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***Episode 116***

August 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 116* for LEGO Titan:

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

**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, LGBTQIA+, 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.

For this report, we analyze characters who spoke 1 line of text or more. In *Episode 116*, 12 characters met this criterion:

| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| --- | --- |
| IZZIE | 50 |
| MATEO | 44 |
| ZOEY | 42 |
| LOGAN | 37 |
| MANTICORE | 30 |
| MR OZ | 21 |
| COOPER | 19 |
| ALBERT | 15 |
| GINGERBREAD MAN | 2 |
| NIGHTMARE KING | 2 |
| GINGERBREAD WOMAN | 1 |
| DARK ARCHER | 1 |

**Gender Analysis**

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

* 25% 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** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IZZIE | IZZIE |  |
| ZOEY | MATEO |  |
| ZOEY | ZOEY |  |
| AGENT STRICK | LOGAN |  |
|  | MANTICORE |  |
| IZZIE | MR OZ |  |
| ZOEY | COOPER |  |
|  | ALBERT |  |
|  | GINGERBREAD MAN |  |
|  | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
| GINGERBREAD WOMAN | GINGERBREAD WOMAN |  |
|  | DARK ARCHER |  |

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.***

* 50% of characters are specified as characters of color.
* The leading character is a character of color (“Zoey”).
* The script contains 0 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IZZIE | LOGAN |  |
| MATEO |  |  |
| ZOEY | MATEO |  |
| LOGAN | DARK ARCHER |  |
| COOP | COOP | MANTICORE\* |
| OZ | MR OZ |  |
| ALBERT | COOPER |  |
| LOGAN | NIGHTMARE KING | ALBERT\* |
| NIGHTMARE KING | COACH JEFFREYS | GINGERBREAD MAN\* |
| DARK ARCHER | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
| JAYDEN | ALBERT | GINGERBREAD WOMAN\* |
|  | DARK ARCHER |  |

\*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 specified as heterosexual (“Zoey”).
* The script contains 6 character opportunities to increase LGBTQIA+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQIA+ Status

| **LGBTQIA+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | MATEO | IZZIE |
|  | MATEO | MATEO |
|  | ZOEY | ZOEY |
|  | LOGAN | LOGAN |
|  |  | MANTICORE |
|  | MR OZ | MR OZ |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  | LOGAN | ALBERT |
|  | GINGERBREAD MAN | GINGERBREAD MAN |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  | GINGERBREAD WOMAN | GINGERBREAD WOMAN |
|  |  | DARK ARCHER |

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. |



**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 12 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | MATEO |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | LOGAN |
|  |  | MANTICORE |
|  |  | MR OZ |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | GINGERBREAD MAN |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  |  | GINGERBREAD WOMAN |
|  |  | DARK ARCHER |

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. |



**Age (50+) Analysis**

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

* 25% characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The leading character is under 50 (“Zoey”).
* The script contains 3 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| v | IZZIE | LOGAN |
| MR OZ | MATEO | MR OZ |
|  | ZOEY | MATEO |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  | MANTICORE | MANTICORE |
| MR OZ | MR OZ | IZZIE |
|  | COOPER | ZOEY |
| ALBERT | ALBERT | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  | GINGERBREAD MAN | GINGERBREAD MAN |
| NIGHTMARE KING | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
| ALBERT | GINGERBREAD WOMAN | GINGERBREAD WOMAN |
|  | DARK ARCHER | DARK ARCHER |

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 and Continued Positive Representation:**

* Disrupting Gender Norms:
  + Izzie is intellectually curious and is becoming the “animal expert” on the team, a STEM field.
* Healthy Depictions of Masculinity:
  + Mateo vocalizes fear in the creepy castle (“I wish this place didn’t look so dang scary”, pp. 7).
  + Mateo puts Zoey’s feelings first and values their friendship more than a romantic relationship. He asks her why she’s afraid of getting involved with someone else romantically and respects her choice to pursue Logan.
  + Logan is becoming a more multi-dimensional character -- he values working with the team, cares deeply about his friends, helps with tasks, contributes to problem-solving, and openly struggles with his feelings for Zoey in a conversation with Izzie.
  + Primarily male characters whose thoughts are consumed by romance.
* Gender and Creativity:
  + The script gives dream-tools to female characters that defy gender norms (e.g., Izzie has an anime sword and does martial arts).
    - Suggestion: Include male characters engaging in non-gender stereotypical play.

**Potential Pitfalls**

* **Potential Sexism:** 
  + “Artistic Nods”
    - The script ‘nods’ to a couple of artists (M.C. Escher; Alpohso Mucha), however they are all white and male. Including ‘dreamy’ female artists such as Hilma af Klint or artists of color such as Wadsworth Jarell could help introduce young viewers to aesthetics by female artists and artists of color that often get overlooked.
* **Potential Racism**:
  + The name ‘darklings’ was changed to Nightlings for this series, however their army is still referred to as the “dark army”.
    - Suggestion: consider naming the “dark army” the “nightling army” or the “night army.”