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## audience reviews

***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, American River College, Theatre Arts Department***

**Review:** The Fair Oaks Theatre Festival is presenting a great evening of entertainment. A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum literally has something for everyone. Great songs (especially Everybody Ought To Have A Maid), great jokes, lovely ladies, a total stud (Miles Gloriosus), and non-stop fun!! This is the bargain of the year. Don't miss.  
- Bill

**Review:** While I'm sure everyone's heard of Forum, I had never seen it and wasn't sure what to expect for a Sunday evening show. I was treated to a play captivating in its whimsy. Jeff Labowitch started the show with energy and immediately endeared himself to the audience as Pseudolus. Daniel Slauson was priceless as Hysterium and Joe Wilkinson (Miles Gloriosus) delivered one of the funniest note-that-goes-on-forever moments I've seen on stage. Amanda Valli had a remarkable voice as Philia. The direction by Bob Irvin was wonderful, so naming every highlight would be recounting most of the show...so I will cut short the specific mentions, though all would be deserving of it. No performance was less than outstanding as even all the Proteans and Courtesans were great for laughs and never broke character (Patrick Van was particularly hilarious). This was my first time to the Fair Oaks Amphitheater and I thoroughly enjoyed both the setting and the very fun performance.  
- Mark F

**Review:** Call me crazy, but I like to see people who can really sing cast in musicals. This was certainly true of Amanda Valli (Philia) and her true love (what was his name?) but less so of a few others. Not that they were "bad" but when you have to listen to a lot of songs that only sound "ok" it gets boring unless the actors, I don't know, dance or something. When they did I was entertained. Everyone Ought to Have A Maid was good -- but others dragged on with little movement -- and actors need to move during songs if their singing alone is not strong enough to

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entertain. As for the acting, again uneven. Some characters were fun, others I found either over or undercooked. The lead got it right thank goodness, and so the show did work, and I do think it fun and worth seeing. But be prepared to have the chickens entertain you in spots. And don't bring the kids. A lot of crotch grabbing and sexual innuendo -- some same sex, some hetero sex, some just wierd.

**Review:** WOW, what a great night of laughs and fun! The thing about this show is that you have to keep it moving otherwise it does not work. Fair Oaks Theater kept the pace fast and furious. Great job Bob Irvin for keeping the pace up, the show never slows down. There were some stand out performances by Daniel Slauson (Hysterium) and Jeff Labowitch (Pseudolus) both stepped up and gave sparkling line reading and jokes. Honorable mentions go to Joe Wilkinson (Miles Gloriosus) and Amanda Valli (Philia), Joe was outstanding and Amanda has the best voice of the show. One more shout out goes to T. Patrick Van (Protean/Eunuch) for showing us even small roles in shows can be just as outstanding as the leads. Great job to the rest of the cast for providing a great night of entertainment under the stars that kept me laughing all night.

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