

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Song Title	Characters	#
Comedy Tonight	Pseudolus, Miles, Domina, Erronius, Senex, Hero, Lycus, Philia, Hysterium & Company	2
Love, I Hear	Hero	6
Free	Pseudolus & Hero	7
Lovely	Philia & Hero	1 1
Pretty Little Picture	Pseudolus, Hero & Philia	1 3
Everybody Ought to Have a Maid	Senex, Pseudolus, Hysterium & Lycus	1 5
I'm Calm	Hysterium & Pseudolus	1 9
Impossible	Senex & Hero	2 0
Bring Me My Bride	Miles, Pseudolus, Lycus, Soldiers & Girls	2 3
That Dirty Old Man	Domina	2 6
That'll Show Him	Philia	2 7
Lovely (Reprise)	Pseudolus & Hysterium	2 8
Funeral Sequence	Miles, Pseudolus & Mourners	3 0

Comedy Tonight

PSEUDOLUS

Playgoers, I bid you welcome. The theatre is a temple, and we are here to worship the gods of comedy and tragedy. Tonight I am pleased to announce a comedy. We shall employ every device we know in our desire to divert you.

Something familiar
Something peculiar
Something for everyone
A comedy tonight

Something appealing
Something appalling
Something for everyone
A comedy tonight

Nothing with kings, nothing with crowns
Bring on the lovers, liars and clowns

Old situations
New complications
Nothing portentous or polite
Tragedy tomorrow
Comedy tonight

Something expensive
Something offensive
Something for everyone
A comedy tonight

Passions and potions
Constant commotions
Something for everyone
A comedy tonight

Nothing with kings, nothing with crowns
Bring on the lovers, liars and clowns

Old situations
New complications
Nothing portentous or polite
Tragedy tomorrow

PSEUDOLUS & COMPANY

Comedy tonight

COMPANY

Something compulsive

Something repulsive

PSEUDOLUS

Something for everyone

A comedy tonight

Something aesthetic

COMPANY

Something frenetic

PSEUDOLUS

Something for everyone

PSEUDOLUS & COMPANY

A comedy tonight

PSEUDOLUS

Nothing with Gods, nothing with fate

PSEUDOLUS & COMPANY

Weights affairs will just have to wait

PSEUDOLUS

Nothing that's formal

COMPANY

Nothing that's normal

PSEUDOLUS

No recitations to recite

PSEUDOLUS & COMPANY

Open up the curtain

Comedy tonight

PSEUDOLUS

It all takes place on a street in Rome, around and about these three houses. First, the house of Erronius, a befuddled old man abroad now in search of his children, stolen in infancy by pirates

Second, the house of Lycus, a buyer and seller of the flesh of beautiful women.

That's for those of you who have absolutely no interest in pirates. And finally, the house of Senex, who lives here with his wife and son. Also in this house lives

Pseudolus, slave to the son. Pseudolus is probably my favourite character in the piece. A role of enormous variety and nuance, and played by an actor of such...

well, let me put it this way... I play the part.

Anything you ask for

Comedy tonight

And now the entire company

COMPANY
Something familiar
Something peculiar
Something for everybody
Comedy tonight
Something that's gaudy
Something that's bawdy

PSEUDOLUS
Something for everybawdy!

COMPANY
Comedy tonight

MILES
Nothing that's grim

DOMINA
Nothing that's Greek

PSEUDOLUS
She plays Medea later this week

COMPANY
Stunning surprises
Cunning disguises
Hundreds of actors out of sight!

ERRONIUS
Pantaloons and tunics!

SENEX
Courtesans and eunuchs!

HERO
Funerals and chases

LYCUS
Baritones and basses

PHILIA
Panderers!

HERO
Philanderers!

HYSTERIUM
Cupidity!

MILES
Timidity!

LYCUS
Mistakes!

ERRONIUS
Fakes!

DOMINA
Rhymes!

PHILIA
Crimes!

PSEUDOLUS
Tumblers!
Grumblers!
Bumblers!
Fumblers!

COMPANY
No royal curse, no Trojan horse
And a happy ending, of course!
Goodness and badness
Man in his madness
This time it all turns out all right
Tragedy tomorrow
Comedy tonight!

PSEUDOLUS
One... two... three!

HERO

Now that we're alone, may I tell you:
I've been feeling very strange
Either something's in the air, or else a change
Is happening in me

I think I know the cause
I hope I know the cause
From everything I've heard, there's only one cause it can be

Love, I hear, makes you sigh a lot
Also, love, I hear, leaves you weak
Love, I hear, makes you blush and turns you ashen
You try to speak with passion
And squeak, I hear

Love, they say
Makes you pine away
But you pine away with an idiotic grin
I pine, I blush, I squeak, I squawk
Today I woke too weak to walk
What's love, I hear, I feel, I fear I'm in
Ahh!

See what I mean?
Da, da, da, da, da, da, dum
I hum a lot too
I'm dazed, I'm pale, I'm sick, I'm sore
I've never felt so well before
What's love, I hear, I feel, I fear
I know I am, I'm sure, I mean, I hope, I trust
I pray I must be in

Forgive me if I shout
Forgive me if I crow
I've only just found out
And well
I thought you ought to know

Free

HERO
Pseudolus?

PSEUDOLUS
Yes master?

HERO
Get me that girl

PSEUDOLUS
And if I can?

HERO
You are free!

PSEUDOLUS
I am what?

HERO
Free!

PSEUDOLUS
Free!
Oh, what a word!
Oh, what a word!
Say it again

HERO
Free!

PSEUDOLUS
I often thought
I often dreamed how it would be
And yet I never thought I'd be
Once more

HERO
Free!

PSEUDOLUS
But when you come to think of such things
A man should have the rights that all others
Can you imagine what it will be like when I am
Can you see me?
Can you see me as a Roman with my head unbowed?
Sing it good and loud!

HERO
Free!

PSEUDOLUS
Like a Roman having rights and like a Roman proud?
Can you see me?

HERO
I can see you

PSEUDOLUS

Can you see me, as a voter fighting graft and vice?
Sing it soft and nice!

HERO

Free!

PSEUDOLUS

Why, I'll be so conscientious that I may vote twice
Can you see me? Can you see me?
When I'm free to be whatever I want to be
Think what wonders I'll accomplish then
When the master that I serve is me and just me
Can you see me being equal with my countrymen?
Can you see me being Pseudolus the citizen?
Can you see me being... give it to me once again

HERO

Free!

PSEUDOLUS

That's it!

HERO

Free!

PSEUDOLUS

Yes!

HERO

Free!

PSEUDOLUS

Now, not so fast!
I didn't think
The way I am
I have a roof, three meals a day
And I don't have to pay a thing
I'm just a slave and everything's free
If I were free, then nothing would be free
And if I'm beaten now and then, what does it matter?

HERO

Free!

PSEUDOLUS

Can you see me?
Can you see me as a poet writing poetry?
All my verse will be...

HERO

Free!

PSEUDOLUS

A museum will have my pickled for posterity
Can you see me?

HERO

I can see you

PSEUDOLUS

Can you see me as a lover, one of great renown?
Women falling down

HERO

Free?

PSEUDOLUS

No!

But I'll buy the house of Lycus for my house in town
Can you see me? Can't you see me?
Be you anything from king to baker of cakes
You're a vegetable unless you're free
It's a little word, but oh, the difference it makes
It's the necessary essence of democracy
It's the thing that every slave should have the right to be
And I soon will have the right to buy a slave for me

Can you see him? Well, I'll free him
When a Pseudolus can move, the universe shakes
But I'll never move until I'm free
Such a little word, but oh, the difference it makes
I'll be Pseudolus, the founder of a family
I'll be Pseudolus, the pillar of society
I'll be Pseudolus the man, if I can only be

HERO

Free!

PSEUDOLUS

Sing it!

HERO

Free!

PSEUDOLUS

Spell it!

HERO

F-r-double-

PSEUDOLUS

No, the long way!

HERO

F-r-

HERO & PSEUDOLUS
E-e!

PSEUDOLUS & HERO
Free!

Lovely

PHILIA
I'm lovely
All I am is lovely
Lovely is the one thing I can do

Winsome
What I am is winsome
Radiant as in some
Dream come true

Oh, isn't it a shame?
I can neither sew
Nor cook nor read or write my name
But I'm happy

Merely being lovely
For its one thing I can give to you

HERO
Philia...

PHILIA
Yes?

HERO
Say my name!

PHILIA
Just say your name?

HERO
Yes

PHILIA
Very well. I have forgotten it

HERO
It's Hero

PHILIA
Forgive me, Hero. I have no memory for names

HERO
You don't need one. You don't need anything
You're lovely
Absolutely lovely
Who'd believe the loveliness of you?

Winsome
Sweet and warm and winsome
Radiant as in some dream come true

PHILIA
True!

HERO
Now Venus would seem tame
Helen and her thousand ships
Would have to die of shame

PHILIA & HERO
And I'm happy
Happy that I'm/you're lovely
For there's one thing loveliness can do
It's a gift for me to share with you!

Pretty Little Picture

PSEUDOLUS

In the Tiber there sits a boat
Gently dipping its bow
Trim and tidy and built to float
Pretty little picture? Now:
Put a boy on the starboard side
Leaning out of the rail
Next to him put a blushing bride
Slim and slender and starry-eyed
Down below put a tiny bed
The sun gets pale
The sea gets red
And off they sail
On the first high tide:
The boat and the bed and the boy and the bride
It's a pretty little picture, oh my!
Pretty little picture, how true!
Pretty little picture, which I
Pseudolittlelus, give to you!

Feel the roll of the playful waves
See the sails as they swell
Hear the whips on the galley-slaves
Pretty little picture? Well...
Let it carry your cares away
Out of sight, out of mind
Past the buoy and through the bay
Soon there's nothing but sea and spray
Night descends and the moon's aglow
Your arms entwined
You steal below
And far behind
At the edge of day
The bong of the bell of the buoy in the bay
And the boat and the boy and the bride are away
It's a pretty little picture to share
As our little boat sails to sea
Take your little trip free as air
Have a little freedom on me

HERO & PHILIA
No worries, no bothers

PHILIA
No captains

HERO
No fathers

PSEUDOLUS
In the ocean an island waits
Smooth and sandy and pink
Filled with lemons and nuts and dates
Pretty little picture? Think:
In a cottage of cypress trees
Seashells dotting the door
Boy and bride live a life of ease
Doing nothing but what they please
And every night when the stars appear
There's nothing more
To see or hear
Just the shore
Where the lovers lie

HERO & PHILIA
The sand and the sea and the stars and the sky

PSEUDOLUS
And the sound of a soft little satisfied sigh

PSEUDOLUS, HERO & PHILIA
All your/our petty little problems will cease
And your/our little blessings will flow
And your/our little family increase

Pretty little picture?

PSEUDOLUS

No, no!

PSEUDOLUS

Pretty little masterpiece

PSEUDOLUS, HERO & PHILIA

Pretty little masterpiece

PSEUDOLUS

Pretty little picture

Everybody Ought to Have a Maid

SENEX

Maids like me. I'm neat. I like maids. They're neat. Something no household should be without

Everybody ought to have a maid

PSEUDOLUS

Everybody ought to have a maid

SENEX

Everybody ought to have a working girl

Everybody ought to have a lurking girl

To putter around the house

Everybody ought to have a maid

PSEUDOLUS

Everybody ought to have a maid

SENEX

Everybody ought to have a menial

Consistently congenial

And quieter than a mouse

Oh, oh, wouldn't she be delicious

Tidying up the dishes

Neat as a pin

Oh, oh, wouldn't she be delightful

Sweeping out, sleeping in
Everybody ought to have a maid

PSEUDOLUS
Everybody ought to have a maid

SENEC
Someone who you hire when you're short of help
To offer you the sort of help
You never get from a spouse:
Fluttering up the stairway
Shuttering up the windows
Cluttering up the bedroom
Buttering up the master
Puttering all around the house!

Oh, oh, wouldn't she be delicious
Tidying up the dishes
Neat as a pin
Oh, oh, wouldn't she be delightful
Sweeping out, sleeping in
Everybody ought to have a maid

PSEUDOLUS
Everybody ought to have a maid

SENEC
Someone who in fetching you your slipper will
Be winsome as a whippoorwill
And graceful as a grouse:
Skittering down the hallway
Flittering through the parlour
Tittering in the pantry
Littering up the bedroom

SENEC & PSEUDOLUS
Puttering all around the house!

HYSTERIUM
A maid?

SENEC
A maid

PSEUDOLUS
A maid

SENEC, PSEUDOLUS, HYSTERIUM & LYCUS
A maid!
Everybody ought to have a maid
Everybody ought to have a serving-girl
A loyal and unswerving girl
Who's quieter than a mouse
Oh, oh

HYSTERIUM

Think of her at the dustbin
'Specially when she's just been
Traipsing about

SENEX, PSEUDOLUS, HYSTERIUM & LYCUS
Oh, oh, wouldn't she be delightful

HYSTERIUM

Living in

SENEX

Giving out

SENEX, PSEUDOLUS, HYSTERIUM & LYCUS

Everybody ought to have a maid
Daintily collecting bits of paper n' strings
Appealing in her apron strings
Beguiling in her blouse!

HYSTERIUM

Pattering through the attic

SENEX

Chattering in the cellar

PSEUDOLUS

Clattering in the kitchen

SENEX

Flattering in the bedroom

SENEX, PSEUDOLUS, HYSTERIUM & LYCUS

Puttering all around the house!
The house!
The house!

LYCUS

A maid?

HYSTERIUM

A maid

PSEUDOLUS

A maid

SENEX

A maid!

SENEX, PSEUDOLUS, HYSTERIUM & LYCUS

Everybody ought to have a maid
Someone who's efficient and reliable
Obedient and pliable

And quieter than a mouse!
Oh, oh, wouldn't she be so nimble
Fiddling with her thimble
Mending her gown
Oh, oh, wouldn't she be delightful

LYCUS
Cleaning up

SENEX
Leaning down

SENEX, PSEUDOLUS, HYSTERIUM & LYCUS
Everybody ought to have a maid
Someone who'll be busy as a bumblebee
And even if you grumble, be
As graceful as a grouse

LYCUS
Wriggling in the anteroom

HYSTERIUM
Jiggling in the dining room

PSEUDOLUS
Giggling in the living room

SENEX
Wiggling in the other rooms

SENEX, PSEUDOLUS, HYSTERIUM & LYCUS
Puttering all around the house!
The house!
The house!
The house!

I'm Calm

HYSTERIUM

I'm calm, I'm calm
I'm perfectly calm
I'm utterly under control
I haven't a worry
Where others would hurry I stroll
I'm calm, I'm cool
A gibbering fool is something I never become
When thunder is rumbling
And others are crumbling, I hum
Hm-hmmm-hmmmmm!
Hmmmmm!
H-m-m-m!

I must think calm comforting things
Butterfly wings
Emerald rings
Or a murmuring brook
Murmuring, murmuring, murmuring, look
I'm calm, I'm calm
I haven't a qualm
I'm utterly under control
Let nothing confuse me
Or faze me [Yawn]
Excuse me
I'm calm
Oh so calm
Oh so...

PSEUDOLUS

Hysterium!

Impossible

SENEX
Why did he look at her that way?

HERO
Why did he look at her that way?

SENEX & HERO
Must be my imagination

SENEX
She's a lovely blooming flower
He's just a sprout, impossible!

HERO
She's a lovely blooming flower
He's all worn out, impossible!

SENEX
Just a fledgling in the next

HERO
Just a man who needs a rest

SENEX
He's a beamish boy at best

HERO
Poor old fellow!

SENEX
He's a child, and love's a test
He's too young to pass, impassible!

HERO
He has asthma, gout, a wife
Lumbago, and gas, irascible!

SENEX
Romping in the nursery

HERO
He looks tired

SENEX
Son, sit on your father's knee

HERO
Father, you can lean on me

SENEX & HERO
Him? Impossible

HERO
But why did she wave at him that way?

SENEX
Why did she wave at him that way?

SENEX & HERO
Could there be an explanation?

HERO
Women often want a father
She may want mine, it's possible!

SENEX
He's a handsome lad of twenty
I'm thirty-nine, it's possible!

HERO
Older men know so much more

SENEX
In a way, I'm forty-four

HERO
Next to him, I'd seem a bore

SENEX
All right, fifty!

HERO
Then again, he is my father
I ought to trust, impossible!

SENEX
Then again, with love at my age
Sometimes it's just impossible!

HERO
With a girl I'm ill at ease

SENEX
I don't feel well

HERO

Sir, about those birds and bees

SENEX

Son, a glass of water, please

SENEX & HERO

The situations fraught

Fraughter than I thought

With horrible, impossible, possibilities!

Bring Me My Bride

MILES

Stand aside, everyone! I take large steps!

SOLDIERS

One, two! One, two!

MILES

We not only fought, but we won, too!

SOLDIERS

One, two! One, two!

Left, right! Left, right!

MILES

There's none of the enemy left, right?

SOLDIERS

Right! Left, right, right? Left?

MILES

Halt!

PSEUDOLUS

Hail, Miles Gloriosus. Welcome to my house, great captain. Your bride awaits you.

MILES

My bride, my bride, my bride

I've come to claim my bride

Come tenderly to crush her against my side

Let haste be made, I cannot be delayed

There are lands to conquer, cities to look and peoples to degrade

SOLDIERS

Look at those arms!

Look at that chest!

Look at them!

MILES

Not to mention the rest

Even I am impressed

My bride, my bride

Come, bring to me my bride

My lust for her no longer can be denied

Convey the news, I have no time to lose

There are towns to plunder, temples to burn and women to abuse

SOLDIERS

Look at that foot!

Look at that heel!

Mark the magnificent muscles of steel!

MILES

I am my ideal!
I, Miles Gloriosus
I, slaughterer of thousands
I, oppressor of the meek
Subduer of the weak
Degrader of the Greek
Destroyer of the Turk
Must hurry back to work

MILES

I, Miles Gloriosus

LYCUS, PSEUDOLUS & GIRLS

Him, Miles Gloriosus

SOLDIERS

A man among men!

MILES

I, paragon of virtues

LYCUS, PSEUDOLUS & GIRLS

Him, paragon of virtues

SOLDIERS

With sword and with pen!

MILES

I, in war the most admired
In wit the most inspired
In love the most desired
In dress the best displayed
I am a parade!

SOLDIERS

Look at those eyes
Cunning and keen
Look at the size of those thighs
Like a mighty machine!

PSEUDOLUS

Those are the mightiest thighs that I ever have seen
I mean...

MILES

My bride, my bride
Inform my lucky bride
The fabled arms of
Miles are open wide
Make haste, make haste
I have no time to waste
There are shrines
I should be sacking
Ribs I should be cracking
Eyes to gouge and booty to divide
Bring me my bride!

SOLDIERS
Bring him his bride!

That Dirty Old Man

DOMINA
For over thirty years
I've cried myself to sleep
Assailed by doubts and fears

So great the Gods themselves would weep
The moment I am gone
I wonder where he'll go
In all your simple honesty
You can't begin to know
Ohhhhh
I want him, I need him
Where is he?

That dirty old man
Is here somewhere
Cavorting with someone young and fair
Disporting in every shameless whim
Just wait till I get my hands on him
I'll hold him
Enfold him
Where is he?
That dirty old man
Where can he be?
Profaning my house for all to see
Complaining that he's misunderstood
Abusing me, if he only would

Oh love, sweet love, why hide?
You vermin, you worm, you villain!
Confess and press your bride
Wherever he is
I know he's still an angel
My angel
Where is he?
That dirty old man divine!
I love him, I love him
That lecherous, lewd, lascivious
Loathsome, lying, lazy
Dirty old man of mine

That'll Show Him

PHILIA
Let the Captain wed me and woo me
I shall play my part
Let him make his mad passion to me
You will have my heart
He can have the body he paid for
Nothing but the body he paid for

When he has the body he paid for
Our revenge will start!

When I kiss him
I'll be kissing you
So I'll kiss him morning and night
That'll show him
When I hold him, I'll be holding you
So I'll hold him ten times as tight
That'll show him too!
I shall coo and tenderly stroke his hair
Wish that you were there
You'd enjoy it

When it's evening
And we're in our tent for two
I'll sit on his knee
Get to know him
Intimately
That'll show him
How much I really love you!

Lovely (Reprise)

PSEUDOLUS
Come out here! Come on out!

HYSTERIUM
You didn't tell me I'd have to be a girl!

PSEUDOLUS
A dead girl! The captain will see you, go on his way, and all will be well.

HYSTERIUM

He'll never believe I'm a girl! Look at me, just look at me!

PSEUDOLUS

I can't take my eyes off you
You're lovely, absolutely lovely
Who'd believe the loveliness of you?

HYSTERIUM

No!

PSEUDOLUS

Come back!
Perfect, sweet and warm and winsome
Radiant as in some dream come true
Now Venus will seem tame
Helen and her thousand ships
Will have to die of shame
You're so lovely, frighteningly lovely
That the world will never seem the same
Now, lie there, close your eyes, and think dead thoughts. Good!

HYSTERIUM

I'm lovely, absolutely lovely
Who'd believe the loveliness of me?
Perfect, sweet and warm and winsome
Radiant as in some dream come true, now...
Shouldn't I have some jewellery?

PSEUDOLUS

Jewellery?

HYSTERIUM

Yeah!

PSEUDOLUS

Here, take the old man's ring

HYSTERIUM

Flowers!

PSEUDOLUS

What?

HYSTERIUM

I should have flowers!

PSEUDOLUS

Flowers!

HYSTERIUM

I'm so lovely

PSEUDOLUS

Literally lovely

PSEUDOLUS & HYSTERIUM

That the world will never seem the same

PSEUDOLUS

You're so lovely

PSEUDOLUS & HYSTERIUM

That the world will never seem the same

Funeral Sequence

PSEUDOLUS

Gather around, handmaidens of sorrow

MILES

Sound the flute

Blow the horn

Pluck the lute

Forward, mourn!

MOURNERS

Ahh... ahhh... ahhhh...

MILES

Ah!

MOURNERS

Ah!

MILES

All Crete was at her feet
All Thrace was in her thrall
All Sparta loved her sweetness, and Gaul

PSEUDOLUS

And Spain

MILES

And Greece

MOURNERS

All Crete was at her feet

PSEUDOLUS

And Egypt

MILES

And Syria

MOURNERS

All Thrace was in her thrall

PSEUDOLUS

And Mesopotamia

MOURNERS

Oh, why should such a blossom fall?

MILES

Speak the spells
Strum the lyre
Toll the bells

PSEUDOLUS

Fold the arms!

Sir, on behalf of the body, I want to thank you for a lovely funeral, but I've suffered enough. If you will just give me the contract, I'll take the body and...

MILES

Strew the soil
Strum the lyre
Spread the oil
Build the pyre

PSEUDOLUS

A pyre? What kind of pyre?

MILES

A pyre of fire

PSEUDOLUS

Oh, a fire pyre!

MILES

She must be burned

PSEUDOLUS

Burned? Sir...

MILES

I want her ashes!

PSEUDOLUS

Captain, I implore you. It is not for us to destroy such loveliness. The Gods are awaiting her. They would not be happy if we sent up a charred virgin!

MILES

I cannot afford to offend the Gods

PSEUDOLUS

Who can?

MILES

All Crete was at her feet
But I shall weep no more
I'll find my consolation as before
Among the simple pleasures of war!