

Audition 1: Senex, Domina, Hysterium

SENEX: (*Calls*): Slaves! (*PROTEANS enter*) We are about to start our journey. My robe! (*PROTEANS place robe on him*) My wreath! (*PROTEANS place wreath on his head*)

DOMINA: Senex!

SENEX: My wife.

DOMINA: Slaves! Stop cringing and fetch the baggage! Senex, you are master of the house and no help at all. Where is Pseudolus? Where is Hysterium? Summon them! (*Senex is about to speak, Domina calls out*) Pseudolus! Hysterium!

HYSTERIUM: Ah, madam, you called?

DOMINA: Yes, Hysterium.

HYSTERIUM: And I answered. Ever your humble.

DOMINA: Have you prepared my potions?

HYSTERIUM: Yes, madam. In addition to your usual potions, I have included one for tantrums and one for queasiness.

DOMINA: Thank you, Hysterium, slave of slaves.

HYSTERIUM: I live to grovel.

DOMINA: Slaves, take that baggage and go before us, you clumsies! Senex! Come away from that house of shame!

SENEX: (*Crossing to her*) I was just standing there saying, "Shame, shame, shame!"

DOMINA: Hysterium!

HYSTERIUM: Yes, madam?

DOMINA: Where is Pseudolus?

HYSTERIUM: Where is he indeed! I have not seen him since he dressed Hero this morning.

DOMINA: Tell him that while we are gone, he is to watch over Hero. He is to keep him cheerful, well-fed, and far from the opposite sex.

SENEX: My dear, the boy has to learn sometime.

DOMINA: And when that time comes, you shall tell him ...

SENEX: Yes, dear.

DOMINA: ... what little you know. Now, go and fetch the gift we bring my mother.

SENEX: Yes, dear.