

GOODSPEED MUSICALS

Musical Notes

for the Goodspeed Musicals production of

A Funny THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

AMERICA'S *Funniest* MUSICAL

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A Funny THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

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presents

A Funny THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

Music and Lyrics by **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**
Book by **BURT SHEVELOVE** and **LARRY GELBART**
with

JASON BABINSKY MARK BAKER MICHAEL BIREN NAT CHANDLER KURT DOMONEY
EMILY SUSANNE FRANKLIN SEMHAR GHEBREMICHAEL MARY GUTZI ADAM HELLER LAURA KELLER
KARA KIMMER STEVE KONOPELSKI STEPHANIE LYNN NELSON ABBEY O'BRIEN SAM PINKLETON
KRISTA SAAB JOHN SCHERER EMILY THOMPSON RON WISNISKI DAVID WOHL

Scenic Design by
JAMES NOONE

Costume Design by
MARTHA BROMELMEIER

Lighting Design by
KIRK BOOKMAN

Original Costume Design by TONY WALTON

Sound by
JAY HILTON

Hair & Wig Design by
MARK ADAM RAMPMEYER

Orchestrations by
DAN DeLANGE

Assistant Music Director
WILLIAM J. THOMAS

Associate Choreographer
CAROL SCHUBERG

Production Manager
R. GLEN GRUSMARK

Production Stage Manager
BRADLEY G. SPACHMAN

Casting by
**STUART HOWARD, AMY SCHECTER,
& PAUL HARDT, CSA**

Associate Producer
BOB ALWINE

Line Producer
DONNA LYNN COOPER HILTON

Music Director
MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY

Directed and Choreographed by
TED PAPPAS

Produced for Goodspeed Musicals by
MICHAEL P. PRICE

First Performance: Sept. 25, 2009

Goodspeed Musicals is dedicated to the heritage of the musical and the development of new works to add to the repertoire.

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 **Connecticut
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Cast of Characters

(In order of appearance)

Pseudolus **ADAM HELLER**
Proteans **JASON BABINSKY, KURT DOMONEY,
STEVE KONOPELSKI**
Hero **SAM PINKLETON**
Philia **EMILY THOMPSON**
Senex **DAVID WOHL**
Domina **MARY GUTZI**
Hysterium **JOHN SCHERER**
Marcus Lycus **RON WISNISKI**
Tintinabula **STEPHANIE LYNN NELSON**
Panacea **SEM HAR GHEBREMICHAEL**
Geminæ **ABBEY O'BRIEN, KRISTA SAAB**
Vibrata **KARA KIMMER**
Gymnasia **LAURA KELLER**
Erronius **MARK BAKER**
Miles Gloriosus **NAT CHANDLER**

SWINGS

MICHAEL BIREN
EMILY SUSANNE FRANKLIN

DANCE CAPTAIN

STEPHANIE LYNN NELSON

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

DEREK MICHAEL DIGREGORIO

UNDERSTUDIES

Pseudolus **RON WISNISKI**; Hero, Hysterium **MICHAEL BIREN**; Philia **EMILY SUSANNE FRANKLIN**;
Senex **MARK BAKER**; Erronius, Marcus Lycus **JASON BABINSKY**; Domina **STEPHANIE LYNN NELSON**;
Miles Gloriosus **KURT DOMONEY**; Gymnasia, Tintinabula, Vibrata, Geminæ
Panacea **EMILY SUSANNE FRANKLIN**

ORCHESTRA

Conductor/Keyboard I **MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY**; Associate Conductor/Keyboard II **WILLIAM J. THOMAS**;
Trumpet **MARK SLATER**; Trombone **SCOTT BEAN**;
Violin **KARIN FARGERBURG**; Reeds **LIZ BAKER SMITH**; Percussion **SALVATORE RANNIELLO**

ALTERNATES

Keyboard II **MOLLY STURGES**; Trumpet **TOM CONTI, LARRY GAREAU, KEN ROE**;
Trombone **DAVID KAYSER, TOPHER LOGAN**; Violin **DIANE ORSON**; Reeds **MICHAEL SCHUSTER**;
Percussion **STEVE COLLINS, DAVID EDRICKS**

Out of respect for our actors and your fellow theatergoers, we ask that you remain seated until the curtain calls are over and the house lights have come up. The use of cameras, cellular phones, or recording devices is not permitted in the theatre. Thank you.

Musical Numbers

200 B.C., A Street in Rome

Act One

<i>Comedy Tonight</i>	<i>Prologus, The Proteans, and The Company</i>
<i>Love, I Hear</i>	<i>Hero</i>
<i>Free</i>	<i>Pseudolus, Hero</i>
<i>The House of Marcus Lycus</i>	<i>Lycus, Pseudolus, and The Courtesans</i>
<i>Lovely</i>	<i>Hero, Philia</i>
<i>Everybody Ought to Have a Maid</i>	<i>Senex, Pseudolus, Hysterium, Lycus</i>
<i>I'm Calm</i>	<i>Hysterium</i>
<i>Impossible</i>	<i>Senex, Hero</i>
<i>Bring Me My Bride</i>	<i>Miles Gloriosus, Pseudolus, The Courtesans, and The Proteans</i>

Act Two

<i>That Dirty Old Man</i>	<i>Domina</i>
<i>That'll Show Him</i>	<i>Philia</i>
<i>Lovely (Reprise)</i>	<i>Pseudolus, Hysterium</i>
<i>Funeral Sequence and Dance</i>	<i>Pseudolus, Miles Gloriosus, The Courtesans, and The Proteans</i>
<i>Comedy Tonight (Reprise)</i>	<i>The Company</i>

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts.

Comedy Tonight!

We can trace the roots of the musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* to the esteemed ancient Roman playwright Titus Maccius Plautus, born in Sarsina, Umbria around 254 B.C. It is difficult to determine Plautus' personal contribution, as all of his plays were adaptations of Greek productions that did not survive the ages. There is evidence, however, that he derived his works from plays belonging to the Greek New Comedy style. Plays of this genre portrayed the carefree life of the prosperous youth of Athens and their ceaseless desire for riches to purchase the company of concubines. Greeks considered plays of that style "clean" compared to those from the Old Comedy genre, which were often full of obscene gags and expressions.

Surely, Plautus could never have conceived that three of his plays (*Pseudolus*, *Miles Gloriosus* and *Mostellaria*) would transform into one of the most hilarious and rollicking musicals ever produced. Yet Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart did a remarkable job taking Plautus's ancient works and weaving them into what some consider the best book associated with any Stephen Sondheim (Composer and Lyricist) collaboration. More than two thousand years after Plautus, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* continues to receive wide spread acclaim from critics and audiences throughout the world. Stephen Sondheim made his Broadway debut as composer/lyricist working with Gelbart and Shevelove on the original Broadway production and commented on their work as follows:

"The book is vastly underrated. It's brilliantly constructed. We worked on the show over a period of four years. It took Larry and Burt eleven complete and distinct separate drafts, and everybody thinks that it was whipped up over a weekend because it plays so easily. The plotting is intricate, the dialogue is never anachronistic, and there are only two or three jokes—the rest is comic situation. It's almost like a senior thesis on two thousand years of comedy with an intricate, Swiss watch-like farce plot. The style of the dialogue is very elegant...the phrasing and grace of the dialogue are better than most of the writing of the musical or nonmusical theatre of the last twenty years. It's almost a foolproof piece; it can be done by any high school class or a group of vaudevillians and the play holds up."

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum melded several traditional comedic styles. Shevelove and Gelbart predominantly combined elements of Roman comic theatre and American burlesque. The show successfully makes use of sexual innuendos, one-liners, and double takes along with many traditional slapstick situations often found in ancient texts. In the musical, we also find many examples of well-rehearsed comedic action (*lazzi*) typical to *Commedia dell'arte*, a comedic device often employed in vaudeville productions. Perhaps as an ode to that style of performance, the creators based the title of the musical on a line that vaudeville comedians commonly used to begin their routine: "A funny thing happened on the way to the theatre..."

Despite the impressive book, the show did poorly during out-of-town tryouts. Initially, Sondheim composed an opening number entitled "Invocation," however, George Abbott (Director) did not think it was "hummable" enough and he urged Sondheim to make a second attempt. In response, Sondheim penned "Love is in the Air," but Sondheim still had reservations about the song and he did not think it properly set the stage for a low comedy. After receiving several nights of unenthusiastic audience reaction to the show while in Washington, Hal Prince (Producer) and Abbott solicited the help of well-respected director and choreographer Jerome Robbins. Robbins advised that the opening number be changed once again. In response, Sondheim composed another song entitled "Comedy Tonight." This opening number had a significant impact and according to Sondheim, "it was cheers and laughter throughout the entire evening at the same lines the audience had received in silence four days earlier."

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum became a hit several weeks after the Broadway opening on May 8, 1962, receiving six Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Book. The original cast included Zero Mostel, Jack Gilford, David Burns, Ruth Kobart, and John Carradine. United Artists produced a film version in 1966 directed by Richard Lester with Zero Mostel reprising the role of Pseudolus. Popularity continued to grow and the show has had multiple revivals for both Broadway and London's West End audiences.

It is our pleasure to bring you a celebrated musical over two thousand years in the making. So please, leave your cares at the door because in the words of Pseudolus, "weighty affairs will just have to wait." A comedy tonight!

Character Summary and Name Meanings

Get to know the characters from the show! Many of their names have interesting (and often appropriate) Latin roots. Learn all about them here!

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Latin for:</i>	<i>Character Description:</i>
Prologus	Prologue	Introduces each act
The Proteans	A spin on Proteus, a Greek sea god who could change shape at will.	Play numerous roles throughout the performance.
Senex	Old, aged	Hero's father, a Roman Senator who has suffered through a terrifying marriage to Domina.
Domina	Lady, mistress	Wife of Senex, mother of Hero. Lives to order others around.
Hero	Hero	Mature for his age, Hero falls deeply in love with Philia, the courtesan next door.
Hysterium	Disease of the womb; "hysteria" was once believed to be caused by a "wandering womb"	Slave-in-chief of Senex's household.
Pseudolus	To lie, falsify	Hero's slave, who seeks to gain his freedom by helping his young master find love.
Erronius	Straying, wandering	A very old man who has been abroad in search of his missing children
Miles Gloriosus	Warrior, soldier, knight and glorious	A self-involved, egotistical general who has paid for the virgin Philia.
Marcus Lycus	Name based on Lycus, the pimp in Plautus's Poenulus	A buyer and seller of courtesans
Philia	Attraction to	A virgin from Crete
Tintinabula	To ring, to jingle	A courtesan
Panacea	Cure, all-healing	A courtesan
The Geminae	Double, paired, twinned	Courtesans
Vibrata	To tremble, vibrate, turn	A courtesan
Gymnasia	To exercise naked	A courtesan

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Synopsis

The Time: Two hundred years before the Christian era. Springtime.

Act One

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum begins with a prologue recited by a player in a toga, who informs the audience that this evening's performance will be a "Comedy Tonight." The curtain opens on three houses on a street in Ancient Rome. The first of the three belongs to Lycus, who runs a brothel out of his home. The middle home is that of the old man Senex, his wife, Domina, and their young, innocent son, Hero. The third and final house belongs to Erronius, an older man who is currently abroad searching for his missing son and daughter, who were kidnapped in infancy by pirates.

The action begins with Senex and Domina as they leave to visit her mother in the country, armed with a gift of a marble bust of Domina herself. The lady of the house charges her devoted slave, Hysterium, with the responsibility of watching her teenage son, Hero, requesting specifically that he is kept away from the opposite sex while they are gone. Unbeknownst to Domina, her son is already quite taken with a courtesan in Lycus' brothel next door ("Love, I Hear").

"Love, they say, makes you pine away
But you fine away with an idiotic grin...
I pine, I blush, I squeak, I squawk
Today I woke too weak to walk
What's love, I hear
I feel – I fear
I'm in."

Hero confides his love for the girl next door to his slave, Pseudolus, who is horrified. Despite knowing what the reaction of Senex and Domina will likely be, Pseudolus decides to help bring the two young people together for the price of his own freedom, an entity for which he has forever longed ("Free").

"When a Pseudolus can move, the universe shakes
But I'll never move until I'm free!

Such a little work, but oh,
The difference it makes..."

Lycus emerges from his house and stops short at the familiarly seductive sound of a jingling coin purse. It is Pseudolus, who is using Hero's purse to pretend he has come into an inheritance and is looking to examine Lycus' "stock." The courtesans parade past, one by one, but alas, the object of Hero's affections is not among them ("The House of Marcus Lycus"). Lycus claims that they have seen all of his girls, until Hero spots his love up in a window. Lycus tells them that the girl is a virgin from Crete whom he has promised to the great captain Miles Gloriosus.

In an effort to get the girl out of Lycus' home, Pseudolus loudly mentions the awful plague in Crete, extending his sympathies to Lycus and wishing him well in the hopes that the girl will still be alive by the time the Captain arrives. Lycus falls into a nervous panic, worried that the girl is carrying the plague and could infect the other courtesans. Pseudolus offers to take her in (which won't be a problem, as he has already had the plague!) and look after her until the Captain's arrival, and Lycus eagerly agrees, sending beautiful Philia out of his home as quickly as he can. It quickly becomes apparent that Philia's appearance is her only bright spot ("Lovely"). This is quite enough for Hero.

"Oh, isn't it a shame?
I can neither sew, nor cook, nor read, nor write
my name.
But I'm happy, merely being lovely
For it's one thing I can give to you."

When Hysterium discovers his mistress' son with a courtesan, he is a nervous mess, and is only stopped from dashing off to inform Domina when Pseudolus threatens to tell the mistress of Hysterium's private collection of erotic pottery. Pseudolus has worked hard to meet his end of the deal: he has a boat waiting for the young couple to run away together just around the corner on the Tiber ("Pretty Little Picture"). However, Philia's concept of morality is

simple and clear-cut: the captain has already paid for her, and so she must wait for him.

With this, Pseudolus is presented with an unexpected problem. To hurry the process along, he decides to create a sleeping potion from Hysterium's famous book, intending to knock Philia out with the potion and send her along without protest on the boat with Hero. Missing an ingredient, Pseudolus hurries off to find a cup of mare's sweat, and narrowly misses Senex returning with the chipped bust of Domina under his arm, in need of repair. Mistaking Senex's three knocks for the returning Captain, Philia runs at an ecstatic Senex and cries, "Take me!" Luckily, Pseudolus returns just in time to stop Senex from defiling Philia, and explains to Senex that Philia is the new maid. Highly approving, Senex waxes poetic about how "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid." Senex adds that he intends to personally instruct this maid in the finer points of housework, and that since his son is home, this private instruction will have to take place in Erronius' home (since Erronius is, as usual, abroad searching for his children).

"Everybody ought to have a maid
Consistently congenial
And quieter than a mouse."

In an effort to stall the rapidly deteriorating events, Pseudolus sacrifices his mare's sweat and spills it on Senex's gown. The old man is forced to go and have a bath, which he decides to take over at Erronius' house. Unfortunately, Erronius chooses this moment to arrive home from his travels, and Hysterium, who has been charged with the task of guarding the door to Erronius' home ("Calm"), is forced to stall him. Hysterium manages to convince Erronius that his house is haunted to keep him out of his home, and Pseudolus, impersonating a soothsayer, tells Erronius that he must walk seven times around the seven hills of Rome before entering his house in order to exorcise the ghost.

Senex emerges from his bath and finds Hero, who sees Philia, and also sees his father seeing Philia. The two embark on a raunchy duet ("Impossible"). Hysterium is nearly finished with the second round of Pseudolus' potion when trumpets signal the Captain Miles Gloriosus' arrival.

"The situation's fraught,
Fraught than I thought,
With horrible, impossible possibilities!"

Lycus is thrown again into a state of panic, wondering what will happen when the Captain arrives. In order to smooth things over, Pseudolus impersonates Lycus and arranges the presence of all of the brothel's most tempting courtesans, and with the Miles Gloriosus' decree of "Bring Me My Bride," attempts to dissuade him from his original intent of securing the virgin Philia. However, Miles has already made his decision, and everyone is in a bit of a fix. With that, the first act ends.

Act Two

Unfortunately, intermission has not solved the problematic situation that has befallen the players. Act Two opens with Pseudolus hastily promising to Miles Gloriosus that he will deliver the Captain's bride as soon as possible. The captain is led into Senex's house (which he still believes is Lycus' house) to rest and wait. Senex also awaits his maid in Erronius' house next door. Just to add to Pseudolus' already complicated problem, he discovers upon his attempt to feed Philia the draught-laced wine that she is completely abstinent from alcohol, and nothing will make her drink the potion.

Just to make things more difficult, Domina returns, attempting to discover what "That Dirty Old Man of Mine" is up to. Hysterium is now also in a panic, certain that Domina is likely to discover at least one of the many deceptions that he and Pseudolus have staged. Meanwhile, Philia, who is still dutifully waiting for Senex (who she still believes is the Captain), sings to Hero about how every time she makes love with her arranged husband, she will be thinking of Hero ("That'll Show Him").

"Let the captain wed me and woo me,
I shall play my part!
Let him make his mad passion to me,
You will have my heart.
He can have the body he paid for,
Nothing but the body he paid for.
When he has the body he paid for,
Our revenge will start!"

At the perfect moment, Pseudolus has an epiphany that will serve as the solution to his problem: since he must produce a dead girl to show the captain his virgin bride who has succumbed to the plague, he will dress Hysterium up like a girl ("Lovely" reprise). Upon seeing his heavily veiled deceased bride-to-be, Miles Gloriosus is distraught, and insists upon giving "Philia" a proper funeral. Nervous about Hysterium's identity coming to light at an inopportune moment, Pseudolus tries to warn away mourners with scary stories about the Cretan plague, but the captain has unfortunately just come from Crete and knows very well that there is no plague. Suddenly, the corpse comes to life!

Pandemonium occurs as everyone starts to figure out that something is not right. Players run every which way on stage, and there are three apparent Philias: the real one, Hysterium in disguise, and Domina, who has dressed up like Philia to catch her husband in the act of cheating. Miles and Senex both claim Hysterium as their respective bride and maid, and confusion and controversy continue until the slave pulls off his wig and brings the action to a screeching halt. Pseudolus' web of deception is slowly undone, and he grandly declares that there is nothing left but for him to take his own life with hemlock. Fortunately, Hysterium accidentally gives him a passion potion made earlier for Senex, and the results are amusing and short-lived.

Ultimately, Philia is brought forth to meet her fate with the captain. The transaction has finally been made, but the only one who is glad is Miles Gloriosus himself. Erronius remains onstage mumbling about his lost children and the rings they both wear with a gaggle of geese on the band. Miles is startled – he sports a ring of that exact description. Philia, confused as usual, inquires as to how many geese are in a gaggle, for she, too, has a ring with geese on it. Erronius' lost children have finally been found, and it comes to light also that the soon-to-be-newlyweds are in fact brother and sister. The story ends as Hero finally gets the girl, Erronius' family is reunited, and Pseudolus runs to his freedom ("Comedy Tonight").

"Lovers divided, get coincided.
Something for everyone – a comedy tonight!
Nothing for kings, nothing for crowns
Something for lovers, liars and clowns.
What is the moral?"

Must be a moral.
Here is a moral, wrong or right:
Morals tomorrow-
Comedy tonight!"

End of Show

The World of Comedy

Comedy is seriously complicated! Comedic writing and playwriting has been around since the time of the Romans, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* employs the use of many different styles of comedy. Learn more about historic and contemporary forms of comedy below! How many do you recognize?

A **farce** is a comedy consisting of unlikely, extravagant and improbably situations, disguise and mistaken identity, verbal humor and a fast-paced plot (which can sometimes end in a chase scene). *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* is a great example of a farce.

Examples of farce: Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*, Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Ernest*, "Frasier," The Three Stooges

Dramatic irony occurs when an audience is led to understand a contradiction or incongruity between what is being said onstage and the situation that is accompanying the speech, while the characters onstage remain unaware of this clash.

Examples of dramatic irony: Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Parody is a written or musical work in which the style of a particular author or work is very closely imitated for the sake of comic effect.

Examples of parody: Cervantes' "Don Quixote," Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels"

Satire is a literary comedic work of irony, sarcasm or acerbic wit that is used to expose human vice or folly.

Examples of satire: George Orwell's "1984," Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World," Kurt Vonnegut's "Cat's Cradle"

Slapstick is a type of comedy with a stress on farce, involving chases, collisions, crude practical jokes and other non-discreet forms of physical and verbal comedy. Examples of slapstick: Charlie Chaplin films, the Naked Gun films, Mel Brooks' films

Burlesque is a dramatic or literary work that pokes fun at a subject either by presenting a minor subject in a dignified way or presenting a more important or serious subject in an undignified fashion. While the burlesque form of comedy has been associated with striptease in American theater, this perception is fairly limited to the United States (although the addition of striptease to burlesque did initially occur at the Moulin Rouge in Paris).

Examples of burlesque: Abbott and Costello's "Who's On First," Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales"

Vaudeville is a form of entertainment involving many different short acts, which can include slapstick performances, song-and-dance routines, and attraction performances such as juggling, acrobatics, or comic routines. Well-known Vaudeville performers include Ida Cox, Jack Pearl, and James Thornton. Vaudeville began in the early 1880s and was prominent through the late 1920s where it began to see a steady decline in interest from the public due to the rise of another form of entertainment: Cinema. Vaudeville theatres had a circuit that many performers would follow around the country, performing with a certain chain of Vaudeville houses.

Additional Materials

These exercises may be incorporated as additions to any middle school- or high school-level curriculum related to Ancient Rome.

Roman Merchant Creative Writing Activity

Using many of the words listed in the categories and adjectives below, write a story describing a day in the life of a Roman merchant. Give the merchant a name and use your own creativity to decide other aspects of the individual's life that are not listed (e.g., family background, life experiences, etc).

ART EXTENSION: After writing this story, draw a picture of the merchant as he/she has been described, or switch with a partner and draw what they have described. Place them in a setting with their products. Make sure to pay attention to details!

NATIONALITY

African
Asian
Greek
Roman

CLOTHING

leather belt
leather books
long cloak
sandals
helmet

PERSONAL ITEMS

bandages
fuel for cooking
ivory drinking horn
knife
pouch

EXPRESSIONS

mischievous
bright
angry
sad
dull

NAMES

Petronio
Serius
Mariua
Cassius

FACIAL TEXTURE

dry
gnarled
hairy
oily
rough
smooth

PRODUCTS

animal
books
coins
gems

EARS

missing one
covered with a scarf
pierced
pointy

EYES

dull
shifty
bright
glass

VIRTUES

passionate
perceptive
cowardly
brave

Additional Materials

Continued

Roman Slave Creative Writing Activity

Using the categories and adjectives below, write a story describing a day in the life of a Roman slave. Try to include sentences about each category, and use your own creativity to describe the slave's family background, life experiences, etc. Use as many words from each category as applicable.

ART EXTENSION: After writing this story, draw a picture of the slave as he/she has been described, or switch with a partner and draw what has been described. Place them in a setting in your drawing. Make sure to pay attention to details!

BUILD

small
slender
sturdy
fat
pudgy
skinny

DUTIES

servant of a noble
nanny
prepares food
constructs buildings
fights as a gladiator
raises crops

APPEARANCE

clean
attractive
gentle
dirty
rough
rugged

EXPRESSIONS

happy
proud
sad
dejected
lonely
content

VIRTUES

liar
brave
forgiving
helpful
fearless
cowardly
cautious

INTERESTS

politics
music
art
gardening
hunting
animal care

FACE

dry
gnarled
hairy
oily
rough
smooth

FUTURE PLANS

become free
seek revenge
lead a slave revolt
change duties
own a home

Additional Materials

Continued

Ancient Roman Recipes

Included are a few ancient Roman recipes that are accompanied by a more modern day version. These recipes can be prepared in the classroom, sent home with groups of students to bring into class the following day (or if assigned on a weekend, the following week), or simply sent home with the students to prepare with their families and friends.

Ancient Roman Egg Recipe

For medium-boiled eggs: Pepper, lovage, and soaked pine nuts. Pour on honey and vinegar; mix with garum.
- Apicius, reprinted from *A Taste of Ancient Rome*

Modern Egg Recipe

4 medium-boiled eggs
2 ounces pine nuts
3 tablespoons vinegar
1 teaspoon honey
Pinch each of pepper and lovage (or celery leaf)

Soak the pine nuts 3-4 hours beforehand in the vinegar. Mix all the sauce ingredients thoroughly in a blender and keep in container to pour over eggs upon consumption.



Seasoned Mussels: Because the Roman Empire covered such a large area (spanning both sides of the Mediterranean Sea), Romans often prepared seafood. Romans would use many different preparations for their fish including salting, smoking, pickling, or even preserving it with honey.

Ancient Roman Seasoned Mussels Recipe

For mussels: Garum, chopped leek, cumin, passum, savory, and wine. Dilute this mixture with water and cook the mussels in it.
- Apicius, reprinted from *A Taste of Ancient Rome*

Modern Seasoned Mussels Recipe (serves 4)

40-50 mussels
2 tablespoons garum
1/2 cup wine
1 leek, chopped
1/2 cup passum (a modern version of this raisin wine is the Italian dessert wine Vin Santo)
1 handful of fresh cumin and savory, minced

Wash the mussels thoroughly to remove the sand, then boil them in sufficient water to cover, along with the remaining ingredients.

Additional Materials

Continued

Ancient Roman Recipes *continued*

Lentils with Coriander: Lentils are a popular legume today, and were used frequently in Ancient Roman cooking due to their versatility and high protein content.

Ancient Roman Lentils with Coriander Recipe

(for this recipe have the students make the conversions from metric to U.S. customary units)

Boil the lentils. Once they have foamed, add leeks and green coriander. Crush coriander seed, pennyroyal, laser root, mint seed and rue seed. Moisten with vinegar, add honey, garum, vinegar, mix in a little defrutum, add oil and stir. Add extra as required. Bind with amulum, drizzle with green oil and sprinkle with pepper.

Serve.

-Apicius, 192

Modern Roman Lentils with Coriander Recipe

250g lentils

2 liters water

1 leek, trimmed, washed and finely chopped

75g fresh coriander

3g peppercorns, plus extra for finishing the dish

3g mint seed

75g fresh mint

10ml vinegar

5ml honey

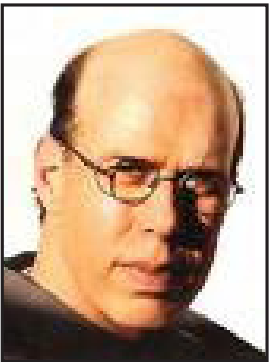
Olive oil

Wash the lentils and put them into a saucepan with 2 liters of cold water. Bring to the boil, and skim off the scum. When the water has cleared, add the leek and half of the fresh coriander. Grind the spices and the other herbs, and add them with the garum, vinegar and defrutum to the pan. Let the lentils simmer until they are almost cooked. Check the pan every now and then to ensure that the water has not evaporated. At the last minute add the olive oil, the freshly ground pepper and the remainder of the chopped coriander.

About the Authors



LARRY GELBART (*Book*) wrote the book for the musicals *City of Angels* and *The Conquering Hero*. His other stage credits include *Sly Fox*, *Mastergate*, *Jump* and *Power Failure*. Among his other credits are "Caesar's Hour," "M*A*S*H," "United States" and "Barbarians at the Gate" for television; in feature films, the screenplays for *The Wrong Box*; *Movie, Movie*; *Oh, God!* and *Tootsie*.



BURT SHEVELOVE (*Book*) (1915-1982) first brought comedy to Broadway in 1948 when he directed and wrote material for the successful revue *Small Wonder*. After winning a Tony with Larry Gelbart for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, he directed the award-winning productions of *Hallelujah Baby!*; *No, No, Nanette*; and an earlier revival of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* with Phil Silvers. He then adapted and directed Aristophanes' *The Frogs* with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, at the Yale University swimming pool. The last Broadway show he directed was *Happy New Year*, a musical he created from Cole Porter songs and Philip Barry's *Holiday*. For the screen, he co-authored and co-produced *The Wrong Box*. He contributed prodigiously to television, producing, directing and writing hundreds of shows starring, among others, Jack Benny, Art Carney, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra and Barbra Streisand and winning for them many awards, including an Emmy and a Peabody.



STEPHEN SONDHEIM (*Music & Lyrics*) wrote the music and lyrics for *Saturday Night*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Frogs*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *Into the Woods*, *Assassins*, *Passion*, and *Road Show*, as well as lyrics for *West Side Story*, *Gypsy*, *Do I Hear a Waltz?*, and additional lyrics for *Candide*. *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Marry Me a Little*, *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow*, *Putting It Together* and *Moving On* are anthologies of his work as composer and lyricist. For films, he composed the score of *Stavisky*, background music for *Reds* and songs for *Dick Tracy* and the television production "Evening Primrose." He co-authored the film *The Last of Sheila* and the play *Getting Away With Murder*. Mr. Sondheim is on the council of the Dramatists Guild, having served as its president from 1973 to 1981.

Production View



Scenic artists add sheets of foam to the structures, lay out the stones, and begin to carve.



Once the foam is carved the scenic artists apply a layer of Foam Coat to help protect and texturize the foam. Next, a texture mixture is applied consisting of glue and sand.



The scenic artists apply more texture and depth to the stones.



Scenic artists apply a base coat of paint to the stones.



Next, glazes are added to the stones.



Color is then applied to the stones.

Interesting Facts

- Zero Mostel won a Tony for his portrayal of Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. However, he was the creator's third choice for the role.
- Every actor who has opened the lead role of Pseudolus on Broadway has won a Tony Award for his performance.
- The role of Pseudolus has been played by both male and female performers, including Nathan Lane and Whoopie Goldberg.
- At the time of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*'s inception Stephan Sondheim was a relative newcomer to the Broadway scene, having recently finished the lyrics for *Gypsy* and *West Side Story*.
- The film version of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* marks the final film performance of legendary actor and physical comedian Buster Keaton.
- The West End production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* premiered in 1963 at the Strand Theater.
- In the second season of the AMC series "Mad Men," which takes place in 1962, several characters refer to the play.
- Co-writer of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Larry Gelbart, is best known for creating the acclaimed television show "M*A*S*H."

Forum Word Search

Many characters, words and themes from A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum are hidden in the following puzzle. How many can you find?

Word Bank

Forum Senex Domina Lycus Pseudolus Hero Philia	Courtesan Roman Farce Musical Gaggle Captain Comedy
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D	E	F	Y	U	J	B	G	S	E	N	D	L	Y	C	U	S	F	R	E	D
S	G	N	I	H	T	A	B	E	S	W	E	R	D	A	T	B	R	I	N	D
P	P	A	S	V	P	A	G	W	U	C	M	U	M	H	S	H	P	S	W	P
P	T	C	S	K	C	S	A	D	A	S	S	E	D	F	E	A	D	T	A	B
S	C	H	E	E	T	M	G	S	R	T	E	A	S	U	R	E	P	R	I	D
E	F	A	E	L	T	R	G	I	S	W	O	D	I	N	I	F	W	O	D	B
U	O	P	I	R	E	R	L	W	A	N	N	E	R	G	R	I	T	U	L	A
D	R	P	E	C	O	M	E	D	Y	S	A	M	D	E	A	O	Y	D	K	E
O	E	R	T	O	U	R	I	D	F	G	J	T	D	W	V	O	M	N	O	T
L	D	E	A	G	L	A	I	D	R	E	P	F	E	R	Y	O	P	A	R	F
U	G	D	I	S	P	E	A	R	D	O	P	T	E	R	L	A	W	O	N	E
S	E	L	L	Y	M	A	N	I	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	L	O	S	T	E
R	S	A	E	R	U	T	T	E	R	S	M	E	L	B	O	R	P	E	L	T
O	F	U	L	D	S	N	P	W	E	F	E	F	E	H	R	Y	T	N	H	M
F	P	H	I	L	I	A	H	L	T	O	Z	U	H	P	E	A	O	E	S	O
D	O	W	W	T	C	R	I	L	A	C	I	R	T	P	D	H	O	X	E	Z
O	R	D	I	G	A	A	B	E	N	O	O	T	L	Y	A	O	B	E	H	J
O	O	O	E	I	L	K	O	E	I	U	N	O	L	A	R	C	I	S	C	N
S	F	M	A	N	T	U	L	N	D	R	G	N	A	E	T	H	N	L	O	A
I	E	I	S	A	U	T	T	E	R	T	N	D	F	O	I	O	O	I	H	I
G	A	N	L	L	T	S	O	S	O	E	I	E	O	F	F	O	Y	B	E	S
N	R	A	P	E	C	P	U	S	I	S	R	F	K	P	O	I	T	O	J	K
A	D	D	T	P	R	O	N	F	T	A	T	L	I	E	I	R	H	Y	Z	A
D	T	C	N	P	A	X	A	R	C	N	A	O	N	L	N	Z	U	V	O	T
A	I	O	E	A	F	E	I	E	U	D	H	O	H	P	H	N	C	M	T	S
C	H	U	M	F	A	R	C	E	D	O	S	F	T	R	T	A	T	O	I	O

Word Search – Solution

											L	Y	C	U	S			
P																		
S		H																
E			E															
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