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THE ROMANS ARE COMING! TWO RIVER THEATER CONTINUES ITS 2015/2016 SEASON WITH AN ALL-MALE PRODUCTION OF *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM*, WITH MUSIC DIRECTION BY GARY ADLER AND CHOREOGRAPHY BY DENIS JONES, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JESSICA STONE

The cast includes Paul Castree, Eddie Cooper, Tom Deckman, Christopher Fitzgerald, Kevin Isola, David Josefsberg, Max Kumangai, Graham Rowat, Manny Stark, Bobby Conte Thornton, David Turner, and Michael Urie

Performances: Saturday, November 14 - Sunday, December 13, 2015
Opening: Friday, November 20, 2015 at 8pm

RED BANK, NJ — Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, announces the full cast and creative team for its production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, the Tony Award-winning musical farce written by comedy giants **Burt Shevelove** and **Larry Gelbart**, with music and lyrics by theater legend **Stephen Sondheim**. The director is **Jessica Stone** (*Absurd Person Singular*), the choreographer is **Denis Jones** (*Honeymoon in Vegas*), and the musical director is **Gary Adler** (*Avenue Q*).

Performances will begin in Two River's Rechnitz Theater, 21 Bridge Avenue, on **Saturday, November 14** and continue through **Sunday, December 13**. The opening night performance is **Friday, November 20 at 8pm**. Tickets are available from 732.345.1400 or tworivertheater.org. The lead production sponsor is Riverview Medical Center.

Inspired by Stone's acclaimed 2010 Williamstown Theatre Festival production—and with a wink and a nod to Plautus—*Forum* will feature an all-male company of actors led by two-time Tony Award nominee **Christopher Fitzgerald** (Broadway's *An Act of God*, the original cast of *Wicked*) as Pseudolus and Drama Desk Award winner **Michael Urie** (*Buyer & Cellar*, *Ugly Betty*) as Hysterium.

Also featured in the cast are **Paul Castree** (*9 to 5, Young Frankenstein*), **Eddie Cooper** (*Little Shop of Horrors, Banshee*), **Tom Deckman** (*A Wind in the Willows Christmas, Spamalot*), **Kevin Isola** (*My Wonderful Day, Brooklyn Boy*), **David Josefsberg** (*Honeymoon in Vegas, Altar Boyz*), **Max Kumangai** (*Lysistrata Jones, Boardwalk Empire*), **Graham Rowat** (*Mamma Mia!, Guys and Dolls*), **Manny Stark** (*Smash, On the Town*), **Bobby Conte Thornton** (*Comedy of Tenors, Grease*), and **David Turner** (*Arcadia, Sunday in the Park with George*).

Director **Jessica Stone** made her Two River Theater debut last season with Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular*. Her other directing credits include *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike* (The Old Globe and Huntington Theatre Company); *June Moon* (Williamstown); *Arms and the Man* (The Old Globe); and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Bucks County Playhouse). Previously, she worked as an actor for 20 years, appearing on Broadway in *Anything Goes* with Sutton Foster, *Butley* with Nathan Lane, and *The Odd Couple* with Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick.

Choreographer **Denis Jones** most recently choreographed *Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical* (Dallas Theater Center) and *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn* (Goodspeed Opera House, The Muny). His Broadway credits include *Honeymoon in Vegas*.

Music Director **Gary Adler** received two 2005 Drama Desk nominations for his music and lyrics for the Off-Broadway show *Altar Boyz*. As a musical director, his credits include *Avenue Q*.

The creative team includes scenic designer **Alexander Dodge**, costume designer **Clint Ramos**, lighting designers **Jeff Croiter & Jake DeGroot**, and sound designer **Drew Levy**. The projection designer is **Aaron Rhyme**, the orchestrator is **Joshua Clayton**, and the hair and makeup designer is **David Bova**. The casting is by **Adam Caldwell**, and the production stage manager is **Libby Unsworth**.

Ticket Information

Ticket prices range from \$37 to \$65, with discounts available for groups, seniors, and U.S. military personnel, their families, and veterans. A limited number of \$20 tickets are available for every performance; \$20 tickets may be partial view. Tickets for patrons under 30 are \$20 and include the best available seats at every performance. Tickets are available from tworivertheater.org or 732.345.1400.

Inside Two River

Inside Two River is a series of events specially curated for each Two River Theater production. For more information or to reserve seats, patrons should visit tworivertheater.org or call 732.345.1400.

Stephen Sondheim 101 with Literary Manager Anika Chapin: Tuesday, November 3 at 7:30pm in the Victoria J. Mastrobuono Library

Stephen Sondheim, the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and lyricist of 17 classic musicals (including *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods*) is a titanic figure in American musical theater. In this free event, part of an ongoing "101" series taking audiences behind the scenes of Two River's work, Literary Manager Anika Chapin will discuss his life (including his early mentorship by Oscar Hammerstein II) and game-changing work.

Audience Extras

Before Play and Lobby Display

Audiences will learn more about *Forum* in Two River's Before Play lecture series, which takes place 45 minutes prior to every performance, and Lobby Display.

Post-Play Conversations

Discussions with the cast and a member of Two River's Artistic staff will take place on Sunday, November 29 at 3pm; Wednesday, December 2 at 1pm; and Wednesday, December 9 at 7pm.

Accessibility

Working with Google, Two River has created and launched a virtual tour of its facility, which lives on Google Maps and tworivetheater.org. This virtual tour provides an additional level of support and benefit for patrons who use wheelchairs or require other assistance by allowing them to virtually come through the theater's front doors and view the space in detail in advance of their visit.

An audio-described performance is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2 at 1pm, and an **open-captioned/ASL-interpreted performance** is scheduled for Saturday, December 5 at 3pm. Tickets are available at a discounted rate of \$25 for patrons using these services. To reserve wheelchair-accessible seating or tickets to a performance listed above, patrons should call 732.345.1400 or e-mail boxoffice@trtc.org.

Calendar

Saturday, November 14 at 8pm
Sunday, November 15 at 3pm
Wednesday, November 18 at 1 pm and 7pm
Thursday, November 19 at 8pm
Friday, November 20 at 8pm (**Opening Night**)
Saturday, November 21 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, November 22 at 3pm
Tuesday, November 24 at 10am (student matinee)
Wednesday, November 25 at 1pm and 7pm
Friday, November 27 at 3pm and 8pm
Saturday, November 28 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, November 29 at 3pm
Tuesday, December 1 at 10am (student matinee)
Wednesday, December 2 at 1pm and 7pm
Thursday, December 3 at 1pm and 8pm
Friday, December 4 at 10am (student matinee)
Saturday, December 5 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, December 6 at 3pm
Wednesday, December 9 at 1pm and 7pm
Thursday, December 10 at 1pm
Friday, December 11 at 10am (student matinee) and 8pm
Saturday, December 12 at 3pm and 8pm
Sunday, December 13 at 3pm

Sponsorship

The lead production sponsor for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* is Riverview Medical Center. *Inside Two River* is sponsored by The William T. Morris Foundation. The *Before Play* series is sponsored by Zager Fuchs, PC.

Two River Theater is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Monmouth University, The Shubert Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Meridian Health/Riverview Medical Center, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Saker ShopRites, Investors Foundation, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation at the Atrium at Navesink Harbor, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Wells Fargo, William T. Morris Foundation, US Trust, Brookdale Community College, and many other generous foundations, corporations and individuals.

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Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, creates great American theater performed by award-winning artists. We produce American and world masterpieces, and new plays and musicals. Two River Theater offers new-play commissions and artistic development activities that support the most adventurous artists in the American theater; invites its audience to be part of the creative process through readings and open rehearsals; and cultivates students and young people to participate in innovative arts-education programs and become a new generation of theatergoers. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is easily accessible by car, train, or bus, with great restaurants and shopping within walking distance of the theater. For more information, visit tworivertheater.org or call 732.345.1400.