**Spellcheck For Bias: *Magic and Bird***

Geena Davis Institute for Gender in Media

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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 *Magic and Bird* 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 *Magic and Bird*, 90 characters met this criterion:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| Magic Johnson | 445 |
| Larry Bird | 345 |
| Jerry Buss/Dr. Buss | 131 |
| Red Auerbach | 59 |
| Bill Hodges | 53 |
| Cookie Johnson | 52 |
| Pat Riley | 50 |
| Brent Musberger | 46 |
| Dinah Bird | 42 |
| Georgia Bird | 41 |
| ML Carr | 32 |
| Announcer | 30 |
| Michael Cooper | 29 |
| Mark Bird | 27 |
| Johnny Most | 24 |
| Isaiah | 24 |
| Dr. Mellman | 22 |
| Damon Wayans | 21 |
| Drunk Patron | 20 |
| Kareem | 19 |
| Bob Woolf | 18 |
| Carl Nicks | 16 |
| Paul Westhead | 16 |
| Director | 16 |
| Byron Scott | 15 |
| Pearl | 13 |
| Joe Bird | 12 |
| Kevin Kearns (should be Kevin Carnes) | 10 |
| Robert Parish | 10 |
| Kevin McHale | 10 |
| Reporter #1 | 9 |
| Chuck Hearn | 9 |
| Bartender | 9 |
| Mark Landsberger | 9 |
| Bob King | 8 |
| Announcer #1 | 8 |
| Lizzie | 7 |
| Bryant Gumble | 7 |
| Norm Nixon | 7 |
| Danny Ainge | 7 |
| Doctor | 7 |
| Larry O’Brien | 6 |
| Christine Johnson | 6 |
| Dan Dyrek | 6 |
| ISU Player | 5 |
| Coach Hall | 4 |
| Janitor | 4 |
| MSU Player | 4 |
| White New York Fan | 4 |
| Another white reporter | 4 |
| Female Driver | 4 |
| Boston cop 1 | 4 |
| KC Jones | 4 |
| AC Green | 4 |
| James Worthy | 4 |
| Gary Vitti | 4 |
| Bobby Knight | 4 |
| Leroy Staley | 3 |
| White Boston Fan | 3 |
| Rod Thorn | 3 |
| Earvin Sr. | 3 |
| Young white fan | 3 |
| Wife #1 | 3 |
| Michael Jordan | 3 |
| Cook | 2 |
| Another Waitress | 2 |
| Dismissive Player | 2 |
| Theater Go-er | 2 |
| Theater Go-Er #2 | 2 |
| White news reporter | 2 |
| First AD | 2 |
| Surgeon | 2 |
| AAU Coach | 1 |
| Reporter #2 | 1 |
| John Hurt | 1 |
| Yaphet Kotto | 1 |
| Trainer | 1 |
| Walter Cronkite | 1 |
| Walt Frazier | 1 |
| Female reporter | 1 |
| Magic’s Brother | 1 |
| Clipper’s Announcer | 1 |
| White woman | 1 |
| Cedric Maxwell | 1 |
| Reporter #3 | 1 |
| Announcer | 1 |
| Reporter #4 | 1 |
| Coach Dunleavy | 1 |
| Laker Staffperson | 1 |
| Screaming Lakers Fan | 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.***

* 11 characters are specified as female.
* The leading characters are male (“Magic” and “Larry”).
* The script contains 23 character opportunities to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | Magic Johnson |  |
|  | Larry Bird |  |
|  | Buss |  |
|  | Red Aurebach |  |
|  | Bill Hodges |  |
| Cookie Johnson |  |  |
|  | Pat Riley |  |
|  | Brent Musbenrger |  |
| Dinah Bird |  |  |
| Georgia Bird |  |  |
|  | ML Carr |  |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  | Michael Cooper |  |
|  | Mark Bird |  |
|  | Johnny Most |  |
|  | Isaiah |  |
|  | Dr. Mellman |  |
|  | Damon Wayans |  |
|  | Drunk Patron |  |
|  | Kareem |  |
|  | Bob Woolf |  |
|  | Carl Nicks |  |
|  | Paul Westhead |  |
|  | Director |  |
|  | Byron Scott |  |
| Pearl |  |  |
|  | Joe Bird |  |
|  | Kevin Kearns |  |
|  | Robert Parish |  |
|  | Kevin McHale |  |
|  |  | Reporter #1 |
|  | Chuck Hearn |  |
|  |  | Bartender |
|  | Mark Landsberger |  |
|  | Bob King |  |
|  |  | Announcer #1 |
| Lizzie |  |  |
|  | Bryant Gumble |  |
|  | Norm Nixon |  |
|  | Danny Ainge |  |
|  |  | Doctor |
|  | Larry O’Brien |  |
| Christine Johnson |  |  |
|  | Dan Dyrek |  |
|  | ISU Player |  |
|  | Coach Hall |  |
|  |  | Janitor |
|  | MSU Player |  |
|  |  | White New York Fan |
|  | Another white reporter |  |
| Female driver |  |  |
|  |  | Boston Cop 1 |
|  | KC Jones |  |
|  | AC Green |  |
|  | James Worthy |  |
|  | Gary Vitti |  |
|  | Bobby Knight |  |
|  | Leroy Staley |  |
|  | White Boston fan |  |
|  | Rod Thorn |  |
|  | Earvin Sr. |  |
|  |  | Young white fan |
| Wife #1 |  |  |
|  | Michael Jordan |  |
|  |  | Cook |
| Another Waitress |  |  |
|  | Dismissive Player |  |
|  |  | Theater Go-er |
|  |  | Theater Go-er #2 |
|  |  | White news reporter |
|  |  | First AD |
|  |  | Surgeon |
|  | AAU Coach |  |
|  |  | Reporter #2 |
|  | John Hurt |  |
|  | Yaphet Kotto |  |
|  |  | Trainer |
|  | Walkter Cronkite |  |
|  | Walt Frazier |  |
| Female reporter |  |  |
|  | Magic’s Brother |  |
|  |  | Clipper’s Announcer |
| White Woman |  |  |
|  | Cedric Maxwell |  |
|  |  | Reporter #3 |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  |  | Reporter #4 |
|  | Coach Dunleavy |  |
|  |  | Laker Staffperson |
|  |  | Screaming Lakers' Fan |

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. |



**Race/Ethnicity Analysis**

***For comparison, people of color constitute 38% of the U.S. population.***

* 24 characters are specified as characters of color.
* The co-leading character is specified as a character of color (“Magic Johnson”).
* The script contains 32 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| Magic Johnson |  |  |
|  | Larry Bird |  |
|  | Buss |  |
|  | Red Aurebach |  |
|  | Bill Hodges |  |
| Cookie Johnson |  |  |
|  | Pat Riley |  |
|  | Brent Musberger |  |
|  | Dinah Bird |  |
|  | Georgia Bird |  |
| ML Carr |  |  |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  |  |  |
| Michael Cooper |  |  |
|  | Mark Bird |  |
|  | Johnny Most |  |
| Isaiah |  |  |
|  |  | Dr. Mellman |
| Damon Wayans |  |  |
|  |  | Drunk Patron |
| Kareem |  |  |
|  | Bob Woolf |  |
|  |  | Carl Nicks |
|  | Paul Westhead |  |
|  |  | Director |
| Byron Scott |  |  |
| Pearl |  |  |
|  | Joe Bird |  |
|  | Kevin Kearns |  |
| Robert Parish |  |  |
|  | Kevin McHale |  |
|  |  | Reporter #1 |
| #1 | Chuck Hearn |  |
|  |  | Bartender |
|  | Mark Landsberger |  |
|  | Bob King |  |
|  |  | Announcer #1 |
|  | Lizzie |  |
| Bryant Gumble |  |  |
| Norm Nixon |  |  |
| Danny Ainge |  |  |
|  |  | Doctor |
|  | Larry O’Brien |  |
| Christine Johnson |  |  |
|  | Dan Dyrek |  |
|  |  | ISU Player |
|  | Coach Hall |  |
|  |  | Janitor |
|  |  | MSU Player |
|  | White New York Fan |  |
|  | Another White Reporter |  |
|  |  | Female Driver |
|  |  | Boston Cop 1 |
| KC Jones |  |  |
| AC Green |  |  |
| James Worthy |  |  |
|  | Gary Vitti |  |
|  | Bobby Knight |  |
| Leroy Staley |  |  |
|  | White Boston Fan |  |
|  | Red Thorn |  |
| Earvin Sr. |  |  |
|  | Young White Fan |  |
|  |  | Wife #1 |
| Jordan |  |  |
|  |  | Cook |
|  |  | Another Waitress |
|  |  | Dismissive Player |
|  |  | Theater Go-er |
|  |  | Theater Goe-er #2 |
|  | White News Reporter |  |
|  |  | First AD |
|  |  | Surgeon |
|  |  | AAU Coach |
|  |  | Reporter #2 |
|  | John Hurt |  |
| Yaphet Kotto |  |  |
|  |  | Trainer |
|  | Walter Cronkite |  |
| Walt Frazier |  |  |
|  |  | Female Reporter |
| Magic’s Brother |  |  |
|  |  | Clipper’s Announcer |
|  | White Woman |  |
| Cedric Maxwell |  |  |
|  |  | Reporter #3 |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  |  | Reporter #4 |
|  | Coach Dunleavy |  |
|  |  | Laker Staffperson |
|  |  | Screaming Lakers' Fan |

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 characters are specified as heterosexual.
* The script contains 34 character opportunities to increase LGBTQ+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | Magic Johnson |  |
|  | Larry Bird |  |
|  | Buss |  |
|  | Red Aurebach |  |
|  | Bill Jodgs |  |
|  | Cookie Johnson |  |
|  | Pat Riley |  |
|  | Brent Musberger |  |
|  | Dinah Bird |  |
|  | Georgia Bird |  |
|  | ML Carr |  |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  | Michael Cooper |  |
|  | Mark Bird |  |
|  | Johnny Most |  |
|  | Isaiah |  |
|  |  | Dr. Mellman |
|  | Damon Wayans |  |
|  |  | Drunk Patron |
|  | Kareem |  |
|  | Bob Woolf |  |
|  | Carl Nicks |  |
|  | Paul Westhead |  |
|  |  | Director |
|  | Byron Scott |  |
|  | Pearl |  |
|  | Joe Bird |  |
|  | Kevin Kearns |  |
|  | Robert Parish |  |
|  | Kevin McHale |  |
|  |  | Reporter #1 |
|  | Chuck Hearn |  |
|  |  | Bartender |
|  | Mark Landsberger |  |
|  | Bob King |  |
|  |  | Announcer #1 |
|  | Lizzie |  |
|  | Bryant Gumble |  |
|  | Norm Nixon |  |
|  | Danny Ainge |  |
|  |  | Doctor |
|  | Larry O’Brien |  |
|  | Christine Johnson |  |
|  | Dan Dyrek |  |
|  |  | ISU Player |
|  | Coach Hall |  |
|  | Janitor |  |
|  |  | MSU Player |
|  |  | White New York Fan |
|  |  | Another white reporter |
|  | Female Driver |  |
|  |  | Boston Cop 1 |
|  | KC Jones |  |
|  | AC Green |  |
|  | James Worthy |  |
|  | Gary Vitti |  |
|  | Bobby Knight |  |
|  | Leroy Stanley |  |
|  |  | White Boston Fan |
|  | Rod Thorn |  |
|  | Earvin Sr. |  |
|  |  | Young white fan |
|  | Wife #1 |  |
|  | Jordan |  |
|  |  | Cook |
|  |  | Another Waitress |
|  |  | Dismissive Player |
|  |  | Theater Go-er |
|  |  | Theater Go-er #2 |
|  |  | White News Reporter |
|  |  | First AD |
|  |  | Surgeon |
|  |  | AAU Coach |
|  |  | Reporter #2 |
|  | John Hurt |  |
|  | Yaphet Kotto |  |
|  |  | Trainer |
|  | Walter Cronkite |  |
|  | Walt Frazier |  |
|  |  | Female Reporter |
|  | Magic’s Brother |  |
|  |  | Clipper’s Announcer |
|  |  | White Woman |
|  | Cedric Maxwell |  |
|  |  | Reporter #3 |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  |  | Reporter #4 |
|  | Coach Dunleavy |  |
|  |  | Laker Staffperson |
|  |  | Screaming Lakers' Fan |

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. |
|  | 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 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.***

* 2 characters are specified as having a physical, cognitive, or communication disability.
* The leading characters are shown having physical disabilities (“Magic Johnson”, “Larry Bird”).
* The script contains 38 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| Magic Johnson |  |  |
| Larry Bird |  |  |
|  | Buss |  |
|  | Red Auerbach |  |
|  | Bill Hodges |  |
|  | Cookie Johnson |  |
|  | Pat Riley |  |
|  | Brent Musberger |  |
|  | Dinah Bird |  |
|  | Georgia Bird |  |
|  | ML Carr |  |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  | Michael Cooper |  |
|  |  | Mark Bird |
|  | Johnny Most |  |
|  | Isaiah |  |
|  | Dr. Mellman |  |
|  | Damon Wayans |  |
|  |  | Drunk Patron |
|  | Kareem |  |
|  | Bob Woolf |  |
|  | Carl Nicks |  |
|  | Paul Westhead |  |
|  |  | Director |
|  | Byron Scott |  |
|  | Pearl |  |
|  | Joe Bird |  |
|  | Kevin Kearns |  |
|  | Robert Parish |  |
|  | Kevin McHale |  |
|  |  | Reporter #1 |
|  | Chuck Hearn |  |
|  |  | Bartender |
|  | Mark Landsberger |  |
|  | Bob King |  |
|  |  | Announcer #1 |
|  | Lizze |  |
|  | Bryant Gumble |  |
|  | Norm Nixon |  |
|  | Danny Ainge |  |
|  |  | Doctor |
|  | Larry O’Brien |  |
|  | Christine Johnson |  |
|  | Dan Dyrek |  |
|  |  | ISU Player |
|  | Coach Hall |  |
|  |  | Janitor |
|  |  | MSU Player |
|  |  | White New York Fan |
|  |  | Another White Reporter |
|  |  | Female Driver |
|  |  | Boston Cop 1 |
|  | KC Jones |  |
|  | AC Green |  |
|  | James Worthy |  |
|  | Gary Vitti |  |
|  | Bobby Knight |  |
|  | Leroy Staley |  |
|  |  | White Boston Fan |
|  | Rod Thorn |  |
|  | Earvin Sr |  |
|  |  | Young White Fan |
|  |  | Wife #1 |
|  | Michael Jordan |  |
|  |  | Cook |
|  |  | Another Waitress |
|  |  | Dismissive Player |
|  |  | Theater Go-er |
|  |  | Theater Go-er #2 |
|  |  | White News Reporter |
|  |  | First AD |
|  |  | Surgeon |
|  |  | AAU Coach |
|  |  | Reporter #2 |
|  | John Hurt |  |
|  | Yaphet Kotto |  |
|  |  | Trainer |
|  | Walter Cronkite |  |
|  | Walt Frazier |  |
|  |  | Female Reporter |
|  |  | Magic’s Brother |
|  |  | Clipper’s Announcer |
|  |  | White Woman |
|  | Cedric Maxwell |  |
|  |  | Reporter #3 |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  |  | Reporter #4 |
|  | Coach Dunleavy |  |
|  |  | Laker Staffperson |
|  |  | Screaming Lakers' Fan |

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; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with disability stereotypes or tropes. |



**Age (50+) Analysis**

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

* 14 characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The leading characters are under 50.
* The script contains 32 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | Magic Johnson |  |
|  | Larry Bird |  |
| Buss |  |  |
| Red Aurebach |  |  |
|  | Bill Hodges |  |
|  | Cookie Johnson |  |
| Pat Riley |  |  |
| Brent Musberger |  |  |
|  | Dinah |  |
|  | Georgia |  |
|  | ML Carr |  |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  | Michael Cooper |  |
|  | Mark Bird |  |
| Johnny Most |  |  |
|  | Isaiah |  |
|  |  | Dr. Mellman |
|  | Damon Wayans |  |
|  |  | Drunk Patron |
|  | Kareem |  |
| Bob Woolf |  |  |
|  | Carl Nicks |  |
| Paul Westhead |  |  |
|  |  | Director |
|  | Byron Scott |  |
|  | Pearl |  |
| Joe Bird |  |  |
|  | Kevin Kearns |  |
|  | Robert Parish |  |
|  | Kevin McHale |  |
|  |  | Reporter #1 |
| Chuck Hearn |  |  |
|  |  | Bartender |
|  | Mark Landsberger |  |
| Bob King |  |  |
|  |  | Announcer #1 |
| Lizzie |  |  |
|  | Bryant Gumble |  |
|  | Norm Nixon |  |
|  | Danny Ainge |  |
|  |  | Doctor |
| Larry O’Brien |  |  |
|  | Christine Johnson |  |
|  | Dan Dyrek |  |
|  | ISU Player |  |
| Coach Hall |  |  |
|  |  | Janitor |
|  | MSU Player |  |
|  |  | White New York Fan |
|  |  | Another White Reporter |
|  | Female Driver |  |
|  |  | Boston Cop 1 |
|  | KC Jones |  |
|  | AC Green |  |
|  | James Worthy |  |
|  | Gary Vitti |  |
|  | Bobby Knight |  |
|  | Leroy Staley |  |
|  |  | White Boston Fan |
|  | Rod Thorn |  |
|  |  | Earvin Sr. |
|  | Young White Fan |  |
|  | Wife #1 |  |
|  | Michael Jordan |  |
|  |  | Cook |
|  |  | Another Waitress |
|  |  | Dismissive Player |
|  |  | Theater Go-er |
|  |  | Theater Go-er 2 |
|  |  | White News Reporter |
|  |  | First AD |
|  |  | Surgeon |
|  |  | AAU Coach |
|  |  | Reporter #2 |
|  | John Hurt |  |
|  | Yaphet Kotto |  |
|  |  | Trainer |
| Walter Cronkite |  |  |
|  | Walt Frazier |  |
|  |  | Female Reporter |
|  | Magic’s Brother |  |
|  |  | Clipper’s Announcer |
|  | White Woman |  |
|  | Cedric Maxwell |  |
|  |  | Reporter #3 |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  |  | Reporter #4 |
|  | Coach Dunleavy |  |
|  |  | Laker Staffperson |
|  |  | Screaming Lakers' Fan |

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 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** |
|  | Magic Johnson |  |
|  | Larry Bird |  |
|  | Buss |  |
|  | Red Aurebach |  |
|  | Bill Hodges |  |
|  | Cookie Johnson |  |
|  | Pat Riley |  |
|  | Brent Musberger |  |
|  | Dinah |  |
|  | Georgia |  |
|  | ML Carr |  |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  | Michael Cooper |  |
|  | Mark Bird |  |
|  | Johnny Most |  |
|  | Isaiah |  |
|  | Dr. Mellman |  |
|  | Damon Wayans |  |
|  |  | Drunk Patron |
|  | Kareem |  |
|  | Bob Woolf |  |
|  | Carl Nicks |  |
|  | Paul Westhead |  |
|  |  | Director |
|  | Byron Scott |  |
|  | Pearl |  |
|  | Joe Bird |  |
|  | Kevin Kearns |  |
|  | Robert Parish |  |
|  | Kevin McHale |  |
|  |  | Reporter #1 |
|  | Chuck Hearn |  |
|  |  | Bartender |
| Mark Landsberger |  |  |
|  | Bob King |  |
|  |  | Announcer #1 |
|  | Lizzie |  |
|  | Bryant Gumble |  |
|  | Norm Nixon |  |
|  | Danny Ainge |  |
|  |  | Doctor |
|  | Larry O’Brien |  |
|  | Christine Johnson |  |
|  | Dan Dyrek |  |
|  | ISU Player |  |
|  | Coach Hall |  |
|  |  | Janitor |
|  | MSU Player |  |
|  |  | White New York Fan |
|  |  | Another White Reporter |
|  | Female Driver |  |
|  |  | Boston Cop1 |
|  | KC Jones |  |
|  | AC Green |  |
|  | James Worthy |  |
|  | Gary Vitti |  |
|  | Bobby Knight |  |
|  | Leroy Staley |  |
|  |  | White Boston Fan |
|  | Rod Thorn |  |
|  | Earvin Sr. |  |
|  |  | Young White Fan |
|  |  | Wife #1 |
|  | Michael Jordan |  |
|  |  | Cook |
|  |  | Another Waitress |
|  | Dismissive Player |  |
|  |  | Theater Go-er |
|  |  | Theater Go-er #2 |
|  |  | White News Reporter |
|  |  | First AD |
|  |  | Surgeon |
|  |  | AAU Coach |
|  |  | Reporter #2 |
|  | John Hurt |  |
|  | Yaphet Kotto |  |
|  |  | Trainer |
|  | Walter Cronkite |  |
|  | Walt Frazier |  |
|  |  | Female Reporter |
|  | Magic’s Brother |  |
|  |  | Clipper’s Announcer |
|  |  | White Woman |
|  | Cedric Maxwell |  |
|  |  | Reporter #3 |
|  |  | Announcer |
|  |  | Reporter #4 |
|  | Coach Dunleavy |  |
|  |  | Laker Staffperson |
|  |  | Screaming Lakers' Fan |

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

**Positive Aspects**

* This script features many characters of color in prominent roles.
* Great commentary on racism from fans and others in basketball in the 1970s and 1980s.
* Great commentary on race relations and busing.
* Depiction of Magic with HIV is done with sensitivity and care. The stigma Magic faces because of the disease—a stigma that came from HIV/AIDS being associated with gay men— is treated in a thoughtful way.

**Potential Pitfalls**

* **Potential Sexism**: This is a tricky story to tell without sexism since the sexual exploits of the male sports protagonists tend to objectify and dehumanize the women they encounter. WIth this said, the script could do a much better job not celebrating the men’s mistreatment of women as sexual props. All of the prominent characters are men, and the minor/background women are described in ways that invariably reduce them to sex objects and commodities:
* “Attractive young co-eds”;
* “two comely cheerleaders”;
* Magic checking out “the legs of the cheerleaders”;
* “the best seats, the prettiest women in town, dancing right on this court”;
* “home full of starlets”;
* “leggy women”;
* “he waves his hand over the party. The money. The women” (which reduces women, like money, to a commodity);
* “a parade of beautiful women dance at the club”;
* “all young, hot, and painfully taut”;
* “women draped all around him”;
* “sitting courtside with a model”;
* “beautifully, scantily clad young women”;
* “a chorus line of scantily clad women”;
* “three other beautiful women already waiting, half undressed on the bed”;
* “to get first pick of the women, cause Dr. Buss has the best” (which reduces women to commodities);
* “LA’s most beautiful ladies occupying the club”;
* “the hottest chicks at the game”;
* “attractive group of women”;
* “the Laker Girls shaking ass”;
* “once you see all these ladies”;
* The montage of Magic with different women and the next scene where he is with 6 women has the potential to be very commodifying of women (making them interchangeable as just bodies who exist for Magic).

The script briefly acknowledges Dr. Buss’ issue with sex addiction but instead of presenting women who are commodified in the sports world in a critical or neutral way, it celebrates the reduction of women to sex objects and commodities. This cliché storyline can be flipped while maintaining the integrity of the story by presenting women in less reductive ways that accurately depict their presence without asking the audience to constantly reduce them to objects and props who exist to serve men in the “man’s world” of sports.

* **Potential Sexism**: Wife #1’s statement, “It’s just one less night I have to suck that man’s dick” (referring to her husband cheating at The Forum one night a week), makes it sounds like it is obligatory to perform oral sex on her husband. The statement suggests that, at some level, daily oral sex is not optional for Wife #1.
* **Potential Sexism**: Larry uses a lot of gender slurs: “You all played like a bunch of pussies,” “we played like sissies,” “little bitch.” These gender slurs that could easily be replaced with “pansies” or “little boys” or another term that doesn’t depict him “punching down.” Same with Coach Riley’s use of “pussy” when he’s yelling at the team in the locker room.
* **Potential Racism**: Larry is having a conversation with a janitor. If this janitor is cast as Black or Latinx, they will fit stereotypes of people of color as service workers.
* **Potential Racism**: Larry Bird’s character is developed in much more depth than Magic Johnson’s character.
* **Potential Homophobia**: Damon Wayans discussing the only LGBTQ+ person referenced in the script (Dennis Rodman) as sexually promiscuous reinforces the stereotype of LGBTQ+ promiscuity and sets Magic up as being upset, at least in part, that he is the punchline of a gay sex joke.
* **Potential Ableism**: Coach Riley referring to Kevin Johnson as “Kevin-fucking-midget-ass-Johnson” is an ableist slur that can easily be replaced with a put down that is just as derogatory without punching down.
* **Potential Sizeism**: Getting a lap dance from “a very large Black stripper” has the potential to be fatphobic if her body size is played for humor.