

'A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum'

by DAN DILLON

Something new happened on the way to the new production that opens next Thursday at the Sandy Community Theatre.

For the first time the Sandy High School drama and music departments have officially teamed up with the Sandy Community Players for a full-fledged presentation, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

The two groups have shared facilities before, but this is the first time both will receive some financial gain from a production.

It also marks another first — for live theater in Sandy. "This is the first big musical with a full orchestra in this building," according to director Mark Kuntz.

SUHS music director Steve Christensen will lead a 17-piece orchestra through its paces from above the set.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," opened on Broadway in 1962 and immediately became renowned for its hilarious fast-paced action.

"In my opinion, it's probably the funniest musical comedy ever written," Kuntz said. Producer Pauline Stafford agreed, "It's hilarious."

Adapted from the plays of Plautus, the production is a slapstick of mistaken identities. The story is that Pseudolus (Noel Allen), a slave, will be granted his freedom if he can secure as his master's bride a virgin (Christine Pettingill) who has completed her basic course in the art of being a courtesan.

The love struck master (Rob Lawson) finds competition, of a sort, from his lecherous father (Jim Wilhite) and the vain soldier (Larry LaMarsh) for whom she was originally intended.

The show introduces a new stage to the Sandy Community Theatre also. Built for better visibility for the audience, the stage will hold a set constructed by Hank Emrich. And it will be lit with new lighting.

Stafford is making her debut as a stage producer. "The director has all the fun," she said, "and the producer gets all the committees organized and gets people to say, 'Yes,' and gets the 'maybes' to say, 'Yes.'"

Keeping with the SCP tradition of bringing new talent to the fore, Stafford was involved in the last production serving champagne in the lobby. "I think that is when Mark asked me to work with him on this show," she said, "and you don't say, 'No,' to Mark. Except for trying out for a couple parts in previous productions, my only connection with SCP has been buying lots of tickets."

There will be a special matinee performance next Thursday, May 7, at 1 p.m.

Curtain time will be 8 p.m. for performances May 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16. A special Mother's Day matinee will be given at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for students and senior citizens.

"We just want everyone to come," Stafford said. "It's hilarious. It really is."

The SCP will again offer a dinner-theater package. An Italian buffet supper will be available at the deli. Spaghetti, lasagna and trimmings will be offered along with theater tickets for \$9 per person. For more information, call 695-2845.

For information and reservations for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," call 668-8011 (Drama Department).



Domina (Macy Brader) is guaranteed to give her henpecked husband, Senex (Jim Wilhite) an earful.



Hero (Rob Lawson) and Phillia (Christine Pettingill) listen as Pseudolus (Noel Allen) plots their getaway from the arrival of Miles Gloriosus.



Miles Gloriosus (Larry LaMarsh) is a vain Roman soldier seeking a wife.

photos
by
Dan Dillon

Special dinner slated

Pam Mark Hall, nationally known composer and singer of Christian contemporary music, will be the featured singer and speaker at the Mother-Daughter Banquet next Friday, May 8, at Sandy Baptist Church.

Hall is a Gresham resident and was named outstanding new vocal gospel artist in 1979. She has released three records and tapes. The wife of former Firwood School teacher John Hall, she does concerts all over the nation. "I do not consider myself a Christian musician, but I consider myself a Christian who is a musician," she said. Hall will accompany herself on guitar and piano.

Theme of the banquet is "Happiness is..." and will include "Happiness is... pray-

ing, eating, singing, playing, honoring, sharing and allowing God to be the Lord of life and experiences."

The banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. and includes a salad bar, entree and dessert. The meal is being cooked and served by the men of the church under the leadership of Dave Workinger who has cooked in several restaurants in the area.

Reservations and tickets must be purchased for the banquet and are available at the church or by calling Barbara Hill, 668-6647, or Doris Peterson in the Hoodland area, 622-4283. The church number is 668-4064.

Sandy Baptist Church is located at 34495 S.E. Jarl Road, two miles west of Sandy.



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