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***Cyber Realm***

May, 2021

**Overview**

The purpose of this report is to identify opportunities for content creators to diversify character representations. This report measures representations of six identities in the script *Cyber Realm* for LEGO Titan:

* [Gender](#7rdsrmby8a10)
* [Race/Ethnicity](#km0uzj1c47vm)
* [LGBTQ+](#l5fofjr5yyu7)
* [Disability](#phoxthamc9m4)
* [Age (50+)](#w6ssfbo3nmng)
* [Body Size](#ua15q4ot3gj6)

**Methodology**

Spellcheck for Bias is based on inventions and software developed at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. For this report, we analyze characters who spoke 1 line of text or more. In *The Cyber Realm*, 9 characters met this criterion:

| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| --- | --- |
| LOGAN | 108 |
| MATEO | 94 |
| IZZIE | 43 |
| BURRZERKER | 40 |
| COOPER | 36 |
| MR OZ | 21 |
| ZOEY | 15 |
| ALBERT | 8 |
| NIGHTMARE KING | 4 |

Automated coding is combined with expert human coding to generate the quantitative and qualitative analysis below.

**Gender Analysis**

***For comparison, women constitute 51% of the U.S. population.***

* 22% characters are specified as female.
* The leading character is male (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 0 character opportunities to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  | MATEO |  |
| IZZIE | IZZIE |  |
|  | BURRZERKER |  |
|  | COOPER |  |
|  | MR OZ |  |
| ZOEY | ZOEY |  |
|  | ALBERT |  |
|  | NIGHTMARE KING |  |

The See Jane Test

| **In order to pass the See Jane test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is a woman who; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with gender stereotypes or tropes. |

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**Race/Ethnicity Analysis**

***For comparison, people of color constitute 38% of the U.S. population.***

* 50% characters are specified as characters of color.
* The leading character is a character of color (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 2 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| LOGAN |  | LOGAN |
| MATEO |  | MATEO |
| IZZIE |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | BURRZERKER |
|  | COOPER | COOPER |
|  | MR OZ | MR OZ |
| ZOEY |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |

The Shonda Rhimes Test

| **In order to pass the Shonda Rhimes test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is a character of color who; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with race/ethnicity stereotypes or tropes. |



**LGBTQ+ Analysis**

***For comparison, LGBTQ+ people comprise 4.5% of the U.S. population.***

* 0 characters are specified as LGBTQ+.
* The leading character is specified as heterosexual (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 7 character opportunities to increase LGBTQ+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | LOGAN | LOGAN |
|  | MATEO | MATEO |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | BURRZERKER |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | MR OZ |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |

The Vito-Russo Test

| **In order to pass the Vito-Russo test, a script/manuscript must:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **NO** | Contain a character that is identifiably lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer. |
|  | That character must not be solely or predominantly defined by their sexual orientation or gender identity (i.e. they are comprised of the same sort of unique character traits commonly used to differentiate straight/non-transgender characters from one another). |
|  | The LGBTQ character must be tied into the plot in such a way that their removal would have a significant effect, meaning they are not there to simply provide colorful commentary, paint urban authenticity, or (perhaps most commonly) set up a punchline. |



**Disability Analysis**

***For comparison, people with disabilities constitute 19% of the U.S. population.***

* 0 characters are specified as having a physical, cognitive, or communication disability.
* The leading character is not shown having a disability (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 9 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | LOGAN |
|  |  | MATEO |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | BURRZERKER |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | MR OZ |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |

The Marlee Matlin Test

| **In order to pass the Marlee Matlin test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **NO** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) with a physical, cognitive, or communication disability who; |
|  | Is not depicted with disability stereotypes or tropes. |



**Age (50+) Analysis**

***For comparison, people ages 50+ constitute 34% of the U.S. population.***

* 22% characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The leading character is under 50 (Mateo).
* The script contains 2 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| v | LOGAN | LOGAN |
|  | MATEO | MATEO |
|  | IZZIE | IZZIE |
|  |  | BURRZERKER |
|  | COOPER | COOPER |
| MR OZ |  | MR OZ |
|  | ZOEY | ZOEY |
| ALBERT |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |

The Betty White Test

| **In order to pass the Betty White test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is 50+ who; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with age stereotypes or tropes. |



**Body Size Analysis**

***For comparison, people with large body types constitute 39% of the U.S. population.***

* 0 characters are specified as having a large body type.
* The leading character does not have a specified body type.
* The script contains 9 character opportunities to increase body type diversity.

Characters by Body Size

| **CHARACTER WITH LARGE BODY TYPE** | **CHARACTER WITH SMALL/MEDIUM BODY TYPE** | **BODY SIZE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | LOGAN |
|  |  | MATEO |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | BURRZERKER |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | MR OZ |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | LANCE |
|  |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |

The Lizzo Test

| **In order to pass the Lizzo test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **NO** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) with a large body type who; |
|  | Is not depicted with size stereotypes or tropes. |



**Intersectional Analysis**

|  | **Female Character** | **Character of Color** | **LGBTQ+ Character** | **Character with a Disability** | **Character 50+** | **Character with Large Body Type** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Female Character** |  | **YES** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character of Color** | **YES** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **LGBTQ+ Character** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character 50+** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** |
| **Character with Large Body Type** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  |

**Positive Aspects**

* Zoey rescued the team and is central to action sequences.
* Zoey defends her interests when she is made fun of, showing viewers that many types of creativity (even ones targeted for different age groups) can be enjoyed and be fulfilling (“Baking Papa is a valid game that helps people destress and allows escapism, while learning essential life skills” [21]).
* Healthy Masculinity: Mateo comforts/provides emotional support to Izzie and encourages her to join the fight against the Nightmare King (“if anything ever happened to Z-Blob I’d feel exactly the same way. It’s ok. We got this” [24]; “We’ll all be there to help you” [26]).
* Logan is revealed to have 2 moms, normalizing LGBTQ+ family households.

**Potential Pitfalls**

* Potential Sexism:
  + Harmful depictions of masculinity: Without an indication from Zoey that she is romantically interested in Mateo or Logan--both boys compete against one another in a hyper-masculine game (described in ‘militaristic’ and violent [“soldier”; “carnage”; “slaughter”] terms and led by a ‘muscular’ male statue) to spend time with her. This storyline perpetuates the idea that ‘dominant males’ can use physical aggression to thwart ‘subordinate’ males in order to successfully gain a woman’s favor. Logan further reinforces this narrative, by verbally abusing Mateo (calling him “newb”, “I knew I’d own you, nerd” [14]).
  + The Night King embodies the “violent male” trope.
  + Zoey is ‘rescued’ by Burrzerker, a gender-based stereotype.
  + Gendered creativity: Zoey and Izzie like the ‘baking game’, while the boys (who deplore that game [“No. Anything but that”]) enjoy a “shooting game.”
  + Izzie gets eliminated from the hyper-masculine game immediately (while the male characters Mateo and Logan make it to the final round), reinforcing gender-based narratives surrounding who is and isn’t naturally good at stereotypically male games.
    - Suggestion: Having Izzie make it to the final round and get Zoey on her team for ‘sheep week’ would defy gender stereotypes surrounding creativity and ‘the games girls are naturally good at,’ as well as diminish the problematic narrative surrounding two men competing with one another for a girl.
* Potential Racism:
  + If the Night King is cast as a character of color, he will embody the race and gender based trope “violent male”, “villainized”, “dehumanized” and “criminal” (within the show’s moral universe).