

## About the Show:

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum is one of the best musicals ever written for the Broadway stage. Funny, fast-paced, witty, irreverent, it takes comedy back to its roots, combining situations from the time-tested, 2000-year-old humor of Roman playwrights with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville. A non-stop laugh-fest in which Pseudolus, a crafty slave, struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan named Philia, for his young master, Hero, in exchange for freedom. The plot twists and turns with cases of mistaken identity, slamming doors, and a showgirl or two. This unforgettable musical features music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, and allows a terrific ensemble of comedic actors to shine –” something for everyone, a comedy tonight! “

## DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTERS

Pseudolus (also introduces play as Prologus): A Roman slave, owned by Hero, who seeks to win his freedom by helping his young master win the heart of Philia. Quick-witted, scheming, childlike spirit.

Gender: Male Baritone

Age: 30 to 50

Vocal range top: A4, bottom: A2

Senex: An old man and father to Hero and husband to Domina.

Gender: Male

Age: 45 to 70

Vocal range top: G4, bottom: B2

Domina: Senex's wife. A shrewish woman who dominates to the point of answering herself the questions she asks of others. Loves her husband deep down, but is outwardly controlling, demanding, and manipulative.

Gender: Female Mezzo Soprano

Age: 40 to 50

Vocal range top: F5, bottom: B3

Hero: The young son of Senex and Domina. He falls in love with Philia and agrees to give Pseudolus his freedom if he can help Hero woo her. Practical, privileged, romantic.

Gender: Male

Age: 20 to 30 Tenor

Vocal range top: G4, bottom: B2

Hysterium: The chief slave in the House of Senex. Believes he is in control, but is actually Pseudolus' puppet to carry out his schemes. Anxious, conservative, loyal. He desperately wants everything to be in order.

Gender: Male Tenor

Age: 40 to 55

Vocal range top: G5, bottom: D4

Erronius: An old man, searching for his lost children.

Gender: Male Bass

Age: 45 to 70

Vocal range top: G4, bottom: B2

Miles Gloriosus: The archetype of the braggart soldier. A captain in the Roman army to whom Marcus Lycus has promised Philia. Commanding, boastful, manly and strong.

Gender: Male Bass

Age: 25 to 35

Vocal range top: F3, bottom: B3

Lycus: The owner of the house of Courtesans. Always out to make a profit, but also wants to provide good on what his business offers.

Gender: Male Baritone

Age: 40 to 50

Vocal range top: F4, bottom: A3

Philia: A virgin in the House of Lycus whom we also find out is Erronius' daughter. She is promised to Miles and vows to give him bodily what he has paid for, but loves Hero and promises he will always have her heart. Young, pretty, devoted. An archetypal ingénue.

Gender: Female Soprano

Age: 18 to 21

Vocal range top: G5, bottom: B3

Ensemble:

Courtesans -Female Dancers

The Proteans - Either Gender/Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Bass Soldiers