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It's just a two-minute clip. But the intense reactions to the trailer of Netflix's upcoming Queen Cleopatra docudrama speak volumes about both Cleopatra's enduring legacy and the strength of identity politics.

The trailer was met with immediate accusations of falsifying history. Social media hashtags and online petitions were followed by an Egyptian lawyer filing a complaint with the public prosecutor against Netflix, which for its part reportedly closed comments on the clip's YouTube page.

Mine is the only Egyptian voice on the programme. My multigenerational Alexandrian background, on both sides, is key to my passion for Cleopatra. As an historian, I have spent endless days studying and contemplating the queen, not least when completing my book, *Alexandria: The City that Changed the World*.

Some things about Cleopatra are simply fact. That she was of Macedonian-Greek background is beyond doubt. That the Ptolemies intermarried and largely kept their bloodline Hellenic cannot be denied. That almost all of her ancestors would have been fair-skinned is also true.

But the largely binary racial terms being used today are anachronistic and can hardly be applied to Cleopatra's context. With the exception of Jews, ethnicities weren't really recorded in early Egyptian history. In Alexandria especially, there was no normative race: genetic makeup was varied as people from across the region, from Europeans to Nubians, lived and married on its lands.

There are also some things about which we cannot be sure. We do not know for certain the identity of Cleopatra's mother and the queen's grandmothers on both sides. In fact, Alexandrians at the time referred to her father as "Nothos", or "the Bastard". All of this is important because the Ptolemies, including Cleopatra's grandfather and father, were well known to have Egyptian partners and mistresses. There is a chance, therefore, that several of Cleopatra's ancestors could have been Egyptian. It is this enigmatic nature of Cleopatra's grandmothers and her mother that suggests that Cleopatra may have had mixed heritage, which would have tanned her skin complexion. And as curly hair is a dominant gene, an Egyptian ancestor may have changed the Ptolemaic line in that way, too.

We do know that Cleopatra, the last pharaoh, was born in Alexandria where her family had been ruling for three centuries. It is an embodiment of Greek-Egyptian hybridity that allowed Cleopatra to become a powerful uniting figure: her mix of Greek and Egyptian attire, her proficiency in the Egyptian language, and her position as the incarnation of the goddess Isis.

Cleopatra may indeed have had mixed heritage, but whether or not that was the case, the fact that she is portrayed by a biracial actor is a casting choice that shouldn't distress us in this day and age. In the past, Cleopatra has been portrayed by white actors (not to mention by boy actors in Shakespeare's time), and the end product remained successful.

Am I disappointed that the casting has since been politicised by the director (with whom I've never spoken)? I would be lying if I said I wasn't. Besides, what right does she have to tell Egyptians how to view themselves?

As for the documentary segments, which form less than half of the programme, I expect these to present different, and I hope intellectual, perspectives and interpretations. These include mine on the importance of recognising Cleopatra's Egyptian-ness. Obsessing over how a powerful woman looked is ironically reductionist and objectifying in itself, so the documentary part should shed light on her entire, fascinating life, not just how she may have looked.

Nonetheless, the trailer shows me saying that I imagine Cleopatra to have curly hair and a similar skin complexion to mine. It's not too dissimilar to how Christians around the world present the historical figure of Jesus diversely. And in the fuller context, I say that the enigmatic natures of her ancestry and legacy have long encouraged people to visualise her in different ways.

For full not-adapted article: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/5/1/cleopatra-was-egyptian-whether-black-or-brown-matters>

1. Por que houve uma reação tão forte ao trailer de 2 minutos sobre o drama documentário *Cleópatra*? Escolha a opção correta. (2,0)
 - a) A atriz que faz o papel de Cleópatra não é egípcia.
 - b) A diretora causou polêmica em torno do drama documentário.
 - c) A atriz que faz o papel de Cleópatra é afrodescendente.
 - d) A diretora nunca entrou em contato com o historiador Islam Issa.
2. Escolha a opção incorreta sobre os fatos que são conhecidos em relação à ancestralidade de Cleópatra: (2,0)
 - a) A sua origem étnica era greco-macedônica.
 - b) Quase todos os seus ancestrais teriam pele clara.
 - c) Os seus ancestrais mantiveram, em geral, a linhagem helênica.
 - d) As avós eram egípcias de pele escura e cabelo anelado.
3. Escolha a opção com as traduções corretas de *but whether* (parágrafo 8), *besides* (parágrafo 9), *nonetheless* (parágrafo 11). (2,0)
 - a) Mas se, além de, contudo
 - b) Porém, além de, consequentemente
 - c) Mas se, ao lado de, não obstante
 - d) Portanto se, além de, em relação a.

4. Escolha a opção correta de “the importance of recognising Cleopatra’s Egyptian-ness” (parágrafo 10) (2,0)
- a) A importância de reconhecimento de Cleópatra do Egito.
 - b) Reconhecendo Cleópatra a egípcia como importante.
 - c) A importância de reconhecer o caráter egípcio de Cleópatra.
 - d) O importante reconhecimento do Egito e da Cleópatra.
5. Quais as três razões que fizeram com que Cleópatra fosse uma figura unificadora. Escolha a opção correta: (2,0)
- a) Ela encarnava a deusa Isis; ela tinha proficiência na língua egípcia; as suas roupas misturavam estilos egípcios e gregos.
 - b) Ela nasceu em Alexandria no Egito, ela era greco-macedônica, ela era proficiente na língua grega.
 - c) Ela foi o último Faraó, ela foi uma mulher poderosa e intelectual, ela usava vestimentas de vários estilos.
 - d) Ela encarnava a deusa Isis, a família dela dominou por três séculos, ela tem um legado enigmático.