

# Early Theatre

**2023 Prize for Best Note or Issues in Review Essay, Volumes 24-25**

**Emily MacLeod**

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“You shall see me do the Moor”: The Blackfriars Children  
and the Performance of Race in *Poetaster*

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In this illuminating and cohesive essay, Emily MacLeod offers a novel account of how race is constructed on stage through actorly embodiment, including stature and stage conveyance. Drawing on important new work in pre-modern critical race studies, MacLeod extends existing insights about racialization and repertory to boy companies that have hitherto been unexamined in this light. Additionally, the essay shows how early modern racializing ideologies may have determined the subject matter of the boys’ repertory by generally precluding plays about non-white racialized characters. The article thus makes an important point about the mutual imbrication of race and performance: the stage constructed early modern race, and race constructed the early modern stage.