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***The Rescue***

June, 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 *The Rescue* for LEGO Titan:

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

**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 Rescue*, 13 characters met this criterion:

| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| --- | --- |
| LOGAN | 43 |
| MR OZ | 36 |
| MATEO | 36 |
| DARK ARCHER | 27 |
| SNEAK | 27 |
| IZZIE | 20 |
| ZOEY | 14 |
| NIGHTMARE KING | 7 |
| COACH JEFFREYS | 6 |
| COOPER | 6 |
| ALBERT | 6 |
| SNIVEL | 4 |
| SUSAN | 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.***

* 23% of characters are specified as female.
* The co-leading characters are male (“Mateo” and “Logan”).
* The script contains 0 character opportunities to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  | MR OZ |  |
| IZZIE | MATEO |  |
|  | DARK ARCHER |  |
|  | SNEAK |  |
| IZZIE | IZZIE |  |
| ZOEY | ZOEY |  |
|  | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
|  | COACH JEFFREYS |  |
|  | COOPER |  |
|  | ALBERT |  |
|  | SNIVEL |  |
| SUSAN | SUSAN |  |

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.***

* 33% of characters are specified as characters of color.
* The co-leading characters are characters of color (“Logan” and “Mateo”).
* The script contains 5 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| LOGAN | LOGAN | LOGAN |
| MATEO | MR OZ | MATEO |
| MATEO | MATEO | IZZIE |
|  | DARK ARCHER |  |
|  | SNEAK | SNEAK |
| IZZIE | IZZIE | MR OZ |
| ZOEY | ZOEY | ZOEY |
|  | NIGHTMARE KING | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  | COACH JEFFREYS | COACH JEFFREYS |
|  | COOPER |  |
|  | ALBERT | ALBERT\* |
|  | SNIVEL | SNIVEL |
|  | SUSAN | SUSAN |

\*Albert is a non-human character, and therefore excluded for the race/ethnicity analysis.

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 co-leading characters are specified as heterosexual (“Logan” and “Mateo”).
* The script contains 10 character opportunities to increase LGBTQ+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | LOGAN | LOGAN |
|  | MR OZ | MR OZ |
|  | MATEO | MATEO |
|  |  | DARK ARCHER |
|  |  | SNEAK |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  |  | COACH JEFFREYS |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | SNIVEL |
|  |  | SUSAN |

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 characters do not have a specified disability (“Logan” and“Mateo”).
* The script contains 13 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | LOGAN |
|  |  | MR OZ |
|  |  | MATEO |
|  |  | DARK ARCHER |
|  |  | SNEAK |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  |  | COACH JEFFREYS |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | SNIVEL |
|  |  | SUSAN |

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.***

* 23% characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The co-leading characters are under 50 (“Logan” and “Mateo”).
* The script contains 2 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| v | LOGAN | LOGAN |
| MR OZ | MATEO | MR OZ |
|  | MATEO | MATEO |
|  |  | DARK ARCHER |
|  | SNEAK | SNEAK |
| MR OZ | IZZIE | IZZIE |
|  | ZOEY | ZOEY |
| NIGHTMARE KING |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  |  | COACH JEFFREYS |
|  | COOPER | COOPER |
| ALBERT |  | ALBERT |
|  | SNIVEL | SNIVEL |
|  | SUSAN | SUSAN |

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**

* We do not analyze body size for this script.

| **CHARACTER WITH LARGE BODY TYPE** | **CHARACTER WITH SMALL/MEDIUM BODY TYPE** | **BODY SIZE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
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The Lizzo Test

| **In order to pass the Lizzo test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
|  | 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+** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Female Character** |  | **YES** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character of Color** | **YES** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **LGBTQ+ Character** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** |
| **Character 50+** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  |

**Positive Aspects**

* Logan is forgiven by Oz after stealing from him, reinforcing compassion over punitive punishment.
* The Dreamchasers work in unison, showing the communal aspects of creativity and the importance of working together rather than individually.

**Potential Pitfalls**

* **Potential Racism:** 
  + Opportunity: The series has only celebrated white male inventors and scientists, including in this episode (e.g., the “Edison bomb”). There is an opportunity to celebrate the STEM achievements of often overlooked women and/or people of color (e.g.,Grace Hopper, Ann Tsukamoto) and introduce them to young viewers.
* **Potential Sexism:**
  + The Night King and the Dark Archer embody the “VIOLENT MALE” trope.
  + Female characters had *relatively minor roles* in this episode and do not have any significant individual scenes.
  + Unhealthy depictions of masculinity/gendered attitudes around ‘strength’ and ‘violence’: Characters (almost always male) often use “DOMINATION” and “AGGRESSION” as a way to undermine or bully others:
    - “You’re a loser Logan!” (6)
    - “You’re just as weak and pathetic as this loser here” (7)
    - “Who's the loser now?” (7)