



Newsletter Volume 5 Issue 1
Editor-Diana Neumeyer

March 25, 2011

"A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM"
Book by BURT SHEVELOVE and LARRY GELBART
Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

"A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM" JULY 21-24!

"Tragedy tomorrow, comedy tonight!" Broadway's greatest farce is light, fast-paced, witty, irreverent and one of the funniest musicals ever written...the perfect escape from life's troubles. "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum" takes comedy back to its roots, combining situations from time-tested, 2000 year old comedies of Roman playwright Plautus with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville. The result is a non-stop laugh-fest in which a crafty slave (Pseudolus) struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan (Philia) for his young master (Hero), in exchange for freedom."*

Inspired by the farces of the ancient Roman playwright Plautus (251-183 BC), specifically *Pseudolus*, *Miles Gloriosus* and *Mostellaria*, it tells the bawdy story of a slave named Pseudolus and his attempts to win his freedom by helping his young master woo the girl next door. The plot displays many classic elements of

farce, including puns, the slamming of doors, cases of mistaken identity (frequently involving characters disguising themselves as one another), and satirical comments on social class. The title derives from the line that vaudeville comedians often used to begin a story: "A funny thing happened on the way to the theater".

The musical's original 1962 Broadway run won several Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Book. *A Funny Thing* has enjoyed several Broadway and West End revivals and was made into a successful film starring the original lead of the play, Zero Mostel. It is a popular choice for school and community theatre."#

Notable songs include *Everybody Ought to Have a Maid*, *Lovely*, *That Dirty Old Man*, *Bring Me My Bride* and *Free*.

* Music Theatre International
Wikipedia

AUDITIONS!

Auditions will be held for this summer's musical, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at 6:00 p.m. on May 31 and on June 1 for students and adults high school age and older.

You must be entering 9th grade next fall to audition!

You may audition on either date if necessary.

All cast members will be expected to be at all dress rehearsals and performances from July 18 through July 24. Details will be included in the audition packet, which will be available at the Park and Recreation Department on May 14.

Call the Park and Rec Dept @ 284-5881 or Diana Neumeyer (284-0915) for additional information.

This show is recommended for ages 13 and older.

PST BLOOPERS TO REMEMBER!

1. What lovely Glinda got a permanent dent in her forehead from the awesome crown she wore in *The Wizard of Oz*?
2. Whose pants ripped on stage during the production of *Into the Woods*?
3. Who missed the roof landing when she flew in during *The Wizard of Oz*...and swears it was not her fault?
4. What fabulous baker rode a rocking chair to new heights last summer?

- Got a blooper, a good story or fond memory?
- Call me @ 284-0915 or send an email to cneumeyer@wi.rr.com.
- Put PST Bloopers in the subject line.

Answers on next page!

**“A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY
TO THE FORUM” CAST REQUIREMENTS**

DOMINA An overbearing wife, A3 - F#5/Mezzo-Soprano

ERRONIUS A doddering old man, A2 - F4/Baritone

HERO Senex's son, the handsome, innocent master, in love with Philia, A2 - F#4/Tenor

HYSTERIUM Pseudolus' hapless fellow slave and slave to Senex & Domina, A2 - G4/Tenor

LYCUS A buyer and seller of courtesans, A2 - F4/Baritone

MILES GLORIOSUS Lycus' pompous warrior client
A2 - F4/Bass Baritone

PHILIA The lovely-but-vacant courtesan, A3 - G5/Soprano

PROLOGUS An actor, A2 - F#4/Baritone

PSEUDOLUS Playful, comic ringmaster of the show and slave to Hero, Baritone: A-High G

SENEX Hero's father and the aging master of the house,
Baritone/: B flat-G flat

THE COURTESANS:

Tintinabula

Panacea

The Geminae (two)

Vibrata

Gymnasia

Low A - High F# (High Ab for some people) in their octave

THE PROTEANS Three omnipresent "clowns", B-High A

SMALL chorus of slaves and townspeople

1. Kate MacRae
2. Chris Halbleib
3. Tina Binns
4. Ann Green

UPCOMING EVENTS

**KIDS FROM WISCONSIN
August 2, 2011**

Port Washington High School

Do you have an event you would like to advertise?

Email me at cneumeyer@wi.rr.com.

Add Port Summer Theatre in your subject line.

SPONSORS NEEDED!

**“A Funny Thing
Happened on the Way to
the Forum”
Sponsorship Program**

We invite you to support our efforts in bringing "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" to our community. Sponsors will receive listing in the program under the following categories.

Sponsorship Levels

Slaves - \$5.00-\$25.00

Comely Courtesans - \$26.00-\$50.00

Glorious Gladiators - \$51.00-\$75.00

Hero's Heroes - \$76.00-\$99.00

Friends of Pseudolus - \$100.00 and Above

Money donated will help support the costuming and set costs for our show. Please contact us for any additional information. (262-284-0915)

Please send check to:

**Port Washington Park & Rec Dept
201 N Webster St.**

Port Washington, WI 53074

Attn: Diana/Port Summer Theatre