



Fine Arts Theatre

May 4, 5, 6 1972

8:15 p.m.

(translated by Frank O. Copley)

by
Plautus

ΜΕΝΕΧΜΗ

present

The Jefferson College Players

About the Play and Author

Plautus was the most successful of all the Roman comic playwrights. Twenty of his plays have survived to this day. The plays are all adaptations from the Greek New Comedy, a comedy of manners which succeeded the more boisterous, bawdy, and harshly satirical works of Aristophanes and his 5th Century B. C. contemporaries.

Plautine farce, as in *The Menaechni*, finds much of its comic appeal in what came to be stock devices; the artificial situation, a lie or mistake which is always clear to the audience; instead of surprise the comic irony of watching other characters who do not know.

Plautus apparently wrote as he did partly in consideration of his audience. Rome at this time was at war in Greece and Asia Minor. The returning soldiers wanted relaxation through a tense farce plot of scheming, suspense, and action that always turned out well in the end. Virtue triumphs. Primary concerns seem to be money, girls, and pleasure intermingled in a rather superficial plot complicated by scheming slaves, parasites, comic cooks, and bawds.

Most all of these characteristics are present in tonight's presentation of *The Menaechni*.

Thank you for your patronage and support of this year's theatre season.

Cast

(In order of appearance)

The Prologue	Tim White
Peniculus	Bill Sleater
Menaechnus I	Rob Doyen
Menaechnus II	Pat Brown
Erotium	Jeannie Westhoff
Cylindrus	Patti Bomar
Messenio	Joe Robason
Slave Girl	Pam Mayer
Matrona	Sharon Struckhoff
Senex	John White
Medicus	Don Van Meter
Slaves	Danny Boswell Gary Lang, Butch Langelle

Production Staff

Director	Joe Wilson
Assistant Director	Penny De Ment
Scene and Costume Design	Linda Larson
Set Construction	Steve Suellentrop Sharon Ulrich, Lynne Smith, Camille Marion, Joyce Lehnhoff, Bill Sleater, Mike Bieser
Lighting	Mike Bieser
Sound	Patti Day
Ticket Manager	Brenda Queen
Publicity and Program	Sheila Hoffmeister Maxine Franklin
Reservations	Judy Westfall
House Manager	Sherry Vaught

Scene

A street in Epidamnus, Sicily - circa 2nd Century B. C.

There will be a 10 minute intermission following Act III.