

**Il Vostro Teatro Capo
(Virginia, USA)
The Servant of Two Masters
after Carlo Goldoni,
adapted by Michael Hill-Kirkland**



A wildly reimagined 18th/21st century mash-up of Carlo Goldoni's classical 18th century farce, featuring lovers, sexy waitresses, pratfalls, sword fights, hard rock music, pies in the face – and food!

The Servant of Two Masters follows the misadventures of three pairs of lovers. The protagonist of the piece, the fellow whose lies and fabrications lead all three couples from hilarity to despair and back again, is a too clever by half servant by the name of Truffaldino. Always in search of an easy buck, the next meal, and a roll in the hay, Truffaldino's impromptu decision to serve two masters at the same time sets things into farcical motion.

By the late eighteenth century the improvisational commedia dell'arte had become staid, coarse, predictable, decidedly bawdy, and in the opinion of **Goldoni**, in serious need of reform. He seized upon the stock characters of the dell'arte: masters, servants, the young lovers, and taking his cue from Moliere and Shakespeare, he produced scripted (as opposed to improvised) plays, featuring Italy's venerated and well-loved dell'arte stock characters.

Il Vostro doubles down on Goldoni's subversion of the genre by exploring a collision of 18th century Italian theatrical convention and 21st century American/UK pop culture – a subversion of the subversion. Whereas Goldoni unmasked his characters, kept the action solely confined to the stage, set the dialogue in a script, and veered away from what he viewed as the more 'base' conventions the dell'arte had adopted, **Il Vostro** has chosen to whole-heartedly embrace many of those early conventions. Audience members may be surprised when they become part of Truffaldino's improvised high-jinx! What appears in today's headlines may very well make its way into today's performance. You just never know. All of this results in a wacky buffet featuring a goulash of classical theater and popular culture – and all of it seasoned with a pinch of Bugs Bunny and a dash of The Three Stooges!

Il Vostro Teatro Capo is a new company based in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It is an independent outgrowth of the academic Theater programs at Regent University and features actors in Regent's BA, BFA, and MFA in Acting degree programs under the direction of professional actor/director/fight director, Michael Kirkland (Professor of Theater, Regent University) with costumes designed by C J Hill (Visiting Artist, Regent University). Both Kirkland and Hill appeared in the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe production of *The Confessional* produced by Beyond Broadway productions at C venues.

Listings Information

Venue C, Adam House, Chambers Street, EH1 1HR, venue 34
 Dates 4-11 Aug
 Time 13:35 (1hr30)
 Ticket prices £8.00-£10.00 / concessions £6.00-£8.00 / under 18s £4.00-£6.00
 C venues box office 0131 581 5555 / www.CtheFestival.com
 Fringe box office 0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

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