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STRAND THEATRE

President: S. MANOR TRUST LTD.
Licensee and Managing Director: LIONEL L. FALCK

Evens: Monday to Friday 7.45, Saturday 2.45, 7.45.

By arrangement with S. MANOR TRUST LTD.

HAROLD PRINCE, TONY WALTON and RICHARD PILBROW present

FRANKIE HOWERD
KENNETH CONNOR JON PERTWEE
ROBERTSON HARE "MONSEWER" EDDIE GRAY

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

A Musical Comedy based on the plays of Plautus

Book by BURT SHEVELOVE and LARRY GELBART
Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
with ISLA BLAIR
LINDA GRAY JOHN BYE
and LEON GREENE

Musical Numbers originally staged by JACK COLE

Directed by GEORGE MARTIN

Settings and costumes by TONY WALTON
Lighting by JEAN ROSENTHAL
Musical direction ALYN AINSWORTH
Orchestrations by IRENE KOSTAL and SID RANINE. Dance Arrangements by MAL SCHAEFER

Produced by GEORGE ABBOTT

First performance at the Strand Theatre, Thursday, October 3rd, 1963.

NO SMOKING

In response to many requests over the past months, and in the interest of our patrons' comfort, the Management feel obliged to request non-smokers not to smoke in the auditorium.
FRANKIE HOWERD

Born in York, Frankie Howerd joined a Church Dramatic Society and made his stage debut in "Tilly Of Bloomsbury." He came to London and tried without success to get into drama schools, and was also turned down by Carroll Luick no less than four times. So he got a job in an insurance office. Then the war came and he tried to get into "Stars In Battledress," but they wouldn't have him. He did numerous unofficial shows for the troops. At the end of the war he was doing a few show in the Stage Door Canteen when Jack Payne spotted him. After this break he became a house-hold name on radio, has since worked in many films, including "The Koumrow Bus," in such parts as "Charley's Aunt," "Hotel Paradiso," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Old Vic as Bottom. He frequently appears in other and has revolutionized the part of "That Was The Week That Was" sensation. In "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum" he has the greatest role of his career—the slave, Pseudolus.
CHEERS!

Have a drink in the Bar during the Interval

Also snacks etc. in the Auditorium

KENNETH CONNOR

Kenneth Connor made his stage debut as a child actor in 1936. In "The Boy David", which starred Elizabeth Bergner. His versatile comic talents have kept him continually busy in a wide range of radio shows, including "Ray's A Laugh", "The Goon Show" and many others, also in seven of the "Carry On..." film series, latest being "Carry On Cabby". He has also appeared brilliantly in West End revue, on television, and now has the role of a slave, Mysterium, in "A Funny Thing..."

JON PERTWEE

Jon Pertwee, who comes from an old theatrical family, is famous the world over as a comedian and is known as "the mild-voiced entertainer with the satirical outlook". He has innumerable film and television credits, as well as such famous radio shows as "The Navy Lark" and now it is in his first big West End musical, "A Funny Thing...", as Lyce, the Merchant of Love.
Robertson Hare—now in his seventies—has been making audiences laugh at his misfortunes for more than half a century. He first won fame in the Alhambra Revue, which started with "Toni of Money" in 1922, and, when the Revue Travestie team of Ralph Lynn, Tom Walls and Robertson Hare eventually broke up having made theatrical history, he toured in vaudeville and comedy successes with Alfred Drayton and others. He has been in no less than seven productions at the Strand, topping them with his role of Enrivas in "A Funny Thing..."

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ROBERTSON HARE

EDDIE GRAY

Eddie Gray—known the world over as "Monsewer" Eddie Gray—was originally a juggler, with the late Sir Harry Lauder's vaudeville company. Then he developed a highly original juggling act on the Continent, hence the "title", and was one of the original Crazy Gang founders and pioneers, subsequently going into Palladium shows and other West End reviews. In "A Funny Thing..." he is Silver, an old man with mirthful ideas.
CAST

(in order of appearance)

Prologus FRANKIE HOWERD
The Proconsul BEN ARIS
GEORGE GILES
MALCOLM MACDONALD
"Monsewer" EDDIE GRAY
Domina, his wife LINDA GRAY
Hero, his son JOHN RYE
Hysterium, slave to Senex and Domina KENNETH CONNOR
Pseudolus, slave to Hero FRANKIE HOWERD

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 house of Erronius, Senex and Lycur

Lycus, a dealer in courtesans JON PERTWEE
Tintinabula NORMA DUNBAR
Panaces CHRISTINE CHILD
The Geminae MARION HORTON
VYVYAN DUNBAR
Vibrata FAYE CRAIG
Gymnasia SULA FREEMAN
Philia ISLA BLAIR
Erronius, a citizen of Rome ROBERTSON HARE
Miles Gloriosus, a warrior LEON GREENE

The action is continuous, with a single interval.

TITUS MacciUS PLaTitUS, the Roman playwright, flourished about 260 B.C. Twenty-one of his comedies survive and his characters and situations, adapted freely by Shakespeare, Molière and many others, have become the basis for almost all low comedy since.
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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

COMEDY TONIGHT

Prologue, the Proctors and the Company

LOVE, I HEAR

Hero

FREE

Pseudolus, Hero

THE HOUSE OF MARCUS LYCUS

Lycus, Pseudolus and the Courtesans

LOYELY

Philia

PRETTY LITTLE PICTURE

Pseudolus, Hero, Philia

EVERYBODY OUGHT TO HAVE A HAM

Seneus, Pseudolus, Hysterium, Lycus

IM CALM

Hysterium

IMPOSSIBLE

Seneus, Hero

BRING ME MY BRIDE

Miles, Pseudolus, Courtesans and Proctors

ACT II

THAT DIRTY OLD MAN

Domina

THAT'S SHOW HIM

Philia

LOYELY

Pseudolus, Hysterium

FUNERAL SEQUENCE AND DANCE

Pseudolus, Miles, Courtesans and Proctors

COMEDY TONIGHT

The Company

THE CREATORS

BURT SHEVELOVE & LARRY GILBERT
have created programmes for American Television's top performers. Judy Gar

land, Bob Hope, Danny Kaye and others.

STEFAN AUGER received the lyrics

for "West Side Story," and "Lysy,

and the songs and lyrics for "Girls Of

Summer," and "Sunny Night." At

Williams College he won a Pulitzer

Scholarship in composition with Prof.

Milton Babbitt;

GEORGE ABBOTT has

been associated with over 100 Broadway

productions as either director, author,

producer or actor. Among his recent

titles are "Take Me, She's Mine," "Farrelly I,

Tenderloin," "Damn Yankees," "New

Girl in Town," "The Pajama Game,"

all for producer HAROLD PRINCE. Mr.

Prince also produced "West Side Story"

and has recently distinguished himself in

the field of Direction notably for the

staging of his own production of "She

Loves Me." JACK COLE staged "Kiss,"

"Dance, Fled and " and choreographed

"Ain't Too Proud," "Kismet," "Pajama Game,"

and "Alive and Kicking." as well as

films. GEORGE MARTIN has assisted

him on many of these and re-staged Mr.

Cole's "Kiss." choroegraphy in Lon-

don. TONY WALTON, Designer of

"Valmouth," "Meet Happy Folks,"

"One Over The Eight," "Love For Three

Ones," among others, works both in

London and in America. This produc-

tion of "A Funny Thing Happened On

The Way To The Forum" marks the forma-

tion of a new production venture for

which Mr. Prince and Mr. Walton are

teamning with RICHARD PECKROW, the

lighting designer and managing director

of Theatre Projects Ltd. ALVIN AND

WORTH, founder conductor of BBC

Northern Dance Orchestra, was Musical

Director for "Bye Bye Birdie," and to

his credit numerous broadcasts on

BBC and ITV programmes.
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ISLA BLAIR

Isla Blair applied for the role of an understudy in "A Funny Thing,"... a couple of weeks after leaving RAD. When another actress originally intended for the role fell ill, she was cast in rehearsals and her work was so outstanding that she won the part. Born in India, her daughter of a retired tea planter, Miss Blair was educated in Sussex and now makes her home in London.

JOHN RYE

John Rye, a native of London, trained with distinction at the Central School of Drama and has played many roles with the Old Vic, both here and on Continental tours. Eventually, he left the classics to broaden his experience with various provincial repertory companies, was also a member of the BBC rep and has appeared on television. His next gets his biggest West End opportunity in the musical "A Funny Thing...", as Here.

LINDA GRAY

Linda Gray made her first stage appearance with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company as a leading movie-actress—

Leon Greene worked with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in the early stages of his career, also at Glyndebourne. For the past five years he has been living on tour in South America, performing in two-act plays, masquerading, and taking the part of Miles Gloriosus the warrior.
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