**Spellcheck For Bias: *OPEN WATER***

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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 *OPEN WATER* 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 lines of text or more. In *OPEN WATER*, 29 characters met this criterion:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| KATE | 189 |
| LUIS | 103 |
| OMAR | 64 |
| GARY | 53 |
| DAWN-MARIE | 33 |
| PAM | 32 |
| HAROLD | 29 |
| JONAH | 27 |
| AXEL | 27 |
| LISA | 24 |
| JASON | 21 |
| OLDER MAN / BRENT | 16 |
| CAPTAIN CHAMBERS | 15 |
| BIG SISTER / MARGO | 14 |
| FRANCISCO | 14 |
| ASHLEY | 14 |
| TRISHA | 13 |
| LITTLE GIRL | 11 |
| MOM | 11 |
| MCKENZIE | 8 |
| FIRST OFFICER | 5 |
| HONEYMOONER / PAUL | 5 |
| SECURITY AGENT | 3 |
| YOJI | 3 |
| LINH | 3 |
| ANNOUNCEMENT | 3 |
| NAMRATA (NAMRATA) | 2 |
| AIRLINE STAFF | 1 |
| JULIETTE | 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.***

* 14 characters are specified as female.
* The leading character is female.
* The script contains 2 character opportunities to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| KATE |  |  |
|  | LUIS |  |
|  | OMAR |  |
|  | GARY |  |
| DAWN-MARIE |  |  |
| PAM |  |  |
|  | HAROLD |  |
|  | JONAH |  |
|  | AXEL |  |
| LISA |  |  |
|  | JASON |  |
|  | OLDER MAN / BRENT |  |
|  | CAPTAIN CHAMBERS |  |
| BIG SISTER / MARGO |  |  |
|  | FRANCISCO |  |
| ASHLEY |  |  |
| TRISHA |  |  |
| LITTLE GIRL |  |  |
| MOM |  |  |
| MCKENZIE |  |  |
| FIRST OFFICER |  |  |
|  | HONEYMOONER / PAUL |  |
|  | SECURITY AGENT |  |
|  | YOJI |  |
| LINH |  |  |
|  |  | ANNOUNCEMENT |
| NAMRATA |  |  |
|  |  | AIRLINE STAFF |
| JULIETTE |  |  |

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.***

* 5 characters are specified as characters of color.
* The leading character has an unspecified race/ethnicity.
* The script contains 24 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  |  | KATE |
| LUIS |  |  |
| OMAR |  |  |
|  |  | GARY |
|  |  | DAWN-MARIE |
|  |  | PAM |
|  |  | HAROLD |
|  |  | JONAH |
|  |  | AXEL |
|  |  | LISA |
|  |  | JASON |
|  |  | OLDER MAN / BRENT |
|  |  | CAPTAIN CHAMBERS |
|  |  | BIG SISTER / MARGO |
|  |  | FRANCISCO |
|  |  | ASHLEY |
|  |  | TRISHA |
|  |  | LITTLE GIRL |
|  |  | MOM |
|  |  | MCKENZIE |
|  |  | FIRST OFFICER |
|  |  | HONEYMOONER / PAUL |
|  |  | SECURITY AGENT |
| YOGI |  |  |
| LINH |  |  |
|  |  | ANNOUNCEMENT |
| NAMRATA |  |  |
|  |  | AIRLINE STAFF |
|  |  | JULIETTE |

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 21 character opportunities to increase LGBTQ+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | KATE |  |
|  |  | LUIS |
|  | OMAR |  |
|  |  | GARY |
|  |  | DAWN-MARIE |
|  | PAM |  |
|  | HAROLD |  |
|  |  | JONAH |
|  |  | AXEL |
|  |  | LISA |
|  | JASON |  |
|  | OLDER MAN / BRENT |  |
|  |  | CAPTAIN CHAMBERS |
|  |  | BIG SISTER / MARGO |
|  |  | FRANCISCO |
|  | ASHLEY |  |
|  |  | TRISHA |
|  |  | LITTLE GIRL |
|  |  | MOM |
|  |  | MCKENZIE |
|  |  | FIRST OFFICER |
|  | HONEYMOONER / PAUL |  |
|  |  | SECURITY AGENT |
|  |  | YOJI |
|  |  | LINH |
|  |  | ANNOUNCEMENT |
|  |  | NAMRATA |
|  |  | AIRLINE STAFF |
|  |  | JULIETTE |

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.***

* 0 characters are specified as having a physical, cognitive, or communication disability.
* The leading character is not shown having a disability.
* The script contains 29 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
|  |  | KATE |
|  |  | LUIS |
|  |  | OMAR |
|  |  | GARY |
|  |  | DAWN-MARIE |
|  |  | PAM |
|  |  | HAROLD |
|  |  | JONAH |
|  |  | AXEL |
|  |  | LISA |
|  |  | JASON |
|  |  | OLDER MAN / BRENT |
|  |  | CAPTAIN CHAMBERS |
|  |  | BIG SISTER / MARGO |
|  |  | FRANCISCO |
|  |  | ASHLEY |
|  |  | TRISHA |
|  |  | LITTLE GIRL |
|  |  | MOM |
|  |  | MCKENZIE |
|  |  | FIRST OFFICER |
|  |  | HONEYMOONER / PAUL |
|  |  | SECURITY AGENT |
|  |  | YOJI |
|  |  | LINH |
|  |  | ANNOUNCEMENT |
|  |  | NAMRATA |
|  |  | AIRLINE STAFF |
|  |  | JULIETTE |

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; |
| **NO** | Is not depicted with disability stereotypes or tropes. |



**Age (50+) Analysis**

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

* 5 characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The leading character is under 50.
* The script contains 10 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | KATE |  |
|  | LUIS |  |
|  | OMAR |  |
|  | GARY |  |
| DAWN-MARIE |  |  |
| PAM |  |  |
| HAROLD |  |  |
|  | JONAH |  |
|  |  | AXEL |
|  | LISA | LISA |
|  | JASON | JASON |
| OLDER MAN / BRENT |  |  |
| CAPTAIN CHAMBERS |  |  |
|  | BIG SISTER / MARGO |  |
|  | FRANCISCO |  |
|  | ASHLEY |  |
|  | TRISHA |  |
|  | LITTLE GIRL |  |
|  |  | MOM |
|  | MCKENZIE |  |
|  |  | FIRST OFFICER |
|  |  | HONEYMOONER / PAUL |
|  |  | SECURITY AGENT |
|  | YOJI |  |
|  | LINH |  |
|  |  | ANNOUNCEMENT |
|  |  | NAMRATA |
|  |  | AIRLINE STAFF |
|  | JULIETTE |  |

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 characters are specified as having a large body type.
* The leading character is not specified as having a large body type.
* The script contains 28 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** |
|  |  | KATE |
|  |  | LUIS |
|  |  | OMAR |
| GARY |  |  |
|  |  | DAWN-MARIE |
|  |  | PAM |
|  |  | HAROLD |
|  |  | JONAH |
|  |  | AXEL |
|  |  | LISA |
|  |  | JASON |
|  |  | OLDER MAN / BRENT |
|  |  | CAPTAIN CHAMBERS |
|  |  | BIG SISTER / MARGO |
|  |  | FRANCISCO |
|  |  | ASHLEY |
|  |  | TRISHA |
|  |  | LITTLE GIRL |
|  |  | MOM |
|  |  | MCKENZIE |
|  |  | FIRST OFFICER |
|  |  | HONEYMOONER / PAUL |
|  |  | SECURITY AGENT |
|  |  | YOJI |
|  |  | LINH |
|  |  | ANNOUNCEMENT |
|  |  | NAMRATA |
|  |  | AIRLINE STAFF |
|  |  | JULIETTE |

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** | **NO** |
| **LGBTQ+ Character** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **NO** | **NO** | **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 a female lead who is depicted as an everyday hero in her response to the disaster. She takes control after the plane crashes and becomes the leader everyone needs. This is an excellent depiction of women’s leadership.
* Luis engaging in repeated acts of heroism is a positive representation of a character of color.
* The critique of Omar being profiled for a pat down at the airport and a child noting that it’s racist is a great way to raise awareness of this pressing social issue. Depicting Omar as a hero doctor is next level positive for MENA characters.

**Potential Pitfalls**

* **Potential Racism**: If Dawn-Marie is cast as a Black woman, she will fit The Mammy stereotype of a service worker who assists white people in a motherly way. (Kate refers to her as “my mother in the sky” and Axle says “mine too!”).
* **Potential Racism**: Linh, a Vietnamese-American student, is described as a “shy looking teen” reflects the Quiet Asian Woman trope.
* **Potential Homophobia**: Francisco teases fellow classmate Jonah about getting a “cavity search” at the airport, a joke with an ultimately homophobic punchline.
* **Potential Fatphobia**: Gary is the only character specified as having a larger body type, and the script is rife with fatphobic moments:
  + In the opening scene, Gary’s butt crack is comedic relief. This is a fatphobic joke that plays upon his size (because his body is so big his pants don’t properly cover him).
  + Gary is the only passenger who pukes up his dinner, which suggests that he has overeaten.
  + When Luis tries to pull him out of the water, it’s described as “not easy” because Gary has a large body type, which makes his weight an issue again when it likely would not be given the buoyancy of fat.
  + Trisha makes a fatphobic comment to Gary, “Maybe [the sharks] will just choke on you first.”
  + Making Gary, the only character with a large body type, an unrepentant asshole makes the fatphobia “okay.” In other words, the script justifies fatphobia because it’s directed at the only character who is a complete jerk. This message isn’t subtle. Other characters say Gary deserves to die and Jonah calls him a “fat fucking liar.”