

VERSES FOR THE AUDIENCE TO SING

Song #1 (Chorus of Carry-Ons)

*We are bags you can carry on;
that's the theme of our song.
We are all reunited now;
nothing else can go wrong.*

*So let's keep
traveling together on the land and sea,
traveling together on the land and sea,
traveling together on the land and sea,
traveling together—free!*

Song #2 (Daenerus, Baguette, Nicodemus)

*He looks like a pirate,
but he's not some ding-a-ling.
He looks like a pirate,
but he's not some ding-a-ling.*

*He's lost all his bags at sea;
the storm took ev'rything.
Yes, he looks like a pirate,
but he's not some ding-a-ling.*

Song #3 (Vulcan, Venus, Carry-Ons)

*Vulcan, Venus, this is what we think:
without either one of you, we'd sink!
Bagsmiths can restore us, keep us strong.
Love enables us to get along.*

Song #4 (Baggalaureate, Bagpipe, Palimpsest)

*This is so amazing! What a surprising day!
It's as if we all were characters in a play.
There may be a secret this little bag conceals.
Opening it up could lead to some big reveals!*

The St. Olaf College Department
of Classics presents

VIDULARIA
("The Lost Bag")



*an ancient Roman comedy
by Plautus*

*Performed in a musical mixture
of English & Latin*

*Friday & Saturday, March 6 & 7, 2026
7:30-8:15 p.m.*

*Christiansen Hall of Music, Rm. 233
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN*

St. Olaf Classics Play MMXXVI

Setting

somewhere on the coast of Italy

Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Baggalaureate, St. Olaf College Student	Willa Samuelson '28
Bagpipe, Carleton College student	Aveline Brown '29
Ambrosian palimpsest	Sam Barbato '27
Chorus of Carry-Ons Backpack	Jessica Schmidt '26
Duffel	Rosemary Hartless '26
Tote	Claire Miller '29
Briefcase	Emery Jansen '26
Samsonite	MaKenzie Kuckkan '26
Roller Bag	Violet Ecklund-Johnson '26
Venus, goddess of matchmaking	Emma Winkler '26
Vulcan, bagsmith god, Venus' husband	Alex Van Etten '27
Nicodemus, pirate boy	Woody Hewett '27
Daenerus, fisherman	Atlas Conger '28
Baguette, wife of Daenerus	Kassidy Goodell '28
Soterini, pirate girl	Julia Thomas '27
Guccius, fisherman	Timothy Warneck '27
Baggallini, wife of Guccius	Sydney Hugdahl '27

Program Cover: Julia Thomas '27
Costumes: Ava Lindquist '26, Makayla Rodriguez '27
Videography: Paavo Rundman '26, Sylvia Fleck '27
Music & Lyrics: Anne Groton, Professor of Classics

Special thanks to Heidi Reynolds, Justin Soderholm, Miranda Morton, Jordan Mitchell, Katherine Good, Mary Rossini, Alita Shenk, Beth Severy-Hoven, and everyone else who helped make our 24th student production of an ancient Latin or Greek play possible!

BACKGROUND TO THE PLAY

Of the 21 surviving Roman comedies written in Latin by Plautus (lived c. 254-184 BCE), the *Vidularia* is by far the most fragmentary, with only about 1/10th of its 800-830 verses still preserved. The title literally means “[the play] concerning a travel bag.” According to an extant bit of the prologue, the play was adapted by Plautus from an earlier Greek comedy called “The Raft,” probably written by Diphilos. The plot concerns the adventures of a young man and a young woman who have been shipwrecked on a shore (we opted to make it the coast of Italy) where two fishermen and their families live, near a temple of Venus.

We are lucky to have any lines at all from the *Vidularia* since the play has survived in just one manuscript, a heavily damaged 5th-century CE parchment codex (handwritten book), stored in the Ambrosian Library in Milan. The codex is referred to as a palimpsest (Greek for “scraped again”) because the ink of the original Latin text was rubbed off to make the pages reusable. Scholars in the 19th century worked valiantly to try to decipher the ancient Latin letters still faintly visible beneath the Bible verses written on top. There was little hope of being able to read any more until, 20 years ago, scholars successfully used computer-enhanced infrared photography to examine the codex virtually. Thanks to that technology, if the missing pages of the *Vidularia* ever turn up, it may be possible to discern whatever Plautine words are hidden there.

Meanwhile we have relied on our imaginations to fill in the *lacunae* (“gaps”). We have added two time-travelers, two divinities, two wives, a chorus of carry-on bags, and the Ambrosian palimpsest itself. Enjoy!

LATIN WORDS TO LISTEN FOR

amīcitiā (friendship), *dea* (goddess), *deus* (god), *discipulī* (students), *filius* (son), *filia* (daughter), *nāvis* (ship), *pīrāta* (pirate), *piscātor* (fisherman), *signum* (seal on a ring), *tibiae* (musical pipes), *uxor* (wife), *vīdulus* (bag), *vir* (husband), *cantā!* (sing!), *salvē!* (hello!), *valē!* (bye!)

TOUR SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Great Oaks Academy, Farmington - 8:30 a.m.
Great Oaks Academy, Upper School, Eagan - 10:00 a.m.
Agamim Classical Academy, Edina - 1:30 p.m.
University of St. Thomas, St. Paul - 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Parnassus Preparatory School, Maple Grove - 9:00 a.m.
Valley View Middle School, Edina - 11:30 a.m.
Blake School, Upper School, Minneapolis - 2:00 p.m.
Macalester College, St. Paul - 4:45 p.m.