



## O rare Ben Jonson!

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<b>Start date</b>	11 March 2016	<b>End date</b>	13 March 2016
<b>Venue</b>	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
<b>Tutor</b>	David Crane  James Morwood	<b>Course code</b>	1516NRX099

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings  
Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr  
**For further information on this course, please contact** [clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

**James Morwood** teaches at Oxford University where he is an Emeritus Fellow of Wadham College. He has written a book on Sheridan and (with David Crane) edited another. He has contributed to the Macmillan Casebook on Tom Stoppard, has translated eleven plays of Euripides for the Oxford World's Classics series and produced an edition of that dramatist's *Suppliant Women*. His most recent books are *Virgil, A poet in Augustan Rome*, *The Tragedies of Sophocles* and (with Stephen Heyworth) an edition of *Propertius 3*.

**David Crane** teaches privately now after many years of teaching at the University of Durham. He has edited Sheridan's *The Critic* for the New Mermaids series, and (with James Morwood) a book of essays on Sheridan. He has, besides edited *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for the New Cambridge Shakespeare, and several other plays for the New Mermaids. He has been much involved with theatrical production, largely of Shakespeare, and is particularly interested now in the changing styles both of performance on the stage and of audience reaction, not only in England but in France, from the sixteenth century to the present day.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

**20:30 – 22:00** ***Taking Bearings***

22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

**09:00 – 10:30** ***Volpone***

10:30 Coffee

**11:00 – 12:30** ***The Alchemist***

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free

16:00 Tea

**16:30 – 18:00** ***Bartholemew Fair***

18:00 – 18:30 Free

18:30 Dinner

**20:00 – 21:30** ***Film - Gianni Schicchi***

21:30 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

## **Sunday**

07:30 Breakfast

**09:00 – 10:30** ***Sejanus***

10:30 Coffee

**11:00 – 12:30** ***Summing Up***

12:45 Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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The appearance in 2011 of Ian Donaldson's brilliant life-and-works book on Shakespeare's friend and only serious rival Ben Jonson proves a wonderful stimulus for the study of three of his sourly evergreen comedies, *The Alchemist*, *Volpone* and *Bartholemew Fair*, and his tragedy *Sejanus*, recently and successfully revived at Stratford. There will be many laughs and much entertainment as well as a scattering of acid!

### Aims:

To assess these plays of Ben Jonson as dramatic works of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century;  
To come to some conclusion about what they say about the human condition and what makes the comedies funny;  
To identify Jonson's individual voice.

### Content:

We are assuming that students will have read the four plays before they arrive. Members of the group will be reading scenes from them. The major activity, however, is discussion.

### Presentation of the course:

Class discussion and performing scenes by reading.

### Outcomes:

We shall have assessed these plays of Ben Jonson as dramatic works of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century;  
We shall have come to some conclusion about what they say about the human condition and what makes the comedies funny;  
We shall have made some progress towards identifying Jonson's individual voice.

### As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

To assess these plays of Ben Jonson as dramatic works of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century;  
To come to some conclusion about what they say about the human condition and what makes the comedies funny;  
To have made some progress towards identifying Jonson's individual voice.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

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Author	Title	Publisher and date
Ben Jonson	<i>Volpone</i> <i>The Alchemist</i> <i>Bartholemew Fair</i> <i>Sejanus</i>	We shall try to cope with all editions!
Ian Donaldson	<i>Ben Jonson – A Life</i>	Oxford UP, 2011

(This last is highly recommended, but it is not essential to have read it.)

## Website addresses

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 26 February 2016