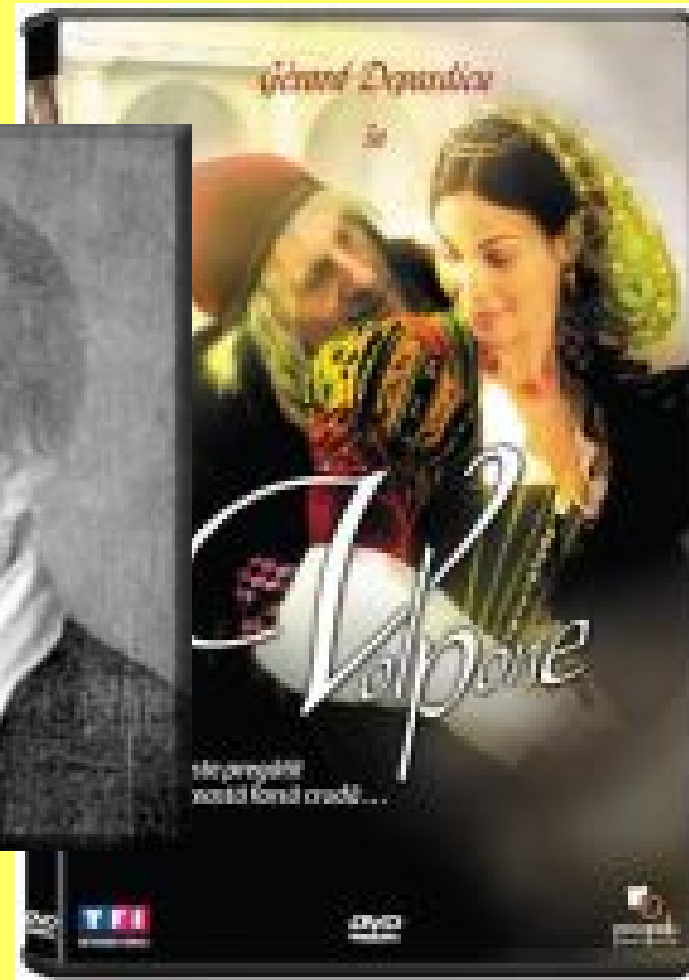


# *Volpone*



<http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/jonson/benbio.htm>



- <http://tw.youtube.com/watch?v=UBCwJArlzL4>
- [http://tw.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_QMk\\_bHyOo](http://tw.youtube.com/watch?v=T_QMk_bHyOo)

# Renaissance Didactic Literature

- Most Renaissance literary works are didactic.
- Purpose of Comedy: for Jonson, to make vice unattractive
- *Volpone*: a biting satire

# Comedy of Humours

- Current in Jonson's time

Blood → Sanguine → Air

Phlegm → Phlegmatic → Water

Yellow Bile → Choleric → Fire

Black Bile → Melancholy → Earth

- *Everyman in His Humour* is perhaps his best representative of the comedy of humours.

# An Admonitory Fable

- Man loves gold.
- He is an animal.
- He is an actor.
- He will suffer from the consequences of his obsession.
- In *Volpone*, the love of gold constitutes the motivating force.

# Allegorical Names

- Bonario: good
- Celia: heaven
- Politic: worldly-wise
- Peregrine: traveler/ small hawk

# Characters as Animals

- Volpone: fox
- Mosca: fly
- Voltore: vulture
- Corbaccio: raven
- Cornivo: crow
- With Mosca's help, Volpone pretends to be a piece of rotting carcass, so as to attract those birds of prey.



# Theme of Acting

- Play within the play (Man is an actor.)

# The Neoclassic Three Unities

- Aristotle's unity of action: "a complete and ordered structure of actions, directed towards the intended effect, in which none of the prominent component part is non-functional." (no subplot)
- During the 16th and the 17th centuries, European critics added two more unities.
- Unity of place: a single place (a single city)

- Unity of time: 2-3 hours (at most a single day).

# Question

- Is there justice at the end of *Volpone*?