



## RE-CASTING OTHELLO

by Emma Northcott

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# **Recasting Othello**

*By Emma Northcott*

*A short play for a Zoom performance.*

## ***Characters***

Viv

Tim – Viv's husband

Penny

George

David

Jean

Celia

Sofia

Brian - Sofia's husband

## ***Synopsis:***

*As the lockdown is eased the drama group starts to plan the re-opening of their theatre, with a revised first production befitting the new normal.*

# Recasting Othello

*Scene: Zoom meeting screens in the actors own home.*

(All zoom screens are blank, except for the names of the actors. As the actors arrive the screens change to show them in their homes. Viv, then Jean are first to the meeting.)

**Jean:** Hello.

**Viv:** What are you doing here? The meeting doesn't start for ten minutes.

**Jean:** Oh. I didn't want to be late. I just wanted to let George know that I...

**Viv:** Well, as I say, the meeting starts at eight, so...

**Jean:** Oh, okay. I'll go and watch the end of Corry.

**Viv:** Good.

(Jean leaves her room, leaving her camera running. George's then Penny's cameras come on.)

**George:** Am I in?

**Viv:** Yes George, thanks for arriving promptly. Hello Penny.

**Penny:** Hello. Are you alright Viv? This is a funny time to schedule a meeting.

**Viv:** I just wanted five minutes with you both, before the others arrive.

**Penny:** Oh yes?

**Viv:** About last week...

**George:** }(At the same time as Penny.) Oh, you don't have to, I quite understand, mum's the word. Shan't mention it!

**Penny:** }(At the same time as George.) It's none of my business: I wasn't really paying much attention to be honest.

**Viv:** You see it was all a bit of a mix up with him and Celia, a misunderstanding really. Tim's explained everything, there's really nothing going on. So if it's all the same to you I'd rather you didn't mention it tonight, to any of the others.

**Penny:** Of course Viv. If you're sure. Goes without saying.

**George:** Shan't say a word!

**Viv:** Thank you.

**Penny:** So you're alright then, you and Tim?

**Viv:** Yes thank you.

**George:** He is coming to the meeting?

**Viv:** Of course. He'll be along with all the others.

**Penny:** Oh, he's not there with you?

**Viv:** Of course he's here. He's in quarantine; in the back bedroom.

**George:** He hasn't caught the ...

**Viv:** No, no. Just a precaution. After recent events I, we, agreed it would be a wise for Tim to self-isolate for a fortnight.

**Penny:** Oh. Okay.

**Viv:** **(Pause.)** Oh look who's in the lobby. It's Brian and Sofia! Hello Brian, Sofia, come on in.

**(Brian and Sophia turn their camera on. They are sitting together on a sofa, in the same house. They are dressed in FatFace/Salt Rock or similar fashion. Just in view of the camera are items that give away their plans for a trip to the seaside. E.g. A snorkel, mask and flippers.)**

**Brian:** Well done you for setting this up at such short notice. Hello everyone.

**Penny:** Hello.

**Sofia:** Hi. I said she'd have to squeeze it in before the weekend if they needed us there.

**Penny:** You off somewhere?

**Sofia:** Taking another trip to Winkle-nook Cottage.

**Brian:** Just to check on the place you understand. We're not staying over.

**Sofia:** But you said...

**Brian:** **(Cutting her off.)** Flying visit, there and back. In a day.

**Sofia:** Oh! Oh yes. **(Over acting.)** Terribly exhausting, all that time on the motorway. Humph! Awful really.

**Viv:** So why are you going?

**Brian:** Ah, um, got to check on the...

**Sofia:** **}(At the same time as Brian.)** Water.

**Brian:** **}(At the same time as Sofia.)** Roof. There's been a report of water coming through the roof. So we're driving down to check.

**Sofia:** Just for the day.

**Brian:** There and back. Yes.

**George:** Jolly good.

**Penny:** **(Pause.)** How long are we needed do you think?

**Sofia:** Why, are you hosting another Zumba this evening?

**Penny:** Not tonight, no. I've got a bit of a Joe Wicks injury, so taking it easy for a few days.

**George:** Joe Wicks?

**Penny:** Pulled a muscle doing Spiderman.

**Viv:** You've got to be careful at our age Penny.

**George:** Not long. I just want to get confirmation of the change of production, then I can get on with planning for the next phase.

**Penny:** Who are we waiting for?

**Viv:** David and Jean.

**Penny:** Oh yes, David and Jean!

**Viv:** **(Knowingly.)** I expect they'll arrive together!

**Sofia:** Really?

**Penny:** Oh yeah!

**Sofia:** Gosh! And what about Tim? Where's he?

**Penny:** In quarantine.

**Viv:** **(Calling off).** Click connect Tim, we're all waiting. **(Back to camera.)** He's self-isolating in the back bedroom.

**Sofia:** Oh no! Poor Tim. Is he alright?

**Viv:** He's fine thank you. It's just a precautionary measure, that's all, after a little unwanted contact last week.

**Sofia:** You fear he may have been contaminated?

**Penny:** That's one word for it.

**(Tim turns his camera on and appears, looking rather sheepish.)**

**Tim:** Okay. Evening everyone.

**Brian:** In the doghouse again eh Tim?

**Viv:** Oh good, here's David. I'll just let him in. Hello David.

**(David turns his camera on.)**

**Penny:** No Jean David?

**David:** No?