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DULUTH--A marionette show billed as adult fare as well as a delight for youngsters is planned at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan.18 in Kirby Ballroom.

Puppet artist Peter D. Arnott will present Ben Johnson's play "Volpone." The satire on business ethics involves a foxy old merchant who tries to outsmart his associates and so amass a fortune.

Arnott not only creates his own marionettes and stage but translates plays from classical languages into English, masters all the parts and handles all puppet characters.

Born in Ipswich, England, Arnott attended university at Oxford and North Wales. His studies of Greek and Roman drama led him to specialize in presentation of classical plays before modern audiences. He twice visited Greece to learn methods of classical play revival there.

Arnott came to the United States in 1958. He currently is associate professor in the departments of classics and speech and dramatic arts, State University of Iowa, Iowa City.

The artist devised his one-man method of presenting serious drama on the marionette stage while he was still of high school age -- the method now considered unique in the English-speaking world. He has performed at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C. and at most major universities in this country.

The free program is open to the public. Sponsors are Tweed Gallery and the UMD Convocations and Lectures Committee.