

Urine-vited: Students perform *Urinetown* as winter musical

AJ GOREN

Staff Writer

NCSSM's winter musical is fast approaching. Friday, Feb. 6 is opening night for the satirical show *Urinetown*, which follows the poor masses of a town ravaged by a water shortage so severe that private bathrooms are unthinkable.

The corporate monopoly Urine Good Company controls all public toilets, and charges a pretty penny for access; those who disobey are exiled to Urinetown, a mythical place whose secrets no one knows.

The show stars Dolan Potter as the heroic Bobby Strong, a figurehead who leads the poor masses against the corporate mastermind Caldwell B. Cladwell, head of Urine Good Company, portrayed by Noah Gavenus.

Along the way, however, Bobby inadvertently falls

for Cladwell's idealistic daughter Hope, played by Sarah Stephens, and they must find a way to reconcile their love for each other with their conflicting allegiances.

Ashlyn Parsons plays Penelope Pennywise, the uptight operator of the poorest, filthiest public toilet in town, Tony Courville portrays Officer Lockstock, the tough no-nonsense cop who narrates the show, and Charleigh Smith fills the chipper role of Little Sally, a young poor girl who Lockstock looks after.

Urinetown is filled with grand musical numbers that are unusual, to say the least, like *It's a Privilege to Pee*, Ms. Pennywise's tirade against free access, and *Snuff That Girl*, the rebels' violent call for murderous revenge.

The show debuted off-Broadway in 2001 and then

moved to Broadway for a 965-performance run lasting through 2004. The show has been professionally produced in London since March 2014.

The cast was decided at

the end of November and has been rehearsing since Dec. 1, learning songs, choreography, and dialogue.

Senior Zachary Parham, who plays a member of

Caldwell Cladwell's loyal staff, said that he was "excited to see it all come together."

Parham also expressed concern that getting off-book – that is, being able to deliver lines without the script on hand – might prove to be the cast's biggest challenge since the show does not have a rehearsal stage manager, who would be able to remind actors of their lines and choreography once the actors are working off-book.

To combat this challenge, the cast has taken time outside of regularly scheduled rehearsals to go over choreography and lines without the guidance of theater instructor and director Adam Sampieri. The cast can also frequently be found crowding a PFM table together once rehearsals let out, or singing numbers from the show together after vocal practices.

Speaking to the shared experience of involvement in such a big production, Parham said "I love how close the cast always gets. We spend so much time together that we become a family."

Three performances will be given in the ETC Auditorium: Friday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m..

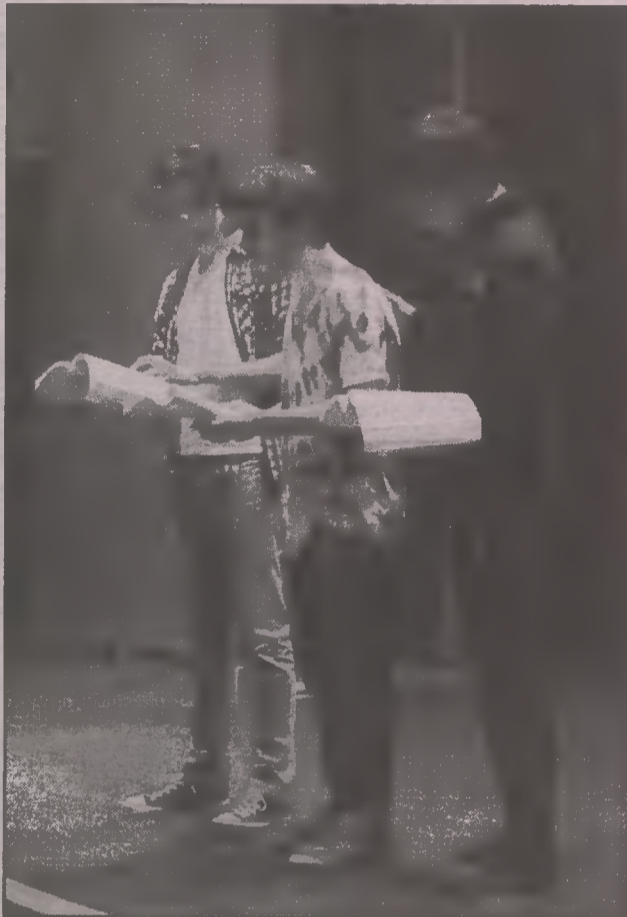


Photo courtesy of Chichi Zhu

Seniors Charlie Cheema-Brown, Dolan Potter and Tony Courville run through lines for *Urinetown*, a play about a town that charges for urination and defecation.

Co-op to open in Durham

SIERRA DUNNE

Editor-in-Chief

In early 2015, Durham will experience a new type of grocery store: the Durham Co-op Market. Unlike traditional stores like Food Lion, Harris Teeter, or even Whole Foods, the Co-op is a sustainable business that offers a large variety of locally-produced, organic foods.

The idea of the Co-op began in 2007 through the efforts of people in downtown Durham who saw a need to create a store which focused on local food.

A group of developers worked with citizens of the Old North Durham Neighborhood Association to lay the groundwork, and they approached the Durham Food Co-op to get help with their project. Together, these organizations formed the first vision for the Durham Co-op Market. The construction and implementation of the Market primarily depends on donations and the shares of founding owners. There are currently around 1600 owners who have each pledged money in order to support the store, and these pledges are the main reason the store has been on track to success thus far.

Leila Wolfram is the General Manager of the Co-op. Before taking on this position, Wolfram has held a number of jobs that promoted sustainable agriculture and local investment. Previous jobs of hers include production manager of Locopops in Durham, production manager of Simple Kneads Bakery in Greensboro, and manager of the Eno River Farmers Market.

While Wolfram, the Board of Directors, and the Advisory Board of the Co-op have been the key members of creating the market, much of the work required has been done by volunteers who have worked tirelessly to promote the store, attract owners, and build publicity. The market will hire employees to work in the store, but even after opening these volunteers will play a crucial role in keeping the market running smoothly.

The Durham Co-op Market will be located at 1111 W. Chapel Hill St., which is approximately two miles from NCSSM. This location makes it possible for loops to take students to the market, or students could even walk there.

"I think a co-op grocery store in this area would be wonderful," says senior Komal Charania. "Although places like Harris Teeter are more convenient for some people, it is always nice to have an alternative option. I'm really excited to see what this store has to offer!"

Latest reports on the Co-op's website indicate that the store is nearly complete, and the only thing they have left to do is "turn the big mud pit in front of the store into a real parking lot." The official grand opening of the store is set for Feb. 18, but that could change in the face of impending inclement weather.

The creation of this store is just one result of the ever-growing local food movement in Durham and throughout NC, and the successful opening of this market will be a victory for local farmers and businesses alike.

Photo of the month

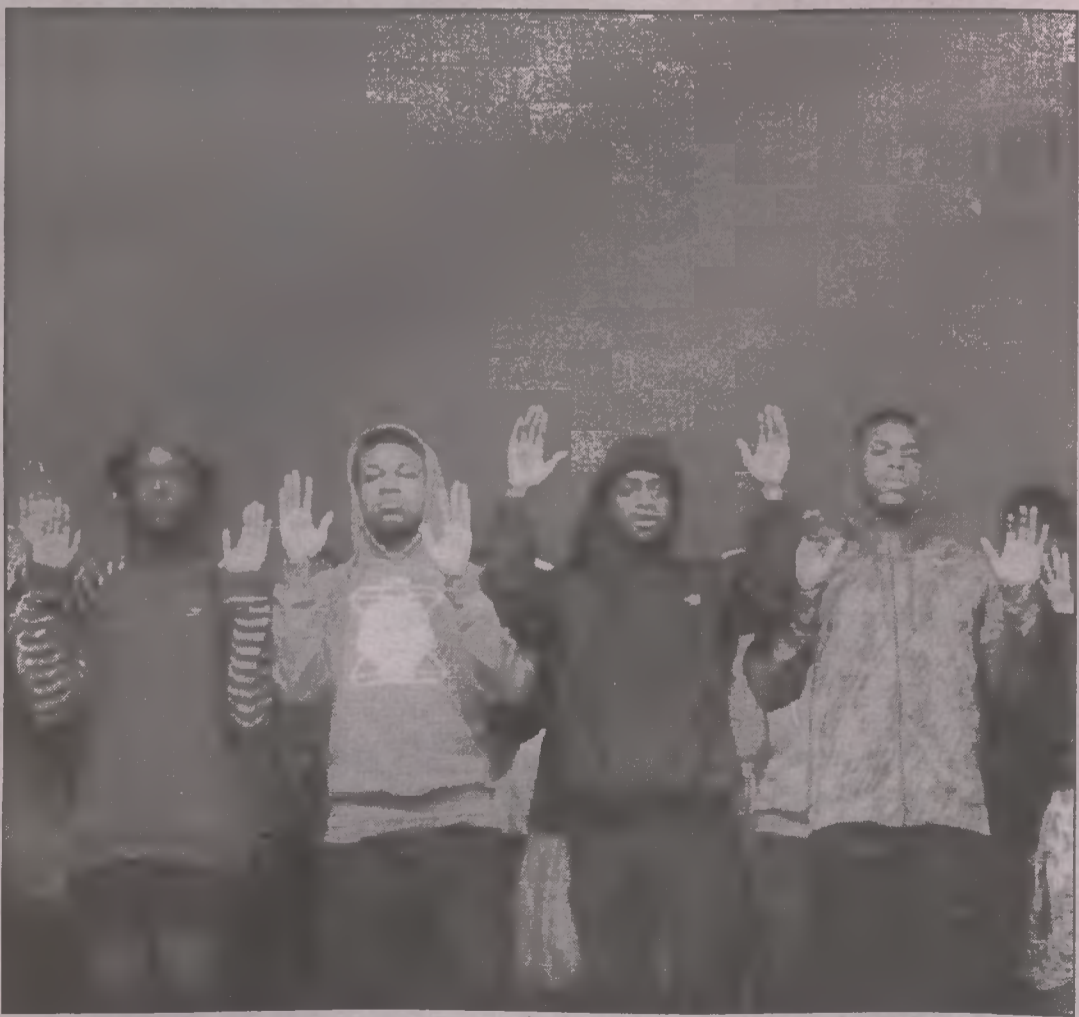


Photo courtesy of Chichi Zhu. Students at Africafest pose in hoodies with their hands raised in protest to recent killings of African-Americans directly before intermission. While the programs dedicated this time to be a moment of silence, NCSSM students used it as a time to speak. The hoodies reference the killing of Trayvon Martin, as students chanted the phrases "I can't breathe," and "Hands up; Don't shoot." This action was the most grievous moment of Africafest, which otherwise featured lighthearted dances, musical performances and a fashion show. By standing up against recent police actions, students brought representation to the plight of modern African-Americans.