**Spellcheck For Bias: *Small Dark Look***

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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 *Small Dark Look* for NBC Universal:

* [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 *Small Dark Look*, 22 characters met this criterion:

| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| --- | --- |
| Voice | 5 |
| Priest | 9 |
| Vladimir | 261 |
| Gregory | 370 |
| Luda | 146 |
| Leon | 9 |
| Ilkay | 14 |
| Receptionist | 16 |
| Administrator | 5 |
| Interior Minister | 38 |
| Shopkeeper | 5 |
| Monty | 57 |
| Dubinsky | 51 |
| Tony | 6 |
| Hunan | 42 |
| Assistant | 6 |
| Clown | 12 |
| Tashkar | 17 |
| Mikhail | 15 |
| Interviewer | 9 |
| Auctioneer | 12 |
| Sacha | 12 |

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 27% of the prominent characters with a specified gender.
* The leading character is male (“Gregory”).
* A STEM character is female, a leader, and 50+ (Dubinsky).
* There are no character opportunities for greater gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Voice |  |
|  | Priest |  |
|  | Vladimir |  |
|  | Gregory |  |
| Luda |  |  |
|  | Leon |  |
| Ilkay |  |  |
| Receptionist |  |  |
|  | Administrator |  |
|  | Interior Minister |  |
|  | Shopkeeper |  |
|  | Monty |  |
| Dubinsky |  |  |
|  | Tony |  |
|  | Hunan |  |
|  | Assistant |  |
|  | Clown |  |
|  | Tashkar |  |
|  | Mikhail |  |
| Interviewer |  |  |
| Auctioneer |  |  |
|  | Sacha |  |

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 the characters with race specified are characters of color.
* The leading character is unspecified (“Gregory”).
* There are 19 character opportunities for greater racial diversity.
* While many characters’ nationalities are specified as Russian and Turkish, their ethnicities are not specified.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Voice |
|  |  | Priest |
|  |  | Vladimir |
|  |  | Gregory |
|  |  | Luda |
|  |  | Leon |
|  |  | Ilkay |
|  |  | Receptionist |
|  |  | Administrator |
|  |  | Interior Minister |
|  |  | Shopkeeper |
|  | Monty |  |
|  |  | Dubinsky |
| Tony |  |  |
| Hunan |  |  |
|  |  | Assistant |
|  |  | Clown |
|  |  | Tashkar |
|  |  | Mikhail |
|  |  | Interviewer |
|  |  | Auctioneer |
|  |  | Sacha |

**Race**

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; |
| **NO** | Is not depicted with race/ethnicity stereotypes or tropes. |



**LGBTQ+ Analysis**

***For comparison, LGBTQ+ people comprise 4.5% of the U.S. population.***

* One character is specified as LGBTQ+.
* There are 16 character opportunities for sexual orientation diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Voice |
|  |  | Priest |
|  | Vladimir |  |
|  | Gregory |  |
|  |  | Luda |
|  |  | Leon |
|  | Ilkay |  |
|  |  | Receptionist |
|  |  | Administrator |
|  |  | Interior Minister |
|  |  | Shopkeeper |
|  | Monty |  |
|  |  | Dubinsky |
|  |  | Tony |
|  |  | Hunan |
|  |  | Assistant |
|  |  | Clown |
|  | Tashkar |  |
| Mikhail |  |  |
|  |  | Interviewer |
|  |  | Auctioneer |
|  |  | Sacha |

The Vito-Russo Test

| **In order to pass the Vito-Russo test, a script/manuscript must:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **YES** | Contain a character that is identifiably lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer. |
| **YES** | 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). |
| **YES** | 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 22 character opportunities to improve disability representations.

Characters by Disability Status

| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Voice |
|  |  | Priest |
|  |  | Vladimir |
|  |  | Gregory |
|  |  | Luda |
|  |  | Leon |
|  |  | Ilkay |
|  |  | Receptionist |
|  |  | Administrator |
|  |  | Interior Minister |
|  |  | Shopkeeper |
|  |  | Monty |
|  |  | Dubinsky |
|  |  | Tony |
|  |  | Hunan |
|  |  | Assistant |
|  |  | Clown |
|  |  | Tashkar |
|  |  | Mikhail |
|  |  | Interviewer |
|  |  | Auctioneer |
|  |  | Sacha |

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.***

* 22% of the characters are specified as over 50.
* The leading character’s age is unspecified (“Gregory”).
* There are 12 character opportunities to improve age representations.

Characters by Age

| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Voice |  |  |
|  |  | Priest |
|  |  | Vladimir |
|  |  | Gregory |
|  |  | Luda |
| Leon |  |  |
|  | Ilkay |  |
|  |  | Receptionist |
|  |  | Administrator |
| Interior Minister |  |  |
|  |  | Shopkeeper |
|  |  | Monty |
| Dubinsky |  |  |
|  | Tony |  |
|  |  | Hunan |
| Assistant |  |  |
|  |  | Clown |
|  |  | Tashkar |
|  | Mikhail |  |
|  | Interviewer |  |
|  |  | Auctioneer |
|  | Sacha |  |

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 (“Gregory”).
* There are 19 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** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Voice |
|  |  | Priest |
|  |  | Vladimir |
|  |  | Gregory |
|  |  | Luda |
|  |  | Leon |
|  |  | Ilkay |
|  |  | Receptionist |
|  |  | Administrator |
|  |  | Interior Minister |
| Shopkeeper |  |  |
|  | Monty |  |
|  | Dubinsky |  |
|  |  | Tony |
|  |  | Hunan |
|  |  | Assistant |
|  |  | Clown |
|  |  | Tashkar |
|  |  | Mikhail |
|  |  | Interviewer |
|  |  | Auctioneer |
|  |  | Sacha |

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** |  | **No** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character of Color** | **No** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **LGBTQ+ Character** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **No** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **NO** | **NO** | **No** |  | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character 50+** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** |
| **Character with Large Body Type** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  |

**General Positives**

* Female STEM character (“Dubinsky”) that is 50 plus, not sexualized, and invents something of consequence within the script.
* Depicts a loving relationship between 2 brothers (Vladimir and Gregory).
* Male character displays vulnerability (“Vladimir”).
* “Gregory” is depicted as a caring and concerned father.
* Female character “Luda” has an action scene.

**General Negatives**

* All characters with a specified race are depicted with stereotypes.
* Few female characters in the script.

**Additional Thoughts**

* Vladimir is unspecified for race, but if he is cast as Black his depiction as “animalistic” would be a stereotype.
* Avoid sexy corpse trope when camera pans to Ilkay’s body after she is killed.
* Minor character Madame Lau is depicted as the “dragon lady” trope.