

The Averitt Center for the Arts Presents:

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



Book by  
BURT SHEVELOVE  
AND LARRY GELBART

Music and Lyrics by  
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

**7:30PM**  
**3:00PM ON SUNDAY**

Originally Produced  
on Broadway by  
HAROLD S. PRINCE

Directed by  
ROBERT COTTLE

**OCTOBER 12TH - 15TH**

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**Special Thanks:** Everyone at the Averitt Center for The Arts would like to give our thanks and appreciation to all the cast, stage crew, lighting crew, costume crew, prop master makers, set designers, choreographers, and additional production crew/staff who worked hard to make this happen!  
We wish you the best in future work and productions!

**Presented through special arrangement with MTI (Music Theater International)  
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## ET ACTORES

John Parcels - **Erronius** | Rachel Elkins - **Philia**  
Felicia Dunn - **Panacea** | Thom Mortimore - **Hysterium**  
Matt Spence - **Protean/ Gymnasia/ Ensemble**  
Jamey Saunders - **Senex** | Kyle Stivers - **Pseudolus**  
Alex Harper - **Protean/ Ensemble**  
Bishop Harper - **Ensemble** | Joshua Davis - **Hero**  
Christie McLendon - **Domina** | Mike McLendon- **Protean**  
Kenzie Harvey - **Tintinabula/ Ensemble**  
Claire Davidson - **The Geminae/ Ensemble**  
Heather Mims - **The Geminae/ Ensemble**  
Alan Tyson - **Miles Glorious** | Lee Walker- **Lycus**  
Logan Major - **Vibrata/ Ensemble**

## ENSEMBLE

Matt Spence | Alex Harper | Bishop Harper |  
Claire Davidson | Heather Mims | Logan Major

# A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM



## SYNOPSIS



Broadway's greatest farce is light, fast-paced, witty, irreverent and one of the funniest musicals ever written. *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* takes comedy back to its roots, combining situations from time-tested, 2000-year-old comedies of Roman playwright, Plautus, with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville.

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* is a nonstop laughfest in which Pseudolus, a crafty slave, struggles to win the hand of a beautiful, but slow-witted, courtesan named Philia for his young master, Hero, in exchange for freedom. The plot twists and turns with cases of mistaken identity, slamming doors and a showgirl or two.

This unforgettable, hysterical musical allows a terrific ensemble of comedic actors to shine - "something for everyone, a comedy tonight!"



## VITA FABULA – BIOGRAPHY

**Felicia Dunn** (Panacea) is a local girl, who is no stranger to the Averitt Center. She's worked on and off the stage on shows like Christmas Belles, Bright Star, Young Frankenstein, Little Mermaid, Annie, Mary Poppins, Steel Magnolias, Dearly Beloved, and Southern Hospitality. It's a pleasure to work with this amazing team of cast & crew members. I'm very thankful for this community, and the opportunities the Averitt Center provides. Also, a special thanks to my family for all their love and support. And Thank you Hobby Lobby for their support as well.

**Christie McLendon** has been in many Averitt Center productions, most recently as Glinda (Wizard of Oz) and Frau Blucher (Young Frankenstein) and coming up in February will once again hit the stage with "Always, Patsy Cline" as Louise with costar Brandi Harvey as Patsy. She performs across the southeast in Mayberry themed shows as Charlene Darling (the Andy Griffith show) and annually on Carnival cruises "A Cruise to Mayberry". She played 3 roles in the big screen release "Mayberry Man" (available on amazon), if you look closely you may see her in the back ground in many movies and TV shows and singing locally with ladies trio "One Voice". She attends Trinity Baptist church in Nevils and sings in the choir. She and husband of 34 years (Mike) reside in Metter awaiting the birth of their first grandchild-Sawyer.

**Mike McLendon** has discovered a love of being on stage he never knew existed and has now been it several Averitt productions. recently as an angry villager in Young Frankenstein and a flying monkey in The Wizard of Oz. Always ready to have fun with any role Christie makes him take..he is most exited about his new role as Grandpa coming up in January.

**John Parcels** A retired faculty member from Georgia Southern, John has appeared on the Averitt stage previously in The Nutcracker; Coppelia; The Music Man; Miracle on 34th Street; Zombie Macbeth; Boarding House Reach; Calendar Girls; South Pacific; The Last Supper, the Musical; The Miracle Worker; Honk; Arsenic and Old Lace; Little Women; A Christmas Carol Ballet; The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe; Guys and Dolls; The Legend of Sleepy Hollow; The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee; The Adams Family; An Averitt Christmas Carol; Smoke on the Mountain; Mary Poppins; Annie; Into the Woods; Snow White; Sunshine Boys; Newsies; The Sound of Music; Wizard of Oz; Young Frankenstein; Willie Wonka; and Bright Star.

**Matt Spence** is very excited to be a part of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum". He has been in several plays at the Averitt Center including The Wizard of Oz and Matilda the Musical as the Trunchbull. Matt is a Bulloch County native and enjoys spending time with his lovely wife Nancy and their 5 daughters.

**Thom Mortimore** Thom is a senior at southeast bulloch high school. He has performed in several shows at the averitt, including Bright star, Dracula Jr., and Newsies. He has also performed at SHS and in his own schools drama class. He's had a blast working with such a hilarious cast, and hopes you enjoy the show!

# VITA FABULA – BIOGRAPHY

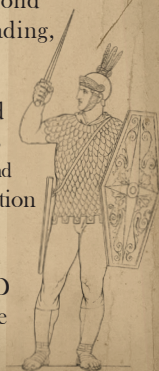
**Jamey Saunders** is happy to be returning to the Emma Kelley Theater. This will be his eighth production at the Averitt Center. He brings great dignity, seriousness, and gravitas to all his roles. Ah...who are we kidding - he's a total clown. When he isn't "actin' a-fool", he likes to spend time with his family, subjecting them to endless Dad Jokes.

**Heather Mims** is a newbie to the theater world, but no stranger to the stage. She first appeared in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory as Grandma Georgina in last year's play here at the Averitt and has also recently ventured into some local movie work. She is a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Nevils, where she sings in the choir as well as with a local group, One Voice Trio. Heather also plays several musical instruments, including saxophone, clarinet, and flute. In her "spare" time, Heather enjoys raising goats and chickens, sewing, embroidery, and many other crafts. She also serves as a board member for the Bulloch County Board of Education.

**Alan Tyson** is a Statesboro native, who has been in Love with the theatre for over 30 years! He has been fortunate to be able to bring many Awesome characters to life on stage, most recently Daddy Murphy in "Brightstar". This is his second time around for this Hilarious comedy having played Marcus Lycus the first time. He wants to thank Robert for casting him as Miles Gloriosus this time around! This wonderful cast and crew has worked very hard on this production of Forum. I just know you are gonna love it!!! THANKS to my Beautiful wife Debbie for always supporting me and my passion for theatre!!! Have Fun tonight, y'all, because you can bet we are going too!!!!

**Logan Major** started acting in school productions during elementary school at International School of Bangkok. She has performed in several productions, including A Tale Of Frog And Toad, The Stone Cutter, Simon Says Murder, We Will Rock You, In A Grove, High School Musical, and Nemo Jr. She is also a part of the drama program at SEBHS, performing in Ashdown Lee and competing in One-Act Play with Freak. This will be her second production with the Averitt Center. She enjoys designing clothes, reading, modeling, and watching WWE with her dad in her spare time.

**Claire Davidson** At just 18, Claire Davidson is already an experienced performer. Her resume includes Tattnall County High School productions like The Lion King Jr. ("Shenzi"), Antigone Now ("Chorus 1"), and Alice in Wonderland ("Queen of Hearts"/"Cheshire Cat"), as well as the Averitt Center's 2021 production of Newsies. A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum is her first role in a public production not primarily intended for children. She is also an accomplished writer, having published freelance pieces in outlets like i-D and Slate; additionally, she holds a position as a part-time staff writer for the Tattnall County Journal-Sentinel.



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**Lee Walker** is honored to be a part of this ensemble of "Forum". It has been a joy to work with some old performing buddies and to make friends with some new performing buddies. Thank you Robert for allowing me to be a part of another of your great shows. Thanks for all your help Annika.

**Kyle Stivers** You can usually find Kyle at Geovista Credit Union here in Statesboro, but tonight he's thrilled to be entertaining you. This is Kyle's "Second Time Around" doing this show, as Erronius would say. In 2004, he played the part of Hysterium with Good Company Players in Fresno, California. He's thrilled to be playing the part of Pseudolus at the Averitts Center. This will be Kyle's fourth production with us including Wizard of Oz, Young Frankenstein, and the Old Scarecrow Medicine Show. Kyle would like to thank everyone in the cast and crew for the opportunity to work with such talent. "I can't imagine working with a better group of people."

**Rachel Elkins** is so excited to be a part of this hilarious show. She has been involved in several Averitt productions including Brightstar, Annie, The Little Mermaid, Mary Poppins, The Rocky Horror Show, The Marvelous Wonderettes, The Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps and Gowns, Dearly Beloved, and The Lady Legends of Country Music. Rachel would like to thank Robert Cottle for the opportunity to perform on stage as the lovely Phillia.

**Kenzie Harvey** has been active in the theatre community her whole life. She has performed in many productions including Frankenstein (Erickson); A Kind of Alaska (Deborah); The Whales of August (Libby); Into the Woods (Cinderella Understudy) Frozen Jr. (Elsa); The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (Jadis, The White Witch); Scrooge (Jenkins); Alice in Wonderland (Humpty Dumpty); and The Actors Nightmare (Meg, the Stage Manager). Kenzie has also stage managed Willy Wonka and Finding Nemo and teaches elementary theatre for the Averitt. Kenzie spends most of her free time enjoying the downtown atmosphere or improving her art. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Joshua Davis** is a singer/actor who has auditioned for America's Got Talent in 2013 at the age of 13. He has also auditioned for the Voice in New York City in 2015 where he progressed to the second round at the age of 15. He has performed at the Averitt Center in the Statesboro Show Choir in various plays and performances as well as The Statesboro Voice in 2018 and 2019 and he won the People's Choice Award for the Statesboro Voice in 2019. He has been singing and performing since the age of two years old.

**Alex Harper** is 18 years old This is his 4th Averitt play, but he has prior experience doing plays in high school. Alex also did hip-hop dance for about 2 years as well.

**Bishop Harper**, Douglas Bishop Harper is 15 years old, and has been performing in theater arts for about 3 years, mainly performing at his school in Brooklet.



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