**Spellcheck For Bias:** *Cocaine Bear*

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 *Cocaine Bear* for STUDIO NAME:

* [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 *Cocaine Bear*, 19 characters met this criterion:

| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| --- | --- |
| Sari | 936 |
| Dee Dee | 580 |
| Henry | 1053 |
| Officer Reba | 184 |
| Bob | 645 |
| Syd | 401 |
| Daveed | 619 |
| Eddie | 589 |
| Paramedic Tom | 30 |
| Paramedic Nora | 32 |
| Ray | 89 |
| Elsa | 91 |
| Kristoffer | 60 |
| Narrator | 99 |
| Ponytail | 80 |
| Ranger Liz | 269 |
| Jake | 26 |
| Peta Peter | 115 |
| Stache | 382 |

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 33% of the prominent characters with a specified gender.
* The leading character in the script is female (“Sari”).
* There is 1 character opportunity for greater gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sari | Henry | Narrator |
| Dee Dee | Bob |  |
| Officer Reba | Syd |  |
| Paramedic Nora | Daveed |  |
| Elsa | Eddie |  |
| Ranger Liz | Paramedic Tom |  |
|  | Ray |  |
|  | Kristoffer |  |
|  | Ponytail |  |
|  | Jake |  |
|  | PETA Peter |  |
|  | Stache |  |

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.***

* 66% of characters with race specified are characters of color.
* The leading character is a character of color (“Sari”).
* There are 16 character opportunities for greater racial diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sari | Daveed | Henry |
| Dee Dee |  | Officer Reba |
|  |  | Bob |
|  |  | Syd |
|  |  | Eddie |
|  |  | Paramedic Tom |
|  |  | Paramedic Nora |
|  |  | Ray |
|  |  | Elsa |
|  |  | Kristoffer |
|  |  | Narrator |
|  |  | Ponytail |
|  |  | Ranger Liz |
|  |  | Jake |
|  |  | PETA Peter |
|  |  | Stache |

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.***

* None of the characters are specified as LGBTQ+.
* There are 9 character opportunities for sexual orientation diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Sari | Officer Reba |
|  | Dee Dee | Bob |
|  | Henry | Paramedic Tom |
|  | Syd | Paramedic Nora |
|  | Daveed | Narrator |
|  | Eddie | Ponytail |
|  | Ray | Jake |
|  | Elsa | PETA Peter |
|  | Kristoffer | Stache |
|  | Ranger Liz |  |

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.***

* None of the character(s) are specified as having a disability.
* There is 1 character opportunity to improve disability representations.

Characters by Disability Status

| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Sari | Narrator |
|  | Dee Dee | Jake |
|  | Henry |  |
|  | Officer Reba |  |
|  | Bob |  |
|  | Syd |  |
|  | Daveed |  |
|  | Eddie |  |
|  | Paramedic Tom |  |
|  | Paramedic Nora |  |
|  | Ray |  |
|  | Elsa |  |
|  | Kristoffer |  |
|  | Ranger Liz |  |
|  | PETA Peter |  |
|  | Ponytail |  |
|  | Stache |  |

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.***

* 20% of the characters that are specified as over 50.
* The leading character’s age is unspecified (“Sari”).
* There are 4 character opportunities to improve age representations.

Characters by Age

| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bob | Dee Dee | Sari |
| Syd | Henry | Paramedic Tom |
| Ranger Liz | Officer Reba | Paramedic Nora |
|  | Daveed | Narrator |
|  | Eddie |  |
|  | Ray |  |
|  | Elsa |  |
|  | Kristoffer |  |
|  | Ponytail |  |
|  | Jake |  |
|  | PETA Peter |  |
|  | Stache |  |

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.***

* 33% of the characters specified have a large body type.
* The leading character’s body type is unspecified (“Sari”).
* There are 15 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** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bob | Daveed | Sari |
|  | PETA Peter | Dee Dee |
|  |  | Henry |
|  |  | Officer Reba |
|  |  | Syd |
|  |  | Eddie |
|  |  | Paramedic Tom |
|  |  | Paramedic Nora |
|  |  | Ray |
|  |  | Elsa |
|  |  | Kristoffer |
|  |  | Narrator |
|  |  | Ponytail |
|  |  | Ranger Liz |
|  |  | Jake |
|  |  | Stache |
|  |  |  |

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** | **NO** | **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** |  | **Yes** |
| **Character with Large Body Type** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **Yes** |  |

**General Positives**

* Multiple male characters are depicted as having emotions and having strong and loving friendships (Eddie and Daveed).
* Female characters are depicted with few stereotypes and take part in the central action of the film.
* Humanizes several criminal characters and provides backstories.

**General Negatives**

* Ageism flag: Syd is described as “gross and old and mean” (88).
* Ageism flag and sexual harassment flag: Creepy grandpa trope for off-screen character used in conversation between Sari and Ray (“Mr. Leary still getting handsy?...old man’s going down” (20)). Sexual harassment: Besides Ray ‘beating up’ Mr. Leary, how else could these characters deal with sexual harassment at the hospital?
* Officer Reba is described as the “bad guy” (68;79), would recommend using language that is not gendered to describe her status as a criminal.