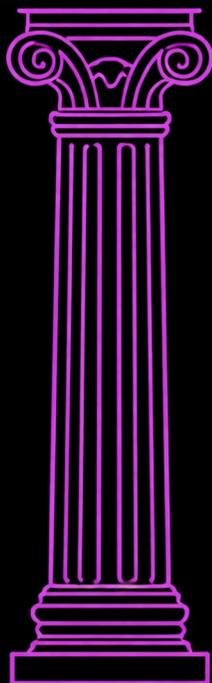
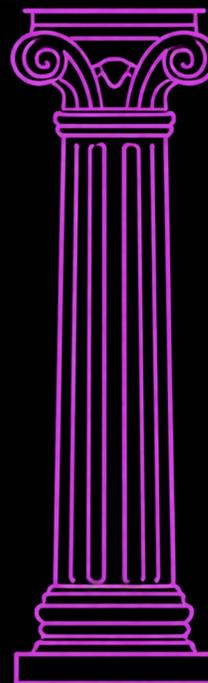


FEBRUARY XIX-MARCH I, MMXXVI

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 1, 2026



A
FUNNY
THING
HAPPENED
ON
THE
WAY
TO
THE
FORUM



BOOK BY **BURT SHEVELOVE** AND **LARRY GELBART**

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**

BASED ON THE PLAYS OF PLAUTUS

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY HAROLD S. PRINCE

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY
KAREN SAXON

CHOREOGRAPHY BY
TERRI FILIPS VAUGHAN

DIRECTED BY
STEVE VAUGHAN



For a Complete PLAYBILL SCAN or visit OCONELLANDCOMPANY.COM

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Prologus, *an actor*.....JULIANNA TRACEY
The Proteans.....JULIA CIANFRINI, CAITLIN KLEINSCHMIDT, CASEY MOYER
Hero, *son of Senex and Domina*.....LEX CUEVA
Philia, *a virgin*.....SYDNEY CONRAD
Senex, *a citizen of Rome*.....AUDRIANNA YATES
Domina, *his wife*.....DASIA CERVI
Hysterium, *slave to Senex and Domina*.....SAM CRYSTAL
Lycus, *a buyer and seller of courtesans*.....THERESA WERTH
Pseudolus, *slave to Hero*.....JULIANNA TRACEY
Tintinabula, *a courtesan*.....BRIANNA GARCIA
Panacea, *a courtesan*.....HEATHER CASSERI
The Geminae, *courtesans*.....JESSIE FERKIN, TALIA ROSE MOBLEY
Vibrata, *a courtesan*.....CASSIE JO GILLEN
Gymnasia, *a courtesan*.....VERNIA SHARISSE GARVIN
Erronius, *a citizen of Rome*.....GAIL GOLDEN
Miles Gloriosus, *a warrior*.....MARIE HASSELBACK-COSTA

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.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....STEVE VAUGHAN
Music Director.....KAREN SAXON
Choreographers.....TERRI FILIPS VAUGHAN
Stage Manager.....ALLEY GRIFFIN
Dance Captain.....HEATHER CASSERI
Scenic Designer.....RICH MERANTO
Costume Designer.....TODD WARFIELD
Lighting Designer.....JAY MARKS
Scenic Painter.....MICHAEL JOHNSON

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

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”Philia, Hero
“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, Proteans, Courtesans

INTERMISSION

ACT II

“That Dirty Old Man”Domina
“That’ll Show Him”Philia
“Lovely” (reprise)Pseudolus, Hysterium
“Funeral Sequence”Miles, Pseudolus, Courtesans, Proteans
“Comedy Tonight” (Finale)Company

THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

O’Connell & Company Productions, Inc.

Mary Kate O’Connell, Executive/Artistic Director

Joey Bucheker, Managing Director

Board of Directors

Sara Goldhawk, Chair

David Granville, Vice Chair

Darleen Knutsen, Secretary

Pamela Rose Mangus, Treasurer

Kelly Bova Kim Piazza John Pirrone Daniel Lenzian

Michael Starzynski Marilyn Singer Todd Warfield

WHO'S WHO

JULIANNA TRACEY (Pseudolus) is thrilled to make her O'Connell & Company debut! Favorite roles include: Little Old Lady/Duckling in DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS (Theatre of Youth), Kate Mullins in TITANIC (Starring Buffalo), Brittany/Alice in THE FOLKS AT HOME (Alleyway Theatre), Violet in VIOLET (UB Music Theatre), amongst others. Julianna holds a BFA in Music Theatre and a BA in History from SUNY University at Buffalo. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support!

HEATHER CASSERI (Panacea/Dance Captain) is excited to be back performing with O'Connell & Company, having previously appeared in INTO THE WOODS (Baker's Wife) and SUNSET BOULEVARD (Betty) receiving *Artie* nominations for both performances. Favorite credits include: NEWSIES (Katherine) with Kavinoky Theatre, RENT (Maureen) and LIZZIE (Lizzie) with Bellissima Productions. Heather holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Niagara University and is director of the Iroquois High School Drama Club. She would like to thank her family, friends and Johnny for their love and support. www.heathercasseri.weebly.com @heathercasseri

DASIA CERVI (Domina) is happy to be back working with O'Connell & Company after recently appearing as Dragon in SHREK. Some of her favorite roles she's played include Deloris Van Cartier in SISTER ACT at the Lockport Palace Theater, Crystal in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS at the Lancaster Opera House, Effie White in DREAMGIRLS at Sheas 710 for which she won the BroadwayWorld Award for Best Performer in a Musical. Dasia is also known on Tik Tok as "Dasia Karlee" (@dasiakarlee27), a singer-songwriter and music performer. She recently released her debut EP called "The Grievance Gallery" on all streaming platforms.

JULIA CIANFRINI (Protean) is thrilled to be making their debut with O'Connell & Company! Favorite roles include THE COMEDY OF ERRORS (Luciana) with Shakespeare in Delaware Park, CORALINE: THE MUSICAL (Other Father) with Teal's Niagara Theater, and various roles at Niagara University: A DOLLS HOUSE (Nora), RENT (Maureen), SEAGULL (Nina), RE-EVISIONING JOAN (Joan/Ensemble). Upcoming: GODSPELL at NU. They're a senior theater performance major at NU and thanks their parents, Terri, and Steve for their support!

WHO'S WHO

SYDNEY CONRAD (Philia) was last seen in The Lancaster Opera House's production of A CHRISTMAS STORY (Mother) and The Kenan Center's production of A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING. Sydney is overjoyed to be on the stage once again! Local credits include O'Connell and Company's Artie Award winning production of INTO THE WOODS (Cinderella) and YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, Lancaster Opera House's productions of THE WIZARD OF OZ, THE PAJAMA GAME (Babe Williams), ACCOMPLICE (Melinda/Harley), and CHESS (Svetlana), and HELLO, DOLLY! and TITANIC with Starring Buffalo. Upcoming productions this season include MARRY ME A LITTLE (Woman) at the Kenan Center. Sydney holds a BA in Music Education from SUNY Fredonia and works at her dream job as an elementary school music teacher in the West Seneca School District. Go Bills!

SAM CRYSTAL (Hysterium) is thrilled to be back on stage with O'Connell & Company after most recently appearing in SHREK. Favorite credits include Emma in THE PROM with MusicalFare, Little Red Ridinghood in INTO THE WOODS (Artie Nom. Supporting Actress in a Musical) and Wicket in WICKET: A STAR WARS PARODY MUSICAL (Artie Nom. Actress in a Musical) with O'Connell & Company, Smee in DRUNK PETER PAN with Drunk Theatre Buffalo, Joanne in RENT and Dr. Charlotte in FALSETTOS with Bellissima Productions. Love to their dad, friends, everyone at O'Connell & Company and every frog in the entire world. @camsrystal

LEX CUEVA (Hero) is excited to make their O'Connell & Company debut! Some favorite credits: A DOLL'S HOUSE PT. 2 (Torvald), TAMING OF THE SHREW (Petruccio), RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET (Ariel), FUN HOME (Joan), RENT (Benny). All my thanks to my family and friends for their support, always. BFA Niagara University 25' @alexiscueva

JESSIE FERKIN (Geminae) is thrilled to be back with O'Connell & Company. She was recently seen as The Wicked Witch in SHREK. Other favorite O'Connell & Company credits include Player in PIPPIN, Go-To-Hell Kitty in CHICAGO, Ensemble in SUNSET BOULEVARD, and Ensemble in DAMN YANKEES. Jessie frequently performs with The Francis Bacon Experiment and often performs as Columbia in THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW, and has also been seen on stage at Desiderio's Dinner Theatre, The Brazen Faced Varlets, and Shakespeare in Delaware Park. Jessie would love to give a huge shout out to her husband Adam for all his love and support.

WHO'S WHO

VERNIA SHARISSE GARVIN (Gymnasia) graduated from the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts where she fell in love with performance. She studied at the NYSSSA: School of Theatre. Later, she went on to graduate cum laude with a BA in Theater. As a lover of improv, she began her journey with ComedySportz Buffalo where she is currently a player on their Pro Roster. When she's not acting, she's being a super cool Social Studies teacher. This season, VerNia is proud to have been a part of the companies of OAK and A CHRISTMAS CAROL with Alleyway Theater. VerNia is very grateful to revise the role of Gymnasia a part she adores. Thanks to O'Connell & Company for casting her in this production. Next up she'll be returning to Shakespeare in Delaware Park as Helicanus in PERICLES:. As always she thanks her Mother for being her Number 1 fan!

BRIANNA GARCIA (Tintinabula) is a current Niagara University senior pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance. She is originally from Lockport, NY. While at NU, a few of her favorite roles include; A Doll's House, Part 2 (Nora), RENT (Mimi), Re-Envisioning Joan (Joan), Eight Women and a Murder (Gaby), NURT (Pink), as well as attending Powerhouse Theatre 2025 at Vassar College. Additionally, she is Publicity Head and runs the social media for the NU Players. She is eternally grateful for her family's support.

CASSIE JO GILLEN (Vibrata) is ecstatic to be making her Buffalo theatre debut at O'Connell & Company! A current senior at SUNY Fredonia, she is looking forward to graduating this May with a BFA in Musical Theater and a Bachelor of Science in Dance. Previous credits through her university include: THE LIGHTNING THEIF (Dance Captain/Katie) LEGALLY BLONDE (Pilar us/Ensemble) NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812 (swing). Hi Mom! Hi Dad!

GAIL GOLDEN (Erronius) is thrilled to be onstage again with O'Connell & Company and is tickled to be playing a man again! The last time Ms. Golden was cast as a male on stage was in BUA's A..MY NAME IS ALICE when she had a great time playing a construction worker! Ms. Golden is the director of Dramatic Solutions which books 75 actors at five universities for standardized patient performances. Favorite roles include Mrs. Claus in the Macy Thanksgiving Day Parade for 16 years and performing on the Castle Stage as Cinderella's Fairy Godmother at Magic Kingdom.

MARIE HASSELBACK-COSTA (Miles Gloriosus) is glad to be in FORUM in her O'Connell & Company debut. She has gratefully worked on and backstage in WNY over the past ~30 years: that work has resulted in two individual and multiple production Artie nominations. Her favorite show is always the next one, but this one is pretty great. Thanks to Steve and Joey for this opportunity, and to the Kid and Himself for all and everything.

WHO'S WHO

CAITLIN KLEINSCHMIDT (Protean) is thrilled to be with O'Connell & Company. Favorite Roles include: CRAZY FOR YOU (Patsy), SHOUT! (Red), ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT (Anne), and BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Babette). Ms. Kleinschmidt holds a BA in Theater and Dance from Buffalo State University. She continues to direct and choreograph for educational theater productions in Western New York and her theater not-for-profit, Over the Bridge Performing Arts. She thanks her family and friends for their continued love and support!

TALIA ROSE MOBLEY (Geminae) is so incredibly grateful to have this opportunity to be a part of this amazing show. Talia has been singing at her church, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist church, since she was five years old and eventually, it inspired her love for theatre and music. While in high school Talia took part in two outside regional productions including HAIRSPRAY at Kavinoky Theatre where she got the opportunity to play Lil Inez. She also has worked with MusicalFare on a live high school showcase hosted by Dudley Joseph Jr. and then sang during the intermission for a live night with Zachary Noah Piser and Adam Rothenberg. She was also recently in Shea's 710 theatre's production of DREAMGIRLS where she played Deena Jones. Talia just received her a BFA in Acting at SUNY Fredonia where she has learned so much not only about her acting but the type of performer she is and the performances she wants to give her audiences. She wants to thank God, her friends and her family for always supporting her dreams.

CASEY MOYER (Protean) is thrilled to be back on stage with some of WNY's finest talent! Favorite past roles include Jean Louise Finch in TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD with Western Door Playhouse, Missy in THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES: DREAM ON with O'Connell & Company, the Baker's Wife in INTO THE WOODS with Theatre in the Mist, and Simon Zealotes in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR with ART. A proud Niagara University Theatre grad from centuries past. Casey enjoys singing with her best buds in Back to the Bars (@backtothebars). Endless love to Matthew, her family (+bonus fam), friends, the cast and crew, and you—the audience. "Always for you, Whitey."

THERESA WERTH (Marcus Lycus) is thrilled to be performing throughout WNY, where she has been performing since high school. Most recently, she appeared as Rosie in MAMMA MIA with Niagara Proscenium Community Players, and last year portrayed Louise in BEAUTIFUL. At the Lockport Palace Theatre, audiences may have seen her as Trish in KINKY BOOTS, Madame in CINDERELLA, Miss Snipes in TARZAN, Sister Lazarus in SISTER ACT, and Patsy in ALWAYS, PATSY CLINE, among many other roles. In addition to musical theatre, Theresa enjoys honing her improvisation and comedic timing with Buffalo Dinner Theatre. This production marks Theresa's debut with O'Connell & Company, and she is excited to be working alongside such a talented cast.

2025-26 Season

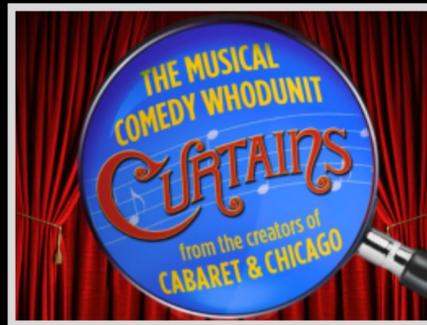
Canterbury Woods Performing Arts Center



February 19-March 1

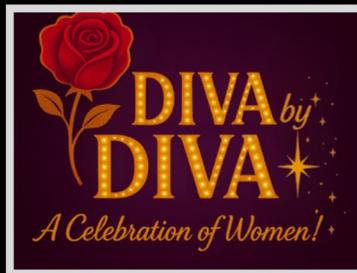


April 9-19



April 30-May 16

THE MEETING HOUSE



February 25, March 11, and May 13



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