

## Audition 6 Erronius, Hysterium, Pseudolus

**ERRONIUS:** Ah, home at last! After years of searching for my long-lost children.  
*(Hysterium enters from Senex's house, carrying plucked chicken, reacts in horror)*  
 How good it is to see this street once more. These tired old eyes fill with tears at the sight of the little they see. *(Bumps into Hysterium)* Pardon me, young woman, I was just... that is ... I mean to say ... Ah, lovely baby. *(Pats chicken)* About the age of my children when they were stolen by pirates. *(Going to his house)* Well, at least I have the comfort of my lonely house. *(Hysterium rushes to door of Erronius' house)*

**HYSTERIUM:** Sir!

**ERRONIUS:** And who are you?

**HYSTERIUM:** Hysterium, sir, servant to Senex.

**ERRONIUS** *(To pillar):* Yes, of course. I should have known you anywhere. *(Senex is heard singing from inside house a bit of "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid")*  
 What was that?

**HYSTERIUM** I didn't hear anything. *(Senex sings a bit more)* I didn't hear that either.

**ERRONIUS:** You did not hear that eerie sound?

**HYSTERIUM:** Eerie?

**ERRONIUS:** Eerie, as if haunted.

**HYSTERIUM:** *(To himself):* Eerie, as if haunted? *(To Erronius)* Sir, what I am about to tell you is eerie ... Your house is ... is haunted. As haunted as the day is long!  
*(Pseudolus enters, stirring the potion, listens)*

**ERRONIUS:** Impossible! My house haunted, you say? Strange.

**HYSTERIUM:** But true. Perhaps you ought to stay with relatives ... distant relatives.

**ERRONIUS:** Yes! No! Fetch me a soothsayer.

**HYSTERIUM:** A soothsayer?

**ERRONIUS:** Yes, I must have him search my house immediately. *(Pseudolus puts cloth over his head, runs to Erronius, chants ghoulishly)*

**PSEUDOLUS:** You are in need of a soothsayer?

**ERRONIUS:** How did you know?

**PSEUDOLUS:** I'd be a fine soothsayer if I didn't.

**ERRONIUS:** There is a spirit in my ...

**PSEUDOLUS:** Silence! I am about to say the sooth! Wait! (*Chants incoherently*) I see it. I see everything. (*Hysterium steps behind Erronius, pantomimes distance*) You have been abroad.

**ERRONIUS:** Yes, yes.

**PSEUDOLUS:** For...(*Looks at Hysterium who flashes his ten fingers twice*) ... twenty years! You have been (*Hysterium mimes searching the horizon*) You have been searching ... for ... (*Hysterium cradles his arms, rocks them*) A child! (*Hysterium holds up two fingers*) Two children!

**ERRONIUS:** Yes, yes! (*Hysterium flexes his muscles*)

**PSEUDOLUS:** A fine, big boy.

**ERRONIUS:** Yes.

**PSEUDOLUS:** And...(*Hysterium places hand on his hip, pantomimes girl*) A strange, little boy. (*Hysterium shakes his head no*) A girl! A girl! A boy and a girl!

**ERRONIUS:** Yes! Can you find them for me?

**PSEUDOLUS:** Certainly. I can find them for you.

**ERRONIUS:** Each wears a ring on which is engraven a gaggle of geese.

**PSEUDOLUS:** A gaggle of what?

**ERRONIUS:** A gaggle of geese. Look! There are only two others like it in the world. And my children wear them.

**PSEUDOLUS:** How many geese in a gaggle?

**ERRONIUS:** At least seven.

**PSEUDOLUS:** Seven? Then before I say the sooth again you must walk seven times around the seven hills of Rome.

**ERRONIUS:** Seven times?

**HYSTERIUM:** Slowly.