

“Forum” Audition Scene #8: Erronius and Hysterium

*(Erronius, the old, absent-minded, myopic neighbor of the House of Senex, has returned home after searching for many years for his stolen son and daughter. He runs into Hysterium on the street who has placed Senex and Philia in Erronius’s empty house. Note: Senex is not in this audition scene. His singing will need to be imagined.)*

Erronius: Ah, home at last! After years of searching for my long lost children. *(Hysterium enters from Senex’s house, carrying a plucked chicken, reacts in horror)*. How good it is to see the 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 the door of Erronius’s house)*.

Hysterium: Sir!

Erronius: And who are you?

Hysterium: Hysterium, sir, servant to Senex.

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

Hy: I didn’t hear anything.

*(Senex sings a bit more)*

Er: Didn’t you hear that eerie sound?

Hy: Eerie?

Er: Eerie, as if haunted.

Hy *(To himself)*: Eerie, as if haunted? *(To Erronius)* Sir, what I am about to tell you is eerie... Your house is...haunted.

Er: Haunted?

Hy: As haunted as the day is long!

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

Hy: But true. Perhaps you ought to say with relatives...distant relatives.

