THE STRAND THEATRE

A FUNNY THING
HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

PROGRAMME ONE SHILLING
at the DUCHESS Theatre

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Athena SEYLER Naunton WAYNE Frank PETTINGELL
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“THE RELUCTANT PEER”

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STRAND THEATRE
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Evenings Monday to Friday at 7.45. Matinees Thursday 3.15. Saturdays 3.00 & 5.45

By arrangement with SEND MANOR TRUST LTD.
HAROLD PRINCE, TONY WALTON and RICHARD PILBROW present
FRANKIE HOWARD
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 SHEVLOVE and LARRY Gelbart
Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
with ISLA BLAIR
LINDA GRAY and LEON GREENE
JOHN RYE
Musical Numbers originally staged by JACK COLE
Revised by GEORGE MARTIN
Settings and costumes by TONY WALTON. Lighting by JEAN ROSENTHAL.
Musical direction ALYN AINSWORTH
Orchestrations by IRWIN EGSTAD and SID RABIN. Dance Arrangements by HAL SCHAFFER
Production Directed by GEORGE ABBOTT
First performance at the Strand Theatre, Thursday, October 3rd, 1963.

NO SMOKING
in accordance to many requests over the past months, and in the interests of the DUCHES!
mouse trap, the Management feel obliged to instruct patrons not to smoke in the auditoria.
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Dance until 2.30 a.m.

FRANKIE HOWERD
Born in York, Frankie Howerd joined a Church Dramatic Society and made his stage debut as Tilly's father in "Tilly Of Bloomsbury". He came to London and tried without success to get into drama schools, and was also turned down by Carroll Levy, no less than four times! To get 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 free show in the Stage Door Canteen when Jack Payne spotted him. After this he became a household name on radio, his face worked in many films, including "The Runaway Bus", in which he played "Charity's Aunt", "Hotel Paradiso", and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" as the Old Vic as Bottom. He frequently appears in cabaret and on television—stopped by his "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.
wonderwarmth

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HIGH SPEED GAS from North Thames

KENNETH CONNOR

Kenneth Connor made his stage debut as a child actor in 1934, 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 "Buy a Laugh!", "The Goon Show" and many others, also in terms of the "Garry On..." film series, latest being "Garry On Gabby". He has also appeared brilliantly in West End revues, on television, and now has the role of the slave Mysterlym in "A Funny Thing Happened to the Girl I Loved".

JON PERTWEE

Jon Pertwee, who comes from an old theatrical family, is famous the world over as a comedian and is known as "the multi-skilled entertainer with the multilingual outlook". He has memorable film and television credits, as well as such famous radio shows as "The Navy Lark" and now he is in his first big West End musical, "A Funny Thing Happened to the Girl I Loved", as Lyon the Merchant of Love.
Robertson Hare—now in his seventies—has been making audiences laugh at his mishap times for more than half a century. His first solo fame in the didowich farce, which started with "Toms Of Honey" in 1922 and, when the Ben Travers' team of Ralph Lynn, Tom White and Robertson Hare eventually broke up having made theatrical history, he received in equal big comedy success with Alfred D'Arcy and others. He has been in no less than seven productions at the Strand, stepping them with his role of Effronted in "A Funny Thing..."

ROBERTSON HARE

Monsieur EDDIE GRAY

Eddie Gray—known the world over as "Monsieur" 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 "drole", and was one of the original Crazy Gang; founders and pioneers, subsequently going into Palladium shows and other West End revues in "A Funny Thing..." he is Sonnic, an old man, with rolly swing head.
CAST

(in order of appearance)

Prologue FRANKIE HOWARD
The Proconsul BEN ARIS
               GEORGE GILES
               MALCOLM MACDONALD
Senex, a citizen of Rome "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 HOWARD

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 Lucius

The action is continuous, with a single interval.

TITUS MACCUS PLAUTUS, the Roman playwright, flourished about 200 B.C. Twenty-one of his comedies survive and his characters and situations, adapted freely by Shakespeare, Moliere and many others, have become the basis for almost all low comedy since
MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

COMEDY TONIGHT

PROLOGUS, THE PROTAGONISTS AND THE COMPANY

LOVE, I HEAR

LOVE, I HEAR

FEE

THE HOUSE OF MARCUS LYCUS

LUCCA

POISONOUS

LYCUS, POISONOUS

PREDATORY

PREDATORY

LUCAS, PREDATORY

CORRUPT

CORRUPT

BELIEVE

BELIEVE

EVERYBODY OUGHT TO HAVE A MAID

MILLY, POISONOUS, HYSTERICAL, LYCUS

I'M CALM

I'M CALM

HYSTERICAL

HYSTERICAL

IMPOSSIBLE

IMPOSSIBLE

SERRA, HERO

BRING ME MY BRIDE

BRING ME MY BRIDE

HERO

DOMINA

HERO

LOYAL

LOYAL

MOSQUITOS, MERRIES, CORRUPT AND PROTAGONISTS

ACT II

THAT DIRTY OLD MAN

THAT'S HOW HE LIVES

THAT'S HOW HE LIVES

SERRA, HERO

SERRA, HERO

SERRA, HERO

SERRA, HERO

DANIEL

DANIEL

PHILIA

PHILIA

LOYAL

LOYAL

MILLY, MERRIES, CORRUPT AND PROTAGONISTS

COMEDY TONIGHT

THE CREATORS

LEROY DUNLOP & LARRY GELBART

Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart have created programmes for American television's top performers, Judy Garland, Bob Hope, Danny Kaye and others, winning many awards. Shevelove co-authored and staged the Broadway hit revue "Small World". Gelbart recently wrote two films, "The Notorious Landlady" and "The Thrill of It All". STEPHEN SONDHEIM wrote the lyrics for "West Side Story" and "Gypsy", and the songs and lyrics for "Guys and Dolls" and "Guys and Dolls". At Williams College he won a Houghton Fellowship 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 hits are "Take Her, She's Mine", "Flare-Up!", "Tenderloin", "The Girls in Town", "The Pajama Game", "I Am A Camera" and "Mame". He also produced "West Side Story" and "I am A Camera", and has recently distinguished himself in the field of direction notably for the staging of his own production of "She Loves Me". "Jack, CDWAE" was "Kiss", "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and "Company". He choreographed "The Party". "Kiss Me, Kate", "Maggie", "The Party" and "Alvino, P Thủ" as well as films. GEORGE MARTIN has assisted him on many of these and reworked "Mr. Caley". ALFRED CHOREOGRAPHY IN LONDON: TONY WALTON, Designer of "The Party", "Mr. Happy Fella", "One Over The Eight", "Love For Three Oranges" among others, works both in London and in America. This production of "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum" marks the formation of a new producing venture for which Mr. Prince and Mr. Walton are liasing. With RICHARD BERKOWICZ, the lighting designer and managing director of Theatre Projects Ltd. ALFRED WORTH, founder conductor of BBC Northern Dance Orchestra, was Musical Director for "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes", and has been in field numerous broadcasts on BBC and ITV programmes.
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ISLA BLAIR
Isla Blair applied for the role of the understudy in "A Funny Thing..." a couple of weeks after leaving RADA. When another actress, originally intended for the part, fell ill, Isla Blair had convincing film commitments. Miss Blair stood in as understudy and her work was so outstanding that any search for a replacement was called off and she won the part. Born in India, the 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. Brilliantly, he left the classical theatre to broaden his experience with various provincial repertory companies, and is a member of the BBC rep and has appeared on television. He now gets his biggest West End opportunity in the musical "A Funny Thing...", as Hero.

LINDA GRAY
Linda Gray made her first stage appearance with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company as a leading mezzo-soprano—and toured Britain and North America. Her subsequent appearances have ranged from Glyndebourne to cabaret, with many West End stage successes in between. Including playing Mrs. Bertram Hill in "My Fair Lady", just prior to her characterization of Donna in "A Funny Thing..."

LEON GREENE
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 was leading host at Sadler's Wells, performing in numerous shows, including Don Basilio in "The Barber Of Seville", in which he won great acclaim. In "A Funny Thing..." he takes the part of Miles Gloriosus the warrior.
ASSISTANT TO GEORGE ABBOTT
LIGHTING CONSULTANT
RUTH MITCHELL
ROBERT ORNHOE
of Theatre Projects (Lighting) Ltd

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Assistant to the General Manager
Viki Brinton
Production Manager
David Chivers
Assistant to the Production Manager
Pamela Hay

Company and Stage Manager
Robert Stanton
Deputy Stage Manager
Roy Astley
Assistant Stage Manager
Michael Booth
Ballet Mistress and Assistant to George Martin
Stella Claire
Assistant to Tony Walton
Elsie Dalston
Wardrobe Mistress
Bleen Sherwood
Hair Adviser
Shirley Davies
Public Relations Consultant
Alan Tucker (WEL 8657)

For STRAND THEATRE
GENERAL MANAGER
John Hollingshead
Manager
Derek Rose
Master Carpenter
H. Clifford
Chief Electrician
F. Chapman
Property Master
D. Vince
Press Representative
Rosa Heppner (TEM 4144)

Programme designed by Don Hare

Run Office (W. Hayman) Open 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. - Theatre Box 7676 and 4144

OPERA GLASSES: Please do not forget to replace hired opera glasses on leaving them in
the boxes.

In the interest of Public Health this theatre is disinfected every Sunday with Jeyes Fluid

Fire-alarm facilities in this theatre are provided by St. John Ambulance members, who
give their services voluntarily.

Persons are reminded that taking or photographing during performances is not
permitted.

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

In accordance with the regulations of the Land Chamberlain: 1.-The public may keep
in the rear of the proscenium for all acts down and each dress must at this time be
open. 2.-All persons, passengers and assistants must be kept between the doors and
the play, and an approved exit must be kept. 3.-No objection shall be made to smoke
in the lobbies and passages. If evidence be presented to the Manager of the Acts, he
may, if necessary, direct the number of smokers in the lobby, members in these
passages. 4.-The entry of any person must be refused and ejected in the presence of such
evidence.

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