

Comedy, Violence, Undergraduates

1. Sample sketches from Richlin (2013)

1. I am an army veteran, back from the Second Punic War; my family was gone and my farm was wrecked when I got back, and I don't know where my family are. I came to the city five years ago to look for them.
2. I am a blacksmith with a smithy on the Aventine Hill. The wars have kept me in business. I am a freed slave and so is my wife; I came originally from Sicily, and she came from Apulia, so we speak both Latin and Greek at home. I am here with my head workman, a slave.
3. I run a *thermopolium* on the Aventine Hill (I'm the cook). My whole family works there, and business is booming because the place is always filled with Greek-speakers from the South. I am a freed slave and so is my wife, who's here with me. We both came originally from Sicily, so we speak both Greek and Latin at home as well as in the shop.
4. My daughter was kidnapped towards the end of the Second Punic War. She was eight years old then. We are afraid she has been sold into a brothel somewhere.
5. I am a Roman senator; I love comedy because our old nanny used to bring us here when we were little. Because of her, Greek was actually my first language.
6. I was enslaved after the Romans took Henna in Sicily, in 214. I was twelve at the time, and was soon sold to a pimp here in the city. I have been a prostitute for eight years now, and am losing my good looks. We sit on the stage before the show, for obvious reasons.
7. I am a wet-nurse in the family of a Roman senator; I have my current nurslings with me. My owner bought me when I was pregnant with twins, for this reason. One of my babies died, so I am nursing my baby along with my owner's son by his wife.
8. My husband is a very rich man who doesn't know I'm at the festival instead of home weaving. I'm here with my best friend and our personal slaves.

2. *Rudens* 821-833.¹

LABR. Heu hercle, ne istic fana mutantur cito:
iam hoc Herculi est, Veneris fanum quod fuit,
ita duo destituit signa hic cum clavis senex.
non hercle quo hinc nunc gentium aufugiam scio,
ita nunc mi utrumque saevit, et terra et mare.
Palaestra. **LOR.** Quid vis? **LABR.** Apage, controversia est,
haec quidem Palaestra, quae respondit, non mea est.
heus, Ampelisca. **LOR. ALTER** Cave sis infortunio.
LABR. Vltro te. signa ut homines satis recte monent.
sed vobis dico, heus vos, num molestiaest,
me adire ad illas propius? **LOR.** Nil nobis quidem.
LABR. Numquid molestum mihi erit? **LOR.** Nil, si caveris.
LABR. Quid est quod caveam? **LOR.** Em, a crasso infortunio.

LABR. Dear gods. The temple's quickly been transformed from Venus to Hercules. The old boy put two statues here with clubs. I'm Herced. I don't know where on earth to run since land and sea both rage against me now. Oh, Palaestra! **LOR.** What do you want? **LABR.** Oh, there's something wrong. For this Palaestra speaking is not mine. Oh, Ampelisca! **LOR. ALTER** Beware of enormous punishment. **LABR.** Within their limits, they offer good advice. I'm speaking to you girls. Oh girls. Do you object if I come closer to them? **LOR.** No, we don't mind. **LABR.** Will I be in trouble? **LOR.** Not if you watch out. **LABR.** Watch out for what? **LOR.** Enormous punishment.

¹ Translations of *Rudens* are those of Given and Futrell.

3. *Rudens*, 878-881.

PLES. tu, mea Palaestra et Ampelisca, ibidem ilico manete, dum ego huc redeo. **LOR.** Equidem suadeo, ut ad nos abeant potius, dum recipis. **PLES.** Placet, bene facitis. **LABR.** Fures mi estis. **LOR.** Quid, fures? rape.

4. *Persa*, 807-818.²

PAEG. Decet me facetum esse, et hunc inridere lenonem lubidost, quando dignus est.
TOX. Perge ut coeperas. **PAEG.** Hoc, leno, tibi.
DOR. Perii perculit me prope. **PAEG.** Em, serva rusum.
DOR. Delude, ut lubet, erus dum hinc abest.
PAEG. Viden ut tuis dictis pareo?
sed quin tu meis contra item dictis servis atque hoc, quod tibi suadeo, facis? **DOR.** Quid est id?
PAEG. Restim tu tibi cape crassam ac suspende te.
DOR. Cave sis me attigas, ne tibi hoc scipione malum magnum dem. **PAEG.** Vtere, te condono.
TOX. Iam iam, Paegnum, da pausam.

5. *Casina*, 829-854

PA. Age, Olympio, quando vis uxorem accipe hanc ab nobis.
OL. Date ergo, daturae si umquam estis hodie uxorem.
LY. Abite intro. **PA.** Amabo, integrae atque imperitae huic impercito. **OL.** Futurum est.
PA. Valete. **OL.** Ite iam. **LY.** ite. **CL.** Iam valete.
LY. Iamne abscessit uxor? **OL.** Domist: ne time. **LY.** Euax! nunc pol demum ego sum liber.
meum corculum, melculum, verculum. **OL.** Heus tu, malo, si sapis, cauebis;
meast haec. **LY.** Scio, sed meus fructust prior.
OL. Tene hanc lampadem. **LY.** Immo ego hanc tenebo.
Venus multipotens, bona multa mihi dedisti, huius quom copiam mihi dedisti. **OL.** o, Corplisculum malacum.
Mea uxorcula — quae res?
LY. Quid est? **OL.** institit plantam quasi luca bos. **LY.** Tace sis.
nebula haud est mollis aequae atque huius est pectus.
OL. Edepol papillam bellulam -- ei misero mihi.
LY. Quid est? **OL.** Pectus mi icit non cubito, uerum ariete.
LY. Quid tu ergo hanc, quaeso, tractas tam dura manu? at mihi, qui belle hanc tracto, non bellum facit. vah! **OL.** Quid negotist? **LY.** Opsecro, ut valentulast: paene exposivit cubito. **OL.** Cubitum ergo ire uolt.
LY. Quin imus ergo? **OL.** I, belle belliatula.

PLES. My dear Palaestra and Ampelisca, wait here while I return. **LOR.** I think they should come stay at our house 'til then. **PLES.** All right, you're gracious friends. **LABR.** I say, you're thugs. **LOR.** Thugs? Get him.

PAEG. It's fitting that I be charming and it's a pleasure to play with this pimp when he deserves it. **TOX.** Keep at it. **PAEG.** This is for you, pimp! **DOR.** Damn, he nearly hit me. **PAEG.** Bam, watch out for another. **DOR.** Have fun playing your games while your master is away from here. **PAEG.** See how I obey your instructions? But why don't you follow my instructions likewise in turn and do this which I urge you to? **DOR.** What's that? **PAEG.** Take a thick rope for yourself and hang yourself. **DOR.** Be careful, please, that you don't touch me lest I give you a big bit of trouble with this staff. **PAEG.** Use it. Go ahead. **TOX.** Now, now, Paegnum, lay off it.

PA. Come, Olympio, when you want your wife. Take her from us. **OL.** Then give her if you are ever going to give a wife today. **LY.** Go inside.
PA. Please, go easy on this one, untouched and inexperienced. **OL.** So it will be. Farewell.
PA. Farewell. **LY.** Now, go! **LY.** Go!
CL. Now farewell. **LY.** Now is my wife gone?
OL. She's home. Don't fear. **LY.** Oh ho! Now, by golly, at last I am free. [*to "Casina"*] My sweetheart, honey-kins, bloom of Spring.
OL. Hey! You'll watch out for trouble if you are wise. This one is mine! **LY.** I know. But it's my enjoyment first. **OL.** Hold on to this torch.
LY. Actually, I'll hold on to her. Mighty Venus, you have given me many good things when you gave me access to this one. **OL.** O, you petite, delicate thing! My wifey — what's the matter?
LY. What is it? **OL.** She stepped on my foot. Like an elephant. **LY.** Please, shut up. A cloud is not at all as soft as her chest is.
OL. By golly, a pretty little titty --- ow, poor me!
LY. What is it? **OL.** She hit me in the chest with her elbow, truly a ram! **LY.** Then, why do you handle this one, I beg, with so rough a hand? But I handle this one beautifully and she does not make war on me. Gah! **OL.** What's the trouble?
LY. I beg, she's a fair bit strong! She almost laid me out with her elbow. **OL.** Then she wants to lay you out in bed. **LY.** Why don't we go?
OL. Go, you little beauty of a beaut!

² Translations of *Persa* and *Casina* are my own.

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