



IMPORTANT CASTING NOTE – PLEASE READ!

In a significant reversal of the theatre of Shakespeare's day, all characters in *Emilia* – male and female – must be played by female-identifying actors. Please consider this important requirement before planning a production of *Emilia*.

The role of Emilia was written for non-white actors. Where this casting does not prove possible, please consider the following statement from playwright Morgan Lloyd Malcolm:

'Emilia has been written to be performed by a diverse cast of female-identifying actresses - diverse in terms of race, body shape, disability, sexuality, gender non-conformity and beyond! By its nature it challenges the traditional casting conventions of the theatre industry and wider society. It would not be the same play if this is ignored. If you're performing the play where it is impossible to adhere to this diversity, then please cast against the "usual type". Be bold!

The three Emilias in particular talk about feeling "other" and deal with issues of race and gender inequality – please keep this in mind when casting. What do these themes mean to you in your community? How can this play help you address the inequalities where you live? What does this play mean to your company? Every production of this play will feel different because it will mean something different to each community. Embrace this. And enjoy it!'

If you wish to discuss your production of *Emilia*, and these casting requirements, please contact the Performing Rights Department at Nick Hern Books at rights@nickhernbooks.co.uk or call 020 8749 4953.

Please note that *Emilia* is currently available for performance in educational settings only, with applications handled on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Performing Rights Department before planning your production.