

Dural Musical Society

presents

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

Book by

BURT SHEVELOVE and LARRY GELBART

Music and Lyrics by

STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Originally Produced on Broadway by Harold S. Prince

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A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum is a delightfully funny musical. Inspired by the farces of the ancient Roman playwright Plautus (251–183 BC), this musical tells the 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 musical's original 1962 Broadway run won several Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Author (Musical). A Funny Thing... has enjoyed several Broadway and West End revivals and was made into a successful film starring the original lead of the musical, Zero Mostel.

The 2012 Australian revival saw Geoffrey Rush following in the footsteps of musical theatre greats who have played the lead role of Pseudolus - Zero Mostel, Phil Silvers and Nathan Lane in the USA, and Frankie Howerd in the UK. In the case of Frankie Howerd, he followed up his role in "Forum" with a very similar character in the British TV series "Up Pompeii!" which went on to become a successful movie of the same name.

This show doesn't age – it is as popular now as it was when it first hit Broadway. Dural Musical Society last produced "Forum" in 2003, with Eddie Bruce in the role of Pseudolus, Phil O'Connor in the role of Hysterium, and Ben Wilson-Hill in the role of Marcus Lycus. The trio enjoyed the show so much that they have returned to the DMS stage for the 2016 production, with Phil taking on the direction of the show, Eddie in his favourite musical comedy role of the slave who is desperate to be 'free', and Ben changing his Marcus Lycus garb for the robes of the hen-pecked husband Senex.

As always, the cast features a number of new members of the Society in key roles, along with some of the popular regular performers. A number of "gang" members from last year's highly successful production of "West Side Story" have swapped the back streets of New York for the ancient paved streets of Rome - Adam Garden, Liam Dailly, Helen Bell, Brooke Stephens, Sarah Aylen, Millie Reid-Alvarez, Laura Murdocca and Max Hearn-Sarchfield take on very different roles in this fast paced musical comedy. This ensemble cast is rounded out with Tim Chivers, Dennis Channels, Rebeka Kendall, Charlie Hearn-Sarchfield, Tom Oliver, and sisters Mel Hogan and Chelsea Dunn.

If you've got a sense of humour and also enjoy great songs, then book your tickets now for this excellent comedy - take a trip back in time to enjoy the pleasures of Rome!

Performances:

Evening (at 8.00 pm): May 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

Matinee (at 2.00 pm): May 15, 22

Adults \$25 Child/Conc. \$15

Bookings through Tickets4Me on (02) 4730 6932

Check out our website: www.duralmusicalsociety.org

Production Team

Director: Phil O'Connor

Musical Director: Julieanne Patmore

Choreographer: Chrissy O'Neill

For one thing it's WAY too fast and frenetic with director Lester spinning the camera all over the place. In most of his movies this technique works—it doesn't here. You have some very talented comedians here—they don't need camera tricks to get the joke across. Often the camera cuts away to something else in the middle of a joke—it gets very annoying and is enough to make you reach for the Dramamine. It got on my nerves a lot—more than once I wished I could reach out and force the cameraman to stay still. Also this movie relies way too much on slapstick—there's a closing chase sequence that goes straight from the roots of comedy, Forum combines the ancient comedies of Plautus with a vaudevillian delivery. Pseudolus schemes to win the heart of the beautiful virgin, Phelia, for his young master, Hero. In exchange, Hero will grant Pseudolus his freedom once and for all. However, things are never as easy as they seem. Chaos ensues with hair-brained schemes, cases of mistaken identity, slamming doors and convoluted plot twists. One of the funniest musicals ever written, Forum promises: "Something for everyone: a comedy tonight!"

Lead Characters. Philia. A Funny Thing Happened on the ... The plot is way too complex to fully detail here, though we can note that it hinges on the fact that three suburban Roman houses are next door to one another.

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