**Spellcheck For Bias:** *Bronzeville*

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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 *Bronzeville* for Universal Content Productions:

* [Gender](#7rdsrmby8a10)
* [Race/Ethnicity](#km0uzj1c47vm)
* [LGBTQ+](#l5fofjr5yyu7)
* [Disability](#phoxthamc9m4)
* [Age (50+)](#w6ssfbo3nmng)
* [Body Size](#ua15q4ot3gj6)

**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 five lines of text or more. In *Bronzeville*, 24 characters met this criterion:

| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| --- | --- |
| Everett | 197 |
| Caspar | 98 |
| Jimmy | 94 |
| Jesse | 93 |
| Eloise | 89 |
| Randolph | 74 |
| Lisa | 61 |
| Zeke | 43 |
| Better Offer | 35 |
| Cermak | 31 |
| Arthur | 24 |
| Roxy | 21 |
| Lucky | 17 |
| 2 Gun Pete | 13 |
| White Man | 11 |
| Moreland | 11 |
| Mr. Ferguson | 10 |
| Lester | 8 |
| Rough Man 1 | 8 |
| Rough Man | 7 |
| Bosko | 6 |
| Billy | 6 |
| Joe | 5 |
| Maitre’D | 5 |

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.***

* Female characters make up 8% of the prominent characters with a specified gender.
* The leading character is male (“Everett”).
* There are no character opportunities for greater gender diversity.
* Prominent, minor, and background female characters are sexualized, trophy wives, or ‘nagging’ mothers.

Characters by Gender

| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Everett |  |
|  | Caspar |  |
|  | Jimmy |  |
|  | Jesse |  |
| Eloise |  |  |
|  | Randolph |  |
| Lisa |  |  |
|  | Zeke |  |
|  | Better Offer |  |
|  | Cermak |  |
|  | Arthur |  |
|  | Roxy |  |
|  | Lucky |  |
|  | 2 Gun Pete |  |
|  | White Man |  |
|  | Moreland |  |
|  | Mr. Ferguson |  |
|  | Lester |  |
|  | Rough Man 1 |  |
|  | Rough Man |  |
|  | Bosko |  |
|  | Billy |  |
|  | Joe |  |
|  | Maitre’D |  |

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



**Race/Ethnicity Analysis**

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

* 68% of characters with race specified are characters of color.
* The leading character is a character of color (“Everett”).
* There are 5 character opportunities for greater racial diversity.
* Story driven by characters of color and told from their perspective.
* Script features and celebrates prominent Black artists, historical figures, and celebrities of the early 20th century in the background.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Everett |  |  |
| Caspar |  |  |
| Jimmy |  |  |
| Jesse |  |  |
| Eloise |  |  |
| Randolph |  |  |
| Lisa |  |  |
| Zeke |  |  |
|  |  | Better Offer |
|  | Cermak |  |
| Arthur |  |  |
| Roxy |  |  |
| Lucky |  |  |
|  | 2 Gun Pete |  |
|  | White Man |  |
|  | Moreland |  |
| Mr. Ferguson |  |  |
|  | Lester |  |
|  |  | Rough Man 1 |
|  |  | Rough Man |
|  | Bosko |  |
|  |  | Billy |
| Joe |  |  |
|  |  | Maitre’D |

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.***

* No characters are specified as LGBTQ+.
* There are 16 character opportunities for sexual orientation diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Everett |  |
|  | Caspar |  |
|  | Jimmy |  |
|  | Jesse |  |
|  | Eloise |  |
|  |  | Randolph |
|  |  | Lisa |
|  | Zeke |  |
|  | Better Offer |  |
|  |  | Cermak |
|  |  | Arthur |
|  |  | Roxy |
|  |  | Lucky |
|  |  | 2 Gun Pete |
|  |  | White Man |
|  |  | Moreland |
|  | Mr. Ferguson |  |
|  |  | Lester |
|  |  | Rough Man 1 |
|  |  | Rough Man |
|  |  | Bosko |
|  |  | Billy |
|  |  | Joe |
|  |  | Maitre’D |

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.***

* No characters are specified as having a disability.
* There are 24 character opportunities to improve disability representations.

Characters by Disability Status

| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Everett |
|  |  | Caspar |
|  |  | Jimmy |
|  |  | Jesse |
|  |  | Eloise |
|  |  | Randolph |
|  |  | Lisa |
|  |  | Zeke |
|  |  | Better Offer |
|  |  | Cermak |
|  |  | Arthur |
|  |  | Roxy |
|  |  | Lucky |
|  |  | 2 Gun Pete |
|  |  | White Man |
|  |  | Moreland |
|  |  | Mr. Ferguson |
|  |  | Lester |
|  |  | Rough Man 1 |
|  |  | Rough Man |
|  |  | Bosko |
|  |  | Billy |
|  |  | Joe |
|  |  | Maitre’D |

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.***

* 20% of the characters are specified as over 50.
* The leading character is under 50 (“Everett”).
* There are 4 character opportunities to improve age representations

Characters by Age

| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Everett |  |
|  | Caspar |  |
|  | Jimmy |  |
|  | Jesse |  |
| Eloise |  |  |
| Randolph |  |  |
|  | Lisa |  |
|  | Zeke |  |
|  | Better Offer |  |
| Cermak |  |  |
|  | Arthur |  |
|  | Roxy |  |
|  | Lucky |  |
|  | 2 Gun Pete |  |
|  |  | White Man |
|  | Moreland |  |
| Mr. Ferguson |  |  |
|  | Lester |  |
|  |  | Rough Man 1 |
|  |  | Rough Man |
| Bosko |  |  |
|  | Billy |  |
|  | Joe |  |
|  |  | Maitre’D |

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.***

* 8% of characters are specified as having a large body type.
* The leading character is unspecified (“Everett”).
* There are 20 character opportunities to improve representations of characters with large body types.

Characters by Body Size

| **CHARACTER WITH LARGE BODY TYPE** | **CHARACTER WITH SMALL/MEDIUM BODY TYPE** | **BODY SIZE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Everett |
|  |  | Caspar |
|  |  | Jimmy |
|  | Jesse |  |
|  |  | Eloise |
|  |  | Randolph |
|  |  | Lisa |
|  |  | Zeke |
|  |  | Better Offer |
|  |  | Cermak |
| Arthur |  |  |
|  |  | Roxy |
|  |  | Lucky |
| 2 Gun Pete |  |  |
|  |  | White Man |
|  |  | Moreland |
|  |  | Mr. Ferguson |
|  |  | Lester |
|  |  | Rough Man 1 |
|  |  | Rough Man |
|  |  | Bosko |
|  |  | Billy |
|  | Joe |  |
|  |  | Maitre’D |

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

**General Positives**

* Features works of art, historical achievements, and prominent work of Black figures in the early 20th century.
* Story is centered on Black characters and their lives.
* Lead character is a person of color.
* Shows characters of color owning businesses, as a key political force within their constituency, and as well-to-do.
* Female character of color is a university graduate (significant for the early 20th century when film is set).

**General Negatives**

* Features only two prominent female characters. Minor female characters are sexualized and quiet background pieces in men’s lives.
* Most characters of color are criminals.
* Multiple Black characters written with “gangster trope”.
* Multiple male characters verbally sexualize women, are violent, and reckless.

**Additional Thoughts**

* Jesse, a young Black man, is written with the Black stereotype ‘animalistic’ (written to “lose his shit..beating the man...wildly”; having “bloodlust”).
* Zeke, a young Black man is written with the Black stereotype “sexually insatiable”.