

# arts & entertainment



## Celebrity Spotlight on ... Jason Bateman

The “Ozark” actor is being feted as 2022 Man of the Year by Harvard University’s Hasty Pudding Theatricals. The evening’s festivities will mark the first time the award has been presented since the coronavirus pandemic began in 2020. (AP)

## VILLAGES PHILHARMONIC TO GIVE POPS CONCERT SUNDAY

The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Broadway songs and movie soundtracks during its American Pops Celebration at 7 p.m. at The Sharon. Tickets start at \$35 and are available at Villages Box Office locations or at [thevillagesentertainment.com](http://thevillagesentertainment.com). (Michael Fortuna, Daily Sun)

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04

Today is Friday, Feb. 4,  
the 35th day of 2022.  
There are 330 days left in  
the year.

### TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS

- » Actor **Gary Conway** is 86.
- » Actor **John Schuck** is 82.
- » Rock musician **John Steel** is 81.
- » Singer **Florence LaRue** is 80.
- » Former Vice President **Dan Quayle** is 75.
- » Rock singer **Alice Cooper** is 74.
- » Actor **Michael Beck** is 73.
- » Actor **Lisa Eichhorn** is 70.
- » Football Hall of Famer **Lawrence Taylor** is 63.
- » Actor **Pamelyn Ferdin** is 63.
- » Rock singer **Tim Booth** is 62.
- » Rock musician **Henry Bogdan** is 61.
- » Country singer **Clint Black** is 60.
- » Rock musician **Noodles** is 59.
- » Actor **Gabrielle Anwar** is 52.
- » Actor **Rob Corddry** is 51.
- » Singer **David Garza** is 51.
- » Actor **Michael Goorjian** is 51.
- » TV personality **Nicolle Wallace** is 50.

### TODAY IN HISTORY

**1801:** John Marshall was confirmed by the Senate as chief justice of the United States.

**1861:** Delegates from six Southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form the Confederate States of America.

**1913:** Rosa Parks, a Black woman whose 1955 refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus to a white man sparked a civil rights revolution, was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee.

**1945:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta.

**1974:** Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst, 19, was kidnapped in Berkeley, California, by the radical Symbionese Liberation Army.

**1976:** More than 23,000 people died when a severe earthquake struck Guatemala with a magnitude of 7.5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

**1977:** Eleven people were killed when two Chicago Transit Authority trains collided on an elevated track.



Submitted photo

Christian Quinto and Lauren Echausse star in The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol’s production of “Urinetown.”

## Goofy ‘Urinetown’ Goes Beyond Restroom Humor

By LIZ COUGHLIN | Daily Sun Senior Writer

“Urinetown, the Musical” takes a risk with toilet-based humor and subject matter — but it’s a risk that landed it three Tony Awards. And 21 year later, it’s still a risk worth taking for two hours of laughter. The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol brings out the best in the goofy, self-aware musical, which it is performing now through Feb. 26.

On a dingy, brick-lined city street, Little Sally and other poor city folk line up at “public amenity number nine.”

In order to use the toilet they must pay a fee to Penelope Pennywise (Whitney Morse), employee of Urine Good Company, a corrupt organization with a monopoly over all public facilities.

Politician bribed by the company have passed a law

banning private toilets and public urination, which the cops, also bribed by the company, strictly enforce, leaving the poor folks in a bind.

Old Man Strong (Alyson E. Johnson), who is carted off to the mysterious Urinetown with a dramatic flair, serves as an example to potential rule-breakers.

It’s a concept so absurd it can only be treated with humor to

“For the artistic elements we have drawn on inspiration from the Dust Bowl era and given it a wicked dystopian feel.”

NATHANIEL NIEMI  
Director

match, which the laugh-a-minute show has in abundance. Adding to the absurdity is Officer Lockstock’s (Craig Smith) frequent breaking of the fourth wall.

“It’s kind of a mythical place, you understand. A bad place. A place you won’t see until Act Two,” he says of Urinetown.

The cast’s skill in playing up the

goofiness of the characters made each one lovable, evil though they may be, like UGC owner Caldwell B. Cladwell (Mark Kirschenbaum).

The imposing, two-story, dimly-lit set helped draw one into the dystopian world.

“For the artistic elements we have drawn on inspiration from the Dust Bowl era and given it a wicked dystopian feel,” said director Nathaniel Niemi.

Show hero Bobby Strong (Christian Quinto) leads the poor city folk in a “Les Misérables”-esque revolution.

In a genre with sometimes cheesy optimism, “Urinetown” was a refreshing commentary on some true-to-life subject matter. And The Studio succeeded in getting lots of laughs — even at the potty jokes.

“I thought the performers were spectacular and the way they tied the music and comedy made it a very interesting show,” said Danny Shelley, of the Village of Collier.

For tickets and more information, visit [thesharonstudio.com](http://thesharonstudio.com). Masks are strongly requested.

Senior writer Liz Coughlin can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5304, or [liz.coughlin@thevillagesmedia.com](mailto:liz.coughlin@thevillagesmedia.com).

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