not-so-distant-future, water is in short supply, and all bathrooms have become regulated under a corrupt corporate system overseen by the Urine Good Company, and its president, Caldwell B. Cladwell. Enter young and idealistic Bobby Strong, the attendant at Public Amenity #9, where the poorest in city must “pay to pee.” When Bobby’s father can’t make the daily bathroom fee, and suffers the horrific, yet totally unknown consequences for doing so, the seeds of uprising are watered—setting the stage for rebellion, unexpected love stories, and a *slew* of big song-and-dance numbers! An irreverent, smart, and acclaimed satire on everything from corporate corruption to treasured Broadway musicals, *Urinetown, The Musical* is making its Berkeley Playhouse premiere this month with an all new production. *Urinetown, The Musical* begins a limited, four-week run on **April 6, 2017, with performances running through April 30, 2017** at the historic **Julia Morgan Theater in Berkeley**. Don’t let the terrible title fool you, this laugh-a-minute Tony Award winning, socially aware musical comedy takes on corporate greed and environmental responsibility as vibrantly as it does musical theater, famously spoofing some of Broadway’s biggest hits. The original 2001 Broadway production was nominated for ten Tony Awards, taking home Best Book of a Musical, Best Original Musical Score and Best Direction. Press night will be held on Saturday, April 8 at 7pm. **Tickets (ranging from \$22--\$40)** are available by calling (510) 845-8542 x351 or by visiting online at www.berkeleyplayhouse.org. *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

“Urinetown, the Musical could not be coming to Berkeley Playhouse at a better time,” says Producing Artistic Director Kimberly Dooley. “Not only is it brilliantly constructed, and contains some of the most musically thrilling song and dance numbers written in the last twenty years, but it makes us laugh like nothing else has of late. It is a gift for those who revel in smart satire, but even more so for those of us who love Broadway and musical theater. The way it takes many of the shows seen throughout Berkeley Playhouse’s history and incorporates them into these wonderful new, highly theatrical—and hysterical—moments must be seen!”

Adds *Urinetown* director, Danny Cozart: “For me, one of the trust tests of a great musical is how it stands up to time. *Urinetown*, which was written in the late 90s and first presented off-Broadway in 2000, seems to have been waiting for us to catch up to it. I’m excited to explore the many issues *Urinetown* brings up, and to dive into a musical that was written originally as smart satire and is now layered and brilliant irony.” Joining Cozart will be music director Michael Patrick Wiles, choreographer Allison Paraiso, scenic designer Brian Watson, costume designer Ellen Howes, and lighting designer Brittany Mellerson.

ABOUT BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE: Founded in 2007 by professional theatre actor, director, and teacher for over 25 years, Elizabeth McKoy, Berkeley Playhouse’s mission is to create theatre and programs that engage, ignite, and celebrate diverse Bay Area audiences through a thriving conservatory, a professional main stage season, educational outreach, and a commitment to the development of new family musicals. In support of our mission, we maintain and enhance the historic Julia Morgan Theater. A commitment to community, diversity, inclusion, and empowerment is at the heart of our work.

Previews: Thursday, April 6 at 7pm, and Saturday, April 8 at 1pm.

Opens: Saturday, April 8 at 7pm.

Press: Saturday, April 8 at 7pm and Sunday, April 9 at 2pm.

Closes: April 30, 2017 at 2pm.

Performances: Due to the unique performance schedule, please check the website for specific dates and times. All performances at Berkeley Playhouse at The Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704.

TICKETS: For tickets (\$22 for previews, \$22–\$40 for regular performances) or more information, the public may call (510) 845-8542 x351 or visit berkeleyplayhouse.org. Group rates available for 10 or more people.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN: There will be two “Pay What You Can” performance, **Thursday, April 6 at 7pm** and **Thursday, April 13 at 7pm**. The promotion is CASH ONLY at the door one-hour prior to performance time. We request a donation of \$20 per ticket but are able to accept a minimum of \$5 per ticket.

FAMILY GUIDE: Education is central to the mission at Berkeley Playhouse. Guide created by Berkeley Playhouse staff for each production have been created to enrich the learning experience of all patrons both young and seasoned. Links to the free Family Guides can be found online at BerkeleyPlayhouse.org.

Berkeley Playhouse gratefully acknowledges support from: Production Sponsor, Madonna Estates; City of Berkeley Civic Arts Commission, American Eagle Outfitters, Inc., Peet's Coffee, Extreme Pizza, The Imagination Foundation, and individual donors.