

“Forum” Audition Scene #3: Domina and Senex

*(As Domina and Senex prepare to leave to see Domina’s mother, she has a few instructions and well-placed barbs to utter before departing. However, Senex gets the last word. Note: While Hysterium and Hero are not physically present in the audition scene, please address them as if they were.)*

Domina *(to Hysterium)*: Tell Pseudolus 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 the time comes, you shall tell him...

Senex: Yes, dear.

D: ... what little you know... The time of farewell is at hand. Hysteria, slave in chief, here are my husband’s final instructions. *(Senex opens his mouth to speak, she continues)* In his absence, his entire house is in your spotless care. Your word shall be absolute, your authority unquestioned.

S: And furthermore—

D: We are on our way!

S *(muttering)*: We are on our way.

D: Farewell, beloved son. Farewell, thoughtful Hysterium. Senex, come along! And carry my bust with pride! *(Exits. A beat, and then her voice is heard)* Senex!

S: Yes, dear! *(To audience)* A lesson for you all. Never fall in love during a total eclipse!