

# A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

A COMEDY MUSICAL

MUSIC & LYRICS BY:

STEPHEN SONDHEIM

BOOK BY

LARRY GELBART & BURT SHEVELOVE

PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK




Directed by:

**BENNY GOODMAN**

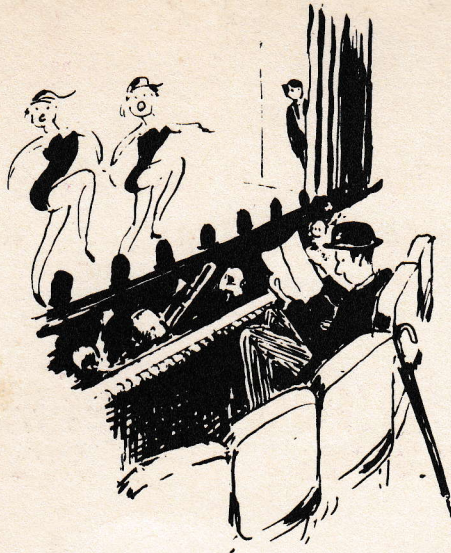
1976

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*PROUDLY PRESENT*

**'A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE  
WAY TO THE FORUM'**

Book by  
**Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart**

Music and Lyrics by  
**Stephen Sondheim**

Directed by  
**Benny Goodman**

Assistant Director  
**Wally Rabey**

Choreographer  
**Loris Valles**

Musical Director  
**Benny Goodman**

at

**KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE**

4th to 20th NOVEMBER 1976

## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Stephen Sondheim was born in New York on March 22nd 1930. He attended the George School in Newtown, Pennsylvania, and Williams College, where he majored in music. At College he wrote book, music and lyrics for two school productions. Winning the Hutchison Prize enabled him to devote two years of study in composition in New York with Milton Babbitt. In 1953 he was co-author of the scripts for the Television Series "Topper", and one year after that he completed music and lyrics for musical "A Saturday Night", which never reached Broadway due to the death of its producer.

While writing scripts for the Columbia Broadcasting system and background music for the Broadway Play "Girls of Summer", he worked on the lyrics for "West Side Story", for which he achieved renown. For "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" a major success, and "Anyone Can Whistle" a box office failure, he wrote both the music and the lyrics. For two other musicals he wrote only the lyrics, while Julie Styne wrote the Music for one, (Funny Girl) and Richard Rodgers for another, (Do I Hear A Waltz). He wrote both words and music for "Company" in 1970.

More recently Stephen Sondheim has become a name synonymous with success on the London Theatre Scene. "A Little Night Music" for which Stephen Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics, enjoyed an immensely popular run at the Adelphi Theatre and was again directed by Harold Prince. This show is to be made into a film starring Elizabeth Taylor. "A Little Night Music" also won the London Critics Award as the best musical for 1975. At present showing in London is "Side by Side by Sondheim" which is described as a musical entertainment, by Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics), Leonard Bernstein, Mary Rodgers, Richard Rodgers, and Julie Styne. This production is proving most popular and is running at the Wyndham Theatre at present.

It is to be hoped that more music and lyrics will flow from the pen of this most talented composer and lyricist in the not too distant future.

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF NAIROBI

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As Chairman of the Rotary Club of Nairobi, I would like, first of all, to thank you all for coming to this premiere tonight and by doing so, giving your support to our Club's project, Secondly, I would also like to thank the Nairobi City Players for allowing us to organize this Charity Premiere. Furthermore, we are also indebted to Alitalia for helping with the sale of tickets, and for offering a return airticket to Europe which will be raffled this evening against the lucky programme number. My thanks go, also, to the Members of our Rotary Club for their support.

The net proceeds from this premiere will go towards the cost of a portable Kidney Machine, which the Rotary Club of Nairobi is donating to the Nairobi Hospital. The cost of this Kidney Machine exceeds by far what we will raising tonight, but we are confident to raise the balance before the end of the Rotary year. Other projects which we already completed, or are well underway, this year were a contribution of KShs. 12,000. — towards extensions at the Salvation Army Joy Town in Thika, KShs. 5,000, — towards furnishing a Hostel at the Christian Industrial Training Centre, co-sponsorship of the National Business Management Game and a provision for a bursary for a young Kenyan to study Business Management at the University of Nairobi.

I hope you will enjoy this evening.

S. F. STUCKLIN

Chairman,

Rotary Club of Nairobi.

## ABOUT THE SHOW

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum is a musical based on the works of Plaustus and is set in Rome in 200 BC.

It opened at the Alvin Theatre New York on 8th May 1962, and had an unbroken run of 964 performances until it closed on 29th August, 1964. The Original production was presented by the well known empresario Harold Prince and starred Zero Mostel as Pseudolus.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum was the joint winner of the best production in New York for 1963 along with "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" It won 6 Tony Awards including the following, Best Musical by Stephen Sondheim, Best Musical Play with authors Burt Shevelove and Lorry Gelbart, Best Director, George Abbott, Best Musical Producer, Hal Prince, Best Actor, Zero Mostel and Best Supporting Actor David Burns.

In 1966 United Artists released "A Funny Thing" starring once again Zero Mostel as Pseudolus, Jack Gifford as Hysterium and also included Phil Silvers as Lycus and Buster Keaton in a small supporting role.

The Show was later staged in London starring Frankie Howerd as Pseudolus. The London production gave rise to the television services "Up Pompeii" which also starred Frankie Howerd.

Now Nairobi City Players are very pleased to present "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" for the first time in East Africa.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

BENNY GOODMAN is affectionately accepted to be the "Resident Genius" of the Nairobi City Players. Another man of the Theatre, Mr. Noel Coward, once referred to himself as "Jack of all trades — master of most". Should one venture this description to fit Benny he would undoubtedly contest it adding "make it — master of all, mate". This is not to signify arrogance in any way on his part, merely a supreme confidence in his own ability which is generally abundantly justified. I speak with some authority having had the pleasure to work with Benny in the theatre for more than twenty-five years.



So, what has he done to deserve this reputation?

**Benny Goodman as Sancho Panza  
in "Man of La Mancha"**

Benny has been associated with the Nairobi City Players from their first production in November, 1956, "The Love of Four Colonels" for which he was Stage Director. But before that, since his arrival in Kenya in 1950, he worked with other groups in the Kenya National Theatre and in other fields of entertainment, including a clown act with an old "banger" of a car which exploded in all directions.

He has done almost everything in theatre and, over the past twenty years, mostly for this group. He is a Stage Director, Actor, Set Designer, Singer, Lighting Designer, Dancer, Play Director, Choreographer, Set Constructor, Scenic Artist and, now, one of his cherished ambitions achieved in this production, Musical Director of "Forum" as well as being its overall Production Director. So far he hasn't taken much interest in Business Management or Publicity or even wanting to be the Chairman of this Group but it is, I think only a matter of time.

I should like to pay Benny a sincere tribute for the outstanding work he has achieved for this group and to remember with pleasure some of the highlights:- as an actor: "The Cowardly Lion" (Maridadi Simba) in "The Wizard of Oz", "Arthur Groomkirby" in "One Way Pendulum", "Nicely-Nicely Johnson" in "Guys and Dolls", "First Gangster" in "Kiss Me Kate", a double of "Twimble" and "Womper" in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying", "Sancho Panza" in "Man of La Mancha" and most recently, "Fagin" in "Oliver"

Amongst memorable productions directed by Benny were "Kiss Me Kate", "The Real Inspector Hound", "Another Opening" and "Minstrels '74 and '75".

He has also done outstanding work as a Lighting Designer and Operator for many of our productions and those of other groups. He was set designer for the eleven sets for "My Fair Lady" and was Lighting Designer for "Godspell". He was Resident Stage Manager of the Kenya Drama Festival and the Kenya Schools Drama Festival for many years.

From his arrival in 1950, Benny worked for many years with E.A. Posts and Telecommunications. Ten years ago he took up another career, that of Computer Consultant, which is particularly appropriate to his talents and is now a director of Data Centre, Ltd., Kenyatta Avenue. His wife, Brenda, is the hardworking Secretary to the group, and his two children Gail and Glen also take a keen interest in Theatre.

Bryan Epsom  
Chairman.

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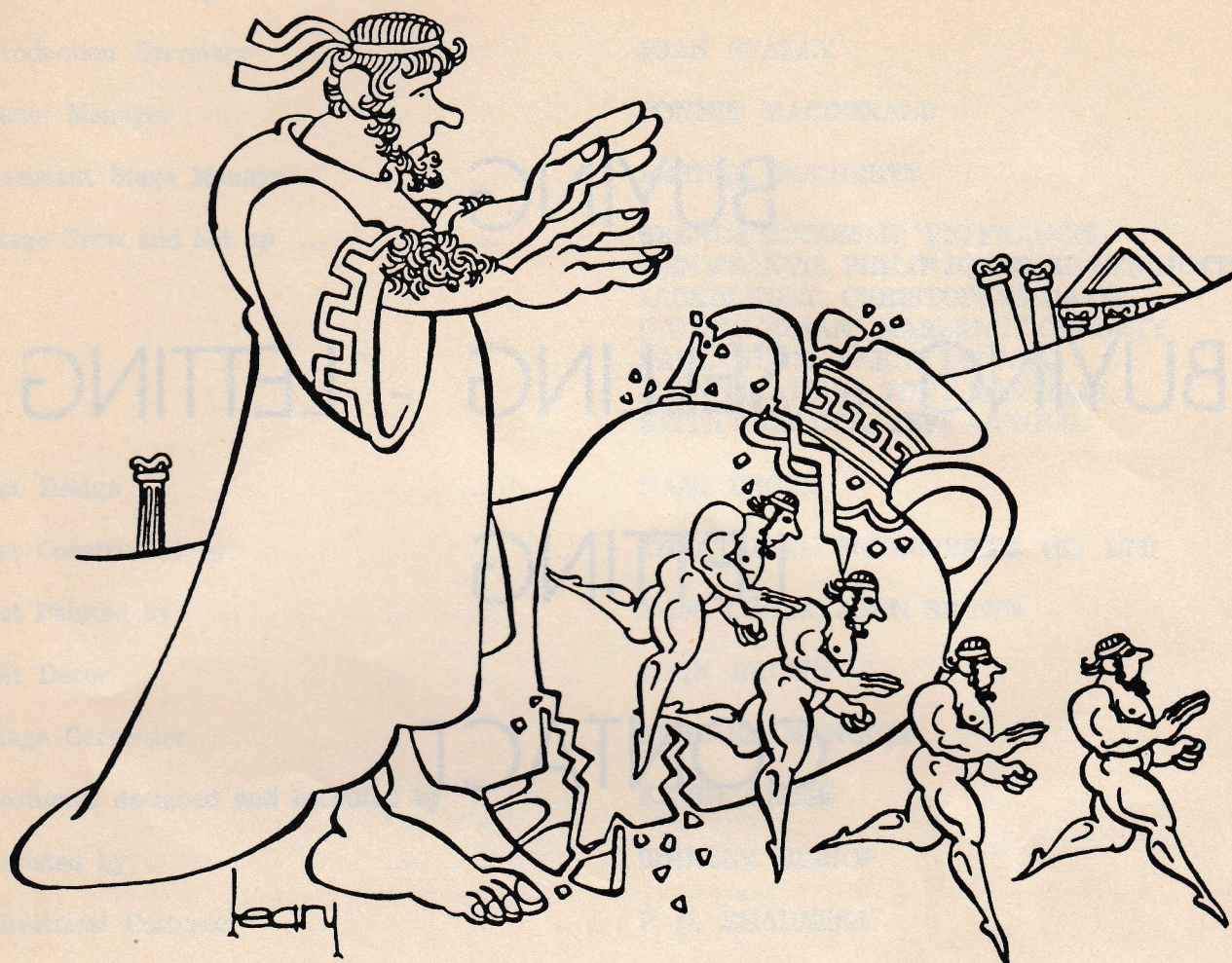
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## THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	...	...	...	...	WALLY RABEY
Production Secretary	...	...	...	...	JOAN STALLY
Stage Manager	...	...	...	...	CONNIE MACDONALD
Assistant Stage Manager	...	...	...	...	ARTHUR DOCHERTY
Stage Crew and Set up	...	...	...	...	BRENDA GOODMAN, VIC FRANCIS, ANN FRANCIS, PHILIP JONES, EILEEN HUTTON, JACKIE HOLT, CHRISTOPHER DAVIS. GAIL GOODMAN, MARLENE DOCHERTY, PAUL EPSOM, BARRY LENNOX, JOHN TIRATSOO, TONY MARTELLI, KEITH GRISTOCK, JEFF ARNOLD.
Set Design	...	...	...	...	NANI CROZE
Set Constructed by	...	...	...	...	THEATRICAL ENTERPRISES (K) LTD
Set Painted by	...	...	...	...	NANI CROZE, JOHN BROWN
Set Decor	...	...	...	...	JOHN BROWN
Stage Carpenter	...	...	...	...	RICHARD MANGOLI
Costumes designed and executed by	...	...	...	...	KEVIN GROSE
Assisted by	...	...	...	...	SHIRLEY BISHOP
Theatrical Costumer	...	...	...	...	P. D. BHADRESA
Lighting designed by	...	...	...	...	THEATRICAL ENTERPRISES (K) LTD.
Lighting Board	...	...	...	...	JASON MWAI
Follow Spot	...	...	...	...	EILEEN HUTTON
Sound	...	...	...	...	ADAM RAHIMTULLA
Assisted by	...	...	...	...	VIC FRANCIS, KEN LATHAM
Hair styling and Wigs by	...	...	...	...	ERICA HANKINS
Properties	...	...	...	...	MARIE LATHAM, DENIZE COUSEY, TOM QUINN
Dressers	...	...	...	...	VICKY UDALL, ERICA HANKINS
Prompt	...	...	...	...	GWYNNE PALMER, DAVID BOSHER
Publicity	...	...	...	...	BRYAN EPSOM
Poster by	...	...	...	...	MARY MINOT
Front of House Manager	...	...	...	...	ANN FRANCIS
Programme	...	...	...	...	NICK DONNE

# A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON

DIRECTED BY  
**BENNY GOOD**

Choreographer  
**LORIS VALLES**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
**BENNY GOOD**

Settings designed by: **NANI CROZE**  
Production Manager: **WALLY RABEY**

THE PLAYERS

(In order of appearance)

Prologus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Philia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hero	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senex	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Domina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Proteans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hysterium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pseudolus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marcus Lycus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
The Courtesans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tintinabula	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Panacea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
The Geminae	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vibrata	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gymnasia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erronius	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miles Gloriosus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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P. O. Box 44859, I  
**NAIROBI**

# D ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

DIRECTED BY  
HENRY GOODMAN

Assistant Director  
WALLY RABEY

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
HENRY GOODMAN

Costumes designed by: KEVIN GROSE  
Stage Manager: CONNIE MACDONALD

## THE PLAYERS

(in order of appearance)

GLYNN DAVIES  
BRENDA GOGAN  
BARRY LENNOX  
JACK MOSS  
MARLENE DOCHERTY  
JOHN TIRATSOO  
TONY HANKINS  
NICK DONNE  
MIKE ROMANCIA  
KEITH GRISTOCK  
GLYNN DAVIES  
BRYAN EPSOM  
  
LINDA TULLA  
COURTENAY CANNADY  
JUDY HENRY, PENNY LENNOX  
MARION GUTHRIE  
MAUREEN TURNER  
TONY MARTELLI  
KEN LATHAM

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- FOUR.         WE BELIEVE A SYSTEM OF VISITING AND CHECKING OUR GUARDS IS MOST IMPORTANT SO WE HAVE RADIO CONTROLLED CHECKING TEAMS OPERATING THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND NIGHT. THERE ARE FOUR CHECKING TEAMS OUT EVERY NIGHT. LAST MONTH OUR CHECKING TEAMS COVERED 15000 MILES JUST IN NAIROBI
  
- FIVE.         NO MORE SPACE. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE, PLEASE CALL OR VISIT US. YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME.

We wish all the best to Rotary Club  
of Nairobi and Nairobi City Players

for

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON  
THE WAY TO THE FORUM

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## THE MUSICIANS

under the direction of

**BENNY GOODMAN**

Peter Holgate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>Organ</b>
Gordon Eggleston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>Piano</b>
Jack Ferrie	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>Drums</b>

The Nairobi City Players wish to thank all the above Musicians for their untiring efforts in rehearsal. The "Players" are also most grateful to Mike Hall for the loan of his electric organ during the rehearsal period and in the theatre.

## THE THEATRE

For the Kenya National Theatre

Administrator	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>James Falkland</b>
Manager	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>Leo Pardo</b>
Box Office Manager	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>George Mugele</b>
Technicians	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>Jason Mwai Joseph Gichure</b>

## THE SYNOPSIS

The Time Is two hundred years before the Christian Era, a day in spring.

The Place Is a street in Rome, in front of the houses of Erronius, Senex, and Lycus.

The Action Is continuous with a single Intermission.

## THE MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT THE FIRST

1. Overture ..... Orchestra
2. Comedy Tonight ..... Prologus, and Company
3. Love I Hear ..... Hero
4. Free ..... Pseudolus, and Hero
5. The House of Marcus Lycus ..... Marcus Lycus, and Courtesans
6. Lovely ..... Philia, and Hero
7. Pretty Little Picture ..... Pseudolus, Philia, and Hero
8. Everybody ought to have a Maid ..... Senex, Pseudolus, Hysterium and Lycus
9. I'm calm ..... Hysterium
10. Impossible ..... Senex and Hero
11. Bring me my Bride ..... Miles Gloriosus and Company

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### INTERVAL

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### ACT THE SECOND

12. Entracte ..... Orchestra
13. That dirty old Man ..... Domina
14. That'll Show Him ..... Philia
15. Lovely (Reprise) ..... Pseudolus and Hysterium
16. Funeral ..... Miles Gloriosus and Company
17. Finale ..... The Company

# PAST PRODUCTIONS

BY NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

- 1956 "The Love of Four Colonels" by Peter Ustinov.
- 1957 "The Man Who Came to Dinner" by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman  
"Ring Round The Moon" by Jean Anouilh.  
"Payment Deferred" by Jeffrey Dell.
- 1958 "Romanoff and Juliet" by Peter Ustinov.  
"Two Gentlemen of Soho" by A. P. Herbert.  
(Winning Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1958)  
"Carrington V. C." by Dorothy and Campbell Christie.  
"Will Any Gentleman" by Vernon Sylvaine.
- 1959 "Rope" by Patrick Hamilton.  
"You Can't Take It With You" by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman.  
"The Paragon" by Roland and Michael Pertwee.
- 1960 "The Diary of Anne Frank" by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett.  
"Six Characters In Search of An Author" by Pirandello.  
"A Farrago" comprising  
    "The Proposal" by Chekhov.  
    "Uneasy Lies The Head..." from Shakespeare.  
    "Red Peppers" by Noel Coward.
- 1961 "The King and I" by Rodgers and Hammerstein.  
"The Caine Mutiny Court Martial" by Herman Wouk.  
"The House by the Lake" by Hugh Mills.  
"The Bespoke Overcoat" by Wolf Mankowitz.  
(Winning Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1961)  
"The Hole" by N. F. Simpson. (Drama Festival Entry, 1961)
- 1962 "Caesar and Cleopatra" by George Bernard Shaw.  
"The Long and the Short & the Tall" by Willis Hall.  
"Men Without Shadows" by Jean Paul Sartre.  
(Placed Third Winning Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1962)  
"No Fixed Abode" by Clive Exton. (Drama Festival Entry, 1962)
- 1963 "See How They Run" by Philip King.  
"Annie Get Your Gun" by Irving Berlin, Herbert and Dorothy Fields.  
"Irma La Douce" by Marguerite Monnot and Alexandre Breffort.  
Excerpts from "St. Joan" by George Bernard Shaw.  
(Place Second Winning Entry Kenya Drama Festival 1963)  
"The Resounding Tinkle" by N. F. Simpson. (Drama Festival Entry, 1963)
- 1964 "South Pacific" by Rodgers and Hammerstein.  
"Ross" by Terence Rattigan.  
"The Valiant" by Holworthy Hall and Robert Middlemass.  
(Winning Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1964)  
"The Scar" by Rebecca Njau.  
(Placed Third Winning Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1964  
and also Best Original Play)  
"Oklahoma!" by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

## Past Productions continued

- 1965 "The Country Wife" by William Wycherley.  
"The Duchess of Malfi" by John Webster.  
(Placed Joint Third Winning Entry Kenya Drama Festival, 1965)  
"The Wizard of Oz" by Frank Baum, Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg.
- 1966 "A View From the Bridge" by Arthur Miller.  
"The Man Who Came to Dinner" (revival) by Moss Hart and  
George S. Kaufman.
- 1967 "Twelve Angry Men" by Reginald Rose.  
A Double Bill of—  
"Lunch Hour" by John Mortimer.  
"One Way Pendulum" by N. F. Simpson.  
"The Sound of Music" by Rodgers and Hammerstein
- 1968 "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams.  
"Guys and Dolls" by Frank Loesser, Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows.  
"My Fair Lady" by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe.
- 1969 "The Affair" by Ronald Millar.  
"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" by Frank Loesser  
and Abe Burrows.  
"After the Fall" by Arthur Miller.  
"Kiss Me Kate" by Cole Porter and Bella & Sam Spewack.
- 1970 "The Magistrate" by Sir Arthur Wing Pinero.  
A Double Bill of—  
"The Dock Brief" by John Mortimer.  
"The Real Inspector Hound" by Tom Stoppard.  
"The Lion and the Jewel" by Wole Soyinka.  
(In association with the National Theatre Company of Kenya)  
"The Pajama Game" by Richard Adler, Jerry Ross, George Abbot and  
Richard Bissell.
- 1971 "Hadrian VII" by Peter Luke.  
"Fiddler on the Roof" by Joseph Stein, Jerry Boch and Sheldon Harnick.  
"Kismet" by Robert Wright, George Forrest, Charles Lederer and Luther  
Davies.
- 1972 "Under Milk Wood" by Dylan Thomas.  
"Salad Days" by Julian Slade and Dorothy Reynolds.  
"Saint Joan" by George Bernard Shaw.  
"Hello, Dolly!" by Michael Stewart & Jerry Herman.
- 1973 "Conduct Unbecoming" by Barry England.  
"Man of La Mancha" by Dale Wasserman, Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion.  
"A Voyage Round My Father" by John Mortimer.
- 1974 "Minstrels 1974" by Benny Goodman  
"Everything in the Garden" by Giles Cooper.  
"Godspell" by John Michael Tebelak and Stephen Schwartz.  
"The Rainmaker" by N. Richard Nash.  
"Oliver" by Lionel Bart.
- 1975 "Minstrels 1975" by Benny Goodman  
"The Masters" by Ronald Millar (based on book by C.P. Snow)  
"Genesis" by David Kelsey, Kendal Davies and Charles Bound  
"An Inspector Calls" by J. B. Priestley  
"Another Opening" by Benny Goodman.
- 1976 "Hostile Witness" by Jack Roffey.  
"Cabaret" by Fred Ebb and John Kander

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Jim McDougal, Gareth Richards,  
Samy Johansen.

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**Nairobi  City Players**

We are proud to announce our  
**21ST ANNIVERSARY IN 1977**

To celebrate this occasion

We will firstly be presenting a season entitled

**'TRIO'**

which will consist of two plays and a musical to be staged  
in March 1977

Further details and dates of auditions will be announced in  
the press at a later date.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND APPRECIATIONS

THE HEADMASTER ST. GEORGES PRIMARY SCHOOL ...	For rehearsal facilities.
MR. MIKE HALL ... ..	For loan of Organ.
MR. BRYAN SHINER ... ..	For loan of Musical Tape.
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The "Players" wish to thank all those persons who gave their assistance in many ways after this Programme went to press.

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### NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

IN September, 1956 an "acting group" was formed to be known as the Nairobi City Players, and in its Constitution set down the following aims and objects:—

- (a) Regularly to present theatrical productions of a good dramatic and artistic standard by utilising and co-ordinating the best available acting talent, producers, set designers and technical stage assistants.
- (b) Towards the fulfilment of (a) above, to be unstinting in the cost of production, subject to the limit set by the Standing Committee.
- (c) To take all necessary steps to encourage the drama and to improve the facilities available for theatrical productions.

The City Players have adhered rigidly to these aims from their formation and since that time have presented a total of 79 productions including 25 full scale musicals (figures include the current production), mostly at the Kenya National Theatre.

The City Players are controlled by a **STANDING COMMITTEE** as follows:—

Bryan Epsom ( <b>Chairman</b> )	Ken Latham
Nick Donne ( <b>Business Manager</b> )	Walter Hinds
Wally Rabcy ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Glynn Davies
Benny Goodman ( <b>Executive Member</b> )	Jack Ferrie
Rurik Ronsky	Jack Moss
Peter Pearce	Arthur Docherty
Gordon Purcell	

In addition to the Committee there is an Associate Membership limited to 50 members.

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Centuries of tradition; Swiss Guards in the Vatican City.



"Trattorias" - little restaurants. Lots of fun and so inexpensive.



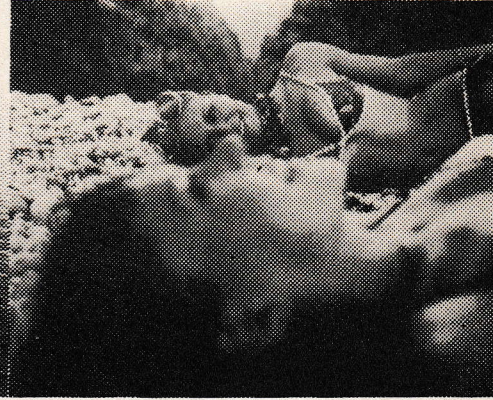
Piazza 'San Marco' Venice. Full of fluttering Wings.



Florence for shopping both stylish and elegant.



Capri's just idyllic. The sea is so blue!



Beautiful girls, sea and sun in Sardinia.

## Florence, Venice, Naples, Milan, Genoa, Capri, Siena.

### There's a lot more to Italy than just the Roman Forum.

Start your Italian holiday in Rome.

In Rome, the walk from the Trevi Fountain to St. Peter's Basilica takes in 2000 years of history.

In the shops that dot the route you can see how Italian designers are leading the world to new fashion trends.

Everywhere you find the "Trattorias", little restaurants that are such fun to eat in - and so inexpensive.

From Rome, you are within easy reach of the romance of Venice, the colour of Florence or the idyllic island of Capri. Attend exciting carnivals and festivals throughout the year. There's almost one a day!

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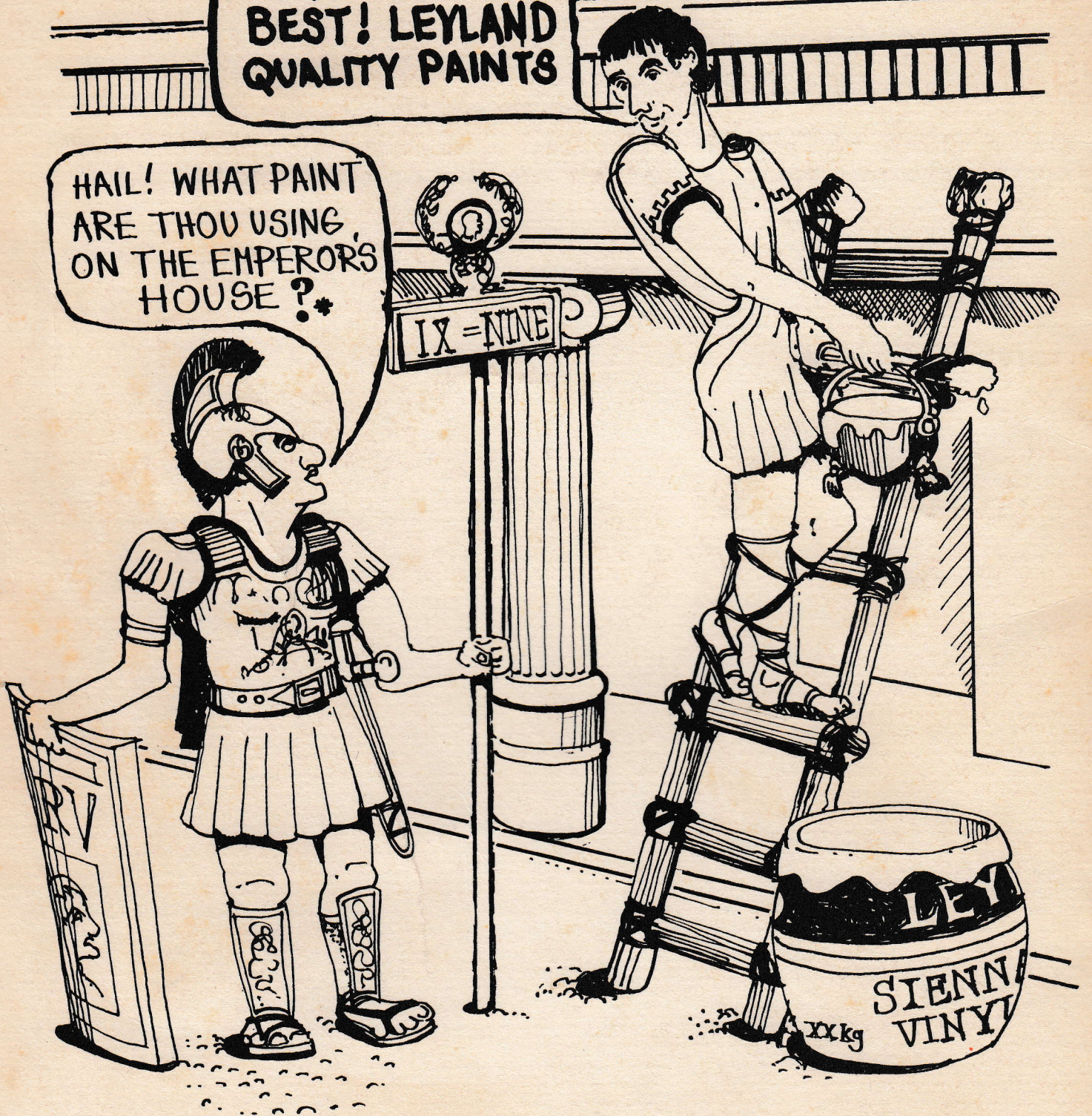
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