



***PRESENTS***



# ***THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL***

## **THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL**

BY RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN

DIRECTED & ADAPTED BY SARAH SHIPPOBOTHAM

SHOW DATES **FEBRUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 22**

PLAYING IN **MELDRUM THEATRE**

The University of Utah Department of Theatre Presents

# THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

BY **Richard Brinsley Sheridan**

Director

**SARAH SHIPPOBOTHAM**

Assistant Director, Choreographer

**CARINA PURDY**

Lighting Designer, Lighting & Sound Technician

**SARA CLARK**

Costume Designer

**NIAMH HELWIG**

Scenic Designer

**BECCA BOWLER**

Composer, Sound Designer

**CALVIN VINSON**

Stage Manager

**IREY OVIATT**

Dramaturg

**SYDNEY CHEEK-O'DONNELL**

Producer

**CHRIS DUVAL**

*There will be a 10-minute intermission.  
Video or audio recording of this performance by any  
means is strictly prohibited.*



*American Sign Language interpretation will  
be provided during the 2nd Friday evening  
performance and talkback for every show.*

# COMPANY

TYLER SHAW.....	Sir Peter Teazle
RACHEL JOHNSON.....	Lady Teazle
CHARLES MILLER.....	Joseph Surface
HANS FENTON.....	Charles Surface
CHARLEY HOLT.....	Lady Surface
ELAIA ECHEVERRIA.....	Lady Sneerwell
ANDY LUO.....	Snake, Servant, Trip
MIRA MULLIN.....	Mrs. Candour
EVAN VAN LEUVEN.....	Sir Benjamin Backbite, Gent 2
KARTER PRESTIN.....	Crabtree, Gent 1
OLIVIA KERBY.....	Maria
TONY TRUNNELL.....	Rowley
TRAITON FOX.....	Mr. Shilling
NOAH JOHNSON.....	Careless

# DRAMATURGICAL NOTE

By the time Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816) wrote *The School for Scandal* in 1777, he had himself been at the center of a number of scandals. In 1772, at the age of 21, Sheridan ran off to France with a young singer, Elizabeth Ann Linley, to help her escape the unwanted advances of an older, married man. This, no doubt, caused an uproar. Upon their return to Bath, Richard fought two duels with the man in question and was gravely injured. One newspaper even reported—obviously incorrectly—that Sheridan had died of his wounds, an event he drew upon for comic effect in *The School for Scandal*.

Although his father, a former theatre manager and actor, opposed the match, Richard and Elizabeth were finally married in 1773 and they moved to London. Elizabeth had an established career as a singer, but Richard believed that allowing her to continue to perform would harm his standing as “a gentleman.” So it was of necessity that he turned to theatre as a source of income.

English print culture exploded in the 18th century, and the citizens of Great Britain enjoyed the greatest freedom of expression among the large European powers during the early decades of that century. A number of British writers took full advantage of this freedom penning merciless satires of politicians, royals, and social elites. But in 1737, Parliament passed the Licensing Act, which established government censorship of theatre, limited the production of plays to two London stages, defined actors performing outside of these theatres as “vagabonds,” and imposed fines and even hard labor on those caught violating the law. Virtually overnight, political satire on the English stage was silenced and the sentimental comedy prevailed until Oliver Goldsmith and then Richard Brinsley Sheridan revived the comedy of manners with *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773) and *The Rivals* (1775), respectively.

But Sheridan had his eye on commercial success, not dramatic innovation. His comedies employ tried and true techniques that date back to ancient Rome, including stock characters, mistaken identity, disguises, and overheard conversations. *The School for Scandal* (1777) utilizes all these devices to attack hypocrisy and gossip-mongering. Given his experiences as a young man in Bath, Sheridan’s interest in these themes should come as no surprise. The play interrogates the

18th century belief in sentiment (sincere emotion) as a force for good through the aptly named Surface brothers. Joseph Surface poses as “man of sentiment,” but this is a façade he has cultivated to get what he wants. When given the opportunity to put his money where his mouth is, Joseph demurs and is punished for his selfishness and hypocrisy. Likewise, the gossip-monger-in-chief, Lady Sneerwell, is unmasked and humiliated when one of her minions turns on her and reveals her secrets. The profligate Charlese Surface, on the other hand, redeems himself by acting according to his sincere emotions without trumpeting it to the world.

As this is a comedy of manners, Sheridan ensures that the audience maintains a position of superiority to the characters. They announce their motivations and secret desires. They explain all of their schemes (except for one, which I will not reveal here). Part of the fun is in knowing more than the characters do and watching as they step on proverbial rakes. But another part of the fun is recognizing ourselves in a play that was written almost 250 years ago. The technology we use may have changed, but what we do with it hasn’t changed all that much. Check out Tik Tok, Instagram, and YouTube if you don’t believe me.

— ***Sydney Cheek-O’Donnell, dramaturg***



# COMPANY & CREATIVE TEAM

## CAST

**TYLER SHAW** (Sir Peter Teazle) was born and raised in San Diego, California. He is a senior at the University of Utah and is studying to get his BFA in the APT. Recent roles include Mr. Krabs in *The SpongeBob Musical* performed at Kingsbury Hall, Pierre in *The Heart of Robin Hood* at the Meldrum Theatre and Laurie in *You on the Moors Now* at the Babcock Theatre. He would like to thank his parents, siblings, and friends for their unwavering support in his theatrical endeavors.

**RACHEL JOHNSON** (Lady Teazle) is a senior in the APT at the University of Utah. Some of her recent credits include *Dear Evan Hansen* (Pioneer Theatre), the *SLAC Summer Show*, *You on the Moors Now* (Babcock), *Robin Hood* (Meldrum), and *Emma* (Sandy Arts Guild). She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

**CHARLIE MILLER** (Joseph Surface) is a Senior in the ATP. He comes to the University of Utah from Decatur, Georgia. Charlie's previous University of Utah credits include *The Heart of Robin Hood* (Makepeace) and *Dancing At Lughnasa* (Father Jack U/S) and *You On The Moors Now* (Player 5). Charlie would like to thank his parents and friends for their continued and unwavering support.

**HANS FENTON** (Charles Surface) is thrilled to be a part of this production of *The School for Scandal*. A passionate actor, songwriter, and singer, Hans's recent credits include *The Lightning Thief* and *You on the Moors Now* (Babcock Theatre), as well as *Dreamgirls* and *The Full Monty* (The Grand Theatre). He is currently honing his craft in the Actor Training Program while pursuing a double major in Economics. Hans would like to thank the director, cast and crew, as well as his friends and family, for their constant support, and hope you enjoy the show!

**CHARLEY HOLT** (Lady Surface) is a current senior in the Actor Training Program at the University of Utah. Her past roles include Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (PAB Studio 115). US/Christina Mundy in *Dancing at Lughnasa* (PAB Studio 115). Charlotta in *The Cherry Orchard* (Babcock Theatre). She has finished a draft of her 2 act play that will double as her thesis as part of the Honors Program at the U. She is so grateful for all of the amazing professors and peers that have helped her in her four-year journey. This production could not have been possible without the collaboration of the director, cast, crew, stage managers, designers, dramaturg, and many more. She could not be more proud to say she was part of something so hilariously fun and challenging.

**ELAIA ECHEVERRIA** (Lady Sneerwell) This is Elaia's last show at the University of Utah. She is currently a Senior in the ATP and just finished an internship with Pioneer Theatre Company. Recent credits include: Demetrius in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Studio 115), Maddox in the original cast of Melissa Leilani Larsons' *The Post Office* (Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center), & Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Murray Arts Amphitheater). "Eskerrik asko nire familiari esker guztiaren bidez laguntzeagatik! Maite zaitut!"

**ANDY LOU** (Snake/Servants) is a junior in the ATP. Andy is pumped to make his Meldrum debut in *The School for Scandal* alongside his fellow cast, crew, and production team. He has previously performed in *Yet I'll Speak* (Babcock), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Studio 115), and *SpongeBob the Musical* (Kingsbury Hall). Andy would like to thank his family, friends, & mentors who made him he is! Andy is a recipient of the Elizabeth Hunter Endowment Scholarship.

**MIRABEL MULLIN** is currently a Junior in the ATP at the University of Utah. Mira most recently appeared as Sister Bernadette in the comedy *NUNS!* in Studio 115, and a Siren in the musical *Charting Neverland* at Kingsbury hall. Mira's favorite role was Marie the Fairy Godmother in the *R&H Cinderella*, for which she was a top ten best supporting actress nominee for the UHSMTA (the Jimmy's). Mira would

like to thank her loved ones for their continuous love and support!

**EVAN VAN LEUVEN** (Sir Benjamin Backbite) is a junior in the ATP. His recent roles include Dr. Gall in *Rossum's Universal Robots* (Studio 115), Jethro Summers in *The Heart of Robin Hood* (Meldrum Theater), and Cleary Rockefeller in *Corralis* (Studio 115). Evan is a passionate actor, artist, poet, and writer who loves supporting the U theatre community. Evan is currently the president for the department's Student Advisory Committee. He is a creative and co-founder for Patchwork Theatre Company, and a writer for the opinion desk at *The Daily Utah Chronicle*. Evan is forever grateful to his professors, mentors, parents, and friends for their continued support. Evan is a proud recipient of the Utahna B. Meilstrup Scholarship and the CSAR Community Engagement Scholarship.

**KARTER PRESTIN** (Crabtree, Gent 1) is a junior in the ATP at the University of Utah. This is his second year here at the U. He is very grateful for all the opportunities he's had to perform in the dance program and here in the theater program. He is very excited for you to watch the show and couldn't be more proud of all the support he's gotten from his friends, family and his boyfriend.

**OLIVIA KERBY** (Maria) is a junior in the ATP at the University of Utah and a proud Salt Lake City native. Her most recent role at the U was



Snout the Tinker in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, where she loved being part of such a joyful and collaborative cast. She also recently portrayed Oramel Howland in *Powell*, a devised and immersive production by Patchwork Theater Company. Olivia would like to thank her friends and family for their constant love and support.

**TONY TRUNNELL** (Rowley) is a junior pursuing a BFA in Stage Management and Acting, his most recent production at the U is 1st ASM in *The Cherry Orchard* (Babcock) and would like to thank his friends, parents, professors, and Ladybug (his dog). He hopes you enjoy the show!

**TRAITON FOX** (Mr. Shilling) is a sophomore in the ATP. Recently he played Hallemeier in *R.U.R.* Prior to attending the U, Traiton performed in West High Theatre productions such as *Into The Woods* (Rapunzel's Prince), *The Addams Family* (Cousin It), and *Mamma Mia* (Bill). He would like to thank his parents and family for supporting him throughout his entire life.

**NOAH JOHNSON** (Careless) has been an actor and musician most of his life. Noah is a sophomore in the University of Utah's ATP. He was last seen as Fabry in *R.U.R.* at the University of Utah's Studio Series. He continues his pursuit of whimsy everyday.

## CREATIVE TEAM

**SAMANTHA BELL** (1st ASM) is a Junior in the Stage Management Program at the University of Utah. Originally from Taylor, Utah, she has enjoyed stage management and technical theater since high school. Since her time at the University she has worked on: *Into the Woods* (Production Assistant), *Spring Awakening* (2nd ASM), and *La Boheme* (2nd ASM). She also works with companies such as Pioneer Theater Company, Ririe Woodbury Dance Company and Hale Center Theater in different technical theater roles. She is so very grateful to her family, friends, and the best SM team for their support throughout this process!

**BECCA BOWLER** (Scenic Designer) is a year into the PADP (Scenic Design Emphasis), previously majoring in Fine Art and Film. This is her debut design at the University of Utah, she recently worked as Assistant Scenic Designer for *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Meldrum Theatre). She is eternally thankful towards her family, friends, professors, mentors, and shop builders who have fostered her creativity.

**COLBY CARPENTER** (Sound Engineer) is in his second year in the Performing Arts Design Program, focused on lighting design. This is first time working as a Sound Engineer at the University of Utah. He was Lighting Designer



for *The Cherry Orchard* (Babcock Theatre) in the fall semester. He also previously worked as the Assistant Lighting Designer for *Xanadu* (Meldrum Theatre), and over the summer, he was the Lighting Designer for *Winnie the Pooh Kids* at Backstage Performing Arts.

**CHRIS DUVAL** (Producer) Chris DuVal is currently serving as chair in the Department of Theatre. He has worked as an AEA actor, director, fight director or guest instructor at regional theatres and training programs across the country, including 20 years at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. DuVal is a Certified Teacher and Fight Director with the Society of American Fight Directors, a Master Instructor with Dueling Arts International, holds a 2nd-degree black belt in Aikido, and authored “Stage Combat Arts,” published by Bloomsbury Methuen.

**ISIS FREIBERG** is a senior in the Stage Management program. The School for Scandal is her third University of Utah production, and she is pleased to be the 2nd Assistant Stage Manager over props and scenery. She previously worked as a 2nd ASM for *You on the Moors Now* and a Production Assistant for *Spring Awakening*. Isis recently stage-managed the *Senior Ballet Showcase* through the U’s School of Dance, acted in Rachel Bublitz’s *Here us Roar*, and works as a Community Advisor for the U’s HRE department. She is looking forward to her final semester in

the fall, where she will be stage managing an upcoming production!

**TARA GONTKOVIK** (Production Assistant) is very excited to be a part of her first Department of Theatre show at the U! She believes the real scandal is how great this SM team is. She’s a sophomore in the SM program and recently transferred from Webster University’s Sargent Conservatory for Theatre Arts. Some of her favorite previous ASM credits include *R.U.R.* (Studio 115 Series) *Ride the Cyclone* and *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Sargent Conservatory), *New Works Dance Concert* (Webster Dance), *Beauty & the Beast* and *Sound of Music* (Nationwide Children’s Butterfly Guild), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Westerville Civic Theatre).

**NIAMH HELWIG** (Costume Designer) is a Junior in the Performing Arts Design Program, with an Emphasis in Costume Design. Most recently, Niamh was the Costume Designer for the Department of Theaters first show of their 25-26 season, *The Cherry Orchard* (Babcock Theater). Other productions she has designed here at the U include, *You On The Moors Now* (The Babcock), *The Heart of Robinhood* (The Meldrum), and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Studio 115). She has immensely enjoyed designing this show and hopes you have as much fun watching it as she did working on it! She is supremely grateful for her mentor, Brenda VanderWiel, for giving her these opportunities and for



everyone in the costume shop for helping make her designs a reality.

**MARY GREENDA** (Production Assistant) is a freshman in the Stage Management program, and is positively thrilled to be working on *The School For Scandal*. Her other previous credit at the U is that of Light Board Operator for *R.U.R* last fall. Mary has also been working in the U's shops, and has an absolute blast learning new ways to build and paint sets. Mary would love to thank her parents and close friends for their endless support as she pursues her dreams of working in the arts. She hopes you enjoy *The School For Scandal*!

**ARIA KENTNER** (Assistant Dramaturg) is a freshman in the ATP at the University of Utah. She has participated in directing finals and short films around campus and is new to acting. She decided to take up dramaturgy under the influence of Professor Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell.

**IREY OVIATT** (Stage Manager) is a senior in the UofU BFA Stage Management program. Some of their work includes Stage Managing *Hairspray* (Draper Arts Council) and *Singin' in The Rain* (Draper Arts Council). She also worked on *Cabaret* (University of Utah) as a PA and *The Tempest* (University of Utah) as the Second Assistant Stage Manager. Irey has also had the opportunity of working as the PA on *Noises Off* (Pioneer Theatre Company). She also extends her love to her sister, Kennedy, for

being her best friend in life.

**CARINA PURDY** (Assistant Director, Choreographer) is a junior in the MTP and originally from Indianapolis, Indiana. She recently was in *Legally Blonde* here at the University of Utah and is happy to be on the creative team for this show! She is extremely grateful for the opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show! "Aspire to Inspire"

**SARA SCHWARTZ** (Lighting Designer) recently graduated with her B.F.A. in Performing Arts Design from the University of Utah. She presently works for the Department of Theatre as their lead lighting and sound technician, and in her free time she freelance designs around the Salt Lake Valley. Her designs have been featured at West Valley Performing Arts, The Grand Theatre, Kingsbury Hall, the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center, and many more. She would like to thank her husband Zach for his unwavering support. You can follow her work at [skcschwartzdesign.com](http://skcschwartzdesign.com)

**SARAH SHIPPOBOTHAM** (She/They) is a Professor at the University of Utah. As well as being an award-winning Teacher, Sarah is also an actor, dialect coach, intimacy choreographer and director. Trained as a Voice/Dialect Coach at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London, coaching credits include eighteen seasons with the Shaw Festival (Canada), over 30 productions for Pioneer Theatre

Company (Utah), and 7 months in New Zealand as a Dialect Coach on *The Hobbit* films. Acting credits include four seasons at the Tony Award winning Utah Shakespeare Festival, Kevin Costner's *Horizon: An American Saga*, and she created a show that had its world premiere at Salt Lake Acting Company in September 2023 and toured to Sedona in 2025.

**TAMI LEE THOMPSON** (Hair & Makeup Design) Previous credits include: *Spring Awakening* (University of Utah); *Souvenir*, *Jersey Boys*, *Natasha*, *Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, and *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* (Pioneer Theatre Company); *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose* and *A Christmas Story* (Barter Theater); *Jelly's Last Jam*, *The Underpants*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Bluish*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Tick, Tick.... Boom!*, and *The Stinky Cheeseman and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* (Alliance Theater); *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Da, Born Yesterday*, *Twelfth Night*, *Inherit The Wind*, and *The Philadelphia Story* (Asolo Theater); *Twelfth Night*, *Coriolanus*, and *King Lear* (Utah Shakespeare Festival); Bertolt Brecht's *The Life of Galileo* (University of Notre Dame); and *42nd Street* (Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts).

**CALVIN VINSON** (Sound Designer & Composer) is a junior in the PADP (Sound Design Emphasis). *The*

*School For Scandal* marks Calvin J. Vinson's debut as a designer at the U's Department of Theater. Some favorites recent works of his include: world premier of *Sunny In The Dark* (Asst. Sound Designer) with Salt Lake Acting Company, *OMNIA* (Lighting Designer & Sound Designer) with Foreground Movement Collective, *Machinal* (Sound Designer & Composer) at The College of Southern Idaho, and *The Deer and The Antelope* (A1) at The Ephemerates Theater Collective. This is Calvin's 1st year at the U in the Performing Arts Design Program after completing his first two years of study at The College of Southern Idaho. He would like to thank his sound supervisor and mentor Jen Jackson for all of her help and guidance and his fellow classmates in the PADP for always inspiring him and welcoming him into the U.



# PRODUCTION STAFF & ADVISORS

CARINA PURDY.....	Assistant Director & Choreographer
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Colby Carpenter (A1), Maddie Phann (A2), Nathan Moss (Board)

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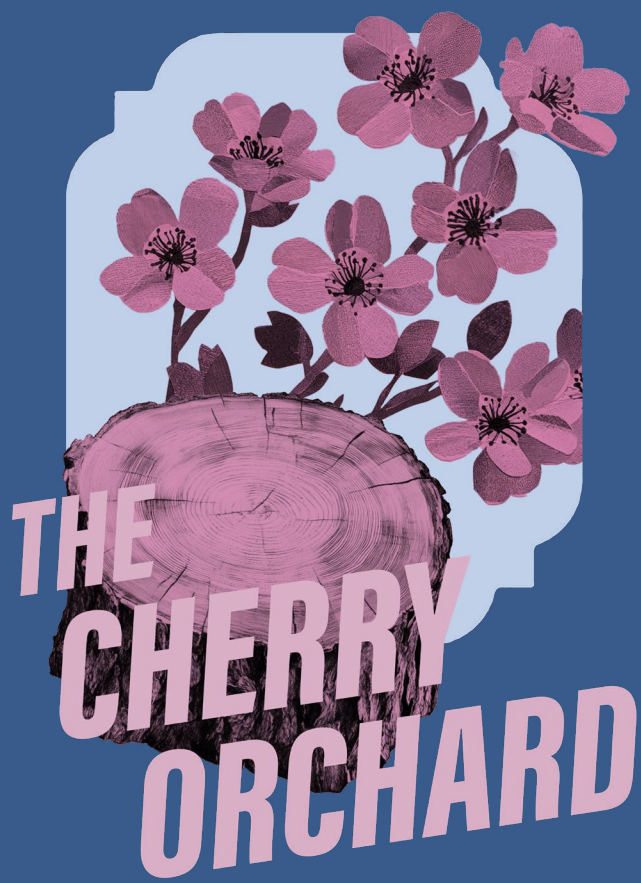


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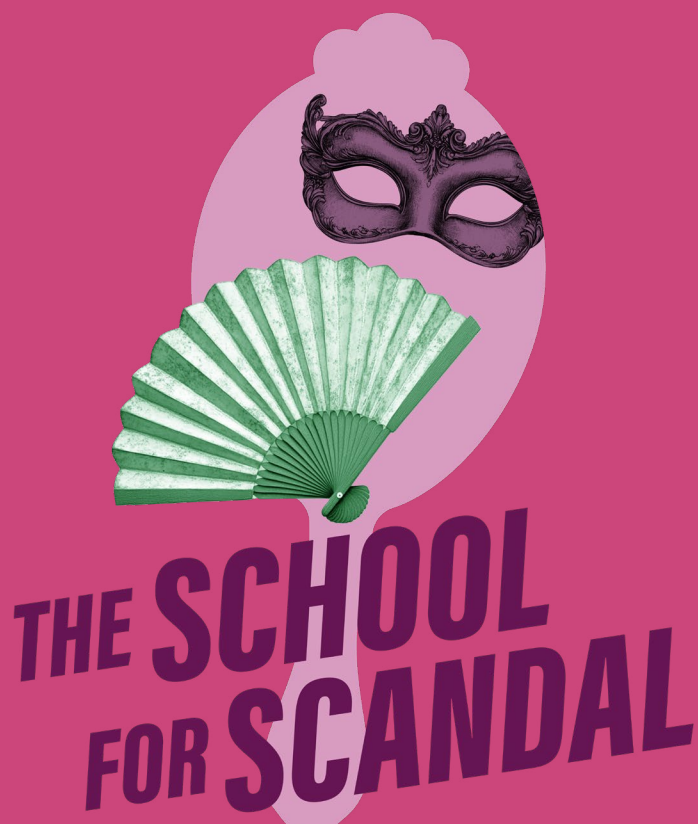
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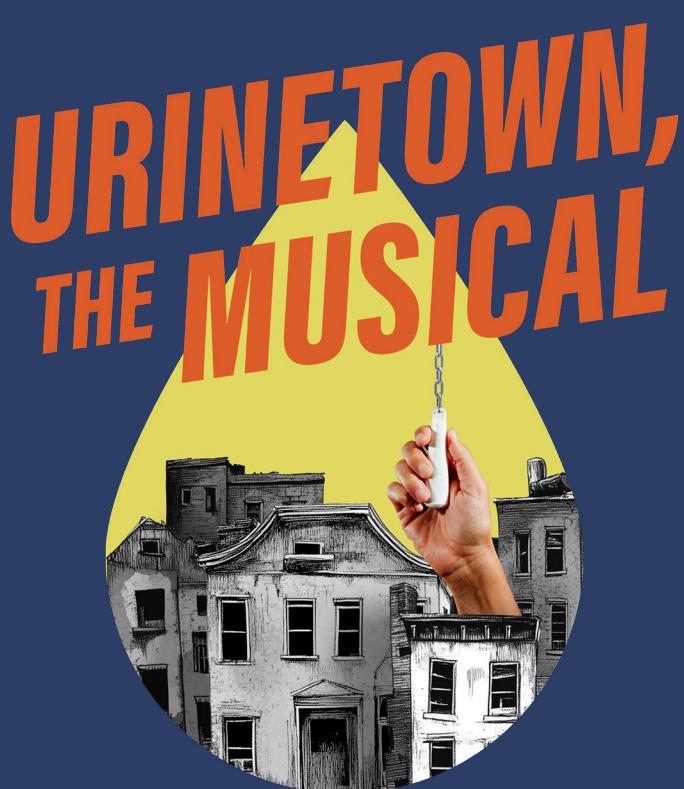
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