

“Tonight, we are pleased to announce...a comedy!”

# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

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

## The Community Theatre of Howell, Audition Information

Want to be part of the fun? Read on:

This high energy musical, set in ancient Rome (togas!), is overflowing with comic devices – jokes, puns, stand-up, tongue twisters, double-entendre, absurdity, disguise, mistaken identity, slapstick and witlessness.

### PLOT

In a desperate attempt to win his freedom, a slave tries to help his young master win the love of a virgin courtesan while outsmarting the boy's parents, the slave master and a soldier. Meanwhile, an old man searches for his lost children, a nervous slave cross-dresses to avert trouble and a domineering wife suspects her husband of infidelity. There is some adult material that may not be deemed by all as appropriate for those under age 18.

### CHARACTERS

Auditions include: vocal (v), dance (d) and reading (r)

Name	Vocal range	Part Size	Dance	Age Range	Audition w/
PSEUDOLUS	tenor or baritone(A to high F#)	Lead	Light	20-60	v, d, r
Notes: A sneaky slave and playful prankster who desperately wants his freedom. Very demanding, high energy, will play <i>to</i> audience and <i>with</i> audience quite a bit. Vocal audition includes “Free” <i>and</i> “Comedy Tonight”. Be prepared with both. Dance audition is an easy soft-shoe.					
MILES GLORIOSUS	Baritone(B to high F#)	Supporting	N/A	20-45	v, r
Notes: An arrogant but strong warrior. We may play this as a smaller man whose ego makes up for his size. Audition with “Bring Me My Bride”.					
DOMINA	Mezzo (B to high F#)	Supporting	N/A	30-60	v, r
Notes: Dominating wife of Senex and ruler of the house. Will manhandle the slaves and not trust her husband's fidelity--with good reason. Audition with “That Dirty Old Man”.					
ERRONIUS	Baritone (C to high E)	Cameo	N/A	40-85	v, r
Notes: A feeble old man searching for his son and daughter who were stolen by pirates. He has very little singing. Audition with “Comedy Tonight”.					
SENEX	Tenor (Bb to high Gb)	Supporting	Light	30-65	v, d, r
Notes: An old man married to Domina and the father to Hero. Considers himself a ladies' man. Audition with “Everybody Ought to Have a Maid”. Dance audition is an easy soft-shoe.					

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MARCUS LYCUS Baritone (A to high E) Supporting Light 20-65 v, r, d  
Notes: The gullible buyer and seller of courtesans. He is a coward. Audition with "The House of Marcus Lycus". Dance audition is an easy soft-shoe.

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PHILIA Soprano (low B to high G#) Supporting Light 18-30 v, r  
Notes: A lovely but air-headed courtesan in love with Hero. Audition with "That'll Show Him".

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HERO Tenor (low B to high Gb) Supporting Light 18-30 v, r  
Notes: Pseudolus' handsome, innocent and kind master who is in love with Philia, a courtesan. Audition with "Love, I Hear".

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HYSTERIUM Tenor (low B to high G) Supporting Light 20-65 v, r, d  
Notes: The fervent leader of the slaves. He is in conflict with Pseudolus. Audition with "I'm Calm". Dance audition is an easy soft-shoe.

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3 or 4 PROTEANS Baritone/Tenor Supporting Medium all ages v, d  
(low C to high A, possibly some falsetto)  
Notes: Clown-like characters who also play Pirates, Eunuchs (very effeminate), Sailors, Soldiers, Citizens, and Slaves. We *may* cast a female. They have no dialogue. Audition with "Comedy Tonight". Dance audition is silly movement with a hint of gymnastics.

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#### COURTESANS

--Tintinabula alto/soprano (mid C to high F#) Supporting Heavy 18-30 v, d  
Notes: Middle Eastern; Heavy belly dance. Audition with "Comedy Tonight" or "I'm Lovely".

--Panacea alto/soprano (mid C to high F#) Supporting Heavy 18-30 v, d  
Notes: "The antidote for what ails you." Tame Jazz dance. Audition with "Comedy Tonight" or "I'm Lovely".

--Geminae (twins) alto/soprano (mid C to high F#) Supporting Heavy 18-30 v, d  
Notes: Lyrical dance. Audition with "Comedy Tonight" or "I'm Lovely".

--Vibrata alto/soprano (mid C to high F#) Supporting Heavy 18-30 v, d  
Notes: 'Cheetah-like; wild, heavy jazz dance. Audition with "Comedy Tonight" or "I'm Lovely".

--Gymnasia alto/soprano (mid C to high F#) Supporting Heavy 18-30 v, d  
Notes: 'Larger than life; incredible presence; possibly taller than average. Audition with "Comedy Tonight" or "I'm Lovely".

NOTE: DANCE AUDITION FOR COURTESANS WILL BE GENERIC  
INCORPORATING ALL STYLES (belly dance, jazz and lyrical).

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Audition ages for all characters are approximate. You must be 16 years old by opening night to audition and those 16-17 years old will require a parent signature.

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**Scripts, vocal selections and reading scenes are available beginning December 15, 2005 with a fully refundable deposit of \$20. Please contact Pam Medelis, Producer, at 810-229-2315 or medel3@sbcglobal.net**

