

“Forum” Audition Scene #9: Hysterium, Erronius, and Pseudolus

*(Hysterium has told Erronius that his house has become haunted while he was away in order to hide Senex and Philia. In order to continue the story, Pseudolus poses as a soothsayer to keep Erroneous away from his home. Note: Pseudolus and Hysterium should perform all pantomimed actions in italics.)*

Hysterium: Your house is...is haunted.

*(Pseudolus enters, stirring the potion, listens)*

Erronius: Impossible! My house haunted, you say? Strange!

Hysterium: But true. Perhaps you ought to say 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 a cloth over his head, runs to Erronius, chants ghoulishly)*

Pseudolus: You are in need of a soothsayer?

Erronius: How did you know?

Pseudolus: I's be a fine soothsayer if I didn't!

Erronius: There is a spirit in my...

Pseudolus: Silence! I'm about to say the sooth! Wait! (Chants incoherently) I see it. I see everything.

*(Hysterium steps behind Pseudolus, pantomimes distance)*

You have been abroad.

Er: Yes, yes.

Ps: For...

*(Looks at Hysterium who flashes his ten fingers twice)*

...twenty years!

*(Erronius nods vigorously. Hysterium shades his eyes with one hand)*

Ps: You have been searching... for...

*(Hysterium cradles his arms, rocks them)*

A child!

*(Hysterium holds up two fingers)*

Two children!

Er: Yes, yes!

*(Hysterium flexes his muscles)*

Ps: A fine, big boy.

Er: Yes.

Ps: And...

*(Hysterium places a hand on his hip, pantomimes a girl)*

A strange, little boy.

*(Hysterium shakes his head no)*

A girl! A girl! A boy and a girl!

Er: Yes! Can you find them for me?

Ps: Certainly. I can find them for you.

Er *(Takes ring from his finger and gives it to Psuedolus)*: Each wears a ring on which is engraven a gaggle of geese.

Ps: A gaggle of what?

Er: A gaggle of geese. Look! *(Points to ring)* There are only two others like it in the world. And my children wear them.

Ps: How many geese in a gaggle?

Er: At least seven.

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

Er: Seven times?

Hy: Slowly.

Er: Seven times around the seven hills? And the spirit?

Ps: It shall be gone by the time you have done my bidding.

Er: Thank you.

Ps: To the hills!

Er: To the hills!

*(Erronius goes toward the footlights, Pseudolus and Hysterium stop him and head him toward the wings)*

Hy: This is the way, sir!

Er: Thank you, young woman! *(Exits)*