
Tekst 12

Gender roles

Guy Keleny (Errors and Omissions, 8 October) made an unfortunate choice of play to illustrate his argument about the need for gender-specific job names: "Actors and actresses are not interchangeable. Unless you are putting on a wildly experimental production, you will need an actor to play Romeo and an actress for Juliet."

That certainly wasn't the case when Shakespeare wrote the play. A boy who played Juliet at the start of his career might well have found himself beneath the balcony a few years later. Cross-casting of gender roles has never really left the stage – from pantomime to Deborah Warner's productions with Fiona Shaw – experimental, perhaps, but hardly wildly so.

Richard Crowest
Ashford, Kent

independent.co.uk, 2013

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- 1p 42 What does Richard Crowest say about Guy Keleny?
He criticises him for
- A claiming that modern audiences are not interested in historic plays.
 - B failing to appreciate one of the most talented playwrights ever.
 - C praising a theatre production that clearly was very disappointing.
 - D rejecting men who want to dress up like women and vice versa.
 - E selecting a poor example to prove a point he wants to make.