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The University of Dayton

News Release

BOLL THEATRE STAGES
TONY AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL ROMP

DAYTON, Ohio, March 8, 1988--The Kennedy Union's Boll Theatre will be the scene for the riotous antics of the Roman Empire when the University of Dayton presents A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum March 17-19 and 24-26 at 8 p.m.

Based on the plays of Plautus and adapted from the book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gilbert, the production won four Tony awards in 1962, including best musical. Composer Stephen Sondheim penned its lyrics and music.

Often described as an "old-fashioned rowdy romp," the production features a "typically contrived, farcical plot," according to Patrick Gilvary, chairman of UD's Department of Performing and Visual Arts and director of the comedy.

The plot centers on a cunning slave, Pseudolus (Dan Simon), who is trying to gain his freedom. To become a free man, Pseudolus must help his master, Hero (Gary Kincaid), secure the hand of the beautiful virgin, Philia (Kerri Van Wagoner), with whom Hero is in love. Pseudolus ventures to the house of Lycus (Joe Fahey), a "merchant of love," to purchase Philia but discovers to his dismay that she has already been sold to a Roman captain, Miles Gloriosus (Dave Godsil), who will arrive shortly to claim her. Devising a deceptive scheme, Pseudolus tricks Lycus into allowing Philia to stay at the house of Senex (Eric Smith), Hero's father. The unexpected return of Senex and the attempt to hide Philia from the Roman captain result in mistaken identities, wild chases and pratfalls.

"You have all the elements that go into vaudeville burlesque--in its highest sense, not in its seamy sense," Gilvary said.

General admission tickets are \$5. The Boll Theatre Box Office is open from noon until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 229-2545.

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