

SCENE ONE - Lockstock, Little Sally

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.

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.

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 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!