

Sex, Money and Intrigue at the Edinburgh Fringe

Two productions from award-winner* Martin Foreman

In 2018 writer-director Martin Foreman returns to the Edinburgh Fringe for the fourth time, with two productions featuring famous Venetians - the real-life eighteenth-century libertine Casanova and the fictional trickster Volpone.

In Martin's one-act drama, a Fringe First, **Casanova Dreaming**, the young Casanova is visited one night by an old man who shows him his future. Out of the shadows come the women and men who will touch his life in many different ways - a life more complex and varied than legend relates. The three-week afternoon run is in theSpace on Niddry Street (venue 9); adult language and content restrict the production to 16 years old and above.

Martin's adaptation of Ben Jonson's classic comedy **Volpone** is set in the nineteenth century. Volpone still pretends to be dying to cheat the gullible and greedy rich, but his wily servant Mosca is now a woman who avoids her employer's clutches as she builds upon his scams.

Following a successful short run at the Fringe in 2017 (★★★★ "thoroughly enjoyable" All-Edinburgh Theatre) **Volpone** returns for three weeks in the early evening at Paradise in Augustines (venue 152) with Vanashree Thapliyal (Mosca) and Alastair Lawless (Volpone) reprising their roles.

A Scot who has returned to Edinburgh after many years abroad, Martin's involvement in theatre began in 2011. "The Fringe has been good to me. In 2014, as an unknown playwright / director I had small audiences but good reviews for my trilogy of one-man plays *Desire and Pursuit*. The commercial success of J B Priestley's *The Rose and Crown* in 2016 (★★★★ British Theatre Guide) and *Volpone* in 2017 confirmed there is a large audience for comic and intelligent theatre with a cast is as talented as those I am lucky to work with."

Laughter rather than controversy is at the heart of *Volpone*, but *Casanova Dreaming* may divide audiences. "#metoo reminds us that sexual relations are often dictated by power, but it is simplistic to assume that all men have power over all women. Casanova may be seen as one of the world's great lovers but he considered himself no more than a servant to the women he pursued. I wonder what today's audiences will make of him."

* writer: 2012 London Solo Festival Award for New Writing
2018 Pitlochry Festival Theatre Short Play Award
director: 2016 Scottish Community Drama Association Bob Buchanan Trophy

Media resources, including cast and crew biographies, publicity and production photos (in 300dpi)
arberyproductions.co.uk

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Casanova Dreaming

theSpace on Niddry Street (venue 9) * 14.15 (50m)
6 & 7 Aug (previews): £7.50 (£6.00 conc)
8 - 25 Aug (not 12 or 19): £9.00 (£7.00 conc)

Volpone

Paradise in Augustines (venue 152) 18.35 (2h 20m)
3 - 7 Aug (previews): £10.00 (£7.00 conc)
8 - 26 Aug (not 12 or 19): £14.00 (£10.00 conc)

* disabled entry through Radisson Blu Hotel on High Street: contact venue or Arbery Productions for directions and assistance

