

Edwardsville Drama Club Proudly Presents:



Book by Burt Shevelove & Larry Gelbart

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Based on plays by Plautus

Music Theatre International 421 W. St. New  
York, NY 10019

Presented April 15, 16, 17

## Summary

The comedy begins when married couple Domina and Senex go on a trip to visit Domina's mother. Their son Hero is left in the care of Pseudolus, an ever mischievous slave who only wants his freedom. While his parents are away, Hero falls in love with a woman (Philia) he sees in the neighboring window. A few major problems with this match are that the girl is owned by Lycus, a buyer and seller of courtesans, and Hero's parents would more than disapprove. Pseudolus's only responsibility is to protect Hero's innocence, but that is thrown into jeopardy when Hero offers freedom to Pseudolus in exchange for Philia. This all seems to be a simple trade if it weren't for yet another major problem: Philia has already been purchased by another and her time left in the house of Lycus is running out. Pseudolus, desperate for his freedom, will do just about anything in order to make things work. A variety of plans, tricks, lies, and comedy ensue as all the characters attempt to make their dreams come true.

## Cast

Prologus/Pseudolus.....	Josiah Romoser
Senex.....	Ryan Ash◊
Domina.....	Emily Thoman◊
Hero.....	Zach Paul◊
Hysterium.....	David Tomczak◊
Erronius.....	Alex Vires
Miles Gloriosus.....	Max Spicer◊
Lycus.....	Alex McCann
Tintinabula.....	Brianna Schumacher◊
Panacea.....	Kaitlyne Motl◊
The Geminae.....	Meg Belmer & Christa Hollingsworth◊
Vibrata.....	Jackie Diggs
Gymnasia.....	Apollonia Goeckner
Courtesan.....	Brittany Oehler◊
Philia.....	Susan Joyce

### The Proteans:

Devin Archer◊, Sarah Childers, Caitlin Ellis◊, Kelsey Faust◊, Zach Henderson, Chase Hopkins, Alicia Laswell, Rosie Laws◊, Shea Maples◊, Doug McCausland, Kyla Mellenthin◊, Jason Miller◊, Britta Novosel, Paul Herbert Pitts◊, Molly Rice◊, Samantha Townzen◊, Matt Weber, Andrew Woodard

Understudies: Devin Archer, Shea Maples & Britta Novosel

## Musical Numbers

Setting: A day in spring on a street in Rome, in front of the houses of Errorius, Senex, and Lycus; 200 years before the Christian era

### Act I

Overture.....	Orchestra
"Comedy Tonight".....	Company
"Love I Hear".....	Hero
"Free".....	Pseudolus, Hero
"The House of Marcus Lycus".....	Lycus, Courtesans
"Lovely".....	Hero, Philia
"Pretty Little Picture".....	Pseudolus, Hero, Philia
"Everybody Ought to Have a Maid".....	Pseudolus, Senex
Maid Encore 1.....	Pseudolus, Senex, Hysterium
Maid Encore 2.....	Pseudolus, Senex, Hysterium, Lycus
"I'm Calm".....	Hysterium
"Impossible".....	Senex, Hero
"Bring Me My Bride".....	Pseudolus, Miles Gloriosus, Lycus, Proteans

There will be a 15 minute intermission during which cookies and punch will be available. Also, Drama Club's Relay for Life team will be raffling off a quilt.

### Act II

Entr'acte.....	Orchestra
"That Dirty Old Man".....	Domina
"That'll Show Him".....	Philia
"Lovely" Reprise.....	Pseudolus, Hysterium
Funeral Sequence.....	Pseudolus, Miles Gloriosus, Courtesans, Soldiers
Finale Ultimo: "Comedy Tonight".....	Company

## Dramaturgy

The 1963 Tony award-winning musical, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, takes credit from the comedians of Ancient Rome.

*Forum* is compiled of Plautus's plays *Pseudolus*, *Casina*, and *Miles Gloriosus*. Elements that made these plays popular in Ancient Rome remain prominent in *Forum*. Plautus's stock characters such as the clever slave, the young lovers, the lecherous old man and the arrogant captain are not only seen in *Forum* but have been used in countless productions in many cultures.

Larry Gelbart, Burt Shevelove (authors known by TV's M\*A\*S\*H fans) and Stephen Sondheim broke the mold of traditional musical theatre by having only one stage set and almost no costume changes. Using Plautus's characters and incidents, the team wove a new plot with new subplots and situations. The excitement of *Forum* begins as soon as the audience sits down. The play is constantly in motion as the characters zoom from one zany situation to the next. The wonderful songs of Stephen Sondheim contribute to the merriment.

*Forum* ran for 964 performances (Sondheim's longest running show), proving that the world's oldest jokes can still delight and amuse audiences more than 2000 years later. Our production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* promises to be an exhibition of gags, puns, and, of course, comedy - something for "everybawdy."

## Adult Production Leaders

Technical Director and Designer.....	Brad Lewis
Assistant Director and Vocals.....	Marion Thompson
Production Assistant: Costumes, Make-up, Props.....	Lessie Shashack
Pit Orchestra Director.....	Cathy Holliday
Publicity and House Management.....	Cara Lane
Parent Volunteer for Publicity and House.....	Laurel Ward
Business Manager and Tickets.....	Sandy Pringle
Director and Choreographer.....	Kate Motley

## Student Production Leaders

Stage Manager.....	Caitlin Hunter◊
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Sammi Becerra◊ & Catie Coulter◊
Light Designer.....	Caitlin Hunter◊
Student Director.....	Max Spicer◊
Vocal Director.....	Samantha Townzen◊
Sound Designer.....	Dave Scobbie◊
Light Board Operator.....	Allison Butts◊
Sound Board Operator.....	Stephen Erspamer◊ & Dave Scobbie◊
Production Assistants.....	Allysha Emerson◊ & Jenna Yungck◊
Costume Mistress.....	Allison Scobbie◊
Props Mistresses.....	Tara Oehler & Jessica Schoenleber◊
Publicity Leader.....	Christie Parks◊
Spotlight Operators (Midgets).....	Jay Kidd◊ & Tommy Pizzini◊
Spotlight Operators (Babies).....	Aaron Brakhane◊, Eden Lantz, Mike Lemm◊ & Dustin Lovett◊
RehearScore TM Operator.....	Shea Maples◊ & Jason Miller◊
Program Layout.....	Rachel Hankins
Logo Design and Cover Art.....	Chase Hopkins & Jay Kidd◊
Prompter.....	Brittany Oehler◊
Backstage Wireless.....	Molly Carver, Abby Kansal, & Rachel Rodriguez◊
Signboards.....	Kristin Krebs & Amy Pulliam
Spirit Shirt Logo Designs.....	Jay Kidd◊
Thespian Shirt Logo Designs.....	Russell Yost
Dramaturgy.....	Jenna Stoeber◊ & Emily Thoman◊

◊Denotes Member of Thespian Troupe 1534

◊Denotes Member of Running Crew

## Production Crews

**Set Construction:** Sammi Becerra<sup>o</sup>, Sujit Bhimreddy<sup>o</sup>, Shawn Boyer<sup>o</sup>, Aaron Brakhane<sup>o</sup>, Carl Bringenberg, Allison Butts<sup>o</sup>, Erica Campbell, Sean Carlson<sup>o</sup>, Molly Carver, Catie Coulter<sup>o</sup>, Caitlin Doszkewycz<sup>o</sup>, TJ Edwards<sup>o</sup>, Sydney Elliot<sup>o</sup>, Stephen Erspamer<sup>o</sup>, Christina Harris<sup>o</sup>, Caitlin Hunter<sup>o</sup>, Abby Kansal<sup>o</sup>, Jay Kidd<sup>o</sup>, Jon Kidd<sup>o</sup>, Eden Lantz, Liz Lathrop<sup>o</sup>, Mike Lemm<sup>o</sup>, Dustin Lovett<sup>o</sup>, Matthew Orsey, Aaron Parker, Jason Petry, Jordan Petry, Tommy Pizzini<sup>o</sup>, Janice Rabe<sup>o</sup>, Brad Rea<sup>o</sup>, Scott Rocca<sup>o</sup>, Rachel Rodriguez<sup>o</sup>, Kendyl Schmidt, Dave Scobbie<sup>o</sup>, Brittanie Waller, Russell Yost<sup>o</sup>

**Costumes:** Sara Bowler<sup>o</sup>, Tia Bringenberg<sup>o</sup>, Jennifer Coleman<sup>o</sup>, Allysha Emerson<sup>o</sup>, Caroline Helmcamp<sup>o</sup>, Chelsie Johnston<sup>o</sup>, Maddie Kelsey, Lauren Keune<sup>o</sup>, Alex Lesicko<sup>o</sup>, Tara Oehler<sup>o</sup>, Brittany Payne<sup>o</sup>, Jessica Schoenleber<sup>o</sup>, Anna Schuh, Allison Scobbie<sup>o</sup>, Jenna Yungck<sup>o</sup>

**Publicity:** Melissa Cook<sup>o</sup>, Rachel Hankins<sup>o</sup>, Katie Harrison, Rebecca Hawk, Lyndsey Jones<sup>o</sup>, Kelli Kidwell<sup>o</sup>, Kristin Krebs<sup>o</sup>, Courtney Kruckeberg<sup>o</sup>, Emily Leveling<sup>o</sup>, Angela Otto<sup>o</sup>, Christie Parks<sup>o</sup>, Amy Pulliam<sup>o</sup>, Caleb Romoser<sup>o</sup>

## Pit Personnel

Flute/ Piccolo.....Brittany Powers, Amanda Goodbrake, Nicole Pizzini  
Bassoon.....Emily Fornof  
Clarinet.....Mary Doll, Rebecca Fant, Kimber Moscardelli, Jessica Rimkus<sup>o</sup>  
Bass Clarinet.....Jenny Toje & Amanda Deardeuff  
Alto Saxophone.....Matt Schweiker, Ryan Gilmore  
Tenor Saxophone.....Josh Allen<sup>o</sup>  
Baritone Saxophone.....Mack Rice  
Trumpet.....Mr. Rick Dempsey<sup>o</sup>, Brian Zimmermann, Luke Firsching  
Trombone.....Mr. Mark Haun, John Meehan, Trent Cameron  
Tuba.....Mark Council, Myles Cameron  
Piano.....Mrs. Lynda Marshall  
Percussion.....Justin Hartley, Max Pizzini, Mike Behum

<sup>o</sup>Denotes Member of Thespian Troupe 1534

<sup>o</sup>Denotes Member of Running Crew

## Director's Notes

Happy Birthday, Stephen Sondheim! Broadway is busy saluting you as is EHS Drama Club. It's a pleasure to be working with the early period of his genius. Mr. Sondheim, now 75, was in his late 30's when he wrote the music and lyrics for *Forum*, after successfully collaborating on one of America's all time favorites, *West Side Story*. On the other hand, we cannot be sure how old Plautus was when he conceived the wild scenarios on which the script is based. We have enjoyed many laughs together in our attempt to bring these delightful songs by Sondheim and the hilarious old stories of Plautus to life.

*Forum* concludes our Roman season. *Metamorphoses*, written by Mary Zimmerman and performed last fall, was based on Ovid's myths; now, we have the spring musical based on the comic playwright Plautus' works. Our slate of full-length productions for 2005 has awakened our knowledge and appreciation regarding the impact of those theatre lovers who have gone before us and the brilliance of today's artists who bring them back for modern audiences to enjoy. Please read Jenna Stoeber and Emily Thoman's notes for more details on the development of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

The staff is elated to be working with some of the best people we will ever know, our students. All areas of production have risen to the challenges set before them. Again, students are designing, constructing, and taking leadership roles.

Special thanks as always to our Drama Boosters who continually help the program in so many ways. An industrial sewing machine is their latest gift. The costume crew and Lessie Shashack are especially excited with the new addition.

We so appreciate the support of our audiences and families who attend performances. Thank you for coming to watch the students' work and we hope you laugh heartily throughout the show. Being funny is harder than we think, but fortunately, the cast and crews have a great sense of "Comedy Tonight!"

### Thespian Officers:

President: Caitlin Hunter  
Vice President: Caitlin Ellis  
Scribe: Allison Butts  
Historian: Samantha Townzen

### 2005 All State Cast

#### and Crew:

Devin Archer  
Dave Scobbie  
Max Spicer

## Special Thanks

Our gratitude and thanks go out to the following individuals, groups and businesses for their contributions to EHS Drama Club, Thespian Troupe 1534, and the Educational Drama Program.  
Please forgive any omissions due to printing deadlines or human errors.

EHS Drama Boosters  
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Mr. Daryl Hall  
Mr. Steve Stuart  
Mr. Rick Everage  
Ms. Kari Karidis  
Sign-A-Rama  
Schnucks Market / Gary Rocca  
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EHS Custodians  
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EHS Food Service  
EHS Music Department  
EHS Secretaries  
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Ann's Printing and Copying  
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Maliszewski Family  
Maureen Meyers  
Jan Miller  
John Motley  
Pat Probst  
Jeff Rice  
Robin Springer  
Parents of the cast, crews, and pit  
of *Forum*

The cast, crew, and pit of *Forum* would like to  
dedicate their performances in memory of  
Mrs. Heather Bradshaw

## Drama Boosters

We so appreciate these families, individuals, businesses, and alumni who financially & emotionally support the drama program at EHS.

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