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Rogerian Argument

Racial issues are a recurring thing going on in today's media more than before with the issues of racial profiling happening. There aren't as much as there was in the past but there still around. In some cases, it can as simple as the way increase in popular they are portrayed. There are plenty of depictions of minorities in drama but not all of them are good ones. Such as when white actors would paint their faces black aka Blackface to represent that African Americans were not good enough to represent themselves (Kulaszewicz 8). There are various issues surrounding racial issues ranging from depictions of minorities to how the news reports race and ethnic crimes. This argument brings up the question: Should the media be held accountable for the way they depict minorities, or not?

There are those who want to see the media should be accountable for their actions in depicting minorities. According to Hoag, "The issue of diversity in the film and television industries, which employ 302,000 people directly and 1.9 million indirectly, increasingly is being scrutinized as the United States becomes more heterogeneous (Hoag, 651)." Also, the minorities are gradually increasing in percentage of the US population. Hoag also states, "In 2014, minorities represented 38 percent of the population; by 2060 they are projected to account for 56 percent (Hoag, 651)." The 2016 Oscars is a prominent event that brought that the issues of racial

equality. As Christina Hoag states, “The Academy of motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which runs the Oscars, revamped its voting rules and this year added its most diverse group of new members ever, with the goal of nominating more women and minorities for awards (Hoag,652).”

After the revamps and changes to the voting requirements for each movie nominated for each category, more directors and producers are hiring more minorities in lead roles. Also various third parties like Amazon, Hulu, and Netflix have created several shows that are towards minorities like *Master of None* and *Beast of No Nation*. Also several mainstream channels like ABC is starting to pan shows for minorities like *Fresh Off the Boat* and *Blackish*. The following shows were panned for Muslim, Indian, African-Americans, and Asian. However, there is also some other depictions of minorities like white people portraying various ethnic backgrounds such as, “In *Exodus: Gods and Kings*(2014), Christian Bale, an English actor,played the middle Eastern Jewish character moses, and white actors portrayed Egyptian characters. Emma Stone portrayed a Hawaiian-Asian woman in *Aloha* (2015)(Hoag,653).” However the reason for this is because the movie to be financed and they do not want to take a chance by having someone of that ethnic background to be the face of the movie. According to Hoag, “I can’t mount a film of this budget, . . . and say that my lead actor is Mohammad So-and-So from such-and-such. I’m just not going to get it financed. So the question doesn’t even come up (Hoag,653).”

In contrast, people who have another opinion as Hoag states, “Critics charge that it is unfair to exclude minority actors from racial and ethnic roles, especially since there are far fewer such parts and minority actors can give more nuanced performances drawn from their own experience(Hoag,pg.653).” In contrast,According to Ansari, it is a hard time finding minorities for these roles than it is to use brownface on white actors. However, there are other minorities

like disabled, transgender, and etc. As Hoag states, “People with disabilities, for example, are primarily played by able-bodied actors and story lines often are based on overcoming adversity or recovering from the disability, says Johnson Cheu, assistant professor at Michigan State University who studies culture, disability and media(Hoag,654).” The disabled apparently make really good tension as long as it not long term and long lasting in Hollywood. Even though diversity is prevalent when it comes to paid and representation, there are some various examples of fair representation.

Those who agree with the racial issue in drama is a challenge, the proponents that believe in equality is already achieved in the area of drama. One area of racial equality that can be changed is its depictions of minorities on popular channels and sites. In the past few years, there have been numerous tv programs that have been directed by or have a lead character is a minority. There have been such shows like *Sense8*, *How to Get Away With Murder*, *Night Of, and Blackish*. Also there are some very high gross minority actors and directors who managed to thrive with such movies as *Concussion*, *Black Panther*, *Selma*, and etc. Another thing is some of the high gross movies are the most money making movies such as *Black Panther*, *Get Out!*, *Girl's Trip*, and *Creed*. In the realm of drama, there are some plays that have most of the cast being minorities such as *A Raisin in the Sun*, which tells the story of a black family trying to move into an all white neighborhood and their struggle to move there. Racial equality is achievable and attainable in the realm of drama and entertainment. Throughout the several years since the Civil Rights Movement, there have many successes for minorities in the world of drama and entertainment, even though it has not been easy.

Many people have their opinion on racial issues on drama. Some people on the topic agree with racial issues are an issue that needs to be addressed. Meanwhile, there are people who say that there is racial equality in drama and entertainment. However, there is a compromise that needs to be addressed. The compromise could be that they show or create more shows with minority leads and directors while not oversaturating the media with it. For sure there should be more minority variety on television but we should overdo it because it could lead to more issues down the road. Racial issues in drama are an issues which needs to be fixed before it ends poorly for everyone.

Works Cited

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