

Audition 8 Miles, Pseudolus

MILES: (*Pseudolus enters from Senex's house*) Lycus! Where is my bride?

PSEUDOLUS: Did she not come through this door?

MILES: No! What are you saying, man?

PSEUDOLUS: The virgin has escaped!

MILES: Oh, no! The beautiful bride I bargained for!

PSEUDOLUS: Vanished!

MILES: This is monstrous!

PSEUDOLUS: It certainly is. But look at it this way. Since I cannot deliver her to you, you do not have to pay me the five hundred minae.

MILES: I paid you the five hundred minae! (*Pseudolus reacts*) Through my agents. Has the money escaped as well?

PSEUDOLUS: There has been a little mistake. I was only joking. Lycus will pay you.

MILES: What?

PSEUDOLUS: I was helping out a friend. Allow me, great captain. (*He goes to Lycus's house, pulls Lycus out*) Come out here! (*To Miles*) Here is your man! (*To Lycus*) Tell him! Tell him who I am! (*Hysterium enters*)

LYCUS: Everyone knows who you are, Lycus.

HYSTERIUM: Of course. He is Marcus Lycus.

PSEUDOLUS: No! No! He is Lycus. This is his house!

LYCUS (*To MILES*): Look within, sir. You will find none here but hooded men. We are a holy order. An ancient brotherhood of lepers. Unclean! Unclean! And bless you, Lycus! (*He backs offstage*)

MILES: What now, Lycus?

PSEUDOLUS: What?

MILES: I shall tell you what! With axe and pike, my soldiers shall raze this house to the ground!

HYSTERIUM: (*Fainting*): Our beautiful house!

MILES: And you, you shall receive the maximum punishment - death!

PSEUDOLUS: Please, sir, please! May I be allowed a word?

MILES: A word?

MILES: It had better be a good one.

PSEUDOLUS: Oh, it is, sir!

MILES: What is it?

PSEUDOLUS (*To audience*): Intermission! (*Curtain*)