



in collaboration with



VOLPONE

by Ben Jonson
directed by Kurt Beattie
March 23, 2026

CAST

Shawn Belyea* – Corvino
Julie Briskman* – Lady Politick Wouldbe/Magistrate
Rob Burgess* – Mosca
Nouwen Doyle – Celia/Servant
Kyle Henick – Bonnario/Merchant
Cricket James – Nano/Magistrate
David Anthony Lewis* – Volpone
Christopher Morson* – Peregrine/Magistrate
Victor Pappas* – Voltore/Merchant
Nathaniel Tenenbaum* – Sir Politick Wouldbe/Magistrate
R. Hamilton Wright* – Corbaccio/Merchant

**Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*

CREATIVE TEAM

Kurt Beattie – Producer
David Brewster – Producer
Daniel Frizzell – Lutenist
Margaret Layne – Casting

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

David Brewster and I are delighted to partner with Union Arts Center in presenting Ben Jonson's *Volpone* as the inaugural reading of Music Stand Theatre.

Volpone premiered at the Globe Theatre at a time when England was shaking with fear. The Gunpowder Plot, a conspiracy uncovered in 1605 that aimed to blow up the Houses of Parliament, cast a shadow over anyone suspected of Catholic or Anti-Scottish sympathies. In the long run, however, we can be grateful for the contributions to our dramatic literature the event seemed to have inspired soon after. 1606 spawned not only the premier of *Volpone*, but some of the greatest plays of Shakespeare, among them *King Lear* and *Macbeth*. If those plays of Shakespeare's tremble with the consequences of failed leadership, growing anarchy, and civil war, Jonson's play registers the shaking from an altogether different standpoint, the criminal machinations of a growing class of unscrupulous entrepreneurs in the mercantile sector striving to enrich themselves, a gold hungry corrupt culture wallowing in greed and deceit, and guided by its egoistic belief in self-interest as the supreme good.

Many thanks to Union Arts Center for the support it has given our debut, and, of course, to our wonderful donors; and, in my case, to the greatly missed Endangered Species Project, which had a similar mission, gave many wonderful readings, and inspired me to think of Music Stand Theatre.

Kurt Beattie,
Artistic Director Emeritus, ACT Theatre