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***Episode 117***

***“Assault on Castle Nocturnia”***

November 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 117* 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 117*, 10 characters met this criterion:

| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| --- | --- |
| MATEO | 43 |
| COOPER | 35 |
| IZZIE | 30 |
| MR OZ | 23 |
| ZOEY | 22 |
| NIGHTMARE KING | 20 |
| LOGAN | 17 |
| ALBERT | 14 |
| NIGHT HUNTER | 11 |
| PHIL | 6 |

**Gender Analysis**

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

* 20% of 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** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | MATEO |  |
|  | COOPER |  |
| IZZIE |  |  |
|  | MR OZ |  |
| ZOEY |  |  |
|  | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  | ALBERT |  |
|  | NIGHT HUNTER |  |
|  | PHIL |  |

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 39% of the U.S. population.***

* 44% of characters are specified as characters of color.
* The leading character is a character of color (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 1 character opportunity to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MATEO |  |  |
|  | COOPER |  |
| IZZIE |  |  |
|  | MR OZ |  |
| ZOEY |  |  |
|  | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
| LOGAN |  |  |
|  |  | ALBERT\* |
|  | NIGHT HUNTER |  |
|  |  | PHIL |

\*Albert is a nonhuman character and was not included in this count

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 heterosexual (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 6 character opportunities to increase LGBTQIA+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQIA+ Status

| **LGBTQIA+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | MATEO |  |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  | MR OZ |  |
|  | ZOEY |  |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | NIGHT HUNTER |
|  |  | PHIL |

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 (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 10 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

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

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.***

* 30% 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 | MATEO | MATEO |
| MR OZ | COOPER |  |
|  | IZZIE |  |
| MR OZ |  |  |
|  | ZOEY |  |
| NIGHTMARE KING |  |  |
|  | LOGAN |  |
| ALBERT |  | ALBERT |
|  |  | NIGHT HUNTER |
| KING |  | PHIL |

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:**

* Transformative Gender Content
  + Zoey, a female character, rescues Logan
  + Izzie dream crafts a hammer (pp. 6) and physically throws it in an action scene, while Zoey uses a crossbow in her scene, defying gender norms with respect to who participates in physically-based action sequences and imagination
  + Male characters are shown collaborating and emphasizing the importance of working together instead of individual heroic acts. Mateo goes on to tell Cooper: “nothing is impossible. As long as we do it together” (pp. 7)
  + Logan continues to be a good team member
  + Mateo, a male character, is visibly upset and shaken after the potential loss of his dream friend and is comforted by male characters
  + Mateo and Cooper are tasked with decoding Luna’s story, while female characters are engaged in physically based action oriented sequences. This also shows male characters engaging in complex soft skills (decoding) that are important to the plot.
* Normalizes Failure
  + Mr. Oz’s discussion about failure introduces elements of the ‘growth mindset,’ introducing the idea that failure is normal, and that skills and success are developed over time
* Collectivism Over Individualism
  + Every character is essential to escaping the Nightmare King, teaching children the importance of working together

**Potential Pitfalls**

**Race Analysis:**

* + Recommendation: Instead of stating Zoey is “scary when she’s pissed” (pp. 4) remark upon how brave she is. Using this language to describe a Black female character can reinforce the ANGRY BLACK WOMAN stereotype and the idea that women are “angry” or “aggressive” when they are exhibiting qualities that would often be described as “brave” or “heroic” for male characters
  + For transformative content, consider using “good is more powerful than evil” rather than “darkness is more powerful than light” to avoid associations with darkness and evil

**Gender Analysis:**

* + Gendered language: “Man you stations” (pp. 16)

**Age Analysis:**

* + Ageist language: Oz is called “old man” (pp. 16) as an insult. Consider an insult that is not age-based