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***Episode 111***

July, 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 *Episode 111* for LEGO Titan:

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

| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| --- | --- |
| ZOEY | 78 |
| IZZIE | 56 |
| MATEO | 42 |
| COOPER | 39 |
| NOVA | 27 |
| OZ | 24 |
| JAY | 23 |
| LOGAN | 21 |
| ALBERT | 18 |
| NIGHTMARE KING | 11 |
| COACH JEFFREYS | 10 |
| CHIEF INSPECTOR STRICK | 8 |
| NIGHT HUNTER | 7 |
| JADYN | 6 |
| MS PUTNAM | 4 |
| AUNT JENNY | 3 |
| DALLAS | 1 |

**Methodology**

Spellcheck for Bias is a collaboration between the Institute and the University of Southern California’s Signal Analysis and Interpretation Laboratory (SAIL) which analyzes scripts and manuscripts to create a breakdown of characters and dialogue. Spellcheck for Bias also incorporates Human Expert Coding to determine the representation of six identities (gender, race, LGBTQ+, Disabilities, Age 50+ and Body Size). Spellcheck for Bias also provides an analysis of Tropes and Stereotypes and attributes such as racial and gender injustice, violence, and discrimination.

**Gender Analysis**

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

* 35% of characters are specified as female.
* The leading character is female (“Zoey”).
* The script contains 0 character opportunities to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ZOEY | ZOEY |  |
| IZZIE | IZZIE |  |
| IZZI | MATEO |  |
| AGENT STRICK | COOPER |  |
| NOVA | NOVA |  |
| IZZIE | OZ |  |
| ZOEY | JAY |  |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  | ALBERT |  |
|  | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
|  | COACH JEFFREYS |  |
| CHIEF INSPECTOR STRICK | CHIEF INSPECTOR STRICK |  |
|  | NIGHT HUNTER |  |
|  | JADYN |  |
| MS PUTNAM | MS PUTNAM |  |
| AUNT JENNY | AUNT JENNY |  |
|  | DALLAS |  |

The See Jane Test

| **In order to pass the See Jane test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **✔** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is a woman who; |
| **✔** | 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.***

* 31% of characters are specified as characters of color.
* The leading character is a character of color (“Zoey”).
* The script contains 7 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ZOEY | LOGAN | ZOEY |
| IZZIE |  | IZZIE |
| MATEO | MATEO | MATEO |
| AGENT STRICK | COOPER | COOPER |
| COOP | COOP | NOVA |
| OZ | OZ | OZ |
| JAY | ZOEY | JAY |
| LOGAN | NIGHTMARE KING | LOGAN |
| NIGHTMARE KING | COACH JEFFREYS | ALBERT\* |
| DARK ARCHER | NIGHTMARE KING | NIGHTMARE KING |
| JAYDEN | ALBERT | COACH JEFFREYS |
|  |  | CHIEF INSPECTOR STRICK |
|  | NIGHT HUNTER | NIGHT HUNTER |
|  |  | JADYN |
|  |  | MS PUTNAM |
|  |  | AUNT JENNY |
|  |  | DALLAS |

\*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:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **✔** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is a character of color who; |
| **✔** | Is not depicted with race/ethnicity stereotypes or tropes. |

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**LGBTQIA+ Analysis**

***For comparison, LGBTQIA+ people comprise 5.6% of the U.S. population.***

* 0 characters are specified as LGBTQIA+.
* The leading character is unspecified (“Zoey”).
* The script contains 12 character opportunities to increase LGBTQIA+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQIA+ Status

| **LGBTQIA+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | MATEO | ZOEY |
|  | MR OZ | IZZIE |
|  | MATEO | MATEO |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | NOVA |
|  | OZ | OZ |
|  | JAY | JAY |
|  | LOGAN | LOGAN |
|  |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  |  | COACH JEFFREYS |
|  |  | CHIEF INSPECTOR STRICK |
|  |  | NIGHT HUNTER |
|  |  | JADYN |
|  | MS PUTNAM | MS PUTNAM |
|  |  | AUNT JENNY |
|  |  | DALLAS |

The Vito-Russo Test

| **In order to pass the Vito-Russo test, a script/manuscript must:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **✘** | 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 LGBTQIA+ 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. |

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**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 specified as having a disability (“Zoey”).
* The script contains 17 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | MATEO |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | NOVA |
|  |  | OZ |
|  |  | JAY |
|  |  | LOGAN |
|  |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  |  | COACH JEFFREYS |
|  |  | CHIEF INSPECTOR STRICK |
|  |  | NIGHT HUNTER |
|  |  | JADYN |
|  |  | MS PUTNAM |
|  |  | AUNT JENNY |
|  |  | DALLAS |

The Marlee Matlin Test

| **In order to pass the Marlee Matlin test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **✘** | 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. |

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**Age (50+) Analysis**

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

* 18% characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The leading character is under 50 (“Zoey”).
* The script contains 5 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| v | ZOEY | LOGAN |
| MR OZ | IZZIE | MR OZ |
|  | MATEO | MATEO |
|  | COOPER | AGENT STRICK |
|  | NOVA | SNEAK |
| OZ | OZ | IZZIE |
| ALBERT | JAY | ZOEY |
| NIGHTMARE KING | LOGAN | NIGHTMARE KING |
| ALBERT | ALBERT |  |
| NIGHTMARE KING | NIGHTMARE KING | DARK ARCHER |
| ALBERT | COACH JEFFREYS | COACH JEFFREYS |
|  | CHIEF INSPECTOR STRICK | CHIEF INSPECTOR STRICK |
|  | NIGHT HUNTER | NIGHT HUNTER |
|  | JADYN |  |
|  | MS PUTNAM | MS PUTNAM |
|  | AUNT JENNY | AUNT JENNY |
|  | DALLAS |  |

The Betty White Test

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

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**Body Size Analysis**

* N/A
* 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** | **LGBTQIA+ Character** | **Character with a Disability** | **Character 50+** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Female Character** |  | **YES** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character of Color** | **YES** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **LGBTQIA+ Character** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** |
| **Character 50+** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  |

**Positive Aspects**

* Female characters drive the plot, have exceptional talent in several areas, and are central to the action:
  + Nova has substantial investigative skills: she interviews people, forms a club, and collects evidence to understand where the nightmares are coming from
  + Izzie and Zoey come up with ideas and are integral to re-opening the portal to the dream world
* Healthy Masculinity
  + Mateo embodies ‘caretaker’ like qualities-- when he parts with Z Blob, he tells his friends how to take care of him (“If he stains the furniture just use a little dish soap” (pp. 13)) and is constantly worrying about his welfare (“Is Z Blob there? Is he ok?” (pp. 21)). This characterization of Mateo breaks gender and race based stereotypes with respect to men and masculinity and Latinx men and their roles as caretakers, how they convey their emotions, affections, and the types of responsibilities they take on.
  + Logan, a typically ‘hyper-masculine’ character sincerely praises Zoey for her work (“Zoey you were SO amazing!” (pp. 25)).
  + Jay, as in previous scripts, continues to be a concerned, emotionally involved, and competent single-father.

**Potential Pitfalls**

* **Potential Sexism:** 
  + White male characters are the ‘experts’ in STEM related activities:
    - Cooper, a white male, “barks orders” (pp. 23) at Zoey on how to remove a piece of technology
    - Oz, a white male, explains fungi
  + Gendered language: the slang used throughout the script is masculine, with multiple characters (including female characters) saying “you guys,” “bro,” “dude.”
  + The dream content of the ‘made-up dreams’ sequence displays gender-stereotypical dreams (pp. 8-9):
    - Izzie dreams of a “giant bunny”
    - Mateo says he dreamt of “Robots...pirates” and being on fire
    - Logan makes up a baseball game
      * Suggestion: We recommend occasionally diversifying the dream content of characters so that they subvert gender stereotypes.