



Making White Characters Black Isn't Progress—It's Pandering.

让黑人出演白人角色不是进步，而是刻意逢迎

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448 Words

Despite being Black myself, I object to using the race of an actor as a sign and standard for what **constitutes** progress. It's an **insult** to my **community**—both to the long-fought struggle for representation and to the recent successes on that front.

尽管我自己是黑人，我反对把演员的种族视为进步的标志和标准。这是对黑人群体的侮辱，也是对争取代表权的长期斗争以及最近在这方面取得的成功的侮辱。

Think about it: Disney made not one but two “Black **Panther**” films. “Black Panther,” a comic book series about the Black leader of the most powerful and wealthy nation in the world, was brought to the big screen on two separate occasions—something that would have seemed like a **pipe dream** to Black people in the 60s. That was some serious progress.

想想看：迪士尼拍了不是一部而是两部《黑豹》电影。《黑豹》是关于世界上最强大、最富有国家的黑人领导人的系列漫画，两次被搬上大银幕——对于 60 年代的黑人来说这简直是痴心妄想。这是重大的进展。

Yet after that **massive milestone**, Disney decided that what we needed was the **token** representation of **palette** switching, announcing a Black Ariel in their live action remake of “The Little **Mermaid**,” out in May of this year.

然而，在这一重大里程碑之后，迪士尼认定我们需要的是改用黑人演员这种装点门面的代表权，宣布在今年 5 月上映的真人版《小美人鱼》中推出“黑人版爱丽儿”。

We are told our little sisters are **jumping for joy** across the nation because of this. Black moms are telling their children it's

constitute ['kɑ:nstətu:t] v. 被视为，被算作；组成，构成 | This letter does not constitute an offer of employment. 这封信并不能视为一封工作录用函。

insult ['ɪnsʌlt] n. 侮辱，冒犯 [ɪn'sʌlt] v. 辱骂，侮辱 | Such low wages are an insult to hard-working employees. 这么低的工资对辛苦工作的雇员来说是种侮辱。

community [kə'mju:nəti] n. 群体，团体；社区，社会 | The president appealed to the international community for aid for the flood victims. 总统呼吁国际社会向水灾灾民提供援助。

panther ['pænθər] n. 黑豹

pipe dream 白日梦，不切实际的空想 | You could waste your whole life on a pipe dream. 白日梦会荒废你一生。

massive ['mæsɪv] adj. 巨大的；严重的 | I had a massive argument with her. 我和她大吵了一架。

milestone ['maɪlstəʊn] n. 里程碑，重大事件 | Starting school is a milestone for both children and parents. 对于孩子和家长而言，开始上学是一件大事。

so great that Disney gave us this amazing **bounty** of **mana** **from on high**. Videos across the internet show little Black kids celebrating that “a princess looks like me” as if that’s some kind of gift.

我们得知，全国的黑人小女孩为此欢呼雀跃。黑人母亲告诉她们的孩子，迪士尼给了我们如此惊人的魔法恩赐，这真是太棒了。互联网上的视频显示，黑人小孩们兴高采烈地庆祝“公主像我”，就好像这是某种礼物。

Yet there are hundreds of stories of real Black princesses Disney isn’t making films about. One of my favorite characters is Mami Wata, a water spirit well-known in West, Central, and South African **folklore**. She’s like Ariel, but better: She can **possess** people, she has **kinky**, curly hair, and sometimes **abducts** her followers.

然而，有许多真实的黑人公主的故事并没有被迪士尼拍成电影。我最喜欢的角色之一是玛米·瓦塔，一个在西非、中非和南非民间传说中都很有名的水精灵。她像爱丽儿，但更强大：她可以附身，有一头卷发，有时还会诱拐她的追随者。

She would make an amazing Disney **heroine**! Why choose to race **swap** an existing story about a historically white character from Danish folklore instead of investing in a real Black one from African lore?

她会成为一个了不起的迪士尼女主角！为什么要把一个丹麦民间传说中历来是白人的角色换成黑人，而不是投资一个来自非洲传说的真正的黑人角色？

In other words, Black Ariel is a step backward from Black Panther.

换句话说，与黑豹相比，黑人版爱丽儿是一种退步。

People argue that “The Little Mermaid” is a mermaid and her color shouldn’t matter. But if changing the race of a character is ok because race isn’t relevant as so many have said, then why make the character Black at all? As soon as you do that, you’ve **literally** made race important enough to change it.

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token ['tʊkən] *adj.* 装样子的，装点门面的，敷衍的；象征性的 *n.* 象征；代币 | There was one token woman on the committee. 委员会中有一位装点门面的女性委员。

palette ['pælət] *n.* 主色调；调色板

mermaid ['mɜːrmeɪd] *n.* 美人鱼

jump for joy 雀跃，高兴得跳起来 | He jumped for joy on being told the news. 得知这个消息，他高兴得手舞足蹈。

bounty ['baʊnti] *n.* 慷慨的赠予；奖金，赏金

mana ['mana] *n.* 魔力，神力

from on high 来自上级的，来自高层的 | An order came from on high. 上头有命令。

folklore ['fɒklɔːr] *n.* 民间传说，民俗

possess [pəˈzes] *v.* 支配，控制；拥有 | He was possessed by a devil. 他着了魔。

kinky ['kɪŋki] *adj.* （头发）卷曲的

abduct [æbˈdʌkt] *v.* 诱拐，劫持，绑架

heroine ['herəʊɪn] *n.* 女英雄；女主角

swap [swɑːp] *n./v.* 交换 | We can do a swap if you like. 如果你愿意我们可以交换。

literally ['lɪtərəli] *adv.* 真正地，确实地；字面上 | They were literally starving to death. 他们真的快要饿死。

人们辩称“小美人鱼”就是美人鱼，她的肤色不重要。但如果种族真像许多人所说的无关紧要，可以改变角色的种族的话，那么为什么要把角色变成黑人呢？一旦这样做了，你实际上已经把种族看得十分重要，以至于要改变它。

Moreover, if the **tables** were **turned**, you can bet they would care. One of the best **episodes** of the HBO **hit** series “The Last of Us” shows the beautifully tragic story of the characters of Sam and Henry, who are Black in the game. Now imagine that suddenly they were white in the show—because apparently race doesn’t matter. There would obviously be a huge **backlash** to such a decision.

此外，如果情况颠倒过来，你可以打赌他们会介意。HBO 热门电视剧《最后生还者》（改编自同名游戏）最精彩的一集展现了山姆和亨利这两个角色动人的悲剧故事，他们在游戏中是黑人。现在想象一下，他们突然在剧中变成了白人——因为据说种族并不重要。这样的决定显然会引起强烈的反对。

Pushing for Black actors playing white characters while insisting race doesn’t matter is **rank hypocrisy**.

让黑人演员扮演白人角色，并坚称种族无关紧要，这是彻头彻尾的虚伪。

Making a white character Black is not progress. It’s **pandering**.

让黑人出演白人角色不是进步，而是刻意逢迎。

死了。

turn the tables 扭转形势，转变局面，转弱为强

episode ['episood] *n.* （电视连续剧或广播剧的）一集；一段经历，片段 | I’d like to try and forget the whole episode. 我倒想尽量把那段经历全部忘掉。

hit [hit] *n.* 很受欢迎的人（或事物） | He is already a big hit with the locals. 当地人已经非常喜欢他了。

backlash ['bæklæʃ] *n.* 强烈抵制，激烈反对 | The government is facing an angry backlash from voters over the new tax. 政府正面临选民对新税项的强烈反对。

rank [ræŋk] *adj.* 极端的，十足的；难闻的 *n.* 等级，级别 | He is a rank amateur. 他完全是个业余选手。

hypocrisy [hɪ'pɑ:kɹəsi] *n.* 伪善，虚伪 | His hypocrisy makes me sick. 他的虚伪让我恶心。

pander ['pændər] *v.* 迎合，投其所好 | Some newspapers feel they have to pander to the prejudices of their readers. 有些报纸觉得必须迎合读者的偏见。

► 脉络梳理

Para. 1 提出观点：反对把演员的种族视为进步的标志和标准

Para. 2-7 对比黑豹和黑人版爱丽儿，指出黑豹被搬上大荧幕是一个重大进展，而让黑人出演小美人鱼这一白人角色则是一种退步，有真正的黑人女性角色值得投资

Para. 8-10 抨击“角色的种族不重要”的说法，指出这种说法是彻头彻尾的虚伪

Para. 11 总结全文，指出让黑人出演白人角色不是进步，而是刻意逢迎

► 长难句拆解

主语
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“Black Panther,”

同位语, 解释说明 Black Panther
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被动语态谓语 状语

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