**Spellcheck For Bias: *Unbreakable Boy***

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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 *Unbreakable* 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 *Unbreakable*, 19 characters met this criterion:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| SCOTT (Zachary Levi cast) | 601 |
| AUSTIN | 382 |
| TERESA | 338 |
| JOE | 77 |
| LOGAN | 63 |
| TYLER | 24 |
| SCOTT’S DAD | 21 |
| DOCTOR | 20 |
| LORI | 19 |
| ILENE | 19 |
| PREACHER RICK | 16 |
| SCOTT’S MOM | 14 |
| TEACHER | 11 |
| JUSTICE | 7 |
| MILES | 6 |
| KIND-FACED DOCTOR | 3 |
| MAN | 2 |
| NURSE | 1 |
| ELDERLY MAN | 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.***

* 4 characters are specified as female.
* The leading character is male (“Scott”).
* The script contains 4 character opportunities to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | SCOTT |  |
|  | AUSTIN |  |
| TERESA |  |  |
|  | JOE |  |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  | TYLER |  |
|  | SCOTT’S DAD |  |
|  | DOCTOR |  |
| LORI |  |  |
| ILENE |  |  |
|  | PREACHER RICK |  |
| SCOTT’S MOM |  |  |
|  |  | TEACHER |
|  |  | JUSTICE |
|  | MILES |  |
|  |  | KIND-FACED DOCTOR |
|  | MAN |  |
|  |  | NURSE |
|  | ELDERLY MAN |  |

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.***

* 0 characters are specified as characters of color.
* The leading character has an unspecified race/ethnicity (“Scott”).
* The script contains 18 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | SCOTT |  |
|  |  | AUSTIN |
|  |  | TERESA |
|  |  | JOE |
|  |  | LOGAN |
|  |  | TYLER |
|  |  | SCOTT’S DAD |
|  |  | DOCTOR |
|  |  | LORI |
|  |  | ILENE |
|  |  | PREACHER RICK |
|  |  | SCOTT’S MOM |
|  |  | TEACHER |
|  |  | JUSTICE |
|  |  | MILES |
|  |  | KIND-FACED DOCTOR |
|  |  | MAN |
|  |  | NURSE |
|  |  | ELDERLY MAN |

The Sidney Poitier Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Sidney Poitier test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| **NO** | 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. |



**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 (“Scott”).
* The script contains 15 character opportunities to increase LGBTQ+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | SCOTT |  |
|  |  | AUSTIN |
|  | TERESA |  |
|  |  | JOE |
|  |  | LOGAN |
|  |  | TYLER |
|  | SCOTT’S DAD |  |
|  |  | DOCTOR |
|  |  | LORI |
|  |  | ILENE |
|  |  | PREACHER RICK |
|  | SCOTT’S MOM |  |
|  |  | TEACHER |
|  |  | JUSTICE |
|  |  | MILES |
|  |  | KIND-FACED DOCTOR |
|  |  | MAN |
|  |  | NURSE |
|  |  | ELDERLY MAN |

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.***

* 3 characters are specified as having a physical, cognitive, or communication disability.
* The leading character is shown having a disability (“Scott”).
* The script contains 14 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| SCOTT |  |  |
| AUSTIN |  |  |
| TERESA |  |  |
|  |  | JOE |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  |  | TYLER |
|  |  | SCOTT’S DAD |
|  |  | DOCTOR |
|  |  | LORI |
|  |  | ILENE |
|  |  | PREACHER RICK |
|  |  | SCOTT’S MOM |
|  |  | TEACHER |
|  |  | JUSTICE |
|  |  | MILES |
|  |  | KIND-FACED DOCTOR |
|  |  | MAN |
|  |  | NURSE |
|  |  | ELDERLY MAN |

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.***

* 3 characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The leading character is under 50 (“Scott”).
* The script contains 10 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | SCOTT |  |
|  | AUSTIN |  |
|  | TERESA |  |
|  |  | JOE |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  | TYLER |  |
| SCOTT’S DAD |  |  |
|  |  | DOCTOR |
|  | LORI |  |
|  |  | ILENE |
|  |  | PREACHER RICK |
| SCOTT’S MOM |  |  |
|  |  | TEACHER |
|  |  | JUSTICE |
|  |  | MILES |
|  |  | KIND-FACED DOCTOR |
|  |  | MAN |
|  |  | NURSE |
| ELDERLY MAN |  |  |

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.***

* 0 characters are specified as having a large body type.
* The leading character’s body size is unspecified (“Scott”).
* The script contains 17 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** |
|  |  | SCOTT |
|  | AUSTIN |  |
|  |  | TERESA |
|  |  | JOE |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  |  | TYLER |
|  |  | SCOTT’S DAD |
|  |  | DOCTOR |
|  |  | LORI |
|  |  | ILENE |
|  |  | PREACHER RICK |
|  |  | SCOTT’S MOM |
|  |  | TEACHER |
|  |  | JUSTICE |
|  |  | MILES |
|  |  | KIND-FACED DOCTOR |
|  |  | MAN |
|  |  | NURSE |
|  |  | ELDERLY MAN |

The Cooper Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Cooper test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| **NO** | 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** | **LGBTQ+ Character** | **Character with a Disability** | **Character 50+** | **Character with Large Body Type** |
| **Female Character** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **YES** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Character of Color** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **LGBTQ+ Character** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **YES** | **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 multiple characters with physical and mental disabilities and depicts them in a profoundly meaningful and humanizing way.
* The script highlights the significance of community support (e.g., school, parish, family) rather than individual grit when overcoming obstacles.
* This script features the child of an incarcerated person and demonstrates the emotionally devastating consequences that incarceration has on the families of those that are incarcerated.
* This script presents a storyline about addiction that is humanizing and life-affirming.

**Potential Pitfalls**

* **Potential Sexism:** Teresa is the “competent” parent and is almost always shown doing housework and providing emotional support for the children, while Scott is depicted as the “incompetent” parent, the breadwinner, and emotionally unavailable for his children for most of the script. These depictions invoke traditional stereotypes and roles.
* **Potential Sexism**: Scott’s Mom is “hyper-emotional” while Scott’s Father is described as a stoic, “quiet...blue collar man,” both of which fit traditional gender stereotypes.
* **Potential Sexism**: If the “teacher” and “nurse” characters are cast as white women, they will fit occupational stereotypes for those roles. If the “doctor” is cast as a white man, that will reinforce this stereotype.
* **Potential Ableism:** Austin embodies The Sentimental trope; He has eternal optimism about his disability and a “can-do” fighter attitude. His character could move away from this stereotype with a bit more complexity.
* **Potential Ableism**: The special needs classroom is described as “hectic” and “chaotic” and Scott and Teresa determine that such a space is not appropriate for Austin. This depiction of a special needs classroom stigmatizes this space and the children with disabilities who benefit from this type of classroom. This could be improved with a focus more on the teacher as the sole source of the problem rather than the other kids with disabilities.
* **Addiction Depiction**: The script frames alcoholism as a choice rather than a disease, mostly reinforced by Teresa’s interactions with Scott about his drinking.