
OTTERBEIN
C O L L E G E

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

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**OTTERBEIN OPENS SUMMER THEATRE SEASON
WITH CLASSIC MUSICAL COMEDY**

Otterbein College Theatre will open its 25th anniversary season with the classic musical comedy *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Set in Roman times, the play centers on Pseudolus, a slave in the household of an aging citizen named Senex and his nagging wife Domina. His master is actually Hero, the son of the household. Equity artist Ed Vaughan will play Pseudolus, a role he has taken on twice before.

Pseudolus decides the best way to gain his freedom is to cater to the desires of the men of the household. Hero yearns for the beautiful courtesan Philia and agrees to give Pseudolus his freedom if he can help him win Philia. Hero's aging father, Senex, however, lecherously wants to have a last fling and also has his eye on Philia. Pseudolus also must try to give him what he pants for. A further complication is that Philia has already been promised to Miles Gloriosus.

When Miles returns from war and demands Philia, Pseudolus in desperation declares that she is dead and persuades a fellow slave, Hysterium, to don a wig and women's clothes and pretend to be the corpse. The very much alive Philia, hearing her contracted owner has returned, not too brightly thinks old Senex is her master and Senex tries to escape his battle-axe of a wife in order to enjoy his good luck. The ever-funny comic bit of mistaken identities goes into high gear as there are suddenly three Philias—the real one, Hysterium in his fright-wig and finally Domina in a similar wig trying to snatch her husband in the guise of Philia. Everybody chases everybody as the wily Pseudolus keeps pairs of Philias from confronting each other.

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A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum opened on Broadway in 1962 and during the first two years of its run, there was rarely, if ever, an empty seat. It continued until 1964 for a total of 966 performances. *Forum*, which features the songs *Comedy Tonight*, *Everybody Ought To Have A Maid*, *Pretty Little Picture* and *Impossible*, received six Tony awards in 1963 including best musical of the season.

“Everything gets going in a delightful scrimmage involving the entire cast and a series of inventive sight gags. This is a funny thing on the way anywhere,” writes John McClain of the N.Y. Journal American.

Doreen Dunn will serve as guest director and choreographer for this production. At Otterbein, this play will run from June 26 through June 30, July 2, 3 and 5 through 7. All performances will be held in the Campus Center Theatre in the basement of the Campus Center, 100 W. Home St. The Summer Theatre box office, located in the Campus Center, will open June 17. Regular summer box office hours are from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. The box office number is 898-1109.