

## **Erronius / Hysterium / (Pseudolus) Pages 49 - 53**

### **ERRONIUS**

Ah, home at last. Bring up the baggage. Fetch the rest from the harbor.

*(SAILORS exit D.R.)*

Ah, home at last! After years of searching for my long lost children.

*(HYSTERIUM enters from center house, carrying chicken. Reacts in horror.)*

How good it is to see this street once more. These tired old eyes fill with tears at the sight of the little they see.

*(HE 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.

*(Crossing to house S.L.)*

Well, at least I have the comfort of my lonely house.

*(HYSTERIUM rushes to door of house L.)*

### **HYSTERIUM**

Sir!

### **ERRONIUS**

And who are you?

### **HYSTERIUM**

Hysterium, sir, servant to Senex.

### **ERRONIUS**

*(To pillar)*

Yes, of course. I should have known you anywhere.

*(SENEX is heard singing from inside house "Everybody Ought To Have a Maid.")*

*(Backing away.)*

What was that?

### **HYSTERIUM**

What was what?

### **ERRONIUS**

*(Pointing to house S.L.)*

That!

**HYSTERIUM**

That what?

**ERRONIUS**

That eerie sound.

**HYSTERIUM**

Eerie?

**ERRONIUS**

Eerie, as if haunted.

**HYSTERIUM**

*(To himself)*

Eerie, as if haunted?

*(To ERRONIUS.)*

Sir, what I am about to tell you is eerie... Your house is — is haunted.

**ERRONIUS**

Haunted?

**HYSTERIUM**

As haunted as the day is long!

*(PSEUDOLUS enters U.R. from behind center house, stirring the potion, listens to the following.)*

**ERRONIUS**

Impossible! My house haunted, you say? Strange.

**HYSTERIUM**

But true. Perhaps you ought to stay 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 cloth over his head, runs to ERRONIUS, chants ghoulishly.)*

*ERRONIUS turns to HYSTERIUM.)*

Who is that?

**PSEUDOLUS**

You are in need of a soothsayer?

**ERRONIUS**

How did you know?

**PSEUDOLUS**

I'd be a fine soothsayer if I didn't!

**ERRONIUS**

There is a spirit in my...

**PSEUDOLUS**

Silence! I am about to say the sooth! Wait!

*(Chants incoherently.)*

I see it. I see everything.

*(HYSTERIUM steps behind ERRONIUS.)*

You have been abroad.

**ERRONIUS**

Yes, yes.

**PSEUDOLUS**

For...

*(Looks to HYSTERIUM who flashes his ten fingers twice.)*

... twenty years!

*(ERRONIUS nods vigorously.)*

You have been searching ...

*(ERRONIUS nods.)*

... for ...

*(HYSTERIUM cradles his arms, rocks them.)*

A child!

*(HYSTERIUM holds up two fingers.)*

Two children!

**ERRONIUS**

Yes, yes!

*(HYSTERIUM flexes his muscles.)*

**PSEUDOLUS**

A fine, big boy.

**ERRONIUS**

Yes.

**PSEUDOLUS**

And ...

*(HYSTERIUM places 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!

**ERRONIUS**

Yes! Can you find them for me?

**PSEUDOLUS**

Certainly. I can find them for you.

**ERRONIUS**

*(Takes ring from his finger, gives it to PSEUDOLUS) Each wears a ring on which is engraved a gaggle of geese.*

**PSEUDOLUS**

A gaggle of what?

**ERRONIUS**

A gaggle of geese. Look!

*(Points to ring.)*

There are only two others like it in the world. And my children wear them.

**PSEUDOLUS**

How many geese in a gaggle?

**ERRONIUS**

At least seven.

**PSEUDOLUS**

Seven? Then before I say the sooth again you must walk seven times around the

seven hills of Rome.

**ERRONIUS**

Seven times?

**HYSTERIUM**

Slowly.

**ERRONIUS**

Seven times around the seven hills?

*(SAILORS enter D.R. with baggage.)*

Take it all back to the harbor!

**SAILOR**

Back to the harbor?

**ERRONIUS**

*(Proudly)*

My house is haunted.

*(SAILORS exit D.R. with baggage. SENEX is heard singing again from house S.L.)*

*PSEUDOLUS joins in, eerily.)*

**(ERRONIUS)**

And the spirit?

**PSEUDOLUS**

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

**ERRONIUS**

Thank you.

**PSEUDOLUS**

To the hills!

**ERRONIUS**

To the hills!

*(HE starts D.S., PSEUDOLUS and HYSTERIUM stop him, and head him off S.L.)*

**HYSTERIUM**

This is the way, sir!

**ERRONIUS**

Thank you, young woman!

*(HE exits D.L.)*

**PSEUDOLUS**

*(Calls)*

Sir, you forgot your gaggle!

*(Puts ring on his own finger.)*

*(SENEX enters from house S.L.)*