

Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, and Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* with Edgewater High School Theatre Program. His stay at Mercer finds him involved with Mercer Music Department Ensembles, Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, Rolling Reader Tutoring Program, and the Macon Bluebeat Combo ska/blues/folk ensemble. Outside interests include the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps and studying Mercer history. He thanks the cast, crew Paul, Terrell, Mom, Dad, Jazz, the Taus, the EHS Thespians, the Dowell girls, and Ray Hatch.

Doug Grogan (Protean) is a senior pursuing degrees in Music and Biology. *Forum* is his first production at Mercer. Doug is a member of the Mercer Singers, Mercer University Choir, American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He hopes that his performance in *Forum* will redeem his grades with his teachers for the homework that occasionally didn't get finished. He wants to thank all his friends and family for always "working" around his schedule and the cast of *Forum* for making this such an enjoyable experience. He hopes that this time next year he will be on stage again.....getting his diploma!

Adam Gsegner (Stage Manager) is a sophomore from Smyrna majoring in Communication and Theatre Arts. This is Adam's 7th production with Mercer Theatre. He has worked in a variety of roles on and off the stage. He is thrilled to be working with such a great cast and crew and wants to thank them for all their effort.

Bert Hopkins (Eric Birling) is a Maconite in his first year at Mercer. *Forum* is Bert's second Mercer Production. He was last seen in *An Inspector Calls*. Bert has acted in numerous shows including *Is There Life After High School?*, *Phantom of the Country Opera*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Midlife Crisis of Dionysus*, and *Something's Rotten in the State of Denmark*. He also enjoys classic movies, various sports, arguing, and They Might Be Giants.

Rachel Leah Howell (Philia) is a junior majoring in Music. She first appeared on Mercer's stage as a chorus member in *Sweeney Todd*. Rachel was cast as Ciesca in Mercer's Opera production, *Gianni Schicchi*. At Macon Little Theatre, she has had the opportunity to play Winnie in *No, No Nanette* and Faye Templeton in *George M!*. She is a member of Mercer Singers, ACDA (American Choral Directors Association), SUAB, and Alpha Delta Pi. She is the daughter of Fay C. Howell and Robert T. Howell and sister to Adam. She would like to thank Dr. Martha Malone and Mrs. Carol Goff for all of their encouragement and help.

Sean Johnson (Pseudolus/Technical Director/Scenic Designer), Graduated from Marian College in Indianapolis with a B.A. in Theatre Arts. He is presently the Technical Director for the Mercer University Department of Communication and Theatre Arts. Sean also is a freelance scenic designer and has designed locally for Theatre Macon's *Flyin' West* as well

as Mercer University's *Sweeney Todd*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Extrémities*, and Macon College's *Spunk* and *Cobb*. He has been performing both on and off the stage for the last 20 years. Previous local performances as Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd* and Charlie in *Da* at Mercer. Sean would like to dedicate this performance to his family, and especially in loving memory of his mother-in-law Charlotte Gentry.

Stephen F. P. Karr (Protean) is a sophomore majoring in Music Performance in Organ. Stephen began music instruction at the age of three with Judy Franzen. He has been studying organ since 1996, and is currently director of music at Centenary United Methodist Church. He has made theatre a large part of his life, and has appeared in the Mercer production of Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor*. He is also a founding member of Mercer's American Choral Director's Association student chapter.

Bethany Kidd (Geminae) is a sophomore double majoring in Music and Biology. This is her first performance in Mercer theatre. Bethany has always aspired to portray a courtesan in theater and is ecstatic to be able to do that here. She wants to thank her parents, Stanton and JC for their support and also wants to thank Stephanie, Vivian and Somia for their inspiration.

Adam Kissel (Miles Gloriosus) is a sophomore majoring in Vocal Performance and class evasion. Adam is a passionate singer and currently sings with Mercer Singers. This performance is Adam's debut with Mercer Theatre, but in high school he enjoyed performing in his senior homecoming musical *Into the Woods*. He enjoys independent film, literature, and photography. He thanks Paul, the cast, and crew for a memorable experience and a fun show.

Katie Scarlett Lawson (Domina), a Communication and Theatre Arts and English major, is a senior at Mercer. For her last production as a student in Mercer Theatre, Katie would like to thank her three greatest mentors and role models, Paul Oppy, Marian Zielinski, and Frank Macke. As directors, professors, and friends they have inspired her to pursue a career in the field of theatre. Most of all she merits them for guiding her development into the woman she is today. Of Katie's many performances with Mercer she last toured in Kitykishu, Japan as a cast member of *The Good Doctor*. As a theatre scholarship recipient, senior class President, and a Chi Omega. She has truly enjoyed the Mercer experience. Upon graduation, in the top 5% of her class, Katie will compete in the Miss Georgia Scholarship Pageant as a current title holder, Miss Chattahoochee 1999.

Brenda McCann (Tittinabula) is a sophomore with a Drama/Theatre concentration and Art majors. This is the 6th consecutive Mercer production she has been a part of. Her previous credits include sound design and poster design for *An Inspector Calls* as well as costume crew and lighting crew for several of the productions.

Musical Numbers

Steve Mosley (Hero) is Executive Director of Creative Services in Mercer's Office of University Advancement. He is also an active member of the Chancel Choir of the First Baptist Church of Macon, the Mercer University Community Choir, and the men's ensemble of the Morning Music Club of Macon. His recent stage credits include Perelli in Mercer's 1997 Musical Theatre performance of *Sweeney Todd* and Gherardo in Mercer's 1997 Opera Workshop performance of *Gianni Schicchi*. Steve sends heart-felt thanks to his wife, Teresa, and her four wonderful children for their love and support.

Courtney O'Neill (Light Board Operator) is a freshman at Mercer University pursuing a communication and Theatre Arts major and a Drama/Theatre Concentration. Courtney has worked with three other Mercer productions this year and has assumed many roles in the production crew ranging from set crew to electrical positions. Courtney would like to thank all of her family and friends for their support and care.

Paul Oppy (Director) has been teaching and directing at Mercer for twenty-seven years. *Forum* is the 77th production he has directed for Mercer University Theatre. He serves as the Artistic Director of the Georgia International Festival for Young Audiences.

Christelle Remy (Pratfall Coach) is a French-born actress who was fortunate enough to train in England at the London International School of Acting. She is currently living and furthering her studies in Canada to become a certified stage fight instructor and choreographer. This is her second involvement with a Mercer production, the first being with *Cyrano De Bergerac* in 1998. She wishes to thank Paul Oppy for offering her this learning and teaching opportunity. Also, thanks to the cast for being a wonderful bunch of people.

J. Martin Roberts (Marcus Lycus) is senior from Warner Robins, Georgia majoring in Music. He would like to thank his mother and father for their support; he could not have been blessed with better parents, (by the way he still needs a Plymouth Prowler), his loving brother and supportive friends a/k/a THE NATION. Martin would like to dedicate his performance to the memory of Jakim Sessions, Dwight Johnson and Wylie Draper (Gone but not forgotten.)

Patrick Sinclair (Protean) is a freshman from Gray, Georgia, majoring in English Education and a Theatre Concentration. This is Patrick's third production at Mercer. He was the writer in *The Good Doctor* and Gerald Croft in *An Inspector Calls*. Patrick graduated from Jones County High where he worked in drama for four years under C. Scamihorn. He would like to thank Scam for her patience and, most of all, her friendship.

Comedy Tonight	Entire Company
Love, I Hear	Hero
Free	Pseudolus and Hero
The House of Marcus Lycus	Lycus and Girls
Lovely	Philia and Hero
Pretty Little Picture	Pseudolus, Hero and Philia
Everybody Ought to Have a Maid	Senex, Pseudolus, Hysterium and Lycus
I'm Calm	Hysterium
Impossible	Senex and Hero
Bring Me My Bride	Miles Gloriosus and Proteans

~Intermission~

That Dirty Old Man	Domina
That'll Show Him	Philia
Lovely (reprise)	Pseudolus and Hysterium
Funeral	Miles Gloriosus, Pseudolus, Proteans and Girls
Finale	Entire Company

~Who's Who~

Terrell Abney (Choreographer/Gymnasia) has appeared locally in numerous productions at Theatre Macon, Warner Robins Little Theatre, Macon Little Theatre, Macon Moving Company, and Mercer University. His most recent appearance was in the Mercer production of *The Good Doctor* which traveled to Japan. Other productions include work at Valdosta State University and professional work with Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, American Family Theatre, The Lost Colony, and Carousel Dinner Theatre. Choreographic credits include the Mercer Productions of *The Secret Garden* and *Sweeney Todd* and work for Macon Moving Company.

Raeanna Adams (Vibrata) earned a B.S. degree in Microbiology from the University of Georgia and is a first year medical student at Mercer's School of Medicine. Raeanne's stage credits include *Anything Goes* and *Fiddler on the Roof* at the University of Georgia and *Cinderella* and *Brigadoon* at Emmanuel College.

Brooke Burrell (Geminae) is a freshman, double majoring in Music and Business. This is Brooke's first production here at Mercer University, and she looks forward to many more to come. She has appeared in various choral productions and musicals including the role of Cinderella in *Into the Woods* and Irene Molloy in *Hello Dolly*. She is also a member of the Mercer Singers.

James Foley (Hysterium) is a freshman majoring in Music. James, more affectionately entitled Axel Foley by his friends and colleagues, is previously from Orlando, Florida. While in Florida he played the roles of Riff in *West Side Story*,

Mercer Theatre & Music Department

present

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by Larry Gelbart & Bert Shevelove

Director: Paul Oppy
Conductor: Scott Turpen
Music Director: Suann Strickland
Scene Designer: Sean Johnson
Costumes Designer: Marian Zielinski
Lighting Designer: Jason Teague
Choreographer: Terrell Abney

CAST

Senex	Emory Whittaker
Domina	Katie Lawson
Hero	Steve Mosley
Hysterium	James Foley
Pseudolus	Sean Johnson
Erronius	Bert Hopkins
Miles Gloriosus	Adam Kissel
Lycus	Martin Roberts
Tintinabula	Brenda McCann
Panacea	Jennifer White
The Geminae	Brooke Burrell, Bethany Kidd
Vibrata	Raeanna Adams
Gymnasia	Terrell Abney
Philia	Rachel Howell
The Proteans	Doug Grogan, Stephen Karr, Patrick Sinclair

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.

Action:

Continuous, with a ten minute intermission between acts.

Please turn off all beepers and watch alarms.

No cameras or recording devices may be used during the performance.

Suann A. Strickland (Music Director) holds Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Piano Performance and a Masters in Music Performance from Florida State University. She has served as musical director/pianist for professional, community and children's theatre productions in Chicago, North Carolina, New Mexico, Russian and Estonia.

Jason Teague (Lighting Designer) is a senior student of English and Theatre at Mercer. Jason designed and directed Mercer Theatre's third mainstage production, *An Inspector Call* earlier this semester. Other design credits include lighting for *Extremities* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

J. Scott Turpen (Conductor) is the Director of Jazz Studies and Saxophone/Clarinet at Mercer University, starting the position in the Fall of 1998. He has recently earned the Dictor of Musical Arts degree in Saxophone Performance from the university of Georgia. An active performer and clinician of classical as well as jazz music, Dr. Turpen has performed throughout the United States and Europe. In July of this summer, he will be a featured guest soloist at the Montreux Jazz Festival, held in Montreux, Switzerland.

Emory Whitaker (Senex) is a Professor of Mathematics and Director of the Great Books Program here at Mercer. This is his 7th show with Mercer, the most recent being George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* He says: "I've always wanted to be a 'dirty old man'."

Jennifer White (Panacea) is a junior majoring in English. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support.

Ashley Whitten (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior pursuing a Drama and Theatre Concentration, an English minor, and an Art minor. Working primarily backstage this year, Ashley stage managed Mercer Theatre's production of *Extremities* and was the costume mistress for *The Good Doctor*.

Marian Zielinski (Costume Designer) is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts at Mercer. She has designed sets, costumes, and/or lighting for over fifty Mercer productions. Marian has also designed for the professional stage, including the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and the Shawnee Theatre. She earned a BA in Theatre from the State University fo New York at Buffalo and her MFA from Illinois State University. Last semester she directed *The Good Doctor* at the Grand Opera House which toured to Kitakyushu, Japan, to perform during the city's celebration of International Week. Traveling to Japan with her husband, Dr. Frank Macke, and six of Mercer's finest students has been the highlight of her tenure at Mercer. She is currently designing scenery for Music Theatre Louisville's production of *The Music Man*.

Orchestra

Woodwinds

Leah Hammock
Ana Izaguirre
Sara Whitener
Jennifer Smallwood
Rodney Brown

Conductor
J. Scott Turpen

Piano
Suann Strickland

Trombones

Jason Arnold
Brian Di Diego, Tuba

Percussion
Miguel Castro
Greg McDonald

Trumpets

Joe Lombardo
Nichole Benson

Bass
Bob Barnett

Production Staff

Technical Director Sean Johnson
Stage Manager Adam Gsegner
Assistant Stage Managers David Arroyo, Jessica Murphy,
Stephanie Reavis, Ashley Whitten
Pratfall Coach Christelle Remy
Asst. Pratfall Coach Patrick Sinclair
Dance Captain Raeanna Adams
Set Crew Lisa Evans, Merideth Kirkland,
Courtney O'Neill, Stephanie Reavis,
Marlene Silva, Patrick Sinclair,
Mike Troyer, Wade Williams,
Costume Shop Supervisor Shelley Kuhen
Costume Crew Niki Hartley, Penni Hartley,
Shelley Kuhen, Brenda McCann,
Marian McHugh, Jessica Murphy, Courtney O'Neill,
Patrick Sinclair, Ashley Whitten
Wig Stylist Laurel Kuhen
Master Electrician Courtney O'Neill
Light Board Operator Courtney O'Neill
Sound Board Operator Peyton Glone
Assistant Sound Board Operator Meredith Kirkland

Special Thanks!

Rusty Banks, Penni Hartley, Karen Lambert,
Amy Larrimore and Frank Wood

Mercer University Theatre & Music Department

Directed by
PAUL OPPY

Music & Lyrics by
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by
**LARRY GELBART &
BURT SHEVELOVE**

Music Director
Suann Strickland

Conductor
J. Scott Turpen

April 22 - 24, 1999



THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE
A Performing Arts Center of Mercer University