

Not a great deal is known about the life of Plautus, the most successful comic author of classical antiquity. He left behind a relatively large canon of plays and his influence, centuries later, on the comic writing of Shakespeare and Moliere was enormous.

Cicero indicated that **Pseudolus** was a creation of Plautus' later years (it was first performed in 191 B.C.) and that the work greatly delighted the aged playwright.

So, borrowing the words of the Prologus of Plautus' **The Twin Menaechmus**, "I bring you Plautus-by word, not by hand; I beg you to welcome him with kindly ears."