

The City Theatre Company presents

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart

The Cast

SenexCarl Gonzales
Domina.....Jennifer Tucker
Hero.....Richard B. Hall
Hysterium.....Jeff Phillips
Pseudolus.....R. Michael Clinkscales
LycusBill Claussen
Tintinabula.....Phoebe Moore
Panacea.....Hanna Haide
Geminae 1.....Emily Villarreal
Geminae 2.....Cherry Mendoza
Vibrata.....Lariena Brown
Gymnasia.....Adrienne Brown
PhiliaBecky Musser
Erronius.....LeRoy Nienow
Miles Gloriosus.....Devin Adams
Protean 1.....Nicholas Gollighugh
Protean 2.....Gregory Driscoll
Protean 3.....Creighton Moench

The Setting: A street corner in Ancient Rome.

The show is divided into two acts - Act I is one hour and ten minutes and Act II forty minutes. There is a fifteen minute intermission between acts.

**The production is produced by arrangement with
Music Theatre International.**

Special thanks to.

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2014 – 2015 Season Tickets.

Bill and Karen Warren Mark Rumble De Sellers Dan Eggleston
Clifford Spinac and Steve Lopez Jesse and Mary Wright Lee Pepe
Jonathan and Lourdes Wooley Ed and Jo Ann Farrell Irene Gonzalez
David and Shelia Endres Jesse and Doris Shanks Joseph and Zosia Hunt
Lisa Nieman and Warren Durham Gladys Almaguer Bobby Hudson John Crow
Milton Carr Shane McCain Linda Harden Linda Lara Joann Lovelace
Jean and Aaron Yarbrough Esther Alston Nancy Mutscher David Elias
Gary Wheat Michael Strange and Maggie Rice David and Nancy Snow
Raynona Ham Ben Mathis Margaret McQuiston Steve and Ann Taylor
Joe and Rosalie Oliveri Susie O'Neal and Marcy Bernasconi Jeff Wenger
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City Theatre Contributors.

Rick Crowley Christine Lemp Dr. & Mrs. Ben Berkovsky Carmina Eaton
Mary Ann Crowley Jennifer Bednorz Ashley Jorge Jonathan and Lourdes Wooley
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Our Funny Thing Sponsorship.

We can't thank them enough!

David Gezana Frederick Cloud Bobby Hudson David Soileau
Jesse and Mary Wright Jesse and Doris Shanks Lisa Nieman
Warren Durham Steve and Ann Taylor Janice Spelman

The Funny Thing Band.

Clifford Bond – Piano Ian Geyer - Drums
Chris La Cava - Bass

Funny Thing Cast and Crew.

R. Michael Clinkscales has multiple degrees from 2 mid-western universities (K.A.L.A.M.A.Z.O.O. oh what a guy in Kalamazoo, zoo, zoo, zoo) where he studied theatre, music, and dance among other worldly things. He finally returned too, and settled in central Texas 23 years ago. Favorite roles include Max Prince in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* and the Baker in *Into The Woods (City Theatre)*, Brian in *Ave Q (Austin Theatre Project, B. Iden Payne Best Production of a Musical)*, and Dr. Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein: the Musical (Wimberley Players)*. However, R. Michael's all-time favorite role is as husband and father (children 18, 15, 11 and 10 y/o, husband 48).

Richard Hall is a graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park with a B.A. in Theatre and Classical Literature and Languages. This is his debut in Austin but he has performed in several shows in Washington D.C. including *Pippin (Pippin)*, *Les Miserables (Grantaire)*, and *On the Town (Gabey)*. For JP.

Becky Musser has most recently appeared as Cassandra in The Baron's Men's production of *The Trojan Women*. Other favorite roles include Lady Percy in *Something for Nothing's Henry IV Part 1*; Hodel in *Trinity Street Players'/AJRT's Fiddler on the Roof*; Nerissa in *The Merchant of Venice* with The Baron's Men; and Charmian and Telusa in *Poor Shadows of Elysium's Antony and Cleopatra* and *Gallathea*. Becky is thrilled to be branching out from classical theatre and getting back to her musical theatre roots with this show! Thanks (always and forever) to the ever loving and supportive Matthew.

Carl Gonzales has acting credits including: *The Daily Show with John Stewart, Jarritos! short film for Cannes film festival, Chevy Spark*. Theatre includes *Die Already!*, *The Normal Heart (Ben Weeks)*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream (Snug Backyard Story (Spivak)*. Represented by Collier Talent Agency. Carl would like to thank his wife, Lacey, for she is proof of heaven; Mom for always telling me to open doors; and my friends and family for always keeping me company! Don't miss Carl in his next project, Last Act Theatre Company's *Stalking John Barrowman*. Ohdragontheatre.org

Bill Claussen is thrilled to be losing his virginity onstage at the City Theater—that is to say, this is his first time playing on stage here! He is a familiar face on Wimberley stages—where he first worked with R Michael last summer as Victor in *Young Frankenstein: the Musical*. Bill also appeared recently as Thenardier in *Les Miserables*, Claudius in *Hamlet*, Antrobus in *Skin of Our Teeth*, and Master Ford in *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Bill shares his theater bug with both of teenage children, is a recent convert to extreme excitement of Ren-style Shakespeare, and spends ridiculous amounts of time honing numerous short story, poetry, and songwriting projects.

Funny Thing Musical Numbers.

Act I

"Comedy Tonight" – Pseudolus and Company

"Love, I Hear" – Hero

"Free" – Pseudolus and Hero

"The House of Marcus Lycus" – Lycus and Pseudolus, Courtesans

"Lovely" – Philia and Hero

"Pretty Little Picture" – Pseudolus, Hero, and Philia

"Everybody Ought to Have a Maid" – Senex, Pseudolus,
Hysterium and Lycus

"I'm Calm" – Hysterium

"Impossible" – Senex and Hero

"Bring Me My Bride" – Miles Gloriosus and Company

Act II

"That Dirty Old Man" – Domina

"That'll Show Him" – Philia

"Lovely" (reprise) – Pseudolus and Hysterium

"Funeral Song" – Pseudolus, Miles and Company

"Finale" – Company



Devin Adams is a graduate of Prairie View A & M University with his Bachelor of Arts in Music, where he was an active member of the resident theatre company, The Charles Gilpin Players. While there he appeared in the *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Lysander, *Jelly's Last Jam* as Buddy Bolden, *Spell #7* as Lou, and *Once on this Island* as Daniel Beauhomme. This is his first production with City Theatre. He would like to thank his family and family for their support and encouragement. Without you all, he would be nowhere.

Jennifer Tucker most recently appeared as Mary Sunshine in the Georgetown Palace Theatre's production of *Chicago*. She has been part of the ensembles of numerous productions, including *Shrek*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Spamalot*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Jennifer is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, and holds a doctorate from UT-Austin in vocal pedagogy. She is thrilled to be part of this wonderful production of *Forum* at City Theatre.

Jeff Phillips is thrilled to be returning for his second show at City Theater having played Officer Barrel in last summer's *Urinetown*. He has performed, conducted, arranged and composed for the Capital City Men's Chorus now starting their 27th season. He also sings with Austin Opera having performed in the Texas premiere of *Dead Man Walking* and the American premiere of Philip Glass's *Waiting for Barbarians*.

LeRoy Nienow is a playwright, lyricist, actor & director from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He's done over 100 musical productions nationwide with stars like Ethel Merman, Chita Rivera, Dianna Ross and many others. LeRoy is best known for his original Musical, "The Gospel Accordin' to Texas!", which has been seen by almost 50,000 people throughout Central Texas. He has performed as "Falstaff" for Joe Falocco in Wimberley, last year he played "Lazar Wolf" in the 50th Anniversary Production of "Fiddler on the Roof" and he recently did "Doc Gibbs" for the 75th Anniversary of "Our Town". This is LeRoy's first production with The City Theater and he's delighted to join this talented cast and crew. LeRoy and his wife Maggie have been married for 33 years and have a son, John "Luke" who is a Jazz Guitar Major at Texas State University.

Emily Villarreal is the forever recipient of the Twenty-four Carat Crazy Cat Lady Award (established by herself) and is all a tingle over *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum!* When she isn't on the stage or waiting tables at The Lucky Robot, she's typically sighted beneath an ocean of blankets snuggling with her feline cherubs...or scrounging in the kitchen for half empty bottles of wine. Emily would like to thank The Lucky Robot for supporting her craft, Kera and Zach for being outstanding citizens, and the entire company for all of the giggles and awkward silences. Cheers!

Adrienne Brown has appeared in numerous improv shows around Austin including Hideout Theater's *What The F&*!* and *Reform School for Wayward Girls*. This year also marked her first appearance in a scripted production as Avery in Southwest Theatre's production of *Rapture, Blister, Burn*. In addition to theater, Adrienne is also a founding member of Honey Legs Media, a sketch comedy duo formed in Austin. She is very grateful to be performing in her first musical with such a talented cast and is thankful to her always supportive family and friends.

Phoebe Moore is delighted to return to City Theatre in *Forum*. She was last seen on the City Theatre stage in *Urinetown: The Musical*. Most recently, she appeared as Mariana in *Measure for Measure* with The Baron's Men and in *Jesus Christ Superstar* with the Georgetown Palace Theatre. Other credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Cinderella, Or It's Okay to Be Different* with the Georgetown Palace and the West Coast premiere of *William Shakespeare's Star Wars* with the San Diego Shakespeare Society. She would like to thank her parents, her HLP, and both her dogs for all their love and support.

Lariena Brown is thrilled to be back at City Theatre, you may recognize her as ChaCha from 2013's *Grease*. You may have also recently seen her dancing in the Wimberley Players production of *Catch Me If You Can* or as Elizabeth in *Young Frankenstein: the musical*. When she isn't rehearsing, she enjoys clogging, dance classes, and singing all the parts of her favorite musicals. Lariena wishes to thank the cast and production team for the fun times and her family for their boundless love.

Hanna Haide has appeared in numerous productions in and around the Austin area. Past roles include Isabella in The Baron's Men's OP production of *The Spanish Tragedie* by Thomas Kyd and Portia in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. Some of her other works include Susanne in *Don't Dress For Dinner*, Sylvia in *The Tender Trap*, Margo in *Your Flake or Mine* and Louise Parradine in *Postmortem* with Way Off Broadway Theatre.

Creighton Moench is performing with The City Theatre for the first time in this production and looks forward to the chance to do so again in the future. His previous roles include Perchik in Trinity St. Players/Austin Jewish Repertory Theater's Production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Georgetown Palace Theater. He was also in the Hideout Theater's Sci-fi-themed, improvised musical *Song Runner*. When not on stage he has been working, gradually, towards a PhD in Ethnomusicology at the University of Texas, Austin.

Cherry Mendoza is a graduate of the University of Texas with her Bachelor's of Arts in Theatre and dance. She has appeared in shows while at UT, including Alpha Psi Omega's presentation of *Spring Awakening* (Wendla), UT's musical cabaret *Curtain Up!*, and the UT mainstage show of *In the Heights* (Vanessa), which was nominated for several B. Iden Payne awards for the 2014 season. She has also appeared in *The Stories of Us*, presented as part of the Latin@ New Works Festival at the Mexican American Cultural Center. She is thrilled to be part of the *Forum* cast and cannot wait to see what her future holds here in the Austin theatre community.

Gregory Driscoll is proud to be making his debut into the Austin theatre scene! Greg is currently in rehearsals for the national premiere of *Stalking John Barrowman* (which opens on Sept. 24th) in which he plays the lead role of Jamie. Greg has been in multiple shows, his favorite being Matt in *The Fantasticks* over in San Angelo, Texas. When not acting, Greg is working hard at the Driskill Hotel's 1886 Cafe and Bakery and Lucky Robot. Greg plans on moving to New York City in the summer of 2016 to pursue his acting career.

Nick Gollihugh is a student at Texas State University. He has previously appeared in such shows as *Twelfth Night*, *The Crucible*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He is excited to be working with City Theatre for his first ever show outside of school, and would like to thank everybody involved and you, the audience, for making it a phenomenal experience.

Missy Barnes (Production Director) is an Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance at Rollins College. She holds an M.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Roosevelt University in Chicago and a B.A. in Drama from Loyola University New Orleans. In addition to her degrees, Missy is an ATI certified teacher of the Alexander Technique. Missy has worked for many years as a director, choreographer, actor, singer, dancer, and movement coach on a variety of productions. Some recent favorite theatrical experiences include directing *Guys and Dolls*, *Into the Woods*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Legally Blonde: The Musical*.

Joe Falocco (Assistant Director) is an Assistant Professor of English at Texas State University and the author of *Reimagining Shakespeare's Playhouse* (Boydell and Brewer, 2010). A specialist in early modern drama, Dr. Falocco has directed professional and university productions of *The Comedy of Errors*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Henry V*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. He is also a proud member of Actors' Equity and has performed in professional productions of *Golf: The Musical*, *The Fantasticks*, and *Guys and Dolls*, as well as many, many dinner-theatre stagings of *Fiddler on the Roof*. This is his first foray into directing for the musical stage.

Production Crew.

Production Director – Missy Barnes
Assistant Director – Joe Falocco
Musical Director – Clifford Bond
Choreography – Missy Barnes
Dance Captain – Lariena Brown
Stage Manager – Gwendolyn Balboa
Set Design and Construction – Andy Berkovsky,
Adam Witko, and Carlo Dringenberg
Light Design – Andy Berkovsky
Costume Design – Bert Flanagan
Scenic Painting – Jennifer Cunningham
House and Box Office Management – Kate Knappek
Publicity Design – Rachel McGinnis Meissner
Show Photography – Aleks Ortynski

A special thanks to The Wimberley Players and Kid's Acting,

A funny thing about *A Funny Thing*

Comedy does not typically age well. One need only watch a two-week-old episode of *The Daily Show* and realize how many of the jokes are no longer funny. *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* is a happy exception to this rule. Written in 1962, *Forum* draws on the work of the ancient Roman playwright Plautus (254-184 BCE). Plautus' plays have been a model for many playwrights, including Shakespeare, whose *Comedy of Errors* is based on the *Menaechmi*. Plautus also inspired many genres of semi-improvised comedy, including Commedia dell'Arte, Vaudeville, and its decadent cousin burlesque (a medium in which many of *Forum*'s original cast began their careers). While it is politically incorrect in today's climate of cultural relativism to suggest that any work of art is "universal," you will nevertheless laugh tonight at the same jokes that tickled Roman audiences two centuries before the assassination of Caesar.

Written by a team of writers that included television legend Larry Gelbart, the script for *Forum* is strong enough to hold the stage even when performed with no music. Once the brilliant songs by Stephen Sondheim are added, *Forum* becomes a bona fide masterpiece. The challenge in staging such a work is to do justice to the fabulous material; and we are confident that our talented company is equal to this task.

Missy Barnes, Director

The 2015 – 2016 City Theatre Season

Ain't we havin' some fun now!

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The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940

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The Boys Next Door

Arden of Faversham (Austin premiere)

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