

THE STRAND THEATRE



**A FUNNY THING
HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM**

PROGRAMME ONE SHILLING



wonderwarmth

BORN TOO SOON to have heard of central heating by High Speed Gas, Nero achieved all-round warmth by setting fire to Rome.

If only Mr. Therm had been there to make a speech from the Forum on *Wonderwarmth* from Gas Central Heating, running costs would have been far less and Rome would have been saved.

Living in a more fortunate age, you can enjoy automatic home comfort at a price you can afford. An attractive booklet which tells how the cheap gas rate cuts the cost is obtainable free from any of Mr. Therm's showrooms.

HIGH SPEED GAS from
North Thames

STRAND THEATRE

Proprietors SEND MANOR TRUST LTD.
President LIONEL L. FALCK
Licensee and Managing Director R. L. WELLS, F.C.A.
Evenings Monday to Friday at 7.45. Matinee Thursdays 2.45. Saturdays 5.30 & 8.45.



By arrangement with SEND 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 SONDEHM**
with

ISLA BLAIR

LINDA GRAY

and **LEON GREENE**

JOHN RYE

Musical Numbers originally staged by **JACK COLE**
re-staged by **GEORGE MARTIN**

Settings and costumes by **TONY WALTON**. Lighting by **JEAN ROSENTHAL**.
Musical direction **ALYN AINSWORTH**

Orchestrations by **IRWIN KOSTAL** and **SID RAMIN**. Dance Arrangements by **HAL SCHAEFER**
Production Directed 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 patrons not to smoke in the auditorium.



LONDON'S
OLDEST
ESTABLISHED
LUXURY
CLUB


**Murray's
Cabaret
Club**

BEAK STREET, REGENT STREET, LONDON, W.1.

PERCIVAL MURRAY presents
HIS FABULOUS NEW SENSATION

"It's a Woman's World"

with 45 of LONDON'S LOVELIEST SHOWGIRLS

at
10.15 p.m. &
1.15 a.m.

DINE
from 8.0 p.m.

DANCE
until 3.30 a.m.

Table Reservations
GERrard
4623 - 3241 - 6862



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 Levis 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 free show in the Stage Door

Canteen when Jack Payne spotted him. After this break he became a household name on radio, has since worked in many films, including "The Runaway Bus" in such plays as "Charley's Aunt", "Hotel Paradiso", and "A Midsummer Nights Dream" at the Old Vic as Bottom. He frequently appears in cabaret and on television—topped by his "That Was The Week That Was" sensation. In "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum" he has the greatest rôle of his career—the slave, Pseudolus.



* ALSO SQUASHES ETC. IN THE AUDITORIUM

THE R.S.P.C.A.
has a
FRONT SEAT
in the
DRAMA
OF ANIMALS' LIVES.
MUCH OF IT IS
COMEDY

(Think of the merry antics of a happy pet !)

But the R.S.P.C.A.'s activities bring to light much grim
TRAGEDY

R.S.P.C.A. Inspectors investigate annually 30,000 cases
of cruelty to animals.

R.S.P.C.A. clinics annually bring relief to 389,000 animals
whose owners could not otherwise obtain for them necessary
but costly treatment.

Help the R.S.P.C.A. to succour sick and distressed animals.

Please send donations to :
Chief Secretary, R.S.P.C.A., 105, Jermyn Street,
London, S.W.1.

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 rôle of the slave, Hysterium, in "A Funny Thing..."



Jon Pertwee, who comes from an old theatrical family, is famous the world over as a comedian and is known as "the multi-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 is in his first big West End musical, "A Funny Thing...", as Lycus, the Merchant of Love.



JON PERTWEE

YOUNG'S
CHINESE RESTAURANT

13-15 WEST ST., CAMBRIDGE CIRCUS, W.C.2
Telephone: TEMple Bar 2322

EUROPE'S MOST LUXURIOUS ORIENTAL RENDEZVOUS
The Paradise Islanders. Cabaret; Persian & Hawaiian Dancers
Fully Air Conditioned. Fully Licensed until 2 a.m.
FREE EVENING CAR PARK.

<p>HONG KONG EMPORIUM 53 RUPERT ST., LONDON, W.1 GER. 8272 (Near Globe Theatre)</p>	<p>HONG KONG RESTAURANT 53-60 SHAFTESBURY AVE., W.1. GER. 6847. Open Noon-Midnight. Sunday 11 p.m. FULLY LICENSED</p>
--	---

GARNERS—THE WONDERFUL RESTAURANT YOU SIMPLY MUST VISIT. RENOWNED FOR ITS DELICIOUS SEAFOOD & STEAKS

Situated IN THEATRELAND at 27 WARDOUR ST. (Leicester Sq. End) GERard 1287

★ Also the new "STEAK & CHOP HOUSE" ★
40/41 Haymarket (Piccadilly) WHI 6600



A visit today will make you a patron for always!
(Only just across the road from this Theatre)
NOW OPEN FOR SERVICE UNTIL 11.30 p.m.



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 Aldwych farces, which started with "Tons Of Money" in 1922 and, when the Ben Travers' team of Ralph Lynn, Tom Walls and Robertson Hare eventually broke up having made theatrical history, he teamed in equally big comedy successes with Alfred Drayton and others. He has been in no less than seven productions at the Strand, topping them with his rôle of Erronius in "A Funny Thing..."



ROBERTSON HARE

MONSEWER 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 revues. In "A Funny Thing..." he is Senex, an old man with naughty young ideas.



CAST

(In order of appearance)

Prologus FRANKIE HOWERD
The Proteans 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 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 houses of Erronius, Senex and Lycus*

The action is continuous, with a single interval.




Lycus, a dealer in courtesans JON PERTWEE
Tintinabula NORMA DUNBAR
Panacea 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

TITUS MACCIUS 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.

After the final curtain call . . .

Why not avoid the mad theatre traffic? It's just a short stroll to the Waldorf Restaurant where you can enjoy a light meal or a sumptuous supper in a delightfully relaxed atmosphere. Open until midnight.


Waldorf Grill Room
... open from 6 p.m.
for theatre dinners.

THE
WALDORF
HOTEL

ALDWYCH, LONDON, W.C.2. TEMple Bar 2400



*"Darling, there's only one way
to finish so perfect an evening—
we really must have
dinner at Henri's."*

HENRI'S RESTAURANT
for Theatre Dinners
and After Theatre Breakfasts
LONDON'S MOST EXCITING DECOR

41 MAIDEN LANE · STRAND · LONDON WC2 · Telephone: Temple Bar 1355-9

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

COMEDY TONIGHT	Prologus, the Proteans and the Company
LOVE, I HEAR	Hero
FREE	Pseudolus, Hero
THE HOUSE OF MARCUS LYCUS	Lycus, Pseudolus and the Courtesans
LOVELY	Hero, Philia
PRETTY LITTLE PICTURE	Pseudolus, Hero, Philia
EVERYBODY OUGHT TO HAVE A MAID	Senex, Pseudolus, Hysterium, Lycus
I'M CALM	Hysterium
IMPOSSIBLE	Senex, Hero
BRING ME MY BRIDE	Miles, Pseudolus, Courtesans and Proteans

ACT II

THAT DIRTY OLD MAN	Domina
THAT'LL SHOW HIM	Philia
LOVELY	Pseudolus, Hysterium
FUNERAL SEQUENCE AND DANCE	Pseudolus, Miles, Courtesans and Proteans
COMEDY TONIGHT	The Company

THE CREATORS

BURT SHEVELOVE & 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 Wonder". 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 "Girls Of Summer" and "Saturday Night". At Williams College he won a Hutchinson 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 hits are "Take Her, She's Mine", "Fiorello!", "Tenderloin", "Damn Yankees", "New Girl In Town", "The Pajama Game", all for producer HAROLD PRINCE. Mr Prince also presented "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 "Kean" and "Donnybrook!" and choreographed "Jamaica", "Kismet", "Magdalena", and "Alive and Kicking" as well as films. GEORGE MARTIN has assisted him on many of these and re-staged Mr. Cole's "Kismet" choreography in London. TONY WALTON, Designer of "Valmouth", "Most 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 teaming with RICHARD PILBROW the lighting designer and managing director of Theatre Projects Ltd. ALYN AINSWORTH, founder conductor of BBC Northern Dance Orchestra, was Musical Director for "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes", and has to his credit numerous broadcasts on BBC and ITV programmes.

The **STEPHEN SONDHEIM** Music from
the show—

LOVELY * LOVE, I HEAR

COMEDY TONIGHT Song copies
3/- each

PIANO SELECTION 3/6d.

On sale from the Attendants and your local Music Dealer

50, NEW BOND ST. **CHAPPELL & Co. Ltd.** LONDON, W.1.

CREATIVE LIGHTING AND TECHNICAL INNOVATION



Century Lighting Inc. 3Kw Lekolite Follow Spots

Theatre Projects 300w Highlight PAR 56/Spot Battens

Strand Electric 1000w Pattern 263 Profile Spot
(and in "Blitz!", "How to Succeed in Business
Without Really Trying")

Reiche & Vogel 5Kw Scene Projectors
(and in "One Over the Eight," "Peer Gynt,"
"Baal")

Theatre Projects (Lighting) Limited

5 Goodwin's Court, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 • Tel: TEMple Bar 7877



ISLA BLAIR

Isla Blair applied for the rôle of an understudy in "A Funny Thing . . ." a couple of weeks after leaving RADA. When another actress, originally intended for the virgin, Phillis had conflicting film commitments, Miss Blair stood in at rehearsals 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 rôles with the Old Vic, both here and on Continental tours. Eventually, he left the classical theatre to broaden his experience with various provincial repertory companies, was also 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. Eynsford-Hill in "My Fair Lady" just prior to her characterisation of Domina 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 bass at Sadler's Wells, performing in twenty-three diverse rôles, including Don Basilio in "The Barber Of Seville", in which he won great acclaim. In "A Funny Thing . . ." he takes the part of Miles Gioriosus the warrior.

ASSISTANT TO GEORGE ABBOTT
LIGHTING CONSULTANT

RUTH MITCHELL
ROBERT ORNBO
of Theatre Projects (Lighting) Ltd.



Scenery built by E. Babbage & Co. Ltd. and painted by Alick Johnstone Ltd. Make up by Max Factor. Costumes by M. Berman Ltd. Wigs by Wig Creations Ltd. Shoes by Anello & Davide. Scene Projection and Lighting Equipment by Theatre Projects (Lighting) Ltd. Additional Lighting Equipment by Strand Electric. Projection slides manufactured by Theatre Projects (Lighting) Ltd. Furniture and Properties by Theatre Studios Ltd. Wardrobe care by Surf. Hoovermatic machine used in the wardrobe by Hoover Ltd. (Perivale). The Geminae hair colouring by John Martin.

For FORUM VENTURES

General Manager	WILLIAM STILES
Assistant to the General Manager	VIKI BRINTON
Company and Stage Manager	DAVID CHIVERS
Deputy Stage Manager	ROY ASTLEY
Assistant Stage Managers	RICHARD LOARING IAN HULL and PETER BLEASBY
Ballet Mistress and Assistant to George Martin	STELLA CLAIRE
Assistant to Tony Walton	ELISABETH DALTON
Wardrobe Mistress	EILEEN SHERWOOD
Hair Adviser	SHIRLEY DAVIES
Public Relations Consultant	ALAN TUCKER (KNI 5846)

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 Hart

Box Office (W. Hammond) Open 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. ... Temple Bar 2660 and 4143

OPERA GLASSES. Please do not forget to replace hired opera glasses, or hand them to the attendants.

In the interest of Public Health this theatre is disinfected exclusively with Jeyes Fluid,

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

Patrons are reminded that the taking of photographs during performances is not permitted.

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

In accordance with the requirements of the Lord Chamberlain: 1—The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors and such doors must at that time be open. 2—All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions. 3—Persons shall not in any circumstances be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or to sit in any of the other gangways. If standing be permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating it shall be strictly limited to the number indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions. 4—The safety curtain must be lowered and raised in the presence of each audience.



BABYCHAM

The genuine Champagne Perry

★

The Babycham bottle fills a champagne glass

The name Babycham is the Registered Trade Mark of Showersings Limited

Rich,
Heartwarming
Cherry B



BRITVIC
straight
fruit juices



You can't go wrong
with Martini Sweet
just by itself

MARTINI

Sweet, Dry & Bianco

SERVED IN THIS THEATRE

GUERRERO'S
IMPERIAL PALE DRY
SHERRY

Not too dry!

SHIPPED BY B. B. MASON & COMPANY LTD.

DOWAGER
OLD CENTARRA
PORT

The Port of Kings

HEATHER JENNER MARRIAGE BUREAU

124 New Bond Street W.1.

MAYfair 9634

ADVICE BUREAU at the same address.

MOORE BROTHERS
LTD.

**TEA & COFFEE
SPECIALISTS**

WEST-END DEPOTS

175 Brompton Rd, S.W.3
(KENington 1832)

66 Notting Hill Gate W.11
(BAWwater 5147)



take Schweppes
at the
theatre bar

**ADVERTISING
CONTRACTORS**

for this and other
West-end Theatre
programmes

GRANTLEY & CO. Ltd.

63/65 Piccadilly, W.1.
HYD 2552-3-4.

ASK FOR

**TOLLY
EXPORT
ALE**

AT THE BAR

**A DOUBLE
DIAMOND**
works wonders
AT ALL BARS



Ask for

GORDON'S

at the Bars

Apollinaris
is the natural
mixer with
Scotch...ask
for 'Scotch
and POLLY'

**STRAND
THEATRE**
PRESENTS

MARTELL
BRANDY

for your special
enjoyment
between the Acts

BULL DOG



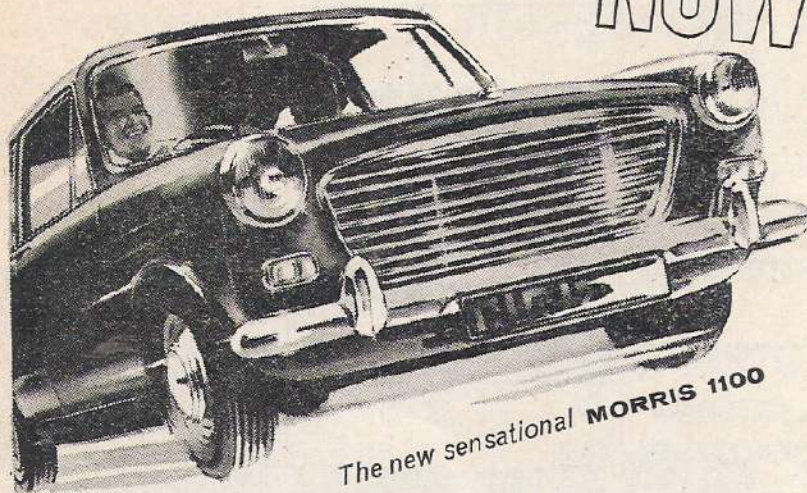
BASS, WORTHINGTON,
GUINNESS

On sale at all bars of this Theatre

At the bar
**JENNER'S
GOLDEN
ALE**

Come to **S**
and **A** for your
new
MORRIS

NOW!



The new sensational MORRIS 1100

New models. Improved models. Power-boosted models. Come and view them at your leisure. Have a chat to us about them. Arrange a trial run, if you want. They're all on show at...

S
and
A Stewart
and
Ardern

MORRIS HOUSE
BENSHAM LANE
BROAD GREEN, CROYDON
THOrnton Heath 1152

LONDON'S DISTRIBUTOR OF MORRIS CARS

West End Showrooms MORRIS HOUSE BERKELEY SQ LONDON W1 MAYfair 7680
Branches at: ACTON · ILFORD · DALSTON · SOUTH TOTTENHAM · GOLDERS GREEN
NORTH HARROW · STAINES · SUTTON · CATFORD · SOUTHEND-ON-SEA 0-646