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# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Bert Shrevelove

Larry Gelbert

Stephen Sondheim

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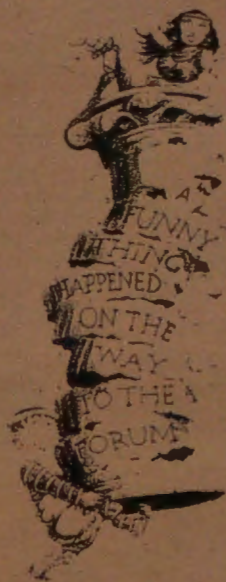
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*John Carroll University*  
*Communications Department*  
*presents*

# **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**

*A musical comedy*



October 19, 20, 26, 27 (8 pm)

October 21, 28 (2pm)

Kulas Auditorium

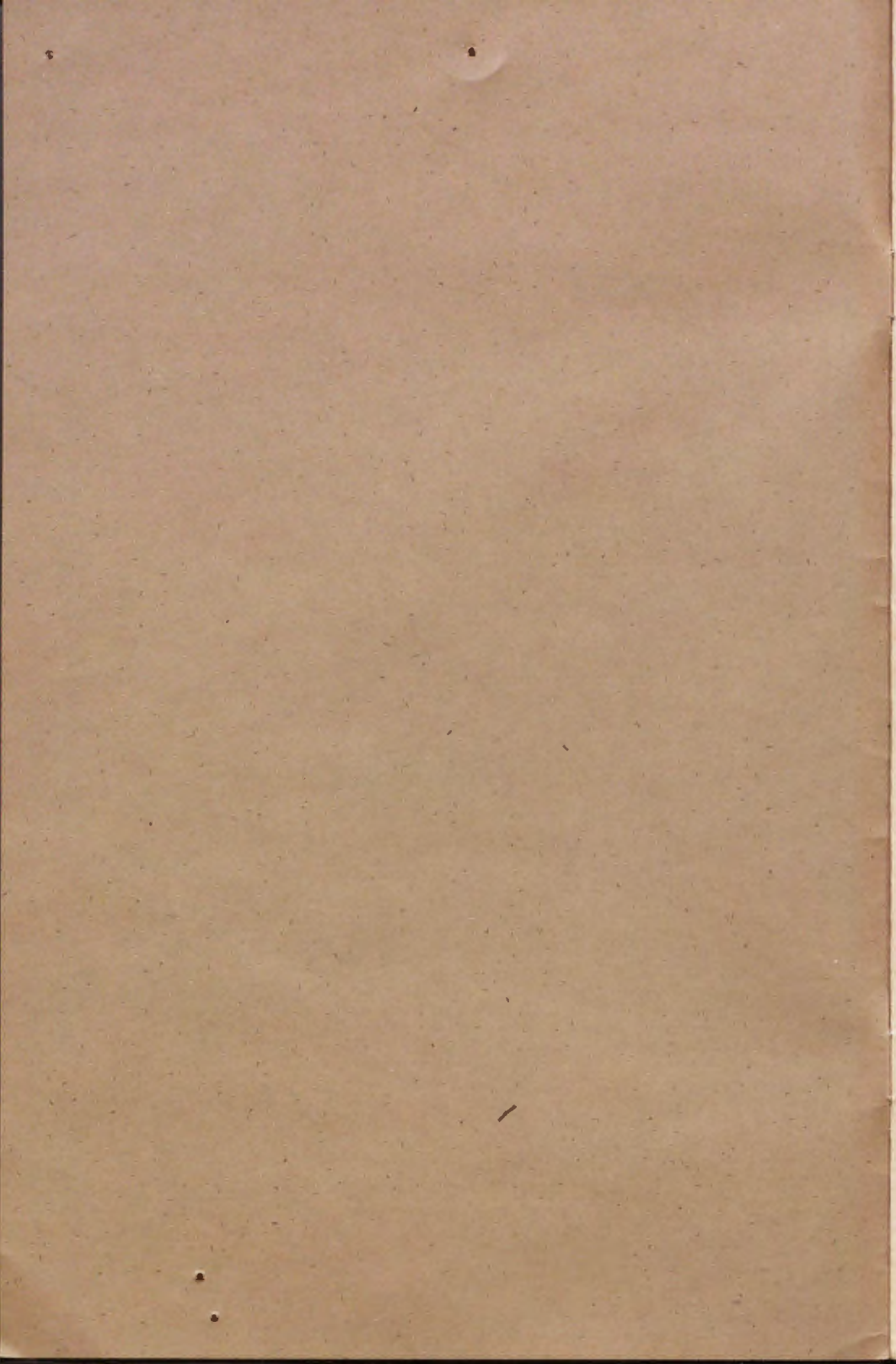
*John Carroll University*  
*Communications Department*  
*presents*

**A Funny Thing Happened  
on the Way to the Forum**  
*A musical comedy*

Directed by Martin Friedman  
with Musical Direction  
by Michael Mazur

Music and lyrics by  
Stephen Sondheim  
Book by  
Bert Shevelove and  
Larry Gelbert

*Presented through special arrangement with  
Music Theatre International, New York, NY.*



## The History of the Show

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* made its debut at the Alvin Theatre, on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1962. It was the legendary Stephen Sondheim's first musical production, in which he wrote both music and lyrics, to be performed on Broadway. The show was produced and directed by Harold Prince.

Credits include seven nominations and 6 wins for Tony Awards. The 1963 performance received Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Producer (Harold Prince), Best Book (Larry Gelbart and Burt Shevelove), Best Director (George Abbott), Best Actor in a Musical (Zero Mostel), and Best Supporting Actor in a Musical (David Burns). The 1972 performance received three nominations and two wins for Best Actor in a Musical (Phil Silvers), and Best Supporting Actor in a Musical (Larry Blyden). The 1996 Broadway Revival of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* had four nominations and one win. Ironically enough, renowned actor, Nathan Lane won a Tony Award for his performance as Prologus/Pseudolus; just as the veteran Vaudeville actor, Zero Mostel received for the Original Broadway production.

The Original Broadway production ran for 964 performances. The 1966 screen version of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* stars Zero Mostel and Phil Silvers. Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelhart wrote the book for both the play and film.

The plot of the story is based upon the 27 plays created by the Roman playwright, Plautus. Titus Maccius Plautus was born circa 254 B.C., in a small village called Sarsina, located in the Apennines of Umbria near Rome. He may be acknowledged as the inventor of "theatrical shtick." Shtick encompasses exaggerated movements within a continuous nuance carried throughout the humorous plot elements. It may be compared to such comedic actors as the Marx Brothers.

Plautus' main aspiration was to entertain the ancient Roman audiences with a (musical) farce. He incorporated colloquial tones throughout his plays. Meaning that he used people's daily life and environment as the backdrop to the story. His use of characters and plot structure can be seen today. A compilation of Plautus' plays, such as "Pseudolus," and "Casina," was used when Gelbart and Shevelove wrote Sondheim's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

Time Magazine proclaimed the Original Broadway opening of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, as "good clean, dirty fun." The show exuded a sense of Plautus' "theatrical shtick," as well as the goofy characters, and flow of the play itself. So, sit back and enjoy a comedy tonight!

**Tina Marchiano**  
Assistant Director

## Act 1

<i>"Comedy Tonight"</i>	Prologus, Proteans, Company
<i>"Love, I Hear"</i>	Hero
<i>"Free"</i>	Pseudolus, Hero
<i>"The House of Marcus Lycus"</i>	Lycus, Pseudolus, Courtesans
<i>"Lovely"</i>	Hero, Philia
<i>"Pretty Little Picture"</i>	Pseudolus, Hero, Philia
<i>"Everybody Ought to Have a Maid"</i>	Senex, Pseudolus, Hysterium, Lycus
<i>"I'm Calm"</i>	Hysterium
<i>"Bring Me My Bride"</i>	Miles, Pseudolus, Courtesans, Proteans

10 minute intermission

## Act II

<i>"That Dirty Old Man"</i>	Domina
<i>"That'll Show Him"</i>	Philia
<i>"Lovely"</i>	Pseudolus, Hysterium
<i>Funeral Sequence and Dance</i>	Pseudolus, Miles, Courtesans, Proteans
<i>"Comedy Tonight"</i>	Company

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS  
NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY

## Production Staff

Director.....	Martin Friedman
Technical Director/Set Designer.....	Keith Nagy
Musical Director.....	Mike Mazur
Lighting Designer.....	Michael J. Simons
Orchestra Conductor.....	Pat Strater
Choreographer.....	Gustavo Urdenetta
Costume Design.....	Ali Hernan
Assistant Wigs and Make-up.....	Tamiko Jenkins
Costume Assistant.....	Rebecca Gellott
Production Stage Manager.....	Bradford McCall
Assistant Director.....	Tina Marchiano
Stage Manager.....	Jack Gutowitz
Stage Manager.....	Lee Ann Baechle
Master Electrician.....	John Licatitiso
Electrics Crew.....	Charles Strader
Assistant Sound Design.....	Bill Amato
Sound.....	David Appel
PR Manager.....	Hannah Fritzman
House Manager.....	Bridget Fox
Assistant House Manager.....	Steve Halady
Crew.....	Rob Therkelson, Richard Thomas, Fabiola Garlarraga, and Erin Coyne

## Cast

Pseudolus.....	Krissy Gasbarre
Hysterium.....	Paul Jacobson
Marcus Lycus.....	Kristin Netzband
Hero.....	Mike Schneeberger
Philla.....	Kelsey Knarr
Domina.....	Moria Nagy
Senex.....	Chris Albright
Miles.....	Ryan Neumeister
Erronius.....	Jim Nagle
Proteans.....	Beth Lohr, Erin Joyce, Kristen Robinson, Mary Anna Moore, Aubrey Hirsch, Jennifer Bakisae, Anne Anusbigian, Lisa Krall and Greg Weimer



## Orchestra

Piano.....Patricia Strater  
Keyboard.....Amelia Tulveski  
Drums.....Bob Tulveski  
Flute.....Lisa Nau  
Bass.....Jesse Kapel

**Time: Two hundred years before the Christian era,  
a day in spring.**

**Place: A street in Rome in front of the houses of  
ERRONIUS, SENEX, and LYCUS**

## Meet the Cast

**Chris Albright (Senex)** – Chris is a History major and a Communications minor. This is his debut on the JCU stage. He appeared in one play while attending Walsh Jesuit High School. He is a member of the JCU Men's Lacrosse Team. His hobbies include board games, The Game Show Network, and hanging out with Howard Charles. Chris hopes you all enjoy the show!

**Anne Anasbigian (Protean, Soldier)** – Anne is a freshman at JCU and is from Farmington, MI. She has taken ten years of dance and twelve years of piano. In high school, Anne was in the Showchoir, the Mercyaires, and participated in numerous choirs. She was also on stage crew for *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Anne was in the chorus for *Damn Yankees*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Carousel*. In acting class, Anne played Laura in *You Can't Trust the Male*, and a good witch in *Sleeping Beauty*. For these roles she earned entry into the International Thespian Society. Anne would like to say hi to her family, love always from "the family drama queen."

**Jennifer Bakisae (Geminae, Protean)** – Jennifer can be found taking long evening walks, eating fruit cups, and discussing molecules at the molecular level. She wants to wish a Happy early 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday to her roommate – whose dating bracket must now be moved up. She would like to thank her mom, her talented little sister, and her friends for all of their support.

**Krissy Gasbarre (Pseudolus)** – Krissy is a senior at JCU double-majoring in Psychology and Communications. She appeared in last summer's production of *She Loves Me* at Lakeland Community College, also directed by Martin Friedman. Other roles include Old Lady in *Sunday in the Park with George*, Vera Charles in *Mame*, and Sonia in *Godspell*. She is a member of Chi Omega and the Communications and Psychology National Honors Societies. Krissy would like to thank you all for coming, she hopes you love the show. Thanks also to her family and friends. She loves you all very much.

**Aubrey Hirsch (Protean, Sailor)** – Aubrey is no one to be trifled with. That's all you ever need to know.

**Paul Jacobson (Hysterium)** – This is Paul's second show and first musical at John Carroll. He is majoring in Computer Science and English. Paul has done a lot of shows in the past, the latest being *South Pacific* at Rabbit Run Theatre where he played Luther Billis. The past few months have been extremely hectic for him and he says he would have never pulled through without the support of the great people around him. Paul says, "First, I would like to thank God; without his blessing I would not even be on this stage. Thank you to Tara for giving me your love, patience and sanity. Bradford, thank you for keeping me honest and helping me find my "niche." Thank you Mom and Dad

the Clown, (Jim's alter ego), he has entertained in all 50 States. His down motto: "KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL, SMILE!" Jim is currently preparing a one-man show.

**Moria Nagy (Domina)** – Moria is a senior Biology major performing in her 5<sup>th</sup> John Carroll Production. She hopes to continue her education by earning a Masters degree in Microbiology. You can catch her in the Forum, or "entertaining" soldiers. She wishes to thank her family for their never-ending support, Keith Nagy for being a surrogate parent, and Matt for keeping her sane.

**Kristin Netzbund (Marcus Lycus)** – As a freshman at JCU, this is Kristin's debut performance in Kulas Auditorium, however, she is no stranger to the stage. In the past 4 years, Kristin has starred in 12 shows. Some previous roles include Rosie in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Miss Lily St. Regis in *Annie*, Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, and Anita in *West Side Story*. She also appeared in *Pippin*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Kristin has taken dance lessons for 12 years and has participated in theatre around the community. She has performed at Wickliffe Civic Center and Geauga Lyric Theatre Guild in Chardon, Ohio. To the cast- break a leg!

**Ryan Michael Neumeister (Miles Gloriosus)** – Think He-Man. Thanks to Mom and Dad.

**Kristen Robinson (Virbrata, Protean, Soldier)** – As a freshman, this is Kristen's first performance at JCU, but definitely not her first time on stage. She has been seen in shows such as *Leader of the Pack*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. She has held leads in *The King and I* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. She can be found doing the Cleveland shuffle, swing dancing with Keith, and drinking "orange juice." Kristen's favorites include graham crackers, green M&Ms, Bon Jovi, volleyball, and her chem study group. As a Cincinnati native, she has true Bengal pride, a slight "hick" accent, and misses her LaRosa's very much. She would like to thank her roommate for the birthday wishes, and to let JCU guys know that her dating bracket has now been raised. To the cast and crew – puncture a kidney, shake the van, and try not to break the furniture.

**Michael Schneeberger (Hero)** – Michael says, "I'd rather be an actor than a student. As a student, I do homework and eat bad food. As an actor, I get the girl and people refer to me as Hero.

**Gregory Eugene Weimer (Eunich, Protean)** – Greg is a senior who enjoys soccer, baseball, playing chess, reading computer programming manuals, squeezing coal into diamonds, and orbiting the seventh moon of Jupiter. He also sings and plays a guitar in a band, and yet he is single. He hopes at some point to "know what it is to feel." One piece of advice for aspiring actresses or actors: Try something else too, because thespians are weird.

for being wonderful parents. Finally, I'd like to thank myself for being me, I'm worth it!"

**Erin Joyce (Geminae, Protean)** – Erin is a freshman at JCU. Previous shows include *Godspell* and *Much Do About Nothing*. Erin loves puffed sleeves and sleepy dragons and is a firm supporter of the Handholder. She devours Tiramisu, adores the Brat Pack, and enjoys being an Eighties Child inside and out.

**Kelsey Knarr (Phila)** – Kelsey, a junior from Franklin, P.A., is studying Communications at John Carroll University. Although this is her first musical on John Carroll's stage she has been an active member of Schola, University Concert Choir, JCU Dance Team, and a member of Chi Omega. She has been performing since the age of 10. Some of these performances have been *Oliver*, *Gypsy*, *Applause*, *Crazy For You*, and most recently *Grease*. She has studied Voice, Dance, and piano. Kelsey says, "I have really enjoyed working with the talented cast of "Forum." I hope everyone enjoys the show as much as we do."

**Lisa Krall (Panacea, Protean, Soldier)** – This is Lisa's debut theatre performance for John Carroll University. Although she always had a great interest in music, her introduction to theatre came in when she was in her grade school production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, where she played the part of the brother, Gad. At Padua Franciscan High School, she was in *Our Miss Brooks*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Guys and Dolls*. Also, throughout High School, she was a member of Holy Family Youth Players, and a performance with the Holy Family Adult Players. Her roles included Lucy, from *Snoopy*, Gloria and Glinda the Good Witch from *The Wizard of Oz*, and Betty from *Give My Regards to Broadway*. She also appeared in the musical review *Entertainment '99*. Along with her on stage performances, she has been behind stage in the orchestra pit either playing flute or percussion for a couple of shows. At John Carroll, she is currently in the Concert Choir and Show Choir. In the future, she hopes to get her Psy. D. so she can become an Adolescent/Child Psychologist.

**Beth Lohr (Tintinabula, Protean)** – Beth is a junior Early Childhood Education major from Cranberry Twp., P.A. This is Beth's first show at JCU, but she has been active in Schola Cantorum, Concert Choir, and Show Choir as well as the Student Union Programming Board. She would like to thank the cast for a great time.

**MaryAnna Moore (Gymnasia, Protean, Soldier)** – MaryAnna hopes you enjoy the show and would like to thank you all for coming! "Tragedy is when I cut my finger. Comedy is when you fall into an open sewer and break your legs." ~Mel Brooks

**Jim Nagle (Erronius)** – Jim has appeared in over 40 shows, from Shakespeare to musical comedy at The Cleveland Play House, Cain Park Summer Theatre, Hawaii Performing Arts Company, and Her Majesty's Theatre in Melbourne, Australia. As Kimo

**Tina Marchiano (Student Director)** – Tina is a senior Communications major and English minor. She enjoys long walks *Into the Woods*. She would like to spend a *Sunday in the Park with George*. Are you the George she's looking for? Don't let Tina fall into a *Godspell* for that would be *Nunsense!* Meet her *Live at 11* for your claim to *Fame*. Hurry! Send in your applications so you maybe be picked to walk *Side by Side* with Tina.

**Mike Mazur (Music Director)** – Mike is in his second year as an instructor in the Communications department here at JCU. He is also the Music Director of The Singing Angels youth chorus, with whom he has toured Europe (2000), and Mexico (2001) and co-produced their latest CD release. Mike received his Master's in Musical Theatre from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He has directed many plays including *Side by Side* by Sondheim (Featuring JCU student Tina Marchinano), *Into the Woods*, *Godspell*, *Once on this Island*, *Nunsense*, *Pippin*, and *Drood*; and has appeared in many shows in Ohio, New York, New Jersey and Florida. He is currently creating a revue saluting the work of Broadway composer Stephen Schwartz, which will premiere at the Cassidy Theatre in January. Mike thanks everyone involved, especially Pat, who is the best piano player EVER.

**Bradford McCall (Production Stage Manager)** – This is presumably my last production after over three years of working behind the scenes. I would most like to highlight Keith for his didactic endless enthusiasm, consummate attention to all the sets and technical elements and of course cherished friendship. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Teddy and Tina, Miss Agenda, Mr. Weimer and everyone else who made this Fall's theatrics particularly memorable. Good luck mes amis!

**Keith Nagy (Set Design)** - Mr. Nagy is an assistant professor for communications at John Carroll University and previously served as Director of Production at Cleveland Opera for 16 years. He was also the resident designer for the Cleveland Opera and has designed sets and lights for such favorites as *The Turk in Italy*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Cosi fan Tutte*, *Rigoletto*, *La Trivista* and *Carmen*. Mr. Nagy has designed the sets and light for a number of John Carroll University productions including *Twelfth Night*, *Twilight: Los Angeles*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Buried Child*, *Lend me a Tenor*, *Marvin's Room*, *Crimes of the Heart* and *Blithe Spirit*. At Lakeland Theatre Mr. Nagy was the set designer for *Company*, *Brighton Beach Memories* and light designer for *I Do! I Do!* He was both lighting and set designer for *Death of a Salesman*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *I Hate Hamlet* and *A Little Night Music*. Mr. Nagy just completed designing both sets and lights for the Halle Theatre production of *Cabaret*. His design work has included ballet, film, live theatre and industrial shows. He has designed for the Seattle Opera, Opera Carolina, Lyric Opera of Kansas, Michigan Opera Theatre, Connecticut Opera and Opera de Puerto Rico. Mr. Nagy's work in the theatre has been seen at Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Dobama, The Halle Theatre, Karamu, Porthouse Theatre Berea Summer Theatre. Mr. Nagy, who is a member of the United Scenic

## Meet the Production Staff

**Bill Amato (Assistant Sound Design)** – Bill comes from a long line of slackers at St. Edwards High School that make seemingly everything to perfection. He carries this tradition with him to JCU. No you are stuck with him. Remember this as your experience with the audio wonders that are his.

**LeeAnn Baechle (Assistant Stage Manager)** – This is LeeAnn's first show as Assistant Stage Manager, however, she is no stranger to the stage. She made her debut in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* as Horace during her sophomore year in high school. Since then, she has performed in several productions including *Carousel*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Do Black Patten Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, and *You Can't Take It With You*. LeeAnn is delighted to join the crew of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

**Dr. Martin Friedman (Director)**-Dr. Friedman has been an adjunct instructor of Communications and Theatre at John Carroll University since 1990 and is also Artistic Director of Lakeland Theatre at Lakeland Community College. Dr. Friedman holds a B.S. degree in Theatre Education from Emerson College (Boston), an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and a certificate in non-profit management from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School for Non-Profit Organizations. He has taught theatre and communications at George Mason University, The University of Akron, Cuyahoga Community College, and Ursuline College. Dr. Friedman's most recent directing and producing credits include; *Plaza Suite* (JCU & Lakeland Theatre), *I Hate Hamlet* (LT), *A Little Night Music* (LT), *Company* (LC), *Sunday in the Park with George* (JCU), *Death of a Salesman* (LT), *All My Sons* (LT), *Crimes of the Heart* (JCU), *Blithe Spirit* (JCU), *She Loves Me*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. As a communications consultant, Dr. Friedman has worked with a law firm and business on how to improve communications between employees and the public. Most recently, Dr. Friedman has worked on diversity for the Anti-Defamation League, Perry High School, the Cleveland Public Schools and Ford Motor Company/United Auto Workers.

**Jack Gutowitz (Stage Manager)** – Jack is a senior at JCU majoring in Communications with a minor in Creative Writing. He is currently working on independent movies and finishing his first novel.

**Alison Hernan (Costume Designer)**- Alison's costume designs have been seen all over Cleveland and include, *Once on This Island*, *Wonderful Life*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *3 Tail Women*, all at Beck, *Fuddy Meers*, *Wit*, and *Trestle at Pot Luck Creek*, all at Dobama, *Lysistrata*, *Sin*, and *Hamlet* all at BETC and *A Little Night Music*, at Lakeland.

**Special Thanks to...**

Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, VSC  
Cleveland Opera  
Beck Center of the Arts  
Alan Stephenson  
Jill Sberna  
Lakeland Community College

Artists local #829, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from Carolina State Polytechnic University (Pomona) and Master of Fine Arts degree in Production Design from Ohio University. Mr. Nagy's most recent credits include lights and settings for the Halle Theatre's productions of *Rags* and *Cabaret* and lighting design for Dobama's critically acclaimed production of *Wit*.

**Michael J. Simons (Lighting Designer)** – Michael is a free lance director and designer whose work has been seen from Camilla's Theatre Gallery in Manhattan to Circle Theatre in Chicago to The Theatre in Old Town in San Diego. He just returned from Minnesota where he directed Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten* at the Commonwealth Theatre.

**Patricia Strater (Orchestra Conductor)** – Patricia is a veteran of the Cleveland Musical Theatre scene. She has served as accompanist and/or musical director in many theatres including The Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre and Jewish Community Center. Most recently, she was musical director/accompanist for *Side By Side By Sondheim* at Boulevard Theatre.

**Gustavo E. Urdaneta (Choreographer)** – Gustavo is a critically acclaimed and accomplished professional actor (AEA), as well as an award winning director/choreographer. Ohio Community Theatre Association has rewarded Mr. Urdaneta several awards for excellence in Directing and Choreography. He is the owner/president of BODYWORKS, a performance arts company. With more than 20 years of theatrical experience and over 50 shows to his name, Gustavo has worked with the likes of Robert Goulet, David Canary and Judy Kaye. He has performed regionally at The Cleveland Playhouse, The Kenley Circuit, The Akron Civic, Kent's Porthouse, The Music Hall, Dobama, and Beck Center (where he is currently on the faculty in the Children's theatre program). His favorite roles include "Bernardo" (*West Side Story*), "Papa Ge" (*Once on This Island*) and "Kolia" (*Bed & Sofa*).







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Call 216-397-4428 for ticket reservations**

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<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
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