A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Book by: Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart
Music and Lyrics by: Stephen Sondheim
Directed by Sarah Powers

This musical is produced by arrangement with, and the dialogue and music material furnished by MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL, INC., 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

Please note:
Photographic and recording devices are strictly prohibited.
No food or beverages may be taken into the Burlington Road Building Theater Laboratory.
There is no smoking permitted inside the Burlington Road Building.
"Our goal was not to modernize the master... What we hoped to prove was that Plautus’s characters (always one-dimensional) and his style of plotting (which could be as complicated as a Rubik’s cube) were timeless. If the three of us occasionally resembled croquet wickets during our labors, it’s because we spent so much time bending over backward to avoid using anachronisms.” - Larry Gelbart

I have had the privilege of working on both this production and an honors thesis in ancient comedy this year. After reading all 21 surviving plays of Plautus, I realized the true brilliance of this show. Not only does it use many of his plot devices and characters, but it also captures his spirit and style.

Unlike the Greek New Comedy from which it took its plots, Roman Comedy grew from a long tradition of improvisational comedy, Athenian farce. We see in Plautus and in A Funny Thing... the results of this inheritance: the plays are pervaded by improvisational elements, moments when something goes wrong and the plotting character, usually a tricky slave, must think on his feet and quickly make up a new plan. Roman Comedy also explores a technique called metathrater, theater aware of its own theatricality. The writers of this musical capitalize on this style element as well, particularly in their facilitation of strong interplay between actors and audience. We also see in Pseudolus a figure of a director, moving his actors around the stage to perform his plots.

You may be surprised to learn that this musical owes so much to ancient texts. It seems in many ways thoroughly modern—so many of its gags seem to be straight out of vaudeville. I think this is a testament to the wide influence and timeless appeal of Plautus.

This production owes so much to the tireless efforts of everyone listed in this program. In particular, I don’t think I’ve ever worked with a cast and crew that maintained such a great attitude throughout the process. That said, I think a few special thanks are appropriate.

I’m not sure this show would have come together without Beth Newman’s work as choreographer. After spending the summer dancing around her living room, she created dances that capture the spirit of the show and each particular moment. As musical director, Preston Goodson has put in countless hours, teaching music, assembling the band, and rehearsing his own role (Hero). My three stage managers have done a great job on their first Emory show. Being an SM myself, I am so grateful for the pleasant surprise of three new protégés. Mike Arnold’s commitment to this show continues to impress me. I know I can always count on him, whether his work takes him onstage or behind the scenes. Dave Quay’s impeccable sense of comedy was invaluable in rehearsals. Matthew LeVine actually arranged and composed dance music for us, when we realized Gymnasium’s dance had only one measure of music in the score. Finally, special thanks to Steve the rubber chicken for inspiring us everyday.

And now I invite you to sit back, relax, and enjoy a comedy tonight!

Sarah Powers
Director
**Cast**

(in order of appearance)

Prologus, Pseudokus
The Proteans

Senex
Domina
Hero
Hysterium
Lycus
Tintinabula
Panacea
The Geminiae

Vibrata
Gymnasia
Philia
Erronius
Miles Gloriosus

**Production Staff**

Director
Assistant Director
Co-Stage Managers
Assistant Stage Manager
Musical Director
Choreographer
Technical Director
Asst Technical Director
Co-Lighting Designers
Costume Designer
Assistant Costumer
Set Designer
Props Designer
Properties Assistants
Sound Designer
Master Electrician
Master Carpenter
Light Board Operator
Live Sound Effects
Spot Operators

Geminiae Dance Music Arranger
Dance Music Arranger/Composer
Fight Choreographer
Build Crew

Pianist
Trumpets
Drums, Percussion
Publicity

Programs
Box Office
House Managers

ad hoc productions board

President
Production Manager
Treasurer
Secretary:
Members at Large

special thanks

The *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* company extends its gratitude to those who have offered their support throughout this production.

We thank you for helping us do the work that we love.

College Council
Magnum Production Companies
H. Bart McGeehon
Bill Moore
Louise Pratt
Robert Schultz
Niall Slater

Rosalind Staib
Theater Emory
Justin Schwartz
Scott Stewart
The Emory Wheel
Judy Zanotti

*Denotes members of the national theater honors society, Alpha Psi Omega
Stephanie Anderson (Co-Stage Manager) is a freshman. She has performed in musical theatre in Los Angeles with LiMo Productions. Her favorite roles were the Scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz and Chrissy in Hair. She co-stage managed and did stage crew for other LiMo Productions shows, most notably Eufa this past summer.

Mike Arnold (Pseudolus, Sound Designer, Member at Large) is graduating in the spring with majors in Chemistry and Theater Studies. He was active in both performance and technical work at Oxford College where he was the president of OESA. After a year of technical work with Ad Hoc he has returned to the stage for possibly his final performance. Thanks to everyone in the show for being the best group to work with.

Alex Brooks (Miles Glorious) likes attention. Look at him. Clap for him. And forgive his singing. Kreons he would like to include are TE's Midsummer, Leap, and Roberto Zucco. Enjoy the show.

Stephanie Bruno (Props Designer) is a sophomore Biology and Theater Studies major. Last year with Ad Hoc she was Sally in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown! and Ti Moune in Once on this Island, but this is her first time doing behind the scenes work at Emory. How'd she do?

Megan Channell (Panaeas) is a sophomore Theater Studies major from Alabama. Emory credits include: Equus, Once on this Island, The Importance of Being Earnest, the Lenaia Festival of New Student Plays and TE's Contemporary Theater from India. Thanks to friends and family!

Mac Clebone (Erronius), a sophomore from Youngstown, Ohio makes his Ad Hoc debut. Mac played Geese's Doody at the Youngstown Playhouse. Throughout high school he competed in duet acting. Special thanks to parents Arnold and Bettina Clebone, sister Anna, speech partner Erica, Terry Murcko, Bob Vargo and Maureen Collins.

Lauren Daughtery (Costume) is a senior Art History and Economics major. She has previously designed and built costumes for Ad Hoc's Gypsy and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown! and designed costumes for Theater Emory's Leap. Last year she worked as Costume Shop Assistant for Theater Emory.

John Evenden (Asst. Director, Fight Choreographer) is a senior at Emory and has participated in a great number of theatrical projects in many capacities. He was more than happy to help in this production, but reminded the audience that all credit should go to the director, Sarah, and the actors and crew. Enjoy!

Owen Farcy (Spot Operator) is a senior Biology major and acted in the Lenaia Festival of New Student Plays last spring.

Jane Farrington (Vibrato) is a sophomore. Last semester she excelled in pawing at the ground and pelvic movements in Equus and Once on this Island, respectively.

This is, in fact, the twentieth time that she has played a courtesan. If anyone is interested in dating Jane, her phone number is 404-315-7241.

Penny Flick (Gemma) is a College freshman. She actively participated in the theatre department in high school, performing in over 23 productions by the end of her senior year. During the summer she works at a drama camp for children, serving as counselor, choreographer, and assistant musical director.

Cosme Gardner (Technical Director, Master Carpenter) has been doing technical theatre work for the past five years. He has worked with many theatres around the Atlanta area, including a summer as a repertory carpenter for the Georgia Shakespeare Festival. He is currently Production Manager for Starving Artist Productions at Emory and is very pleased to be working again with Ad Hoc Productions. Hope you enjoy the show, and check out our shows next semester too.

Preston Goodson (Hero, Musical Director), a senior Anthropology and Theater Studies major, in his first time as a musical director, is absolutely astounded at the musical and theatrical talent of this cast and crew. This has been one of the most pleasant experiences of his life, and since he's so nice, free love for all! Except for his housemates...they have to pay.

Catherine Gray (Gymnasia) is a senior Chemistry major and Theater Studies minor. While this is only her second stage role at Emory (her first being Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream freshman year), Catherine has done a lot behind the scenes, from stage managing, to sets and costumes. Her most recent endeavor was acting as the costume department for The Importance of Being Earnest.

Andrea Gunadi (Asst Stage Manager) is making her Emory debut and she's very excited that it is in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Somehow, she has managed to juggle stage managing with school and volunteering. Andrea would like to thank everyone for coming to the show tonight and sends her love to family and friends in the audience.

Jason Haensly (Trumpet) There once was a fella named Jay, Who just couldn't write bios, okay? Whenever he'd try, He'd get dejected and cry, So he decided to not be cliché

Trish Harris (Co-Lighting Designer) is back designing for her third Ad Hoc production. An Art History major from NYC, she is proud to say that at the time of printing, she has yet to electrocute herself or any of her colleagues. Trish would like to thank Martin and Judy and congratulate Sarah.

Natalie Hunter (Proleat) is a freshman who is currently undecided on her major. This is her first experience in Emory theater. Other shows she has been involved with recently are Godspell (herself), M*A*S*H (Fritzi), Bye Bye Birdie (Helen), and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Baker).
Cathy Jones (Set Designer) is a junior who dubs herself as Procrasinatural Extraordinaire. She is majoring in Theater Studies with an emphasis in design and minorin minor in French. She has enjoyed spending late nights in Schwartz 311 working on set models and listening to Christina complain about the lack of paint colors available. Often heard saying: "I'll have it for you next week... really." 

Jenny Lancaster (Costume Assistant) is a sophomore from New York City. She is a Creative Writing major. She worked on props for SAP's The Importance of Being Earnest, and looks forward to acting with TE in Shakespeare's Fools.

Joseph Langham (Senex) is fairly new to the theatre experience. A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, is only his third play. His first was Othello and his second was Once Upon a Mattress, both performed at Oxford College. However, while in High School, Joseph had the opportunity of being an extra in the Disney film Remember the Titans.

Matthew LeVine (Lyceus) is making his debut at Emory in this production, though he has much experience as an active participant of Thespian troupe 2559 of St. Petersburg High School in Florida, where he not only performed in shows but also competed at the district and state level Thespian competitions.

Cat Lyons (Props Assistant, Member at Large) is a highly creative, terribly enthusiastic sprite in her 4th year at Emory, cherishing some of her last moments with Ad Hoc and maintaining her last few grains of sanity admirably. She would like to give a shout-out to Psi Phi (Geek not Greek!), JACC (ksaf!), and the intrepid ladies of The Gathering ("hand spasm!!"). GODS FOREVER!

Ellen McCauley (Philia) is a junior Theater Studies major. She read in Dating and Mating in Modern Times (Mimi) and in Leap (Maria) in Brave New Works 2002. Ellen also played Cobweb in Theater Emory's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Last spring Ellen's play Two Engagements Too Many was read at the Lenaia Festival of New Student Plays. Ellen loves pink and lemons.

Martin McCullagh (Co-Lighting Designer) is a senior majoring in Chemistry and Math. Forum will be the fourth show that has worked on with Ad Hoc. Previously, he worked as the electrician for (Not) Only To Entertain and Gypsy and designed the lighting for You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!

Jason Najjoum (Co-Stage Manager) is a freshman Music major. In high school, not only did he enjoy performing (Arvide in Guys & Dolls, Ensemble in Working, Reverend Moore in Footloose, Cinderella's Prince in Into the Woods), Jason was the producer/publicity director for Rumors, Plaza Suite, Footloose, & Working. Break a leg!

Alexandra Newell (House Manager, Secretary) is a senior theater major from Key West, Florida. She most recently appeared in Theater Emory's reading of Voices Underwater. She also directed Ad Hoc Productions' last project, Once on This Island. She has served on the Ad Hoc board for two years, as treasurer and secretary. Congratulations to the cast and crew of Forum on a job well done!

Beth Newman (Choreographer, Spot Operator, Treasurer) is a junior English major from Mobile, Alabama. Previous Ad Hoc experience includes (Not) Only To Entertain (Ensemble), You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown! (Assistant Stage Manager), Once on This Island (Anathea), and a very special performance as the rear of the dancing cow in Gypsy. This is her first choreographic endeavor, so please applaud loudly.

Robert Ooi (Protea) acted in high school on a dare and ended up with a cardboard crown and a typecast he has been running from ever since. He is a Political Science major and Theater Studies minor, a cynical combination to be sure. His college productions include Museum, Twelfth Night, Othello, Once Upon a Mattress, and Jesus Christ: Four Star Chef.

Sarah Powers (Director, Production Manager) is a senior from Chattanooga, TN majoring in Classics and Theater Studies. This is her sixth Ad Hoc show and the first she hasn't stage managed! She would like to give special thanks to her amazing cast and production staff but especially to her choreographer and musical director, who truly dedicated themselves to this show from day one.

Dave Quay (Hysterium) is a sophomore from Amherst, NH. At Emory, he has appeared in SAP's Equus (Dr. Martin Dysart); Ad Hoc's Once on This Island (Hydrotechnician 2); TE's Roberto Zucco (Old Gentleman); and with Emory's improv comedy group, Rathskellar. In his spare time, Dave sculpts topiary.

Kate Southern (Domini) is a freshman whose major is undecided. Her theater background at Emory includes The Importance of Being Earnest (Lane). She would like to thank Mommy and Daddy for letting her call home to whine. Master Shake for cheering her up, and the Complex Cooters for always supplying chocolate.

Amanda Van Vleet (Tintinabula) soon realized that she was typecast for her natural ability to be a courtesan, and of course, for her "pelvis of a camel," so much so that she decided to pursue this as a career and make the most of her Emory education. Amanda was formerly a member of Thespian Troupe 2559.

Christina Wallace (Programs, Box Office, President) is pleased to present Forum to you this evening. A senior Theater Studies and Math major, she has worked with Ad Hoc in many capacities over the last three years, most notably as President of the Board and Director of You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown! She commends Sarah for her exceptional commitment to Ad Hoc and congratulates her on this monumental production.

Liz Willis (Protea) is a junior. This is her first production at Emory. At Oxford she acted in Museum, Twelfth Night, Laramie Project, the One Act Festivals, and Othello. Last year she was President of OESA and Assistant Director for Once Upon a Mattress.

Kristen Wood (Gemini) is a senior in the Goizueta Business school with area depth in Organization and Management as well as Marketing. She is from Atlanta and went to Woodward Academy High School. Since attending Emory she has participated in Iphigenia in Aulis, A Midsummer Night's Dream, the One Act Play Festival, Museum, and Dating and Mating in Modern Times.
The Oxford Continuee Association would like to congratulate these following Oxford alumni on a wonderful performance. We wish them the best of luck!

Mike Arnold
Alex Brooks
John Evenden
Preston Goodson
Catherine Gray
William Haynes
Joseph Langham
Christiaan Mader
Rob Ooi
Liz Willis
Kristen Wood

Eta Sigma Phi sends our best wishes to our noble president and the director of this show:

Sarah Powers

We admire you for your accomplishments and character.

The Classics Department Congratulates the Newly Initiated Members of Eta Sigma Phi
the National Classics Honor Society

φιλοσοφούμεν και φιλοκαλούμεν

Timothy Balskus
Michael Bauman
Robert Bullard
Rosanne Cross
Adam Davie
Timothy Donahue
Meaghann Guyote
Alex Gyfopoulos
Steven Haag
Sarah Landis
Jason Merle
We love you, Sarah!

--Mom, Dad, Kelly, and Stephen

We love you, Pincus!

Jonna & Denny
JACC invites you to Anime Screenings!
Every Tuesday 8-10pm
White Hall 110 (usually)
Email Michael W. Norman for details!
Psi Phi Card Game Night!
Hang out with your favorite oddballs every Thursday at 8:00pm.
DUC room 363
Remember: Geek, not Greek!

Theater Emory presents:
Approaching Shakespeare
Part I
Antony and Cleopatra
Directed by John Ammerman
Open reading, Saturday, November 20, 7:30pm
FREE!!!
Schwartz Center Theater Lab
An investigation of Shakespeare's sensual world

Part 2
Shakespeare's Fools
Conceived by Alice N. Benston
Directed by Vincent Murphy and Christina Wallace
Open reading, Sunday, November 21, 7:30pm
FREE!!!
Schwartz Center Theater Lab
The changing face of the fool in several Shakespeare plays

The Fantasticks
Directed by Jon Herzog
Feb 17-20 and 24-26

Ad hoc productions is pleased to announce its Spring Musical:

Auditions will be held December 7 and 8, 2004
Details will be posted on the Ad Hoc Learnlink Conference
You can find it by going to Public Conferences >> Student Groups >> Arts >> Ad Hoc