



Saint Mary's cast in rehearsal at LeFevre Theatre.

Photo by Jennifer Wake

## Urinetown:

### One-of-a-Kind Musical Production Opens at SMC

By Jennifer Wake

**W**hen starving artists on a trip to Europe were rationing money for the day, they found themselves confronted with pay toilets and the decision of whether to use the facilities or to eat. Through this revelation, the Tony award-winning musical "Urinetown" was born.

Set in a futuristic Gotham-like city with a terrible water shortage, "Urinetown," written by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollmann, is a comedic tale of greed, corruption, love and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. Critics describe the score as "passionate, melodic and hilarious," incorporating musical styles from Guys and Dolls to West Side Story and Les Miz.

The epic musical, which features a live five-piece orchestra and is directed by award-winning Saint Mary's faculty member Reid Davis, opens Thursday, April 26 at 8 p.m. at Saint Mary's LeFevre Theatre.

"It's an absurd way of saying where we're all heading," said Davis, who is part of a cadre of professionals involved in the production; the staff includes musical direction by Greg Zema; choreography by Megan Opel and Shaunna Vella; scenic design by Michael Cook; lighting by Rob Anderson and costumes by Valera Coble. Davis describes the musical as "a 30s Depression-era musical with a dash of futuristic dystopian drama."

The 16-member ensemble cast each has a rich character to play. "And they're hilarious," added Davis. "A lot of [the students] have been working in theater since they were little kids. We needed a high operatic score and their voices are astonishing."

The cast includes Saint Mary's students Danielle di Paola, Vincent Rodriguez, Andrew Russ, Jillian Duffy, Marc Helou, Katie Cooper, Elizabeth Morales, Taylor Johnson, Mary Eileen Young, Danny Gutierrez,

Felisa Arguello, Lillette Lorenzana, Chris Coleman, Jose Luis Cordoba and Bethany Souza. Because of the cast's stellar singing ability, Davis said he and the others realized they could work with a smaller cast of 16 without adding a host of supporting cast members.

"It's exciting to see the students put on such a professional production and learn a score that's very complicated," he said. "We're all blown away by their talent."

Following the opening performance on April 26, additional performances are on April 27 and 28 at 8 p.m., a matinee on April 29 at 2 p.m. and performances on May 2, 3, and 4 at 8 p.m. in LeFevre Theatre on the Saint Mary's College campus. Tickets are \$15 general, \$10 for Saint Mary's College students, faculty and staff.

To purchase tickets please call the Performing Arts Department at (925) 631-4670.



## Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club

**A Neighborhood Recreational Club  
for All Ages!**

### Summer Trial Memberships Now Available!

- \* A 25 Meter, Heated Pool
- \* 11 Tennis Courts; 2 lighted
- \* Clubhouse for Social Events
- \* Fenced Baby Pool Area
- \* Supervised Summer Activity Programs for Kids
- \* Seasonal Poolside Café
- \* Social & Competitive Activities for All Ages!

*Swim Coaches:* **Matt Ehrenberger**

**Kevin Honey**

*Technical Adviser:* **Ron Heidary**

- \* Championship Rec. Team
- \* 3 County Championships
- \* 6 OMPA Championships
- \* Recreational Swim Lessons
- \* Polar Bears [fall training]



*Tennis Director:* **Stephen Squire**

- \* Top Flight Junior Program
- \* Pee Wee Lessons
- \* Club & League Tournaments
- \* Private Lessons
- \* USTA Staff
- \* Clinics for Adult and Junior Tennis

1 Sunnyside Lane • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-1126 • Fax: (925) 254-1129

E-mail: [shstc@comcast.net](mailto:shstc@comcast.net) • Website: [www.GoLegends.org](http://www.GoLegends.org)



# Bay area Drainage, Inc.

**“For all your drainage needs”**

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls

Locally owned and Operated Contractor LIC # 762208

**925•377•9209**



visit our website

**[www.bayarea drainage.com](http://www.bayarea drainage.com)**