

The Weston Friendly Society of the Performing Arts presents:

# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart

Directed and Staged by  
**Jerry Bisantz**

Music Director  
**David Rose**

Choreographer  
**Cassandra Tzimas**

Producers  
**Cathy Merlo and Betsy Soule**

Weston Town Hall  
Weston, Massachusetts  
March 12, 13, 14, 19 and 20, 2004

Production is given with the express permission of the  
Music Theater International  
421 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10019

## Company

Pseudolus	Craig Howard
Senex	Michael Lapomardo, Jr.
Domina	Cathy Merlo
Hero	Miles Hutton Jacoby
Hysterium	Wayne Fritsche
Erronius	Joe Foley
Miles Gloriosus	Lonnie Powell
Marcus Lycus	Corey Jackson
Tintinabula	Jill Hourihan
Panacea	Dayna Pell
Vibrata	Irene Hoisington
Gymnasia	Wendy Golden
The Geminae	Suzanne Fournier & Betsy Soule
Philia	Nicole E. Coelho
Proteans	Joe Vitti & Paula Moravek

## The Setting

The time is two hundred years before the Christian era, a day in spring. The place is a street in Rome in front of the houses of Erronius, Senex and Lycus.

The action is continuous, with a single intermission.

# Musical Numbers

## ACT I:

<i>Comedy Tonight</i>	The Company
<i>Love I Hear</i>	Hero
<i>Free</i>	Pseudolus & Hero
<i>The House of Marcus Lycus</i>	Marcus Lycus
<i>Lovely</i>	Philia & Hero
<i>Pretty Little Picture</i>	Pseudolus, Philia & Hero
<i>Everybody Ought to Have a Maid</i>	Pseudolus, Senex, Lycus & Hysterium
<i>I'm Calm</i>	Hysterium
<i>Impossible</i>	Senex & Hero
<i>Bring Me My Bride</i>	Miles & Company

## ACT II:

<i>That Dirty Old Man</i>	Domina
<i>That'll Show Him</i>	Philia
<i>Lovely Reprise</i>	Pseudolus & Hysterium
<i>Funeral Sequence</i>	Miles & Company
<i>Comedy Tonight Reprise</i>	The Company

## Production Staff

Stage Manager	Eric Pell
Set Designer	Heidi Schoenfeldt-Murphy
Set Construction & Painting	Guy Dillaway, Will McFarland, Sue McFarland, Connie Cullinane & Betsy Soule
Props	MJ Martis
Program	Cathy Merlo & Betsy Soule

Publicity	Jesse Strachman & Will McFarland
Tickets	Betsy Soule
Costumes	Betsy Soule, Jennifer Leighton, Cathy Merlo, Sue McFarland, Barbara Dillaway
Lighting Design & Operation	Jeremy Donham
Front of House	Philippa Condakes
Program Cover	John Cooperrider
Advertising	Guy Dillaway, Will McFarland, Betsy Soule, Philippa & Peter Condakes, Bette Crowell, Maria Wardwell & MJ Martis
Photography	Kathleen McCarthy- DeStefano & Sue McFarland

**Weston Friendly Society Board of Directors**

**President:** Betsy Soule  
**Vice President:** MJ Martis  
**Secretary:** Kathleen McCarthy-DeStefano  
**Treasurer:** Maria Wardwell

**Board Directors:** Jack Agnew, Flora Booth, Amy DeMarco, Guy Dillaway, Jeremy Donham, Jennifer Leighton, Will McFarland, Cathy Merlo, Heidi Schoenfeldt-Murphy, and Eric Pell.

## *In Memorium*

*The Cast and Crew of “Forum” would like to dedicate the performances of this show to Evangeline Condakes, a long-time friend and patron of the Weston Friendly Society who recently passed away after a long illness.*

*The Board of the Weston Friendly Society of the Performing Arts is pleased to announce that the John P. Condakes Memorial Scholarship to the Weston Drama Workshop has been renamed the John P. and Evangeline Condakes Memorial Scholarship to the Weston Drama Workshop in honor and memory of their kind contributions over the years.*

## Acknowledgments

John Cooperrider  
Craig Howard  
Carl Valente, Town Manager  
Weston Board of Selectmen  
Donna S. Vanderclock

Richard Itszak  
Newton Country Players  
Crown Linen  
Pine Manor College  
Weston Golf Club

## Orchestra

Conductor/Piano  
Flute  
Trumpet  
Bass  
Percussion  
Keyboards  
Violin  
Clarinet/Saxophone

David Rose  
Emerald Lai  
Daryl Robbins  
Dave Doucette  
Len Simbowski  
Jerry Weene  
Peter Hughes  
Art Bakopoulos/  
David Sass

## Who's Who in the Cast and Crew

### The Crew:

**Jerry Bizantz** (*Director*) is happy to be directing one of the funniest scripts ever written with one of the best casts. Previous directing credits include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Jekyll and Hyde* (3 IRNE nominations) at the Turtle Lane Playhouse, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Crossing Delancey*, and his own comedy *Boys at Play* (IRNE winner, Best New Play, 1999) at the Hovey Players, and *Much Ado About Nothing* at UMass Lowell. A playwright as well, Jerry's two plays *Romance 101* and *Sex Education* will be published by Baker's Plays. He has won numerous awards for his works, and his play *What I Did On My Summer Vacation* recently won the "Playwrights Choice Award" at the 2003 Playwrights Platform Festival in Boston. Jerry is the founder and producer of Hovey's Summer Shorts Festival which will be performed at the Turtle Lane Playhouse next August. Jerry lives in Lowell with his fabulous wife, Sharon, his two great kids, Kate and Max and Lucy the Wonderdog.

**David Rose** (*Music Director*) has been playing the piano since he was 5 years old. He studied at Eastman Prep, received a bachelors degree from the Cleveland Institute, and a masters from the New England Conservatory. He's worked with many local theater and music groups including the Acme Theater, Medway Players and Hovey Players. He currently plays for the Northboro Chorus. He previously worked with Jerry by playing for "Mass Hysteria," a semi-professional comedy troupe that performed extensively throughout the state. Dave resides in Shrewsbury with his wife and three boys.

**Cassandra Tzimas** (*Choreographer*) is a lifetime Lowell resident who graduated from Fitchburg State College with a degree in Early Childhood Education and English with a concentration in Theater/Dance. Cassandra is currently a kindergarten teacher in the Lowell Public Schools. Her performance and dance experience includes being a former member of the Trans-Hellenic Greek dance troupe and a member and student leader of the "Spindles" show choir. She has choreographed Fitchburg State College's productions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Zorba the Greek* as well as the Dance Club's numerous venues where she taught beginner and intermediate Lyrical. She is currently a member of Karrie Stang's *Gotta*

*Dance Company* where she is also an assistant teacher. *Forum* has been a fun experience and she would like to thank Jerry for this wonderful experience!

**Eric Pell (Stage Manager)** – is delighted to be the Stage Manager for the first time. No stranger to the Weston Friendly, Eric has appeared as Mr. Twimble in *How to Succeed in Business*, Lazar Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man*, and in the ensemble of *Hello, Dolly!* He also played Sancho Panza in *Man of La Mancha*, Hysterium in *Forum*, and Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Eric is the proud father of Adam and Dayna (featured as Panacea) and husband of Margie, a very talented actress who has also performed with the WFS. He is happy to be here and hopes you enjoy the show.

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## The Cast:

**Nicole E. Coelho (Philia)** is delighted to return to the Weston Friendly Society as Philia. She was last seen with the WFS as Maria in *The Sound of Music*. Nicole has performed leading and supporting roles in musicals, operas and dramas throughout Massachusetts. Favorite roles include Guinevere (*Camelot*), Viola (*Twelfth Night*), Laurie (*The Tender Land*), Susanna (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Lily (*The Secret Garden*), and Magnolia (*Show Boat*). Special thanks as ever to my husband, Nicholas Antoun.

**Joe Foley (Erronius)** is very excited to be back on the Weston Friendly stage. He has been seen in previous WFS productions of *Singin' in the Rain*, *Brigadoon*, *South Pacific*, *Oliver!* and most recently as Max in *Cabaret*. Joe was also seen in the Newton Country Players' productions of *Once Upon a Mattress* and *Captains Courageous, The Musical*. He is dedicating this performance to his father who now is enjoying the best seat in the house.

**Suzanne Fournier (Gemini Twin)** is pleased to be making her theater debut with the Weston Friendly Society. Although this is her first theater production in a number of years, she has had plenty of experience singing such songs as “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” and “If You're Happy and Your Know It” at her job at the Franciscan Hospital for Children as a

speech-language pathologist. Suzanne would like to dedicate her performance to her newlywed husband and hopes he isn't too shocked by her role!

**Wayne Fritsche** (*Hysterium*) is thrilled to appear for the first time with the Weston Friendly. He has performed with the Arlington Friends of the Drama, Newton Country Players, Company Theatre, Turtle Lane Playhouse, Fiddlehead Theatre, and Winthrop Players. Favorite roles include Judas in *Godspell*, Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*, Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Japheth in *Two by Two*, Albert in *Bye, Bye Birdie* and Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Thanks and love to Curt and the kids.

**Wendy Golden** (*Gymnasia*) is joining the Weston Friendly for the first time. This is also her first musical since college. Wendy has spent most of the past seven years appearing in original and one act plays around Boston. Favorite roles include Bella in *Lost in Yonkers* and Cavale in *Cowboy Mouth*. She has worked in Summer Theater with Christopher Reeve, Richard Dreyfuss, Blythe Danner and Celeste Holme and co-starred in the movie "Porky's Revenge" as the revenge, Porky's daughter, Blossom. Wendy can be seen three times a week on the Comcast Cable's CN8 Spotlight show as a roving technical reporter. She is a computer graphics freelancer in television production and stays sane with her husband, Gary and daughters Haley and Kelsey.

**Irene Hoisington** (*Vibrata*) has performed in Dublin, Ireland, Austin, Texas and Cape Cod before taking a hiatus to start a family. She recently performed with the Westborough Players. She makes her dancing debut in *Forum* and would like to thank her husband Tim for his support.

**Jill Hourihan** (*Tintinabula*) returns to the Weston Friendly after playing Rose in *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Jill resides in Newton and received her bachelor's in music from Smith College where she studied classical voice and composition. Favorite past roles include Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, the Beggar Woman in *Sweeney Todd*, and Edwin Drood in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Outside of theater, Jill loves to play Ultimate Frisbee and Halo.

**Craig Howard (*Pseudolus*)** returns to a role that he's performed a number of years ago in Framingham and Newton and hopes to survive it this time! A former Weston Friendly Board Member and past President, Craig has appeared in *Hello, Dolly!* (Vandergelder), *My Fair Lady* (Henry Higgins), *Follies* (Ben Stone), *Oliver!* (Mr. Bumble), *Camelot* (Arthur) and *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Alonso Smith). He's also appeared with such groups as the Newton Country Players, the Footlight Club, Reagle Players, Concord Players, Theatre III, Turtle Lane Playhouse and the Savoyard Light Opera Company (currently Vice President). By day, Craig is a speech-language pathologist at an elementary school in Pepperell.

**Corey Jackson (*Marcus Lycus*)** is thrilled to be working with the Weston Friendly for the first time. Corey has performed for various groups around the area including the Turtle Lane Playhouse, Seacoast Repertory, Theater III, and the Savoyard Light Opera Company. Favorite roles include Rutledge in *1776*, Gangster in *Kiss Me Kate*, Austin in *The Complete Word of God* (Abridged), Adam/Noah in *Children of Eden*, and Mr. Depinna in *You Can't Take It with You*. Corey is also involved in his band, The Far Cars as lead singer/pianist. When not on stage, Corey is a Product Manager for Novell, Inc. in Waltham.

**Miles Hutton Jacoby (*Hero*)** is a freshman at The Rivers School and delighted to be returning to the Weston Friendly stage. Other WFS roles include Charlie Bates in *Oliver!* and Friedrich in *The Sound of Music*. Other favorite roles have been Rooster in *Annie*, Ugly in *Honk* (both Weston Drama Workshop productions) and Ren in *Footloose* and the Pharoah in *Joseph* both with ACTS. Miles spends part of his summers at Stagedoor Manor, a theater camp in the Catskills and, during the year, plays basketball and lacrosse. He also takes drum and hip hop lessons.

**Michael Lapomardo, Jr. (*Senex*)** is pleased to make his debut with the Weston Friendly Society after recently playing the role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Turtle Lane Playhouse. He has been active in theater for over 30 years and has performed with other groups including the Worcester County Light Opera, Savoyard Light Opera, Shrewsbury Players, Southborough Players and Westborough Players. His musical credits include Tony Esposito in *The Most Happy Fella*, Migaldi in *Evita*, Pseudolus in *Forum*, Michael in *I Do! I DO!* and Amos in *Chicago*. Favorite non-musical roles include Oscar in *The Odd Couple* and Lou Grazziano in *Breaking Legs*.

Cathy Merlo (*Domina/Co-Producer*) is thrilled to return to the Weston Friendly stage after playing Anna Smith in *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Other favorite roles have been Nancy in *Oliver!*, Leah in *Two by Two*, Dorothy in *Stepping Out*, Mrs. Medlock in *The Secret Garden*, Alma Hix in *The Music Man*, and Texas in *Cabaret*. Special thanks to Jerry, Dave and Betsy for a hilarious production. Hugs and kisses to these special people who are her own little band of comedians – her brother, Ted and friends Davide, Craig, and Laura.

Paula Moravek (*Protean*) joins the Weston Friendly for the first time and thanks David Rose for introducing her to this talented troupe. She is an active member with the Sudbury Savoyards where she directed *Hay Fever* in 2001 and *Blithe Spirit* in 2003. She was also Costume Designer for *The Sorcerer* and played Dame Carruthers in *Yeomen of the Guard* and Katisha in *The Mikado*. Paula is also secretary of the group's board of directors. Past stage roles have been Sancho Panza in *Man of La Mancha*, Morgan Le Fay in *Camelot*, the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, the Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol*, and a puppeteer with Bread and Puppet's Worcester Workshop.

Dayna Pell (*Panacea*) joins the WFS for the second time having appeared as a dancer in *Oklahoma!* Favorite roles include Irene Roth in *Crazy for You*, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and T. Moune in *Once on This Island*. In real life, Dayna works in the College Division at Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company. Like her stage manager dad, she is also just happy to be here!

Lonnie Powell (*Miles Gloriosus*) is a regular with the Wellesley Players where he has appeared as Charles in *Pippin*, Neville Craven in *The Secret Garden*, Dindon in *La Cage aux Folles*, and Herman in *Sweet Charity*. He also performs regularly in area productions of Gilbert & Sullivan operettas. He is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Music and Vice President of KC Consultants, a Software Engineering Temporary Agency in Wellesley.

Betsy Soule (*Gemini Twin/Co-Producer*) is pleased to be back on stage, possibly playing one of her most challenging roles, both mentally and physically, in a long time. She is thrilled to be sharing the stage with such an incredibly talented group of actors and friends and has never laughed so hard for so long under the direction of Jerry Bisantz. She also

wants to thank her co-producer Cathy Merlo and the terrific production team, including new mom M.J. Martis, for doing such a great job. She dedicates this performance to her dad who was always her biggest fan.

**Joe Vitti (*Protean*)** recently performed in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Turtle Lane Playhouse as Ivan and a bottle dancer. He was also the show's dance captain. Previously, he played the Artful Dodger in *Oliver!* at the Wakefield Repertory Theater, for which he received an EMACT Award, and Peter Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank* with the Belmont Dramatic Club. He lives in Winchester.

## Message from the President

Welcome to the second show of the Weston Friendly Society's 119<sup>th</sup> season. We are thrilled to be bringing to the stage *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Set in Rome, *Forum* is the story of wacky and slapstick masters, slaves, proteans and courtesans with such memorable tunes as "Comedy Tonight," "Lovely" and "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid." We are pleased to welcome the directorial team of Jerry Bisantz, Cassandra Tzimas and David Rose to the Friendly for the first time to make *Forum* come alive.

As always, we continue to fulfill the mission of the Friendly by donating to local charitable causes. This year donations will be made to the John P. and Evangeline Condakes Memorial Scholarship to the Weston Drama Workshop, the Friendly Society Drama Award at Weston High School, and WEEFC (The Weston Educational Enrichment Fund Committee).

I invite you to become involved in the Friendly in any way you choose: join and become a member, benefactor, or angel, try out for one of our shows, or get involved backstage. We welcome anyone in any capacity.

*Enjoy the show!*

*Betsy Soule*  
*President*

## Become a Member of the Weston Friendly Society!

The Weston Friendly Society would like to thank our 2003–2004 members, angels and benefactors whose generosity helps us continue to play an important creative role in the Weston community.

### Angels

Mrs. & Mrs. Robert Alevizos  
Mrs. Evangeline Condakes  
Peter & Philippa Condakes

### Benefactors

Jack Agnew  
MJ Martis  
Joanne & David Charpie  
Beth & Bob Charpie  
Bette Crowell  
David & Stephanie D'Alessandro  
Guy & Barbara Dillaway  
George F. Doherty  
& Sons  
George & Lauren Doherty  
Doug & Jennie Jacoby  
Will & Sue McFarland  
Dr. Daniel & Gail Nozik  
The Wardwell Family

The WFS warmly invites you to become a member of the society. We have three membership levels and hope one of them fits into your budget.

**Member:** \$40.00. You will receive two free tickets to any WFS production during one season (October to October)

**Benefactor:** \$100.00. You will receive four free tickets to any WFS production during one season as specified above.

**Angel:** \$250.00. You will receive six free tickets to any WFS production during one season as specified above.

## **Past Productions on the Weston Friendly Stage**

1981	The Unsinkable Molly Brown
1982	Fiorello!
1983	Irene
1984	Hello, Dolly!
1985	Kismet Vintage Years
1986	The Pajama Game
1987	The Boys from Syracuse
1988	My Fair Lady, The Fantasticks
1989	The Music Man, Perfectly Frank
1990	Once Upon a Mattress
1991	Follies, Guys & Dolls, Jerry's Girls
1992	Camelot, The King & I
1993	Mame, Side by Side by Sondheim
1994	Annie Get Your Gun, Singin' in the Rain
1995	Gypsy, Brigadoon
1996	South Pacific, My Fair Lady
1997	She Loves Me, Love Letters The Wizard of Oz
1998	How to Succeed, Grand Night for Singing Hello, Dolly!
1999	Fiddler on the Roof, The Music Man
2000	The Secret Garden, Don't Dress for Dinner
2001	Oliver!
2002	The Sound of Music, Oklahoma!
2003	Cabaret, Meet Me in St. Louis
2004	A Funny Thing Happened...Forum

The Weston Friendly Society is pleased to announce its  
2004–2005 Season:

Rogers & Hammerstein's  
*CINDERELLA*

Auditions in early September 2004

Performances starting mid-November 2004

And

**MAME**

March 2005