Women of Verulamium Characters

**Boudicca**

We are looking for a strong mature voice. She was a political as well as a military leader. She was a mother too and so she was used to having to multi-task. She led her people the Iceni into battle. The voice needs to convey confidence and passion.

Her personality would have been decisive and dynamic. Some of her drive may have been created by events and she had to dig deep and find courage that she didn’t know was even there. She is a widow and desperate to protect her people from the Romans who have gone against their word and instead of allowing her daughters to share rule of the Iceni they have lashed her and possibly raped, but certainly harmed her daughters. The Iron Age women lived in a more equitable position with their met. The Romanised women were more subservient. So there is a culture clash too.

We think Boudica was a red head….she is described as having tawny hair by the Romans. Which has been interpreted as being red.

The voice needs to convey confidence and passion. Points for someone with a Norfolk or Suffolk accent.

**Flavia**

This is a very mature woman, possibly even a grandmother!

She is a Romanised iron age women of considerable wealth who has strong faith in the local gods. She believes in a local goddess called Senuna and is making some dedications to the goddess.

 She is a woman who is full of faith and hope and probably believes more in the good of the gods and goddesses more than she believes in the good of other people!

She finds one of her neighbours slightly annoying…. Hertfordshire was wealthy 2000 years ago…her neighbour tried to outdo her by having an offering made in gold. But Flavia comes up trumps with a statue! Flavia wanted to make sure her dedication to her religion was made clear to everyone, even if that meant entering a bit of a competitive petty rivalry with a neighbour!

Flavia has Syrian origins, one of her parents came from Syria…

We are looking for someone with a grand, well spoken voice, who doesn’t put up with any nonsense. If you have a Middle Eastern accent, so much the better. This script is light hearted and humorous.

**Regina**

Regina is a practical, adventurous woman who overcomes her enslaved origins to marry a Syrian merchant and gains freedom. She moves from Hertfordshire (she is a member of the Catuvellauni tribe) up to Hadrian’s Wall. She and her husband work together, travelling the trade routes across the empire and supplying the Roman army, and marching with them. Her tomb stone shows her holding a spindle and a chest of money, so we think she may have done her husbands accounts.

She is used to multitasking and dealing with change and adversity, although she finds the weather on Hadrian’s Wall a particularly challenging adjustment!

Her voice shows determination and a practicality that doesn’t really tolerate people being silly or whining! She has smashed multiple glass ceilings. Could be a voice of a woman in her 30’s.

**Sabina**

Sabina is a potter. She has scratched her name into the bottom of a Samian ware dish because she wanted to make sure she left her mark, and ensure she wouldn’t be forgotten in a world dominated by men. This rebellious, ambitious streak is part of the universal human desire to make your mark – perhaps you have carved your name into a desk or a tree for a similar reason!

She has fought to become apprenticed to a famous potter. He didn’t want to take her on originally because she is a young woman, he has only taken on young men previously. But she convinces him, she is made of tough stuff, she wouldn’t give up! She is quite a rebel! She is working at Verulamium, learning how to make local pottery. The Samian pottery is from Gaul and the potter brought it with him to sell.

Sabina has North African origins. Her father was in the Roman Army and his wife was local. He was at Hadrian’s Wall but when he retired early they settled and had Sabina in Verulamium.

Looking for a young voice – teens to mid twenties. If you also have either North African heritage or a North African accent, so much the better.