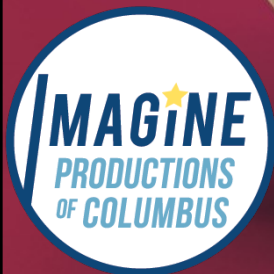


IMAGINE PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS



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FEBRUARY 21 to 29, 2020
Columbus Performing Arts Center

Imagine Productions

Presents

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

Book by

BURT SHEVELOVE and LARRY GELBART

Music and Lyrics By

STEPHEN SONDHEIN

Originally Produced on Broadway by Harold S. Prince

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
Is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

Directed by Chris Gallagher
Musical Direction by Sue Laney
Choreography by Jenny Small

**The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this
production is strictly prohibited.**

———— Musical Numbers ————

ACT I

"Comedy Tonight"..... PROLOGUS, PROTEANS, COMPANY
"Love, I Hear" HERO
"Free"PSEUDOLUS, HERO
"The House of Marcus Lycus".....LYCUS, PSEUDOLUS, 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, PROTEANS

There will be one 15-minute Intermission

ACT II

"That Dirty Old Man".....DOMINA
"That'll Show Him".....PHILIA
"Lovely".....PSEUDOLUS, HYSTERIUM
"Funeral Sequence and Dance".....PSEUDOLUS, MILES, COURTESANS, PROTEANS
"Comedy Tonight"..... COMPANY

CAST

(In no particular order)

Brandon Boring.....PROLOGUS / PSEUDOLUS

Chris Bullwinkle.....HERO

Dave Hetrick.....SENEX

Denae Sullivan.....DOMINA

Dan Hildebrand.....HYSTERIUM

Alexa Rybinski.....PHILIA

Keith Robinson.....MILES GLORIOSUS

Thor Collard.....ERRONIUS

Preston Eberlyn.....LYCUS

Hannah Clark.....(LYCUS' COURTESAN) TINTINNABULA

Brandy Jo Burke.....(LYCUS' COURTESAN) PANACEA

Stacey Barrett.....(LYCUS' COURTESAN) VIBRATA

Lydia Fyie.....(LYCUS' COURTESAN) GYMNASIA

Riley Makofsky.....THE GEMINAE

Kam McCluer.....THE GEMINAE

Tim Adler.....THE PROTEAN

Steve Stumphauzer.....THE PROTEAN

Jodi Weibel.....THE PROTEAN

————— **PRODUCTION STAFF** —————

Director.....Chris Gallagher
Music Director.....Sue Laney
Choreographer / Assistant Director.....Jenny Small
Stage Manager.....Sarah Hurwitz
Assistant Stage Manager.....Brooke Adams
Lighting Design.....Keith Emigh
Sound Design.....Sam Myers
Wig Mistress.....D.C Simpson
Costumes.....Joyce Leahy
Set Designer.....Andy Weibel
Props Master.....Teraryai Robinson
Audition / Rehearsal Accompanist.....Pam Villarreal

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Corrine Buuck– Secretary
Todd Holland– Board Member
Jerri Shafer– Board Member

————— **IMAGINE PRODUCTIONS STAFF** —————

Steve Stumphauzer– Artistic Director
Shannon Daly– Production Manager
Derryck Menard– Technical Director

Director's Note

From the Director's Chair:

Directing "*Forum*" has been a lot of fun. Which is the reason I wanted to direct this show in the first place – to have fun! Interestingly, this is the reason Stephen Sondheim originally wanted to write this show. "*Forum*" is a true throw-back to burlesque & vaudeville entertainment. Mistaken identities, crazy chase scenes & men in drag – this show has it all. No deep-thinking necessary. "*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*" is the first musical in which Stephen Sondheim wrote both the music and lyrics. After "*West Side Story*", (Sondheim wrote the lyrics) opened on Broadway his friend Burt Shevelove commented on the lack of "low-brow comedy" on Broadway and mentioned a possible musical based on Plautus' Roman comedies. Sondheim called a friend, Larry Gelbart, (creator of *M*A*S*H* and screenwriter for "*Tootsie*") to co-write the script. The result is a show with non-stop laughter (or, that is to say, if you don't like this joke don't worry because there is another a few seconds away). "*Forum*" is the type of musical that allows the actor to "chew the scenery". This is escapist entertainment in its purist form and a great way to forget your troubles for a couple of hours. I mean, you have to love a show that has an opening number that makes it clear what the show is all about.

All of that said, for me the true joy in directing a show like this is to watch this talented cast cut loose. They have been a breeze to direct and I am truly excited to share the results with you, the audience. Being able to do this with a veteran production staff I have worked with many times makes it even more satisfying. My Choreographer / Assistant Director Jenny Small and Music Director Sue Laney (with her terrific orchestra – a true bonus for any community theater) make me look like a much better director than I really am (but I'm still happy to take the credit). I have lost count how many great sets Andy Weibel has designed & built for me (hopefully there will be many more). A big thanks to my stage manager, Sarah Hurwitz and technical folks Sam Myers & Keith Emigh (all of whom I have relied on in previous shows). New to my production staff is our talented costumer Joyce Leahy (the results speak for themselves so I obviously will be calling on her again). Thanks also to our props person, the always reliable Terayai Robinson. I can't list everyone responsible for bringing this show to life but would be remiss if I failed to say thank you to Imagine Productions for making this show possible. I am honored and grateful they chose me to serve as Director for "*Forum*".

So, as the opening number tells us, get ready to enjoy a "*Comedy Tonight*". With this versatile & imaginative cast you can never tell what will happen!

Chris Gallagher

Director– *A Funny Thing Happened on The Way to the Forum*

CAST

(in alphabetical order by last name)



Tim Adler (Proteans) Tim is pleased to be making his Imagine Productions debut in "Forum". This continues his tradition of being in long titled shows, having previously been in "How To Succeed..." and "Joseph..." among others with Gahanna Community Theater. Many thanks to the cast and crew, as well as his beautiful fiancée, Adriane. When not on stage, Tim works in analytics for the Oliver Agency, where he considers himself part of the family.



Stacey Barrett (Vibrata) Stacey is a part-time barista and a full-time student. Two of her favorite roles in recent history are currently playing Vibrata and playing one of the Laker Girls in Spamalot (Pickerington Community Theatre, 2019), because they combine dance and character work for comedy! Laughing is the best. Stacey is certified in facilitating Dancing Mindfulness. Dance is her favorite form of expression, and she enjoys ensemble rolls for the chance to explore different characters through movement. Thanks to everyone involved for their hard-work and talent!



Brandon Boring (Prologus/Pseudolus) returns to the Imagine stage for the first time since Avenue Q (2018). Favorite past roles include Nicky (Avenue Q), Shrek (Shrek the Musical), and Brandon (The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged). He has also been active behind the scenes at Imagine, directing Into the Woods, The Wild Party, and Urinetown. Next, he will be directing the upcoming Imagine productions of The Last Five Years and the world-premiere of Brian Horne's original musical Second to Sherlock. He can be seen performing with the improv shows TBD: The Improvised Musical and Full Frontal Nudity (FFN), as well as the monthly sketch show Monday Night Live.

CAST



Chris Bullwinkle (Hero) is happy to be working on his first show with Imagine. Recent roles include Will Bloom in PCT's *Big Fish*, Professor Porter in WCT's *Tarzan*, Nick Arnstein in Gallery Players *Funny Girl* and Pharoah in WCT's *Aida*. Previous performances include Don Giovanni (Leporello), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Figaro), *Singin' In The Rain* (Cosmo Brown), *Anything Goes* (Sir Evelyn Harcourt) and *Oklahoma* (Andrew Carnes). He holds a BS in Accounting (CPA) with a minor concentration in Vocal Performance from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, NY. He would like to thank his family (Tammy, Joel and Claire) and friends for their overwhelming support and confidence!



Brandy Jo Burke (Panacea) is excited to be apart of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and to be participating in her first Imagine Production show.



Hannah Clark (Tintinabula) is thrilled to be in her first Imagine production! Most recently, she was seen in *Martilda* at Wagnalls Community Theater as part of the ensemble. When not on stage, Hannah is a sophomore at Capital University studying nursing and hopes to one day work as an ER or forensic nurse. She would like to thank her family, friends, and boyfriend for being so supportive and encouraging!



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I AM CHRIS LEYVA. WRITING IS MY ART.

Writing the play is only the beginning of a longer process. I love when it's time for other artists to come into the process—a director, actors, designers, an audience. I love when they have a chance to play in a world I've created and give flesh to characters I'd only met in my imagination. The community of artists in Columbus is diverse. It's constantly active. There's always something going on and there's always something new in the works.

I'm Chris Leyva, writing is my art and there's no place I'd rather make it.

Learn more about Chris's story and other Columbus artists and events at ColumbusMakesArt.com.



Additional support from: The Sol Morton and Dorothy Isaac, Rebecca J. Wickersham and Lewis K. Osborne funds at The Columbus Foundation.



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CAST



Thor Collard (Erronius) is just all a-tingle at being in his first Imagine production! Woooo-Hoooo! He has had so much fun in recent years with several theatre companies around Central Ohio enjoying such roles as Tevye, Ben Franklin, Thenardier, Fagin, Cogsworth, and The Cowardly Lion. Thank you so much for coming - and has anybody seen my children?



Preston J. Eberlyn (Lycus) a Columbus native, is delighted to make his debut with Imagine Productions in Forum. While Preston is a Survey Researcher by profession, he also has the privilege of serving on the Ohio Educational Theatre Association Board and as the Ohio Delegate on the Advocacy Leadership Network for the Educational Theatre Association. Preston is active in the community serving as a Mentor with Big Brother Big Sister, on his church's Administrative Council, and on the University of Findlay Alumni Board of Governors. He is excited to have worked with so many talented individuals during this production. Finally, Preston would like to thank his Penny, Pippin, human family, and friends for their support and love.



Lydia Fyie (Gymnasia) is excited to be making her Imagine Productions debut! Some recent credits include Cabaret (Helga & Kit Kat Girl; Evolution Theatre & Little Theatre Off-Broadway), Monty Python's Spamalot (Laker Girl; Pickerington Community Theatre), Hello Dolly! (Ermengarde; OU-Lancaster), and Once Upon a Mattress (Jester; Little Theatre Off-Broadway). When not onstage, she is a full-time graduate student at Ohio State University studying Entomology. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support for staying on with this theatre thing along with everything else in life. She hopes you enjoy our comedy tonight!

CAST



Dave Hetrick (Senex) is excited to be on stage in his first show with Imagine Productions. His most recent project was directing "The Game's Afoot" at LTOB in Grove City. Favorite roles include Garry Lejeune/Roger Tramplemain in LTOB's "Noises Off", Trip Wyeth in "Other Desert Cities" at Aurora Community Theater, Tom Jackson in "The Young Man from Atlanta" at Lakewood's Beck Center, and Harold Hill in "The Music Man" at Akron's Weathervane Playhouse.



Dan Hildebrand (Hysterium) remains perfectly calm in his first production with Imagine Theatre! Past roles include Amos Calloway (Big Fish), Chef Louis (The Little Mermaid), Farquaad (Shrek), LeFou (Beauty and the Beast), and Robertson Ay (Mary Poppins). He hopes you enjoy the show, and would like to dedicate his performance to Nini - his biggest fan



Riley Makofsky (Geminae) is elated to be performing in her first show with Imagine Productions. Some of her favorite previous roles include Ursula in Star Performance Academy's "The Little Mermaid" and Medda Larkin in VPCT's "Newsies". She also loved participating in Shadowbox Live's Arts Immersion Program last summer. Riley is a sophomore at GLHS and enjoys photography in her free time. She would like to thank her family for their support and Imagine Productions for the opportunity to be a part of this show.

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CAST



Kam McCluer (*The Geminae*) is so excited to do her first show with Imagine! Kam has been seen on stage recently in *Big Fish* with Pickerington Community Theatre (Ensemble) and in *Tarzan* with Worthington Community Theatre (Ensemble). She will also be appearing as Lauren in the feature film *The Incredible Jake Parker*, which premieres this May. Offstage, Kam is a second year student at The Ohio State University studying Early Childhood Education with Visual Impairment. She would like to thank her fiancée Kala for always encouraging her to follow her theatre dreams. She would also like to thank her friends and family for traveling around Columbus and beyond to support her.



Keith Robinson (*Miles Gloriosus*) is thrilled to be on stage once again with Imagine Productions in their performance on Forum. Most recently he played JB Biggley in Imagine's "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying." Other favorite Imagine roles include the title character in "Sweeney Todd", Franklin Hart, Jr. in "9 to 5", and Dennis Dupree in "Rock of Ages". Keith has also been seen as Captain Smith in SRO's "Titanic: the Musical", the title characters in Butterfly Guild's (formerly Pleasure Guild) "Shrek the Musical" and Pickerington Community Theatre's "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory", and Lancelot in Curtain Players' "Camelot". Keith thanks his family for allowing him the opportunity to feed his theatre addiction.



Alexa Joy Rybinski (*Philia*) has been seen previously at Imagine in *Spring Awakening* (Wendla), *Xanadu* (Polyhymnia), and *The Wild Party* (Kate), and is so excited to join this amazing cast! Other favorite roles include: *Shrek* (Fiona), *Little Women* (Jo), *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles), *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Cinderella), *Seussical* (Gertrude), *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife), *Edges* (Woman 2), *The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical* (Darlene), and *Hairspray* (Penny). She has helped costume several shows including 9-5 with Imagine, and has played viola in the pit for CATCO, CCT, LTOB, and SNS.

CAST



Steve Stumphauzer (Protean) is delighted to be a part of this incredibly fun show. Previous Imagine roles include the Steward in *Into the Woods* and Frank N Furter in the *Rocky Horror Show*. He has also appeared as Paul in *Company* with SRO, and in *Blithe Spirit* and *Deathtrap* with PACE. When not appearing in shows, he currently serves as Imagine's Executive Director and sings with the Columbus Symphony Chorus. Much thanks to all of you for supporting live local theatre, and he hopes you enjoy the show! And the cannoli.



Denae Sullivan (Domina) is excited to once again return to the Imagine stage, having previously appeared in Imagine's *Sweeney Todd*. Favorite past roles include; Lady Eugenia in *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* at Gallery Players, Bearded Lady/Auntie in *SideShow* at Gallery Players, Rhoda in *A New Brain* at Gallery Players, Meredith Parker in *Bat Boy* with Emerald City Players, Jeannie in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* with LTOB and Witch in *Into The Woods* with LTOB. When not performing, Denae works in HR at Cardinal Health or relaxes with her 14 month old, Betty Kat. She sends much love to her hugely supportive husband Kevin and daughter for putting up with the crazy schedule. Kisses to family and friends for their loving support.



Jodi Weibel (Protean) is excited to join Imagine Productions for the first time. Her favorite roles include Dolly in *Hello Dolly!* and Sandra in *Big Fish* with Pickerington Community Theatre. She works at Denison University, has two crazy dogs and two sweet cats, and is a closet singer/songwriter. She is grateful to her husband and daughters for always supporting her and allowing her time and space to embrace her theatre bug!

AUDITION NOTICE



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Auditions are March 7 and March 9, 2020

Callbacks are March 10, 2020

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Chris Gallagher (Director) Chris is honored to serve as director for Imagine Productions "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum". Some favorites Chris has directed the last few years include "Matilda The Musical" & "The Addams Family – A New Musical" (Wagnalls Community Theater), "South Pacific", "Annie" and "The Music Man" (Pickerington Community Theatre). Chris thanks his production staff, cast & orchestra for the many hours of hard work they put into bringing "Forum" to life. A special thank you to his wife, Dianne, who has put up with his either directing or acting in 20 shows over the last 8 years. "Forum" is escapist entertainment is it's purist form and a great way to forget your troubles for a couple of hours - enjoy!!

Sue Laney (Music Director) is thrilled to be doing her first show with Imagine! Having worked for 30+ years as a private voice/piano instructor and actor in Pennsylvania, Arkansas and Ohio, she is now happy to call Columbus home! Favorite roles include Peter in "Peter Pan", Betty in "The Foreigner", Mrs Paroo in "Music Man", and Trunchbull in "Matilda".

Jenny Small (Choreographer / Assistant Director) has enjoyed working with such a wonderful production team and hilarious cast! While this is Jenny's first show with Imagine Productions, she has worked behind the scenes choreographing many shows for Pickerington Community Theatre as well as Wagnalls Community Theatre. Jenny was last seen onstage as Fraulein Kost in LTOB's Cabaret. Jenny is also a member of the board for Pickerington Community Theatre.

Sarah Hurwitz (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be making her debut with Imagine Production as Stage manager. Some her favorite shows she's stage managed are Les Mis, Spamalot, Little Mermaid, Annie, South Pacific and Legally Blond. She is a first grade teacher by day, but theatre is her passion and she loves being a part of the magic. She is also is a dresser for the Broadway shows that come through Columbus.

Sam Myers (Sound Designer) is so excited to be working with Imagine Productions and this awesome cast and crew! She is currently pursuing a B.A. in Theatre and Electronic Media. Sam specializes in technical theatre but has a passion for it all. She has spent the last 10 years working for local community theatres including Wagnalls Community Theatre and Pickerington Community Theatre. Sam is the lead Barista at Das Kaffeehaus in Lithopolis, and she teaches children's acting classes for Mouth of the Wolf Productions.

DC Simpson (Hair & Makeup Designer) is excited to be back for another Imagine show! Previous credits with imagine include Carrie, Grease, How to succeed in business without really trying, and Into the woods. D.C. works all over Columbus working on different shows for other theater companies as well. She hopes you enjoy the show and reminds you to always crisscross your bobby pins for added support.

Joyce Leahy (Costume Designer) has been creating costumes since the age of eight, when Barbie was her first model. Recent shows sporting Leahy creations are Jesus Christ Superstar for Imagine Productions; Dark Side, Camelot, The Diary of Anne Frank, and Hedda Gabler for Curtain Players; and Spamalot for LTOB. Halloween is her favorite holiday.

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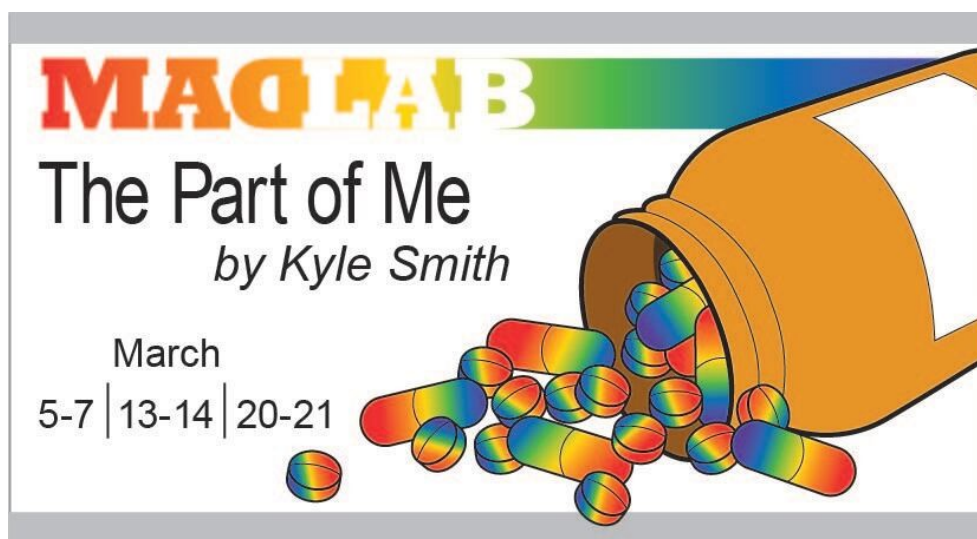
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PRODUCTION STAFF

Keith Emigh (Light Designer)

Carson Blasko (Co- Set Construction Lead) is excited to be involved with Imagine's production of *Carrie*! You may have seen her work as a designer for OTL's production of *Legally Blonde* or not seen her at all as the Assistant Stage Manager for Imagine's *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Outside of the theatre, Carson works for Nationwide in sales. She would like to thank her friends, family, and coworkers for their support and for putting up with her incessant chatter about building stairs. Enjoy the show!

Brenton LeuVoy (Co-Set Construction Lead) is so proud to be a part of this show with Imagine. Some of his most recent performances include *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Spike) with Weathervane Playhouse and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Robert Martin), *Hello, Dolly!* (Cornelius Hackl), and *next to normal* (Dan Goodman), all with Ohio University Lancaster Theatre. Brenton is a recent graduate of Ohio University Lancaster, where he's received a Bachelor's of Specialized Studies in Performing Arts Communication. Brenton would like to thank his wife Johanna LeuVoy, family and friends for their constant love and support.

Pam Villarreal (Audition and Rehearsal Accompanist)

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