

# Westlane thespians conclude

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In past columns, I've made frequent mention of A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, the musical which will be presented at Westlane next week.

I've encouraged ticket sales, applauded the efforts of the people producing the show, commented on the humor of the story and publicly prayed for support. (If our school doesn't wake up and support something as great as this, there's no hope for us.) I've said this will probably be Westlane's best musical, and perhaps I don't have the right to, for I didn't see the first three, but I maintain it will surpass Guys and Dolls, the best I've seen.

But those of you have bought tickets, or plan to, have no idea of what to expect. So I present this column in an effort to help those of you care about our efforts enjoy them more thoroughly.

First, we must consider the plot. This one is stupendously intricate. (Someone suggested we hand out "road-maps" with the programs.) In a nutshell, the play deals with the

love of a young Roman lad named Hero (Ron Mottola) for the beautiful courtesan Philia (Julie Damore). This sort of thing was not unusual, for Romans. What is out of the Roman-ordinary is that both Hero and Philia are virgins. Furthermore, Hero's parents are intent on keeping him that way. You can sense the complication building up as I tell you that the proprietor of the house of courtesans, who is called Marcus Lycus (John Hill), has already sold Philia to the bellicose captain, Miles Gloriosus (Paul J. Wintemute).

Add to this Pseudolus (Mike Jenken), a crafty slave who desires only his freedom. Pseudolus, with "tremendous cunning and guile", intends to win Philia for Hero, who is his master, and thus win his freedom for himself. As Mr. McGlynn would say, "Follow!"

Senex (John McIntosh) and Domina (Doris Jones), are Hero's parents. When they depart for a visit to the countryside, Pseudolus convinces Lycus that Philia has caught plague, and has her moved into Senex's house. Thus, she and Hero are together, a situation which causes great dis-

turbance to the Slave-In-Chief of the household, Hysterium (that's me!), who has been charged by Domina with Hero's innocence, among other things.

Suddenly people start coming back to Rome. Senex returns, only to be mistaken for Miles by Philia. Domina returns, intuition telling her that Senex is up to no good. Erronius (Shawn Stackwood), returns. He is a neighbor to Senex, but has been searching for his two long-lost children, stolen in infancy by pirates. Then Miles arrives.

This is where the plot quickens, as they should say. Complexity increases as the sight gags, puns, mistaken identities, impersonations, disguises, ad infinitum, add up.

But why not get the most for your dollar? Watch for the many other things that make "Forum" worthwhile. The singing of Paul Wintemute, vocalist supreme, is worth \$1 all by itself. If you've heard Paul before, you know what I mean; if you haven't pity, and here's your chance.

Take a close look, also at the stage, and appreciate, while it's there before you, the work of Kelly Brine, who designed the sets. They are ingenious,

## preparations for musical

functional, and good-looking. I might also mention the work of the set crew, who built the thing.

Keep an eye on Mike Jenken throughout. This is the first year in which the grade 13 student has acted. He won the best actor award at both drama nights this year. Actually, the play needs someone like him in the role of Pseudolus, because it's this character which holds the action together. I hate to throw all kinds of responsibility on Mike alone, but his part is the most essential to the success of the show.

Take a quick look at the audience. If it's a small one, you can forget about seeing a musical at Westlane next year — we'll be too busy paying for this one.

Check out the costumes. They were designed by many people, and put together by quite a few more. They are colorful, well-designed and elaborate, in many cases.

Akin to costumes is the armor. Dennis Stokoe and Ron Kronstein, "Armors Supreme", outfitted Miles and his men with shields, swords, helmets, spears, breastplates and such.

tion was the extensive use of jewelry which is necessary. Two girls attempted to overcome this problem in various ways. If the audience can see the jewelry, and think it looks authentic, they've succeeded.

Keep an ear to the timing in the chorus numbers. The members of the chorus, referred to as Proteans, worked many hours to perfect this, and everyone is hoping no one will "blow it".

Watch the dance numbers specifically, the Courtesans' "display" scene, and "Everybody Ought To Have A Maid". Mrs. Wilson has choreographed these, and they could be the highlight of the play. Look forward to them.

And if, as you listen to the cast, you should hear a loud, flat bass, yes, it is a product of the dear beloved tonsils of Dave Mateyk, Westlane's own Rock and Roll sensation, who seems to be enjoying his participation in "Forum" more than almost anyone else. His presence along ought to draw in all kinds of Mateyk fans, and they will not be disappointed, for the style of comedy in "Forum" is exactly Dave's

Another thing to watch for is the pictures we have been promised will appear in The Review early next week. They may serve to give you an impression of the zaniness of our rehearsals, an aspect of the production which doesn't even come across on show nights.

An if you ever see the curtains along the wings wiggle, you may bubble with anger, for our director, Miss Fanstone, has impressed in each of us who have wiggled those curtains before the knuckles of her right fist.

I'd like to list everybody who helped make "Forum" possible, but there isn't room for that. (Maybe I should have hijacked a section of last week's Community Close-up Edition!). Instead, I will refer you to the program, produced by Sally Paquette and others, which gives a complete idea of who did what.

Regardless of what happens, it has been a great thing to be a part of. I myself have always wanted to be present at my own funeral. The music is great, the jokes are side-splitting and I hope you enjoy seeing "Forum" as much as we enjoyed putting

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