

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY
THEATRE GUILD

VOLPONE

OR

THE FOX

BY

BEN JONSON

AT THE HUT

Wednesday - - - August 21
Thursday - - - August 22
Friday - - - August 23
Monday - - - August 26
Tuesday - - - August 27

———— 1946 ————

Ben Jonson (1572-1637) dedicated *Volpone* "to the most noble and most equal sisters, the Two Famous Universities." It was produced successfully at the Globe and at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in 1606.

The comedy, as written, cannot be performed under three and a half hours. The sub-plot (Sir Politick Would-be, Peregrine and the Merchants) has been cut from the present production to bring it within a playing time of two and a half hours.

The characters of Shakespeare are such as might exist in different circumstances than those in which Shakespeare sets them. The latter appear to be those which extract from the characters the most intense and interesting realization; but that realization has not exhausted their possibilities. *Volpone's* life, on the other hand, is bounded by the scene in which it is played; in fact, the life is the life of the scene and is derivatively the life of *Volpone*; the life of the characters is inseparable from the life of the drama. This is not dependence upon a background, or upon a substratum of fact. The emotional effect is single and simple. Whereas in Shakespeare the effect is due to the way in which the characters **act upon** one another, in Jonson it is given by the way in which the characters **fit in** with each other. The artistic result of *Volpone* is not due to any effect that *Volpone*, *Mosca*, *Corvino*, *Corbaccio*, or *Voltore* have upon each other, but simply their combination into a whole.

. . . Of all the dramatists of his time, Jonson is probably the one whom the present age would find the most sympathetic if it knew him. There is a brutality, a lack of sentiment, a polished surface, a handling of large bold designs in brilliant colours, which ought to attract about three thousand people in London and elsewhere. At least, if we had a contemporary Shakespeare and a contemporary Jonson, it might be the Jonson who would arouse the enthusiasm of the intelligentsia. Though he is saturated in literature he never sacrifices the theatrical qualities—theatrical in the most favourable sense—to literature or to the study of character. His work is a titanic show.

—T. S. Eliot.

CAST

VOLPONE, a magnifico	JOHN WARD
MOSCA, his parasite	TOM BROWN
VOLTORE, an advocate	OSCAR COX
CORBACCIO, an old gentleman	SAM DAY
CORVINO, a merchant	FRANK BAILEY
BONARIO, son to Corbaccio	ROBERT MOORE
NANO, a hunchback	HUGH MURRAY
LADY POLITICK WOULD-BE	PATRICIA SCHUMAN
CELIA, Corvino's wife	GWENNETH BALLANTYNE
AVOCATORI, three magistrates	LEO MOLONEY
	FRANK GARGRO
	VICTOR CASTELLO
NOTARIO, the register	PAUL MORISSET
SAFFI, officers of justice	JACK MANUEL
	BRIAN PEARSON
SERVANT	MALCOLM HUGHES

Scene Venice

The play under the direction of
COLIN BALLANTYNE

Decor designed and executed by JACQUELINE HICK
Costumes designed and made by - - PAUL MORISSET
Assistant direction and stage management by ENID BROWN
Lighting by - - - - - BRUCE WALTON

THE ARGUMENT

V olpone, childless, rich, feigns sick, despairs,
O ffers his state to hopes of several heirs,
L ies languishing: his parasite receives
P resents of all, assures, deludes; then weaves
O ther cross plots, which ope themselves, are told.
N ew tricks for safety are sought; they thrive: when bold,
E ach tempts the other again, and all are sold.

Ben Jonson.

UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD



Patrons:

Professors E. Harold Davies and J. G. Cornell
Dr. Charles Fenner and Mr. Frank Johnston

Committee:

Miss Thelma Baulderstone	Mr. John Horner
Mr. Tom Brown	Mr. Herbert Kollosche
Dr. T. D. Campbell	Dr. E. McLaughlin
Mr. Alan Dunstan	Miss B. A. Robertson
Miss R. Fitch	Mr. Allan Sierp
Miss Patricia Hackett	Miss Gwen Walsh
Miss Barbara Howard	Mr. Bruce Williams
Mrs. Roma Williams	



Notices

Communications, enquiries, and subscriptions may be addressed to
the Hon. Secretary, care of The University

Subscriptions: Ordinary Members, 10/-; Student Members, 5/-

Anyone interested in active theatre work should communicate with the
Hon. Secretary, stating their particular interest

Forthcoming Productions:

September — Ballet

October — "The Beautiful One"