

Diversity in the Media

Katie Campbell
Community Director

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Residence Life
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Overview

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Where Did This Come From?

- Graduate School project for class focused on diversity
- Presented to student leaders
 - Interactive presentation of watching snippets of shows/movies and discussing what can be seen in them in regards to diversity and what people are exposed to day to day
- Gets student leaders thinking and provides a forum for conversation
 - Using popular culture as a segue to reflection of meta-messages
- Helps professionals look at popular shows we may also watch and know what students are exposed to and think of as normal

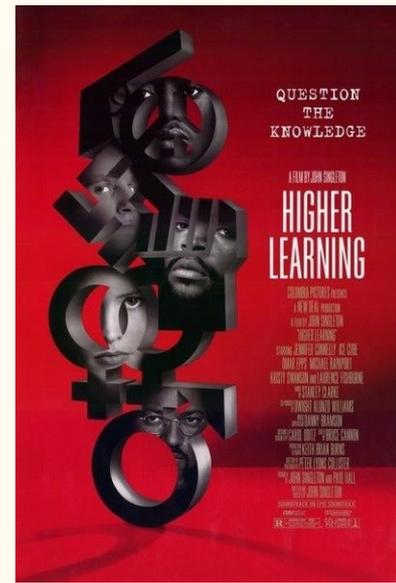
Some Definitions

- Diversity: “the broad range of differences (in gender, language fluency, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, geographic origin, religion, ability, and so on” (Schuh, Jones, Harper, & Komives, 2011, p.49).
- Microaggression(s): “a subtle but offensive comment or action directed at a minority or other non dominant group that is often unintentional or unconsciously reinforces a stereotype” (“Microaggression,” n.d.).
- Racism: “poor treatment of or violence against people because of their race; the belief that some races of people are better than others” (“Racism,” n.d.).
- Stereotype (-ing): “to believe unfairly that all people or things with a particular characteristic are the same” (“Stereotype,” n.d.).

Where Are These Themes Seen?

Let's look at:

- Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993)
- Higher Learning (1995)
- American Dad (2005-Present)
- The Blacklist (2013-Present)



Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit

Dolores (Whoopi Goldberg) is asked to come back help the sisters of St. Francis with some unruly students. All the while the school is faced with the possibility of shutting down, so what else do you do? Start a choir of course!



Did we notice anything about the students?

What else did we see?

Bonus: Mr. Crisp says that to find the students at competition to “look for the choir that looks like it just robbed a convenience store.”



Higher Learning

This movie was made to show what is happening on college campuses and highlight the racism, insecurity, violence, and microaggressions that are present at institutions of higher learning. It shows various storylines of different students all at one campus and how they all intersect.

What did you notice in the trailer?



American Dad

Francine is having a neighborhood party when Stan ruins it by assuming their neighbors are terrorists are terrorists. The whole episode shows him doing absurd things to prove his assumption.

Did we notice what Haley said?



The Blacklist

Raymond “Red” Reddington (James Spader) is the FBI’s #1 most wanted man. He turns himself in, but shares that he knows how to get other dangerous people on the FBI’s blacklist.



What about Dembe? Aram?

Lots of respect is given to both Dembe and Aram, but why are they in their current positions?



What Did We Learn

- What themes occurred to you? Lessons?
- What do you watch that could prompt a topical conversation?
- How could this methodology be utilized to facilitate discovery and learning?
 - With whom would it be most effective? ...RA Training, Hall Council, Student Orgs, LLC's?
- What is the value of bridging pop culture to our students reality now?
 - Are there other forms of media that would lend themselves to creating conversation? ...Music, print, video?

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Discussion/Questions