**Spellcheck For Bias: *Free Agents***

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February, 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 *Free Agents* for Lionsgate:

* [Gender](#bookmark=id.gjdgxs)
* [Race/Ethnicity](#bookmark=id.30j0zll)
* [LGBTQ+](#bookmark=id.1fob9te)
* [Disability](#bookmark=id.3znysh7)
* [Age (50+)](#bookmark=id.2et92p0)
* [Body Size](#bookmark=id.tyjcwt)

**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 *Free Agents*, 36 characters met this criterion:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| RUSH | 281 |
| WILL | 273 |
| VIDAL | 80 |
| LISA | 77 |
| TOMMY | 56 |
| TV ANNOUNCER | 32 |
| SLIM | 30 |
| MOUSE | 30 |
| DONTAY | 26 |
| WALKER | 25 |
| S-BULL | 25 |
| DETECTIVE REED | 25 |
| COACH BRACKNEY | 22 |
| HENNESSY | 21 |
| COLOR ANALYST | 18 |
| KIT JACOBS | 18 |
| ASST. COACH DAVIS | 10 |
| JERRY DEMARCO | 10 |
| KIZINSKI | 10 |
| PHAN PARK | 8 |
| ANNOUNCER | 8 |
| CARLA | 8 |
| ESPN RADIO HOST | 5 |
| SYLVIE | 5 |
| PETER CRANE | 4 |
| DESHAWN | 4 |
| CHARISSE | 3 |
| TV ANNOUNCER 1 | 3 |
| CHET | 2 |
| GATE GUARD | 2 |
| RUSH’S AGENT | 1 |
| SALAAM | 1 |
| PLAYER #2 | 1 |
| GUARD 2 | 1 |
| TRAINER | 1 |
| GENERAL MANAGER | 1 |

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.***

* 6 characters are specified as female.
* The leading character is male.
* The script contains 8 character opportunities to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | RUSH |  |
|  | WILL |  |
| VIDAL |  |  |
| LISA |  |  |
|  | TOMMY |  |
|  | TV ANNOUNCER |  |
|  | SLIM |  |
|  | MOUSE |  |
|  | DONTAY |  |
|  | WALKER |  |
|  | S-BULL |  |
|  | DETECTIVE REED |  |
|  | COACH BRACKNEY |  |
| HENNESSY |  |  |
|  |  | COLOR ANALYST |
|  | KIT JACOBS |  |
|  | ASST. COACH DAVIS |  |
|  | KIZINSKI |  |
|  |  | PHAN PARK |
|  |  | ANNOUNCER |
| CARLA |  |  |
|  | JERRY DEMARCO |  |
|  |  | ESPN RADIO HOST |
| SYLVIE |  |  |
|  | PETER CRANE |  |
|  | DESHAWN |  |
| CHARISSE |  |  |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER 1 |
|  | CHET |  |
|  | GATE GUARD |  |
|  |  | RUSH’S AGENT |
|  | SALAAM |  |
|  | PLAYER #2 |  |
|  | GUARD 2 |  |
|  |  | TRAINER |
|  |  | GENERAL MANAGER |

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.***

* 8 characters are specified as characters of color.
* The leading character has an unspecified race/ethnicity.
* The script contains 27 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  |  | RUSH |
|  |  | WILL |
|  |  | VIDAL |
|  |  | LISA |
|  |  | TOMMY |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER |
| SLIM |  |  |
|  |  | MOUSE |
| DONTAY |  |  |
|  |  | WALKER |
| S-BULL |  |  |
|  |  | DETECTIVE REED |
|  |  | COACH BRACKNEY |
|  |  | HENNESSY |
|  |  | COLOR ANALYST |
|  |  | KIT JACOBS |
|  |  | ASST. COACH DAVIS |
|  |  | KIZINSKI |
| PHAN PARK |  |  |
|  |  | ANNOUNCER |
| CARLA |  |  |
|  | JERRY DEMARCO |  |
|  |  | ESPN RADIO HOST |
|  |  | SYLVIE |
|  |  | PETER CRANE |
| DESHAWN |  |  |
| CHARISSE |  |  |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER 1 |
|  |  | CHET |
|  |  | GATE GUARD |
|  |  | RUSH’S AGENT |
| SALAAM |  |  |
|  |  | PLAYER #2 |
|  |  | GUARD 2 |
|  |  | TRAINER |
|  |  | GENERAL MANAGER |

The Sidney Poitier Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Sidney Poitier 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.
* The script contains 28 character opportunities to increase LGBTQ+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | RUSH |  |
|  | WILL |  |
|  |  | VIDAL |
|  | LISA |  |
|  |  | TOMMY |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER |
|  | SLIM |  |
|  |  | MOUSE |
|  |  | DONTAY |
|  |  | WALKER |
|  |  | S-BULL |
|  |  | DETECTIVE REED |
|  |  | COACH BRACKNEY |
|  |  | HENNESSY |
|  |  | COLOR ANALYST |
|  |  | KIT JACOBS |
|  |  | ASST. COACH DAVIS |
|  |  | KIZINSKI |
|  |  | PHAN PARK |
|  |  | ANNOUNCER |
|  | CARLA |  |
|  |  | JERRY DEMARCO |
|  |  | ESPN RADIO HOST |
|  | SYLVIE |  |
|  |  | PETER CRANE |
|  |  | DESHAWN |
|  | CHARISSE |  |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER 1 |
|  | CHET |  |
|  |  | GATE GUARD |
|  |  | RUSH’S AGENT |
|  |  | SALAAM |
|  |  | PLAYER #2 |
|  |  | GUARD 2 |
|  |  | TRAINER |
|  |  | GENERAL MANAGER |

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. |
| **NO** | 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). |
| **NO** | 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.***

* 1 character is specified as having a physical, cognitive, or communication disability.
* The leading character is not shown having a disability.
* The script contains 35 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
|  |  | RUSH |
|  |  | WILL |
|  |  | VIDAL |
|  |  | LISA |
|  |  | TOMMY |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER |
|  |  | SLIM |
|  |  | MOUSE |
|  |  | DONTAY |
|  |  | WALKER |
|  |  | S-BULL |
|  |  | DETECTIVE REED |
|  |  | COACH BRACKNEY |
|  |  | HENNESSY |
|  |  | COLOR ANALYST |
|  |  | KIT JACOBS |
|  |  | ASST. COACH DAVIS |
|  |  | KIZINSKI |
|  |  | PHAN PARK |
|  |  | ANNOUNCER |
|  |  | CARLA |
|  |  | JERRY DEMARCO |
|  |  | ESPN RADIO HOST |
|  |  | SYLVIE |
|  |  | PETER CRANE |
|  |  | DESHAWN |
|  |  | CHARISSE |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER 1 |
| CHET |  |  |
|  |  | GATE GUARD |
|  |  | RUSH’S AGENT |
|  |  | SALAAM |
|  |  | PLAYER #2 |
|  |  | GUARD 2 |
|  |  | TRAINER |
|  |  | GENERAL MANAGER |

The Marlee Matlin Test

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



**Age (50+) Analysis**

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

* 7 characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The leading character is under 50.
* The script contains 15 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | RUSH |  |
|  | WILL |  |
|  |  | VIDAL |
|  | LISA |  |
|  | TOMMY |  |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER |
|  | SLIM |  |
|  | MOUSE |  |
|  | DONTAY |  |
| WALKER |  |  |
|  | S-BULL |  |
|  |  | DETECTIVE REED |
| COACH BRACKNEY |  |  |
|  | HENNESSY |  |
|  |  | COLOR ANALYST |
|  |  | KIT JACOBS |
|  | ASST. COACH DAVIS |  |
| KIZINSKI |  |  |
|  | PHAN PARK |  |
|  |  | ANNOUNCER |
|  | CARLA |  |
| JERRY DEMARCO |  |  |
|  |  | ESPN RADIO HOST |
| SYLVIE |  |  |
|  | PETER CRANE |  |
|  | DESHAWN |  |
|  |  | CHARISSE |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER 1 |
| CHET |  |  |
|  |  | GATE GUARD |
|  |  | RUSH’S AGENT |
|  |  | SALAAM |
| PLAYER #2 |  |  |
|  |  | GUARD 2 |
|  |  | TRAINER |
|  |  | GENERAL MANAGER |

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.***

* 1 character is specified as having a large body type.
* The leading character is not specified as having a large body type.
* The script contains 32 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** |
|  | RUSH |  |
|  | WILL |  |
|  |  | VIDAL |
|  |  | LISA |
|  |  | TOMMY |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER |
|  | SLIM |  |
|  |  | MOUSE |
|  |  | DONTAY |
|  |  | WALKER |
| S-BULL |  |  |
|  |  | DETECTIVE REED |
|  |  | COACH BRACKNEY |
|  |  | HENNESSY |
|  |  | COLOR ANALYST |
|  |  | KIT JACOBS |
|  |  | ASST. COACH DAVIS |
|  |  | KIZINSKI |
|  |  | PHAN PARK |
|  |  | ANNOUNCER |
|  |  | CARLA |
|  |  | JERRY DEMARCO |
|  |  | ESPN RADIO HOST |
|  |  | SYLVIE |
|  |  | PETER CRANE |
|  |  | DESHAWN |
|  |  | CHARISSE |
|  |  | TV ANNOUNCER 1 |
|  |  | CHET |
|  |  | GATE GUARD |
|  |  | RUSH’S AGENT |
|  |  | SALAAM |
|  |  | PLAYER #2 |
|  |  | GUARD 2 |
|  |  | TRAINER |
|  |  | GENERAL MANAGER |

The Cooper Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Cooper test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) with a large body type who; |
| **YES** | 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** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Character of Color** | **YES** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **YES** |
| **LGBTQ+ Character** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Character 50+** | **YES** | **NO** | **NO** | **YES** |  | **NO** |
| **Character with Large Body Type** | **NO** | **YES** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  |

**Positive Aspects**

* This script contains great racial diversity, and it’s possible that the number of BIPOC characters is even higher since we based this assessment on names and context clues.
* Racism is addressed in the film, through large themes (such as recognizing the wealth disparity between professional athletes and coaches/team owners) and in dialogue (such as when S-Bull says his nickname ignorantly comes from being mistaken for being Native American).
* While he doesn’t have any lines, James is a character in the script who adds to cognitive disability representation and is shown without stereotypes.

**Potential Pitfalls**

* Potential Racism: Rush, Slim, Mouse, S-Bull, Will, and Tommy are described as “aggressive and athletic” by the police. They engage in criminal acts throughout the script. If these characters are cast as Black or Latinx, they will likely fit criminal, violent, and athlete stereotypes.
* Potential Sexism+Racism: Women of color appear to be sexualized at a high rate. Carla is a “beautiful Latinx” woman in a silk robe; a “stunning Instagram-model type female”; “beautiful ladies dressed to kill turn heads as they walk by”; and the Asian women working at the brothel, etc. Also, Will sexually objectifies Rush’s girlfriend which treats women like sex objects.
* Potential Sexism: Charisse is stereotyped as the nasty ex who is standing in the way of Slim seeing his child. This reinforces the Angry Black Woman stereotype.
* Potential Sexism: Carla talks about “playing the game” with professional athletes, reinforces the Scheming Woman stereotype and the idea that women manipulate athletes.
* Potential Racism: Phan Park is described as shy and intelligent, which reinforces the Quiet Asian stereotype.
* Potential Racism: In the “bad neighborhood,” if men of color are cast as the “thugs,” this will reinforce negative stereotypes of men of color as criminals.
* Potential Ageism: Chet, who was strong and athletic in his youth, is a character 50+ who uses a wheelchair for mobility and is confused/out of touch with reality. He is depicted with the ageist sterotypes of being senile, sickly, and dependent. His story is crucial to the plotline because it shows the discarding of football players once they are no longer useful, but could be done in a way that’s less stereotypical Also, Chet’s wife is described as “sweet.” Can these older adults be written in more complex ways?
* Potential Ageism and Racism: “Rush gently opens a door where a half naked pot-bellied GEEZER lies on a table with his eyes closed. Next to him a Vietnamese WOMAN in a silk robe gently starts to massage him.” This scene invokes the Creepy Old Man trope and the Exotic Asian Woman trope.
* Sizeism: Vidal is shown as breathless and disheveled. If she is depicted with a large body type, she may be stereotyped as slow, inactive, and/or poorly dressed.
* Potential Sexism/Homophobia: Some gender and LGBTQ+ slurs used (e.g., “bring it bitch,” “Kit Kat pussy,” “punk ass,” etc.) which could be replaced with equally derogatory terms that aren’t based on marginalized identities.