**Spellcheck For Bias: *London***

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**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 *London* 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 *London*, 24 characters met this criterion:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| Joanna | 359 |
| Mackensie | 354 |
| Mr. Lime | 76 |
| Lilou | 34 |
| The Invisible Man | 25 |
| Carol Watson | 18 |
| Andy | 11 |
| Cody | 9 |
| The Driver | 4 |
| Celia/Mr. Lime’s Wife | 5 |
| Gendarme | 3 |
| Henry | 3 |
| The Tailored Young Man | 2 |
| The Little Boy | 2 |
| Customs Official | 2 |
| Flight Attendant | 1 |
| Security Guard | 1 |
| Millie | 1 |
| The Flight Attendant | 1 |
| Palestinian Man | 1 |
| Israeli Man | 1 |
| A Gate Agent | 1 |
| The Woman | 1 |
| Policeman | 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.***

* 7 characters are specified as female.
* The leading characters are female (“Joanna”) and male (“Mackensie”).
* The script contains 2 character opportunities to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| Joanna |  |  |
|  | Mackensie (Oscar Isaac) |  |
|  | Mr. Lime |  |
| Lilou |  |  |
|  | The Invisible Man |  |
| Carol Watson |  |  |
|  | Andy |  |
|  | Cody |  |
|  | The Driver |  |
| Celia/Mr. Lime’s Wife |  |  |
|  | Gendarme |  |
|  | Henry |  |
|  | The Tailored Young Man |  |
|  | The Little Boy |  |
|  | Customs Official |  |
|  |  | The Flight Attendant |
|  | Palestinian Man |  |
|  | Israeli Man |  |
| Gate Agent |  |  |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
| The Woman |  |  |
|  | Policeman |  |

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.***

* 2 speaking characters are specified as a character of color.
* One co-leading character is cast as Latinx (“Mackensie”).
* The script contains 18 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  |  | Joanna |
| Mackensie |  |  |
|  |  | Mr. Lime |
|  | Lilou |  |
|  |  | The Invisible Man |
|  |  | Carol Watson |
|  |  | Andy |
|  |  | Cody |
| The Driver |  |  |
|  |  | Celia/Mr. Lime’s Wife |
|  |  | Gendarme |
|  |  | Henry |
|  |  | The Tailored Young Man |
|  |  | The Little Boy |
|  |  | Customs Official |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
|  |  | Palestinian Man |
|  |  | Israeli Man |
|  |  | Gate Agent |
|  |  | The Woman |
|  |  | Policeman |

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.***

* 2 characters are specified as LGBTQ+ (“Lilou” and “Joanna”).
* The script contains 18 character opportunities to increase LGBTQ+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| Joanna |  |  |
|  | Mackensie |  |
|  | Mr. Lime |  |
| Lilou |  |  |
|  |  | The Invisible Man |
|  | Carol Watson |  |
|  |  | Andy |
|  |  | Cody |
|  |  | The Driver |
|  | Celia/Mr. Lime’s Wife |  |
|  |  | Gendarme |
|  |  | Henry |
|  |  | The Tailored Young Man |
|  |  | The Little Boy |
|  |  | Customs Official |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
|  |  | Security Guard |
|  |  | Millie |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
|  |  | Palestinian Man |
|  |  | Israeli Man |
|  |  | Gate Agent |
|  |  | The Woman |
|  |  | Policeman |

The Vito-Russo Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Vito-Russo test, a script/manuscript must:** | |
| **YES** | Contain a character that is identifiably lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer. |
| **YES** | 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). |
| **YES** | 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 are unspecified (“Joanna”, “Mackensie”).
* The script contains 24 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
|  |  | Joanna |
|  |  | Mackensie |
|  |  | Mr. Lime |
|  |  | Lilou |
|  |  | The Invisible Man |
|  |  | Carol Watson |
|  |  | Andy |
|  |  | Cody |
|  |  | Driver |
|  |  | CELIA/Mr. Lime's Wife |
|  |  | Gendarme |
|  |  | Henry |
|  |  | Tailored Young Man |
|  |  | Little Boy |
|  |  | Customs Official |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
|  |  | Security Guard |
|  |  | Millie |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
|  |  | Palestinian Man |
|  |  | Israeli Man |
|  |  | Gate Agent |
|  |  | The Woman |
|  |  | Policeman |

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.***

* 2 characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The leading characters are under 50 (“Joanna”, “Mackensie”).
* The script contains 13 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | Joanna |  |
|  | Mackensie |  |
| Mr. Lime |  |  |
|  | Lilou |  |
|  |  | The Invisible Man |
|  | Carol Watson |  |
|  | Andy |  |
|  | Cody |  |
|  |  | The Driver |
| Celia/Mr. Lime’s Wife |  |  |
|  |  | Gendarme |
|  |  | Henry |
|  | The Tailored Young Man |  |
|  | The Little Boy |  |
|  |  | Customs Official |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
|  |  | Security Guard |
|  | Millie |  |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
|  |  | Palestinian Man |
|  |  | Israeli Man |
|  |  | Gate Agent |
|  |  | The Woman |
|  |  | Policeman |

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.***

* 2 characters are specified as having a large body type.
* The leading characters are not specified (“Joanna”, “Mackensie”).
* The script contains 19 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** |
|  |  | Joanna |
|  | Mackensie |  |
| Mr. Lime |  |  |
|  |  | Lilou |
|  |  | The Invisible Man |
|  |  | Carol Watson |
| Andy |  |  |
|  |  | Cody |
|  |  | The Driver |
|  |  | Celia/Mr. Lime’s Wife |
|  |  | Gendarme |
|  |  | Henry |
|  |  | Tailored Young Man |
|  |  | The Little Boy |
|  |  | Customs Official |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
|  |  | Security Guard |
|  |  | Millie |
|  |  | Flight Attendant |
|  |  | Palestinian Man |
|  | Israeli Man |  |
|  |  | Gate Agent |
|  |  | The Woman |
|  |  | Policeman |

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** |  | **NO** | **YES** | **NO** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Character of Color** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **LGBTQ+ Character** | **YES** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character 50+** | **YES** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **YES** |
| **Character with Large Body Type** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **YES** |  |

**Positive Aspects**

* This script features a female lead (Joanna) who is not reduced to sexist stereotypes.
* This script features two prominent LGBTQ+ characters-- Lilou (lesbian) and Joanna (bi-sexual) who are not reduced to LGBTQ+ stereotypes.
* The script features a prominent character who is 50+ with a large body type (Mr. Lime) who is not reduced to age stereotypes. (He is reduced to sizeist stereotypes, though -- see below).

**Potential Pitfalls**

* Potential Sexism: There is great potential for Joanna to lapse into the “damsel in distress” trope in this script since Mackensie is the protector.
* Potential LGBTQ+ Stereotypes: Presenting the only bi-sexual character (Joanna) as “not really gay” reinforces this negative stereotype about bi-sexuals.
* Potential Sizeism: For the most part, Mr. Lime’s character busts fatphobic stereotypes of people with large body types. He is well-dressed, physically agile, and smart. However, one stereotype is invoked: he is often eating. This is meant as a funny bit throughout the script, but it makes Mr. Lime’s body/size a punchline. The myth that fat people’s favorite activity is eating appears in scripts frequently to the point of being a sizeist cliche. The punchline, “didn’t your mother ever tell you to watch what you eat” also makes Mr. Lime’s body a punchline.
* Potential Racism: The characters of color are stereotypically shown in service positions (African American driver, African American sex worker).