



# 2012 NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX



**A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF TELEVISION'S LESBIAN,  
GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER IMAGES.**



# NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The GLAAD Network Responsibility Index (NRI) is an evaluation** of the quantity and quality of images of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people on television. It is intended to serve as a road map toward increasing fair, accurate, and inclusive LGBT media representations.

GLAAD has seen time and again how images of multi-dimensional gay and transgender people on television have the power to change public perceptions. The Pulse of Equality Survey, commissioned by GLAAD and conducted by Harris Interactive, confirmed a growing trend toward greater acceptance among the American public. Among the 19% who reported that their feelings toward gay and lesbian people have become more favorable over the past 5 years, 34% cited “seeing gay or lesbian characters on television” as a contributing factor. In fact when Vice President Joe Biden endorsed marriage equality this year, he cited the NBC sitcom *Will & Grace* as one of the factors that led to a better understanding of the LGBT community by the American public.

As diverse LGBT images in the media become more prevalent, the general public becomes exposed to the truth of the LGBT community: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans are parents and teachers, law enforcement and soldiers, high school students and loving elderly couples. It is as important for LGBT Americans to see our lives reflected on screen as it is for others to be exposed to the rich tapestry of the LGBT community.

We also know that programming to LGBT viewers is good business. According to an analysis by Witeck Communications, Inc., the buying power of gay men and lesbians was projected at \$790 billion in 2012.

And yet, though many television executives are aware of both the social and economic benefits of including LGBT representations in their programming, quite a few networks still have a lot of work to do before they accurately portray our community and reflect the world in which we live.



DANCING WITH THE STARS

## Observations and Recommendations

By and large, the 2011-2012 television season was largely stable with last year, but there were a few standout points worth addressing.

Unfortunately no network received a score of “Excellent” in this year’s NRI, though Showtime came the closest. With 46% of their original programming including some kind of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender impressions, it was the highest amount GLAAD tracked on any network this year and earned the network a “Good” score.

Transgender representation continues to be lacking on nearly every television network, with transgender stories appearing only sporadically on broadcast or cable programming, often with images that do not accurately reflect the trans



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community. There does seem to be significant momentum in the right direction however. Last year on ABC's reality series *Dancing With the Stars*, LGBT advocate Chaz Bono joined the cast and America was introduced to a very human and relatable transgender man without any of the usual exploitative flourishes. His role on the show and media appearances on behalf of it led to an unprecedented amount of discussion about transgender issues in the national media that will have lasting cultural impact.

For this year's NRI, GLAAD also chose to track two highly rated cable networks for the first time, each of which is known for programming that appeals to a more conservative viewing audience. History posted the lowest overall percentage of inclusive hours of any network tracked this year, with only 3% of its 379 original programming hours including any sort of LGBT impression. On the other hand, GLAAD tracked 545.5 hours of original programming on TLC, of which 20% (110) included LGBT impressions, ranging from a tattoo shop manager to same-sex couples preparing for weddings. TLC demonstrated that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people can be represented in a wider range of programming formats and subjects than is typically seen.

## Overview of Broadcast Network Findings

- Compared to last year's NRI, the ranking of the five major broadcast networks has changed slightly, with ABC improving enough (+4%) and Fox declining enough (-5%) for the two to swap places for 2nd and 3rd. The CW also declined somewhat (-4%), though it still had the highest overall percentage. NBC showed some improvement (+4%), while consistently

last place CBS actually dropped slightly (-2%). Particularly among the top four, the numerical range of the scores is shrinking.

- For the third year in a row, The CW ranked first among the broadcast networks with 152 (29%) LGBT inclusive hours out of 524 hours of original programming, though its score has also been on the decline for two years. The CW also featured the most racial diversity among the broadcast networks, with 62% of impressions from LGBT people/characters of color thanks to programs like *America's Next Top Model*.
- ABC rose from third to second place with 302 (27%) LGBT inclusive hours out of 1101.5 total. In terms of sheer volume of inclusive hours however, ABC is far and away in first place among every network tracked by GLAAD in this report, with more than 50% more hours than NBC, the next highest on the list, as well as the highest number of both major impressions and overall impressions. Most of those inclusive hours (38%) were in unscripted and reality programming, such as *Dancing With the Stars*.
- Fox dropped down to third place, with 176.5 (24%) LGBT inclusive hours out of 722 total. Once again, most of Fox's inclusive hours were in its comedy programming (59%), with shows like *Glee* and *American Dad*.
- NBC showed welcome improvement, with 198.5 LGBT inclusive hours (19%) out of 1072 hours total. Like the similarly improved ABC, most of its inclusive hours (48%) were in unscripted and reality programming, such as *The Voice*.
- For the fourth year in a row, CBS remains in last place among the broadcast networks, with 92.5 (8%) LGBT inclusive hours out of 1110 hours total. It was also a slight drop for a network that really needs to show improvement. Most of CBS' inclusive hours (48%) were found in its dramatic programming, thanks almost exclusively to *The Good Wife*.

## RANKING OF THE BROADCAST NETWORKS

LISTED BY PERCENTAGE OF LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

2011 - 2012		2010 - 2011	
1.	The CW 29%	1.	The CW 33%
2.	ABC 27%	2.	Fox 29%
3.	Fox 24%	3.	ABC 23%
4.	NBC 19%	4.	NBC 15%
5.	CBS 8%	5.	CBS 10%



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## Broadcast Networks: Quality & Diversity

In assigning grades for this report, GLAAD examines not only the quantity of LGBT-inclusive programming, but also the quality, with diversity being a key factor in the evaluations.

- The CW ranked first in racial diversity of LGBT impressions, with 62% of them coming from people of color. They also had the highest percentage of both black and latino/a LGBT impressions (37% and 24%), thanks in large part to the judges and contestants of *America's Next Top Model*. In fact, with the addition of drama *The L.A. Complex*, The CW is also one of the few networks on broadcast or cable to feature black LGBT characters in lead or supporting roles.
- Unfortunately, though it ranked first in total number of inclusive hours and impressions, ABC featured the least racial diversity among those impressions. Only 14% of its LGBT impressions were made by people of color, slightly lower than last year. Those impressions included Callie Torres on *Grey's Anatomy*, who is one of the more prominent bisexual characters on television, and a new black gay male character on *Don't Trust the B- in Apartment 23*.
- CBS featured the second best racial diversity among its LGBT impressions (42% were by people of color), though they were relatively slight to begin with. Kalinda on *The Good Wife* made up almost 30% of the total LGBT impressions on CBS, giving CBS the highest percentage of Asian-Pacific Islander impressions among the broadcast networks.
- Fox and NBC had relatively similar levels of diversity, with 32% and 35% of their respective LGBT impressions made by people of color. On Fox, *Glee's* Santana made up many of these, while on NBC many of them came from Oscar on *The Office* and George Takei on *Celebrity Apprentice*.
- The overall diversity spread on the broadcast networks remained relatively unchanged from last year, with 66% of LGBT impressions on broadcast TV being white. Latino/a impressions were the next-most prominent with 14%, while black/African American impressions made up 11%. Both

of these figures were slight improvements over last year. Unfortunately the percentage of Asian-Pacific Islander LGBT impressions dropped by nearly half to 6%.

- As has long been the case, gay men were the most prominently featured among all LGBT impressions, and were included in 69% of all the LGBT inclusive hours on broadcast television. This was a slight decrease from last year however. The highest percentage was on NBC (81%) while the lowest was on CBS (51%).
- Once again, lesbian women were far less represented than gay men, but had a substantially stronger showing than last year. Of all the LGBT-inclusive hours on broadcast television 25% included lesbian impressions, which is up from 17% last year. The highest percentages were on Fox and NBC (30% each), which respectively featured Santana on *Glee* and designer Kara Larricks on *Fashion Star*. The lowest percentage was on CBS (17%).
- Bisexual women fared better than lesbian women on primetime broadcast television, as they continue to make up the vast majority of bisexual representations. A total of 38% of all LGBT-inclusive hours on broadcast featured bisexual impressions, which is an increase of 8% over last year. The highest amount was featured on Fox (69%) and the lowest on NBC (15%).
- In addition to the increases we've seen this year in representations of lesbian women and bisexual people on primetime broadcast television, one of the most welcome developments was an uptick in representations of transgender people. Of all the LGBT-inclusive hours this year, 5% included transgender impressions, up from 1% last year. That figure is obviously

## RANKING OF CABLE NETWORKS

LISTED BY PERCENTAGE OF LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS OF ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING

1.	Showtime	46%
2.	ABC Family	34%
3.	FX	34%
4.	TNT	34%
5.	HBO	33%
6.	MTV	23%
7.	TLC	20%
8.	USA	17%
9.	TBS	5%
10.	History	3%



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still much lower than other categories, but with transgender people like *Dancing with the Stars'* Chaz Bono making a huge impact on national conversations and pop culture, it's a change worth celebrating.

## Highlights of Cable Network Findings

- The highest ranked cable network tracked by GLAAD for this year's report was Showtime, which saw its inclusive programming increase to 46% (from 37% last year) with 55 out of 118.5 original programming hours featuring LGBT impressions. Showtime included a number of strong LGBT storylines and characters on shows like *Shameless* and *The Real L Word*, however the network also included episodes of *Californication* and *House of Lies* which showed lead characters acting disgusted by transgender women and referring to them using dehumanizing terms. At a time when images of the trans community are so few, these instances prevented its moving from a "Good" to an "Excellent" score.
- Though it received an "Excellent" score last year, ABC Family saw its inclusive hours drop from 55% (a record high) to 34% (48.5 out of 141 hours), but it was still enough to land it in second place with a score of "Good." *Pretty Little Liars* continues to be ABC Family's strongest series in terms of LGBT representation and diversity.
- The highest tracked increase between this and last year's report was seen by FX, which saw its percentage of LGBT inclusive hours raise from 19% to 34%, thanks to programs like *American Horror Story* and *Archer*.
- A newcomer to the NRI, TLC included LGBT impressions in 20% of its original programming hours (110 out of 545.5) on shows like *Say Yes to the Dress* and *NY Ink*. It's notable that despite it being a network with substantial conservative appeal, TLC's 110 LGBT inclusive hours is actually a higher gross number than that of any other cable network tracked in this year's report, and higher even than broadcast network CBS.
- Also new to the report was the channel History, which unfortunately did quite poorly. Only 3% (12) of its 379 hours of original programming included any kind of LGBT impressions, giving it the lowest percentage of all tracked cable networks. The lowest gross volume of inclusive hours however, was found on the consistently "Failing" TBS, which only clocked two original LGBT inclusive hours when it aired (as did other Turner networks) the Screen Actors Guild Awards.
- The highest percentages of black and lesbian LGBT impressions were on USA (62% and 78%, respectively), thanks singlehandedly to lesbian agent Diana Berrigan on *White Collar*. She also happens to be the network's only regular LGBT character. ABC Family had the highest number of lesbian inclusive hours (44.5) thanks to Emily on *Pretty Little Liars*, who is also a multi-racial character.
- HBO had the highest number of Latino/a LGBT impressions thanks to Jesus on *True Blood*, though Dr. Morales on TNT's *The Closer* also left a good impression.
- The highest percentage and greatest number of Asian-Pacific Islander LGBT impressions was on Showtime, where *The Real L Word* featured Francine and Vivian. Showtime also featured the most bisexually-inclusive hours (27) with *Shameless* and *The Borgias*.
- Transgender representation remained weak and inconsistent on the tracked cable networks, though a handful of shows did feature transgender storylines or characters. The standouts included transgender actress Jamie Clayton's two episode stint on the now-cancelled HBO series *Hung*, and individual episodes of USA's *Necessary Roughness* and Showtime's *Nurse Jackie*. Of all the original cable hours tracked this year only 9.5 featured transgender impressions, which equates to 0.005% of all cable hours tracked.



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## Methodology

For this sixth annual report, GLAAD divided its analysis into two sections: broadcast networks and cable networks.

For broadcast, GLAAD researched primetime programming on ABC, CBS, The CW, Fox and NBC from June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012. Total primetime programming hours researched: 4529.5 hours. Primetime begins at 8:00 p.m. Eastern and Pacific (7:00 Central and Mountain) and ends at 11:00 p.m. Eastern and Pacific (10:00 Central and Mountain), Monday through Saturday. On Sunday, primetime begins at 7:00 p.m. Eastern and Pacific (6:00 Central and Mountain). Fox and The CW do not air network programming during the last hour of primetime, nor does The CW air programming on weekends. GLAAD also does not track primetime broadcast hours programmed by local affiliate stations; only hours of national broadcast.

The 10 cable networks examined for the 2011-2012 report include ABC Family, FX, HBO, History, MTV, Showtime, TBS, TLC, TNT and USA. Networks were chosen based on a combination of Nielsen Media Research ranking, cultural and media recognition factor, and the diversity and breadth of original programming. For the purposes of this study, news, sports, and children's networks are not counted. The original primetime programs on these 10 networks were examined from June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012. Total programming hours: 2024.5 hours. Because of the re-airing and re-purposing of cable programming, only first-run broadcasts of original programs were counted when evaluating cable programming. Acquired (syndicated) series and films, as well as live sporting events, were not counted for any cable network, keeping the focus exclusively on network-generated original programming.



All programming content, on both broadcast and cable networks, was divided into four categories: drama series, comedy series, unscripted programming (i.e. reality and game shows), and newsmagazines/special event programming. In instances when a sports program aired during primetime on a broadcast network, those hours were considered "special event programming" and counted as part of our analysis. The categorization of programming hours was implemented so that analysts could understand where a network's strengths and weaknesses lie when it came to portraying LGBT people.

Each program was reviewed for on-screen inclusion of LGBT representations. GLAAD analysts noted whether the LGBT depictions were minor or major, as well as the orientation/gender identity and the race/ethnicity of those depicted. Any significant discussion of issues pertaining to LGBT lives, whether in a scripted or newsmagazine setting, was also counted, though no race/ethnicity could be assigned.

For the purpose of this report, each representation of an LGBT person, or significant discussion of an LGBT issue, during the course of an hour counts as one 'impression.' If one LGBT character appeared on 12 episodes, for example, this character made 12 impressions. If a single episode addressed marriage equality, for example, in a secondary storyline, it was counted as one minor 'impression.'

Based on the overall quantity, quality and diversity of LGBT representation, a grade was assigned to each network: Excellent, Good, Adequate, or Failing.



# A B C

## Disney-owned ABC has a long and distinguished history of

including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) stories into its programming, offering up a number of television “firsts.” Although ABC’s LGBT history begins with Jodie Dallas on *Soap* back in 1977, perhaps the most notable moment came in the spring of 1997 when Ellen DeGeneres came out both off-screen and on-screen on her sitcom *Ellen*. In recent years, ABC has probably shown the most commitment of the five major broadcast networks to include LGBT characters and storylines on its scripted series, with programs such as *Ugly Betty*, *Brothers & Sisters*, *Grey’s Anatomy*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Modern Family*, and *Happy Endings*.

This year, ABC reached its highest percentage yet in the Network Responsibility Index with 27% inclusive programming hours, and far more total inclusive hours than any other network. For the past five years, ABC has consistently maintained a good score, and created what are arguably some of the best LGBT storylines and characters to be found anywhere on television, not to mention the most substantive. Alongside its sister network, ABC Family, its programming has served as an admirable model of LGBT inclusivity.

### The 2011-2012 Season

- One of the biggest triumphs for LGBT representation on television this year was undoubtedly the casting of transgender advocate Chaz Bono on the fall 2011 season of *Dancing with the Stars*. The media attention on Bono’s inclusion helped educate the public about transgender people to an unprecedented degree, while Chaz himself gave audiences a chance to see that he’s just like anyone else. In addition, Bruno Tonioli remained a judge on the show, and lesbian tennis pro Martina Navratilova took part in the spring season.
- Season three of *Modern Family* saw Mitchell and Cameron explore the possibility of adopting a second child, but unfortunately things hadn’t

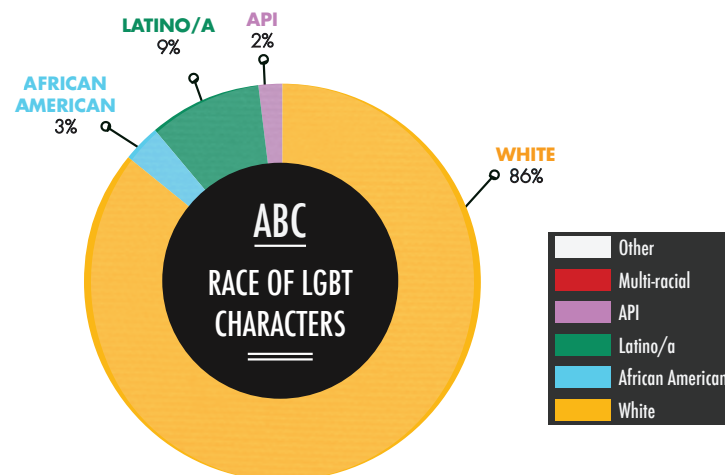
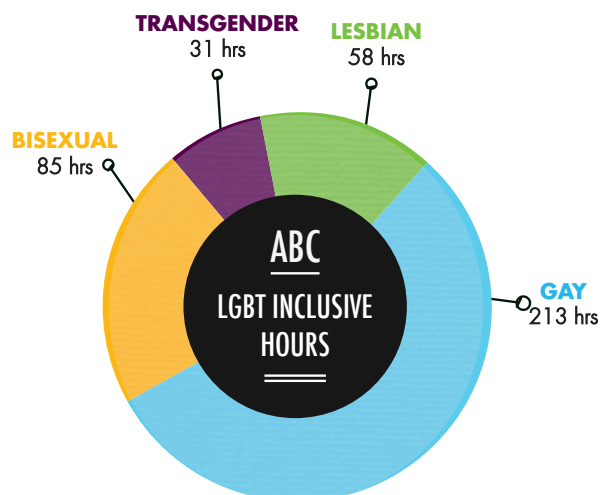


gone as planned by the final episode. Though it wasn’t the happiest of outcomes, the struggles they went through mirrored experiences many adoptive and LGBT families may have faced at one time or another, and was among the season’s most moving plotlines.

- The now married Callie and Arizona on *Grey’s Anatomy* had a somewhat less tumultuous season than they did last year, but remained a significant part of the Seattle Grace team. The two were finally able to enjoy a stable romantic life while helping each other through some difficult situations, but the most significant event was probably the season finale in which Arizona’s fate was left up in the air following a plane crash. Hopefully TV’s most prominent same-sex female couple will return intact next fall.
- *Happy Endings* blossomed in its second season, with a growing viewership, critical acclaim, and a multi-episode storyline in which gay slacker Max reunited with ex-boyfriend Grant until he learned Grant didn’t want children. Another episode featured the gang attending a wedding for a gay male couple and Alex pretending to be a lesbian.



- The LGBT population of Wisteria Lane didn't fare so well on the final season of *Desperate Housewives*. Gay couple Bob and Lee didn't have much of anything to do, while Bree's gay son Andrew tried to marry a woman for her money and Katherine returned from her life in Paris just long enough to declare herself straight in a move many lesbian viewers found downright offensive. Meanwhile, the first and last season of fellow comedic soap *GCB* featured gay exec Blake, who was in a marriage of convenience to a woman but briefly had a rancher boyfriend on the side.
- Other inclusive dramas on ABC this season included breakout hit *Revenge*, which featured two male characters seducing each other to further their own ends (Nolan and Tyler), and Shonda Rhimes' latest series *Scandal*, in which the President's gay Chief of Staff was given a prominent role. Look for the survivors of both series to return next fall. Additionally, the series *Body of Proof*, *Pan Am*, and *Private Practice* also featured several episodes with LGBT content.
- Back on the comedy front, *Suburgatory* revealed that the school counselor Mr. Wolfe is gay, and *Don't Trust the B— in Apartment 23* featured James Van Der Beek's fictional gay assistant Luther. The creators of *The Middle* also confirmed that the teen character of Brad is gay (but isn't out yet), while new shows *Man Up* (now cancelled) and *Last Man Standing* both featured lesbian couples in standalone storylines.
- In addition to *DWTS*, the backpacking race show *Expedition Impossible* featured a pair of ex-boyfriends on a team together, and *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* featured an anti-bullying special and a guest appearance from Ellen DeGeneres. Once again this year, the ABC News show *Primetime: What Would You Do?* continued to include a number of



good

1101.5 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
302 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (27%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 23% | 2009-10: 26% | 2008-09: 24%

2007-08: 24% | 2006-07: 15%\*\*

\*\*Openly gay cast members in some Unscripted/Reality programming were not counted in the first NRI, hence a much lower percentage.

hidden camera situations that addressed LGBT issues, including children of same-sex couples being bullied, a same-sex couple getting engaged, a transgender waitress being yelled at by a customer, and a child coming out as transgender to her mother.

### Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Though ABC still ranks as one of the most inclusive networks on TV, it wasn't without its blemishes this year. The worst of which was the critically drubbed sitcom *Work It*, in which two men dress as women to get jobs, and much of the humor was the same type used to mock transgender women. Luckily viewers didn't like it either and the show died a quick death.
- The same issue we took with ABC last year still applies this year. The network has an impressive roster of LGBT characters, but one can't help but notice the list is almost exclusively male and white. At least there's a solid chance that a new gay male character of color will make it on the air next season on an ABC comedy, and hopefully Luther on *Apartment 23* will enjoy an increased role as well.



# CBS

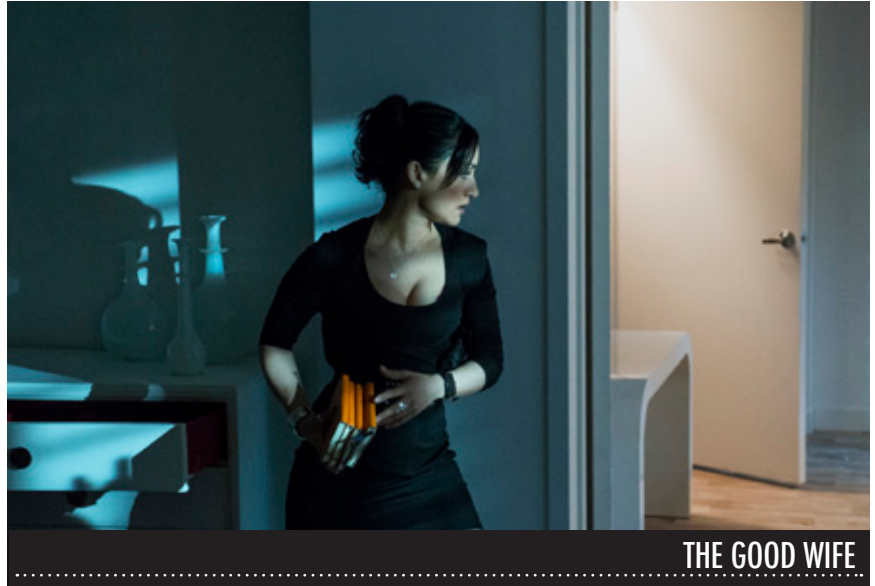
## CBS premiered Norman Lear's classic *All in the Family* in

1971 and almost immediately the show tackled sexual orientation with the episode "Judging Books by Covers." Classic episodes of *Maude* and *M\*A\*S\*H* also dealt with orientation. Unfortunately, outside of those few socially conscious shows 40 years ago, LGBT scripted impressions on the network have been somewhat rare.

Sadly, that was the case again this year as inclusive programming on CBS has dropped to 8% after mild improvement last year. Most of the 92.5 inclusive hours can be attributed to *The Good Wife*, which features bisexual investigator Kalinda Sharma, though a sizable percentage (38%) comes from the network's reality programming, which has long been a consistent source of LGBT impressions on CBS. Unfortunately it wasn't enough to raise them out of last place among the Broadcast networks for the fourth year in a row, and CBS tips back to a "Failing" rating.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- Alicia's gay brother Owen may have only popped in for two episodes of *The Good Wife* this season, but Kalinda continued to be a major force on the show. Though she didn't have any major romantic plotlines this season, she did enjoy flirtations with Agent Lana Delaney and rival investigator Sophia Russo. LGBT characters also popped up in storylines about a Palestinian student accused of murder and rival law firms vying for a case against DOMA, which continued the show's generally solid track record of organically incorporating LGBT characters into greater plotlines. *The Good Wife* remains the brightest spot in CBS' scripted line-up.
- *Big Brother*, *The Amazing Race*, and two different seasons of *Survivor* all included gay contestants this season, though only young, gay



republican Colton on *Survivor: One World* managed to stick around very long. Still, between those four shows and individual episodes of *Same Name* (featuring LGBT ally Kathy Griffin) and *Undercover Boss* (featuring a young gay man disowned by his family), reality casting is still one of CBS' strongest suits when it comes to diversity.

- Several CBS dramas included one-off episodes with LGBT characters this year, including *The Mentalist*, *Person of Interest*, and *CSI*, while *NCIS* actually featured two appearances by probationary agent Ned Dorneget who came out halfway through the season.
- The most exciting development in CBS' comedy lineup was Alan's mother Evelyn initiating a romance with a woman named Joan on *Two and a Half Men*. Being a semi-regular character, viewers can expect to see more of Evelyn (and hopefully Joan) next season. Barney's gay brother James returned for an appearance on *How I Met Your Mother*, while lesbian surrogate Brenda showed up for several appearances on *Rules of Engagement*.



# failing

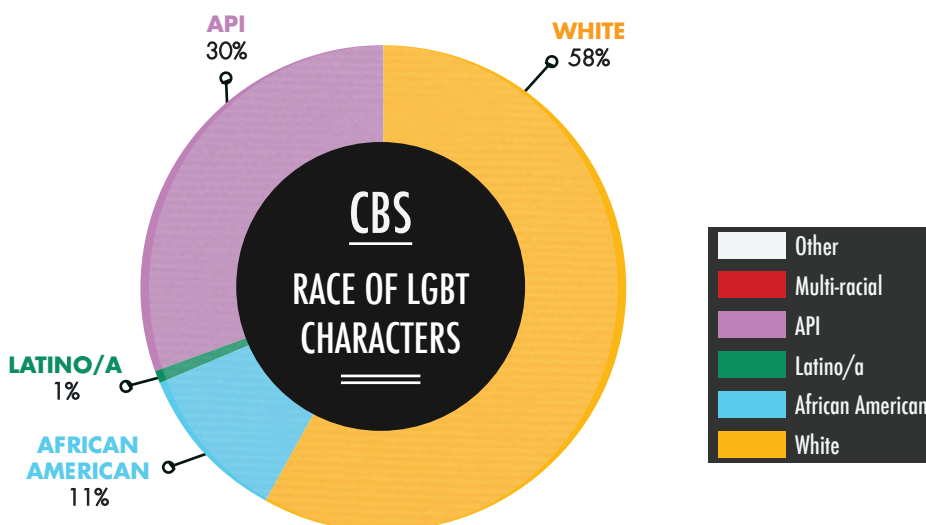
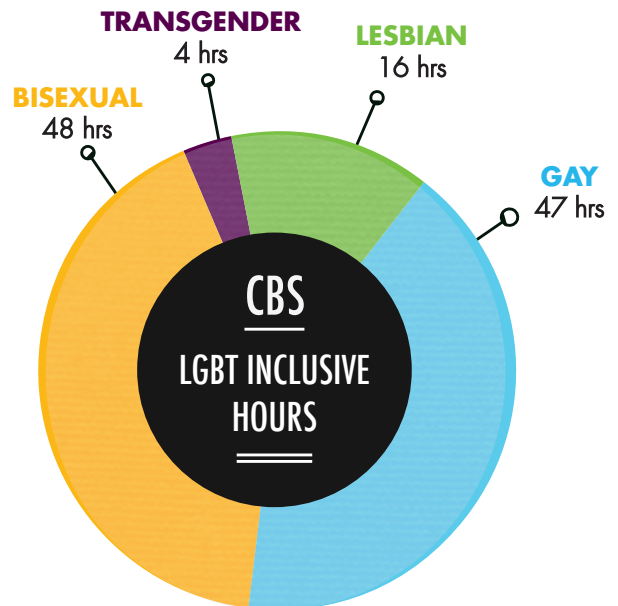
1110 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
92.5 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (8%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 10% | 2009-10: 7% | 2008-09: 5%  
2007-08: 9% | 2006-07: 9%

## Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Borderline offensive humor continues to be an issue on several CBS comedies, though that does seem to be somewhat on the decline. In good news however, next season CBS will introduce the sitcom *Partners*, which will feature a gay couple in lead roles and greatly improve the state of inclusive programming on the network (if it manages to survive). This will also help the network make good on their longstanding pledge to improve on the diversity of its shows and characters.
- CBS' procedural programs like *CSI* still don't feature any regular or recurring LGBT characters, though the revelation that agent Dorneget on *NCIS* is gay is certainly a step in the right direction. Hopefully next season will see him featured in an increased capacity on the show, and remind viewers that LGBT people have roles in the justice system beyond killers and victims.





# CW

## Launched at the start of the 2006-2007 TV season, The CW was

created after a merger between The WB and UPN, two networks that held respectable track records in offering LGBT content. In its freshman year, The CW failed to incorporate LGBT characters into its scripted shows, but was ultimately awarded a “Fair” rating in the inaugural Network Responsibility Index because 51 of The CW’s 55 hours of LGBT content came from the very LGBT-inclusive alternative series *America’s Next Top Model*. Since then, The CW has made significant improvements in its scripted programming as well.

Two years ago, The CW hit a benchmark score for a broadcast network with 35% of its programming being LGBT-inclusive, but they haven’t quite maintained that level since. This year the inclusive hours dipped down to 29%, but that’s still enough to give it the highest percentage of all five broadcast networks. The CW deserves additional praise for featuring a number of non-white LGBT characters in prominent roles, and has one of the best ethnic diversity ratios of any network. A fantastic 62% of the LGBT impressions on the network were by people of color.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- *America’s Next Top Model* continued to prominently feature catwalk expert “Miss” J. Alexander, photo shoot director Jay Manuel, and fashion editor André Leon Talley both as coaches and on the judge’s panel, though none of them are currently expected to return for future seasons. As for the year’s crop of models, transgender model Isis King and lesbian Kayla Ferrel both took part in the fall’s *All-Stars* season, while spring’s *British Invasion* featured bisexual model Laura James and lesbian AzMarie Livingston. The show remains the principal source of The CW’s LGBT inclusive hours.
- Since the character of Adrianna dated a woman in the 2009-2010 season, *90210* has been the most consistently inclusive scripted program on The



CW, though the quality/quantity of its representations have diminished since gay jock Teddy moved away. Teddy did return for a small number of guest appearances (with a love interest), but Adrianna has shown no interest in dating women for some time (besides the offhand comment).

- Though it got off to a shaky start, the most promising series to premiere on The CW this year was the Canadian coproduction *The L.A. Complex*, which featured a complicated same-sex romance in its first few episodes. When aspiring music producer Tariq is assigned to assist a rapper named Kaldrick, their attraction surprises them both, but is more than Kal can handle. After several years of having absolutely no regular gay, black characters on scripted broadcast TV, for The CW to suddenly feature two was a great step forward.
- Eric Van der Woodsen, Serena’s openly gay younger brother on *Gossip Girl*, officially left the show after last season, and therefore only appeared in summer repeats. On Kevin Williamson’s *Vampire Diaries*, Caroline’s gay father Bill appeared in several episodes before meeting an unfortunate demise. The only other non-regular LGBT character on a CW drama was a guest appearance by Felicia Day on *Supernatural* as a lesbian hacker named Charlie.



# good

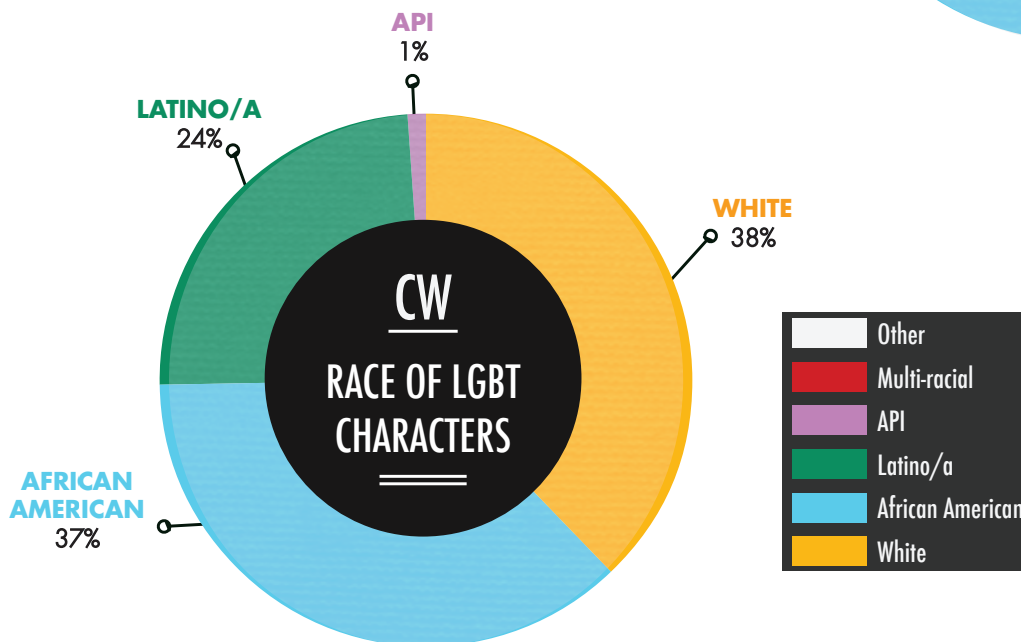
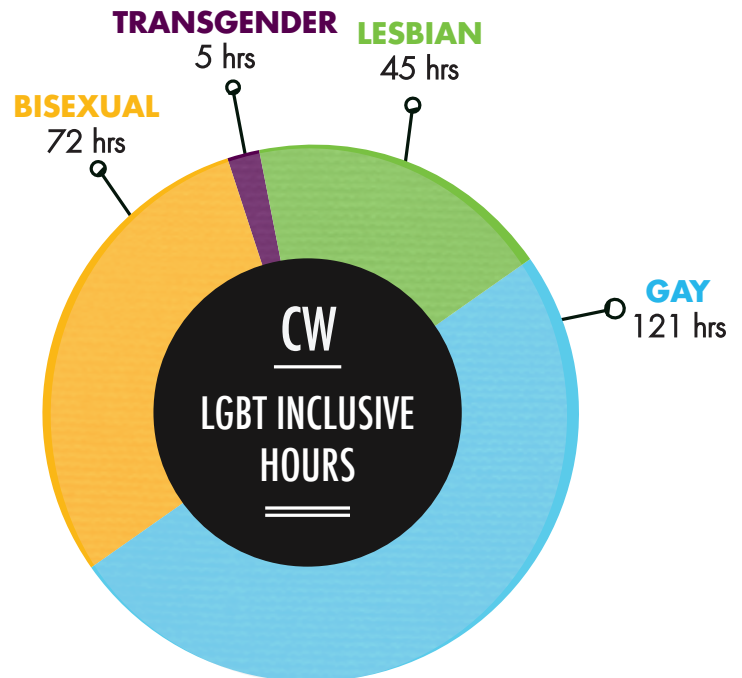
524 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
152 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (29%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 33% | 2009-10: 35% | 2008-09: 20%  
2007-08: 21% | 2006-07: 12%

## Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Hopefully *The L.A. Complex* will pick up enough steam to keep running on the network, because Tariq and Kal are currently unique to broadcast television (not to mention most of cable). At the very least viewers looking for LGBT characters will have a few new shows to look forward to that should widen the range of representations on The CW. The pilot for medical comedy *Emily Owens, M.D.* includes a lesbian surgical intern named Tyra, while the mid-season show, *The Carrie Diaries*, will likely include a gay teen named Walt if the series hews closely to the book it's based on. *America's Next Top Model* will also return for its 19th cycle and hopefully bring new LGBT contestants and mentors with it.





# FOX

**Founded in 1986, Fox's sensitivity to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues** has frequently been called into question. *Melrose Place* may be considered a pioneer in early representations of gay men, but in 1994, GLAAD took Fox to task for censoring a kiss between two gay characters on the show. Since then, GLAAD has taken issue with Fox on a number of occasions, and the network received a "Failing" grade in the first NRI for its mere 6% of LGBT-inclusive content. When questioned about that grade, Fox Entertainment President Kevin Reilly told AfterElton.com it was "disheartening" and that the network "absolutely" has a responsibility to represent LGBT people. Despite this statement, Fox's percentage dropped to 4% the following season.

Between the 2009 and 2010 report, however, Fox's percentage of LGBT-inclusive programming hours jumped a dramatic 19 points to 30% of their total primetime programming, though that number has slipped somewhat over the past two years. Still, Fox's improvement was dramatic and laudable, and their continued support of shows like *Glee* should keep them in good standing for the foreseeable future. Now if only they could include an out contestant on *American Idol*.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- *Glee* remains, without a doubt, one of the most inclusive shows on Fox and on television in general. Young gay couple Kurt and Blaine and lesbian/bi couple Santana and Brittany continued to enjoy prominent placement on the show, while other gay characters like Sebastian and Karofsky made a handful of appearances. More exciting is the fact that the show seemed to introduce its first transgender character with Unique, and set the stage for her to return in a more prominent capacity next season.
- Though they're sometimes a source of offensive content, Fox's back-to-back animated comedies on Sunday evenings are also one of the most



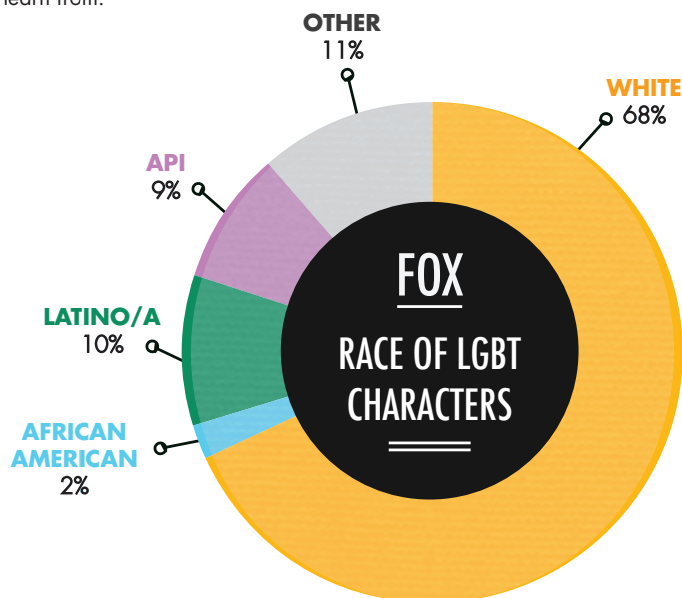
consistent programming blocks when it comes to including LGBT characters. *The Cleveland Show* featured several appearances by Cleveland's gay friend Terry, while Patty and Smithers remain a part of *The Simpsons* universe. *American Dad* remained the most inclusive of these comedies with bisexual alien Roger (with several male love interests this season) and numerous appearances by gay neighbor dads Greg and Terry.

- Aside from appearances by Thirteen and Angela on *House* and *Bones* respectively, the only other significant LGBT characters on Fox dramas were a gay shoe salesman on two episodes of *The Finder* and a lesbian couple who cheated death on *Touch*. On the live-action comedy side, *New Girl* featured Jess' lesbian gynecologist friend and bisexual landlord on two episodes each. *Raising Hope* featured a great episode with a transgender former-bully, but her appearance on the season finale (in which she seemed to express regret at having transitioned) was very problematic.



## Suggested Areas of Improvement

- On *House*, the bisexual Thirteen made a brief return for the final episodes of the season, while the bisexual character Angela Montenegro on *Bones* has been in a committed relationship with a male character for a while now, and her sexual orientation is rarely even acknowledged. Fox could definitely use some new LGBT characters on one of its dramas.
- Besides a number of appearances by out choreographer Travis Wall on *So You Think You Can Dance* last summer, it was another lean year for LGBT folks on Fox reality shows. Though they featured appearances by singers like Jessie J and Adam Lambert, none of the contestants featured on the last seasons of *American Idol* or *The X-Factor* were openly LGBT, while NBC's *The Voice* featured several out singers for the second year in a row. Now ten seasons in, the fact that *Idol* has yet to feature any contestants who are openly LGBT while participating in the show looks less and less like a coincidence.
- Unfortunately, this year also saw the premiere of *Allen Gregory*, in which an elementary school prodigy was being raised by his egotistical gay father and the "straight" man he "talked into" leaving his wife and previous family for him. Thankfully, the characters didn't stick around long, as the show died a rather quick death. What could have been a good addition to Fox's roster of animated characters turned out to be rather offensive stereotypes that audiences never warmed to. Hopefully it was a mistake Fox will learn from.



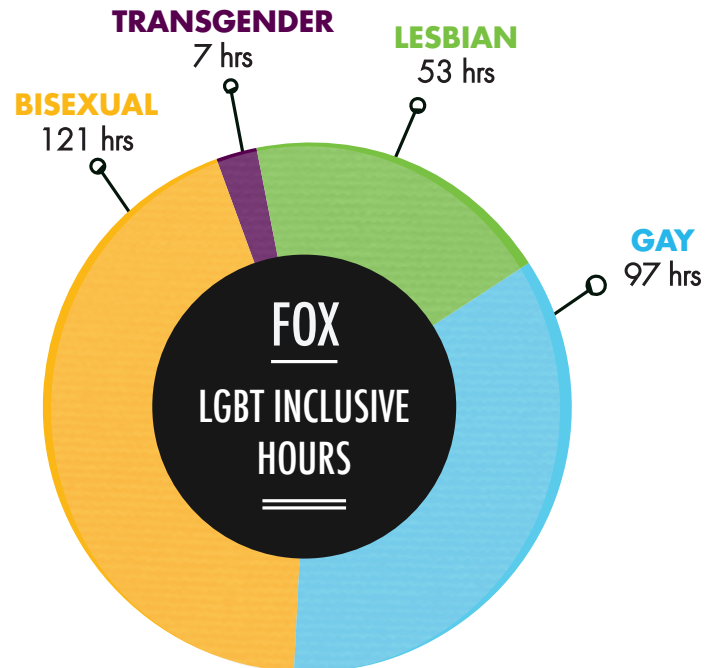
# good

722 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
176.5 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (24%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 29% | 2009-10: 30% | 2008-09: 11%

2007-08: 4% | 2006-07: 6%





# NBC

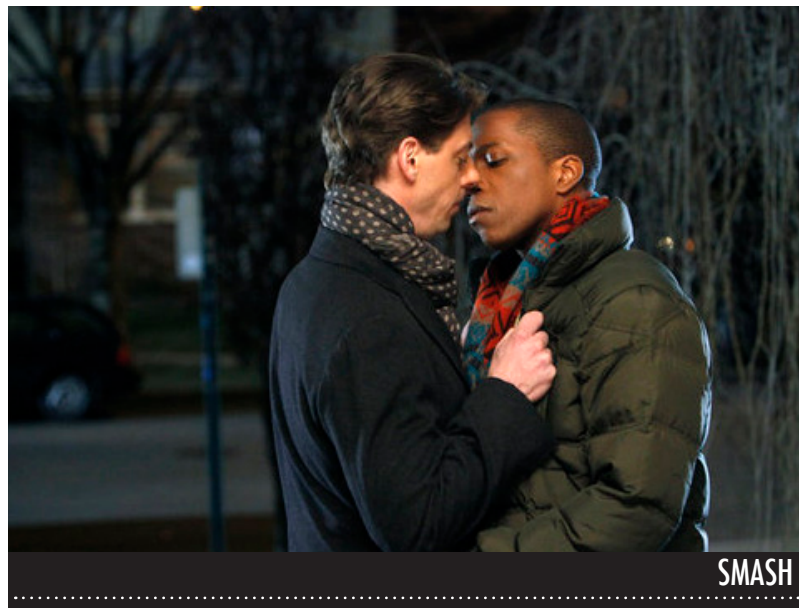
## NBC's history of including LGBT characters as primetime series

regulars or recurring characters dates back to the 1994 debut of *Friends*, which featured Carol and Susan, a lesbian couple who ultimately married on the show. Months after ABC cancelled *Ellen*, NBC made the bold decision to premiere *Will & Grace*, a sitcom featuring Will and Jack, two gay male lead characters. Despite initial criticism from conservative groups, *Will & Grace* went on to become one of TV's most successful series with LGBT lead characters, winning 16 Emmys and running for eight seasons as a staple of NBC's "Must-See-TV" Thursday night lineup.

LGBT impressions on the network dropped considerably after *Will & Grace* went off the air in early 2006, but NBC has made a steady climb upwards since then. This year, thanks to new shows like *Smash* and *The Voice*, NBC has reached its highest level of inclusive programming yet, which can likely be attributed to the establishment of Bob Greenblatt as the new Chairman of NBC Entertainment. Greenblatt oversaw some of the most inclusive shows on television while head of Showtime, and has demonstrated that he considers diversity an asset to programming lineups.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- Last year, most of the inclusive hours on NBC were on drama series, but this year it was the network's reality and alternative programming that featured most of its LGBT impressions. The last season of *Celebrity Apprentice* featured several out cast members, including actor George Takei, but it was former *American Idol* runner-up Clay Aiken who made it all the way to the finals and left the biggest mark. The new series *Fashion Star* featured several out contestants, with lesbian designer Kara Larricks eventually going on to take the show's top prize.
- Several NBC comedies featured LGBT characters this season, though none had particularly substantial roles until the character of Neal came out as bisexual on the first-year sitcom *Whitney*, which is set to return in the fall.



Oscar remained a visible but largely passive presence on *The Office*, while the now defunct *Love Bites* featured a gay couple in a few episodes. Though it doesn't have any regular LGBT characters, *30 Rock* once again featured a sizable handful of episodes with minor to major LGBT content.

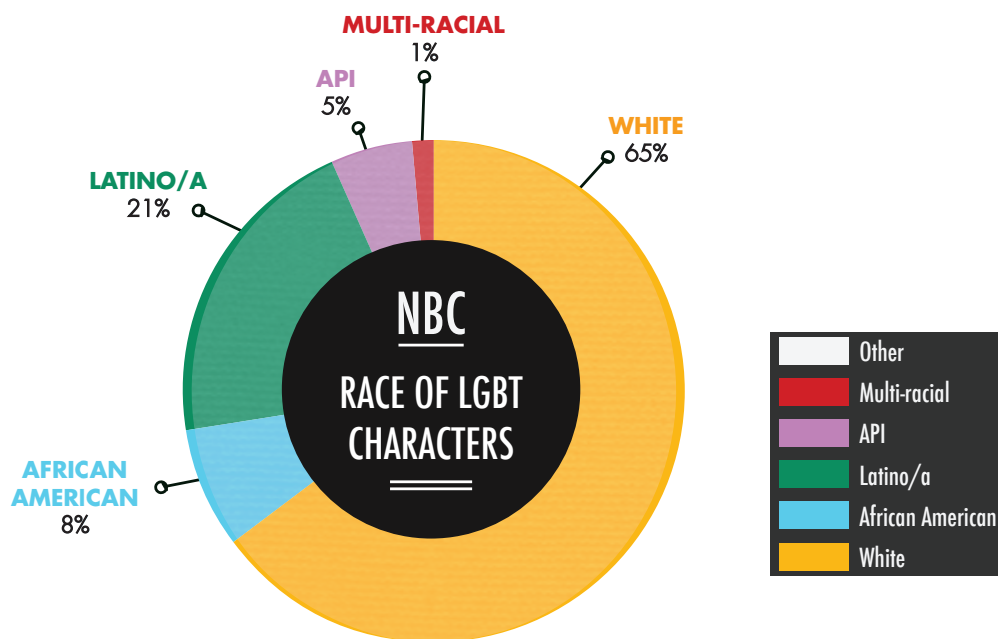
- *The Voice* once again included several out competitors, though they unfortunately couldn't match the staying power of the first season's incredible crop. There were also several LGBT contestants on two seasons of *America's Got Talent*, including eventual *The Glee Project* participant Dani Shay and drag personality All Beef Patty. The documentary series *Who Do You Think You Are?* also featured comedian Rosie O'Donnell investigating her heritage and *American Giving* included an appearance by Jesse Tyler Ferguson.
- The most substantial addition to NBC's dramatic lineup was the midseason debut *Smash*, which is set behind the scenes of a Broadway musical. The show introduced a gay composer named Tom, who had several romantic interests over the truncated first season, though the show included other minor gay characters as well. *Smash* should return for a second season early next year.



- NBC's inclusive dramas were largely anemic for the first half of the season since *Law & Order: SVU* no longer included a recurring gay character, though it did feature LGBT content in a few new episodes. *Harry's Law* featured a plotline about a lesbian teen who committed suicide after being bullied and *Prime Suspect* included gay characters on a couple of occasions. The most promising series was period drama *The Playboy Club*, which featured a lesbian waitress in a marriage of convenience to a gay man, both of whom were members of the pioneering Mattachine Society, but sadly the show only survived for a few episodes.

### Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Our main suggestion for NBC last season was to include LGBT characters in more substantial roles this season, which they began to do with *Smash*, *The Playboy Club*, and *Whitney*. The bar will be raised even higher next season though, when they premiere the new Ryan Murphy series *The Normal Heart*, which follows a gay couple trying to start a family with the help of a surrogate. They will also improve the gender ratio with a new lesbian supporting character on *Chicago Fire*, though that's an area in which pretty much all five broadcast networks still need to improve.



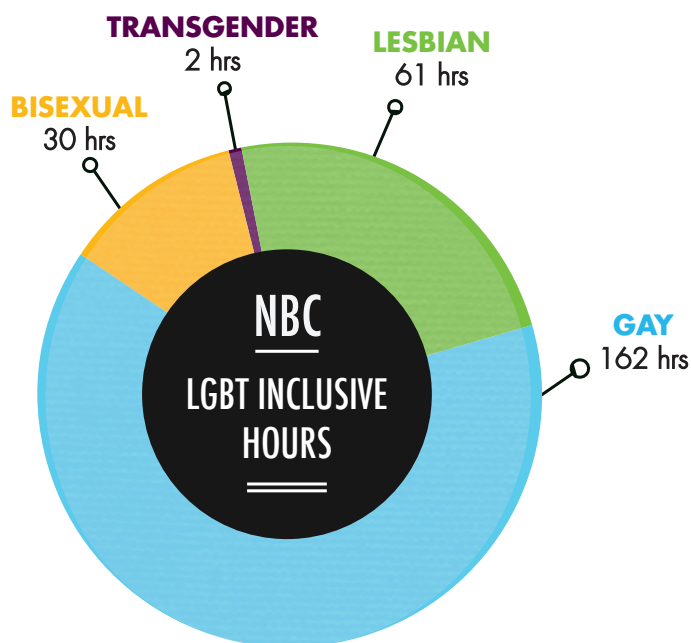
# adequate

1072 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
198.5 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (19%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 15% | 2009-10: 13% | 2008-09: 8%

2007-08: 6% | 2006-07: 7%





# ABC FAMILY

Although ABC Family was founded in 1977 as an extension of Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcast Network, the network has been transformed completely since its sale to Disney in 2001. ABC Family initially struggled to find its footing, but a strategic revamp in 2006 resulted in a network offering programming for teens and young adults that is broadly appealing and is now also largely LGBT-inclusive. Bringing the network into the limelight was the success of programs such as GLAAD Media Award nominees *Kyle XY* and *GREEK*, the latter of which was the network's first series to feature a regular gay character of color, named Calvin. Per the contract in Disney's acquisition of ABC Family, CBN requires that the network continue to air Robertson's *The 700 Club*, which often serves as a platform for Robertson's anti-gay remarks. However, the telecast includes the disclaimer: "The following/preceding CBN telecast does not reflect the views of ABC Family."

Last year, ABC Family received the second-ever awarded "Excellent" rating after 55% of its programming hours were found to include some kind of LGBT impression. This year it has dropped back to 34%, which was due in part to the cancellation of series like *GREEK* and *Huge*, and the fact that the programs ABC Family have premiered since have contained considerably fewer or less prominent LGBT characters. Nevertheless, it still remains one of the higher ranking networks tracked in this year's NRI, and serves as another example of the markedly higher rates of acceptance of the LGBT community among younger generations.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- *Pretty Little Liars*, one of ABC Family's most popular and recognizable series, contained the majority of LGBT impressions on the



network; lesbian impressions more specifically, as show lead Emily Fields is a multi-racial, lesbian teen who had romantic storylines with several other lesbian teen characters. In the past season, Emily and her friends continued to unravel the mystery of "A," and Emily was reunited with former girlfriend Maya, who unfortunately didn't survive the season finale.

- The other major inclusive series on ABC Family was soapy drama *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*, which featured an increased role for lesbian mom Nora last season, and several appearances from gay teen Griffin. In addition, the show has set the stage for major character Anne to begin a romance with a woman. Other ABC Family series that featured LGBT impressions this season included *Jane by Design*, *Switched at Birth*, and *Melissa & Joey*.



# good

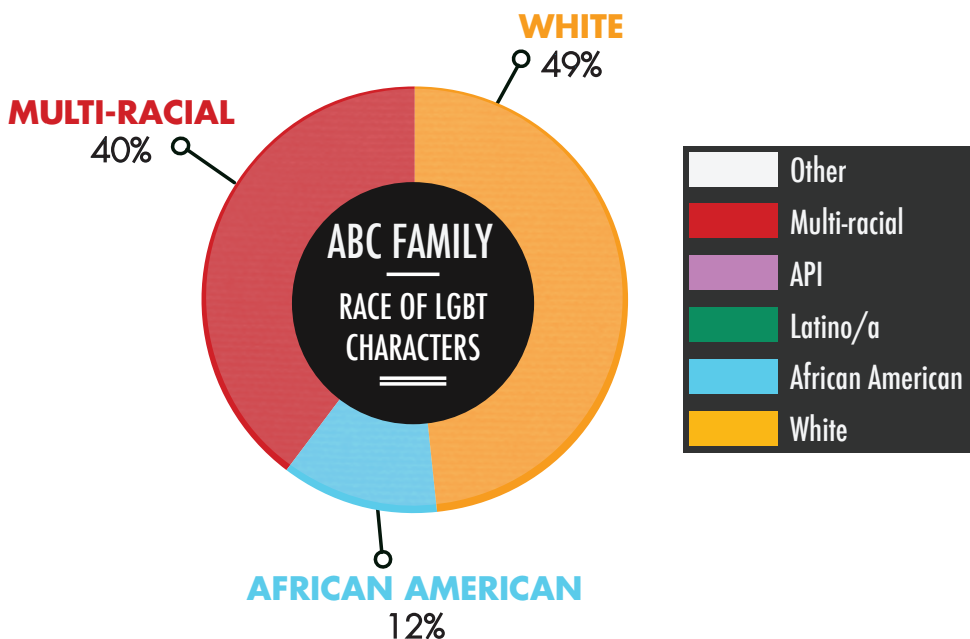
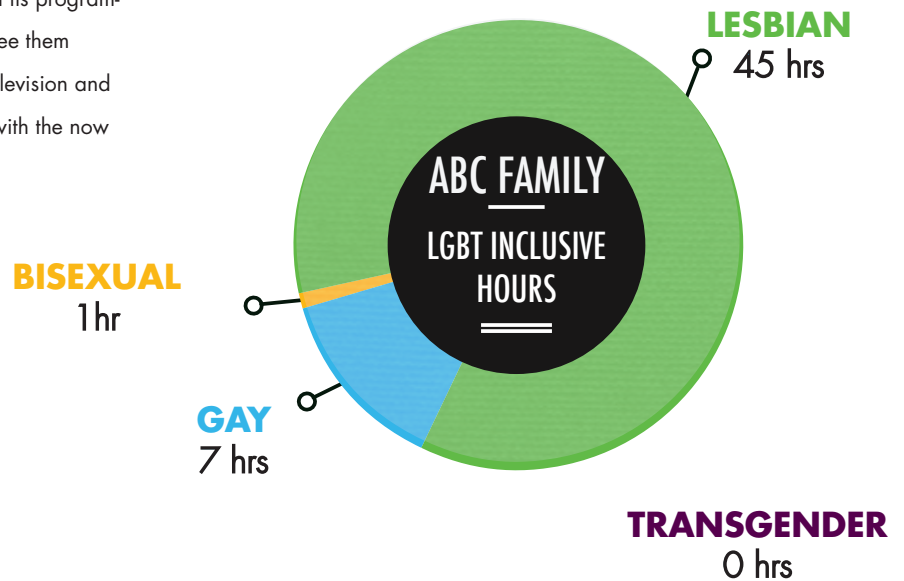
141 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
48.5 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (34%)

previous scores:

2010-11 Score: 55% | 2009-10 Score: 37%

## Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Despite the substantial drop in content since last year's report, ABC Family has still maintained a comparatively high level of diversity in its programming and should be commended. One thing we'd love to see them tackle is a transgender storyline, as there are very few on television and the network seemed to be moving in that direction already with the now defunct series *Huge*. ABC Family has demonstrated it has a solid handle on how to depict young people with sensitivity and respect, and would be the perfect network to introduce a trans teen character, not unlike the character of Adam on TeenNick's *Degrassi*.







### Launched in 1994 by News Corporation's Fox

Entertainment Group, FX was the first television network to feature programming distributed online. Despite a loyal following on the web, in 1997 executives scaled back and re-launched the network as "FX: Fox Gone Cable." It later dropped the "Fox Gone Cable" tag and joined forces with NASCAR to serve as their cable provider. In 2002, FX premiered *The Shield*, and in 2003 premiered its smash-hit plastic surgery drama *Nip/Tuck*, which aired for six seasons. Today it's best known for hits like *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *Sons of Anarchy*, and *Rescue Me*.

FX has premiered a number of inclusive series over the years, though the quality of those representations has often been inconsistent. Some shows like *The Riches* presented complex and sympathetic portrayals of LGBT people (in that case, a transgender child), while others such as *Nip/Tuck*, *Rescue Me*, and *Sons of Anarchy* have occasionally portrayed them as inherently mentally unstable, positioned them as objects of ridicule, or resorted to outdated and dangerous stereotypes. The situation has improved somewhat over the past few seasons, though a lack of ethnic diversity in these representations is still a significant issue for the network.

### The 2011-2012 Season

- Most of FX's inclusive hours this year were on Ryan Murphy's new series *American Horror Story*, which was a single season story about a family who takes up residence in an exceptionally haunted mansion. Among the ghosts were a troubled gay couple named Chad and Patrick who met unfortunate ends but made a number of appearances as both apparitions and in flashbacks. The show also featured several out figures from



- historical Hollywood, including gay actor Sal Mineo and bisexual murder victim known as the Black Dahlia. The show will return with a new cast of characters and setting next season.
- Animated comedy *Archer* is a satirical take on the spy genre that has included regular LGBT content thanks to spy agency personnel, Pam and Ray. Though both started off in relatively minor roles, Pam and Ray have become prominent members of the show's supporting cast. Despite regularly pushing boundaries, *Archer* prefers to subvert stereotypes rather than exploiting them for a cheap laugh.
- The critically acclaimed series *Justified* featured a murderous mafia boss and drug dealer named Robert Quarles who served as one of the season's main antagonists. Quarles was portrayed as a vicious, sadistic man who used men for personal satisfaction, and unfortunately harkened back to some of FX's other LGBT "villains" which were lacking in layers or nuance. It is unclear whether or not he survived being brutally maimed in the season finale.
- *Rescue Me* addressed the fact that Mike Siletti identifies as bisexual this season, after previously suggesting that he may have reverted to being "straight." It was a positive development for a show which has included defamatory depictions of LGBT people, though this was the show's final season.



- Other shows that featured inclusive episodes this season included *Sons of Anarchy*, which featured several appearances by main character Jax's now bisexual-identifying ex-wife Wendy. Louie also featured a gay couple in the season premiere, while *Unsupervised* featured a single episode coming out storyline for a teen girl named Audrey.

## Suggested Areas of Improvement

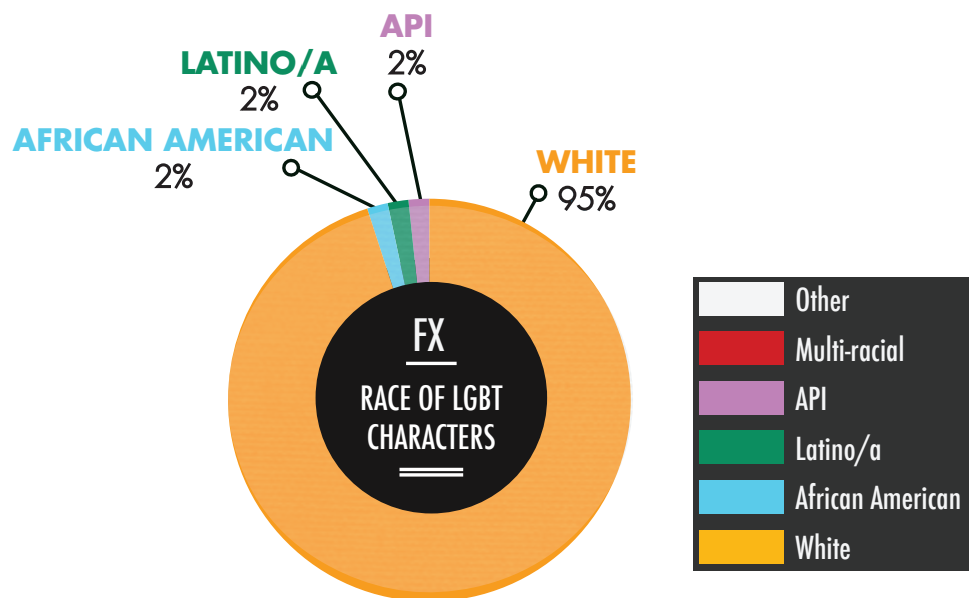
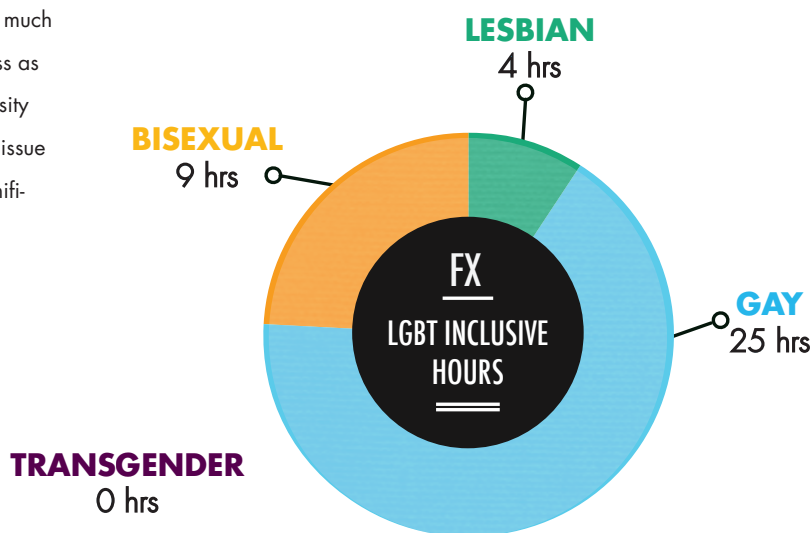
- Though the quality of LGBT characters on FX has improved of late, the network must still remain vigilant when creating them to ensure they are fair and complex as they continue to produce boundary-pushing programming. Characters like Quarles on *Justified* demonstrate the line is still very much present and that it's easy to step over when a character comes across as too one-note. FX also features one of the lowest rates of racial diversity among LGBT impressions (95% white) of any network tracked. This issue will also need to be addressed before they can be described as significantly improved.

# adequate

85.5 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
29 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (34%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 19% | 2009-10: 27% | 2008-09: 13% | 2007-08 Score: 45%





# HBO

In 1972, the Home Box Office (HBO) was created in New York to broadcast feature films and sports coverage to audiences across America. In 1983, HBO premiered its first original series, *Fraggle Rock*. That same year, HBO aired the first television movie ever made on a cable network, about Canadian amputee and athlete Terry Fox. Original films, specials, and scripted series followed with the network often featuring LGBT-inclusive content. The 1989 documentary *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* and the 1993 film *And the Band Played On* both highlighted LGBT experiences. Later, the LGBT-inclusive series *Sex and the City* earned a GLAAD Media Award, as did *Six Feet Under* and *True Blood*.

HBO has long had a solid reputation as a risk-taking network whose pay cable format has helped include diverse LGBT characters and storylines in its programming to a degree that at one point other networks couldn't (or wouldn't) match. It was an approach that greatly paid off, gaining them huge numbers of subscribers and critical acclaim, and helping them attract the best talent in the business. Though its percentage of inclusive hours has fluctuated somewhat over the years, it has remained over 25% since the first NRI was released. This year that number was on the higher side (33%), but HBO should also be recognized for the strong diversity among the LGBT representations it put forth.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- *True Blood* remained one of the most inclusive shows on all of television last season, but it has to be said it was a rough one for its LGBT characters. Fan favorite Lafayette enjoyed a season happily coupled with brujo boyfriend Jesus, but unfortunately the season ended with Jesus' death. Lesbian vampire queen Sophie Anne and Authority rep Nan Flanagan were also both killed off last season, and Tara sent away her girlfriend. At least Tara, Pam, and Lafayette have all returned for the new season alongside new gay vamp Steve Newlin, and vampire king



GAME OF THRONES

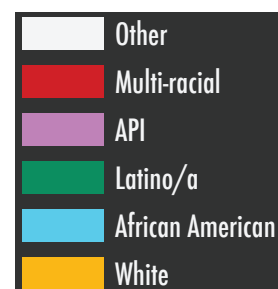
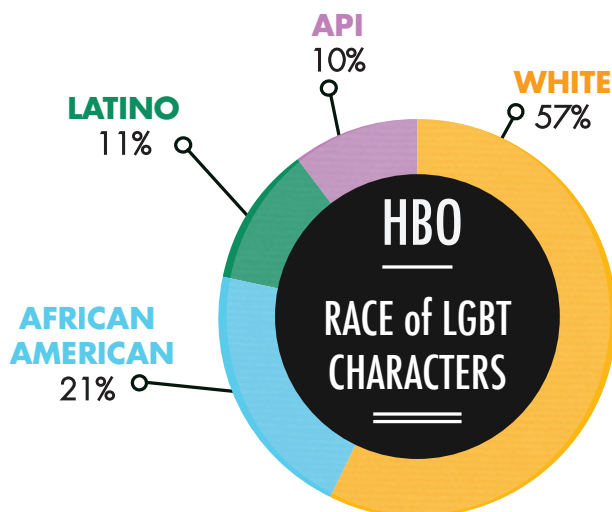
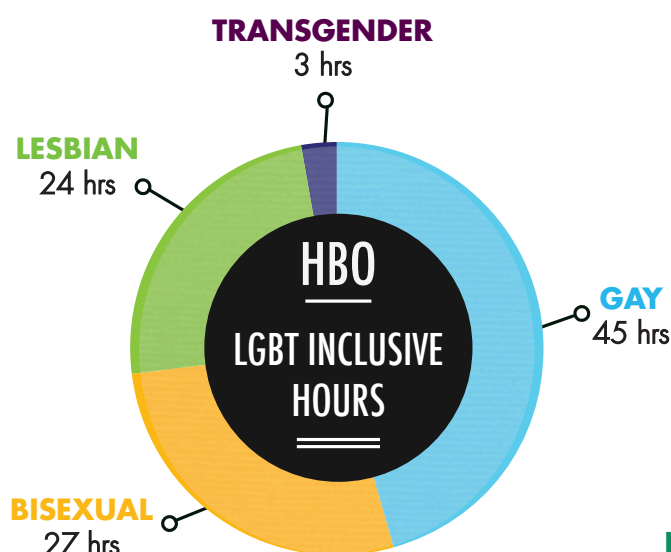
Russell Edgington has also made his return in the current season.

- Comedy series *Entourage* ended with the past season, but still included gay agent Lloyd, who was also one of the few LGBT Asian-Pacific Islander characters on television, so his presence will be missed. Luckily HBO also premiered new comedic series *Enlightened*, in which API actress Amy Hill has a recurring role as a lesbian HR director at the company where Laura Dern's character works.
- Other series that ended this year included *How to Make It in America*, which featured a young Latina lesbian in a minor plotline, and the comedic series *Hung*, which included Ray's bisexually-identifying son Damon. More importantly, the season also included transgender actress Jamie Clayton in two episodes as a secretary who elicits Ray's help in attending a dreaded high school reunion.
- New dramedy series *Girls* included Hanna's recurring gay ex-boyfriend Elijah, who will likely return for a second season along with a lesbian character of color. In one *Bored to Death* episode, it was revealed that recurring character Louis was gay, while Larry David competed with Rosie O'Donnell for the heart of a bisexual woman in an episode of *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Matthew McConaughey returned for two episodes



of *Eastbound and Down* as gay baseball scout Roy McDaniel, and the imported Australian show *Angry Boys* also included a storyline about a Japanese mother trying to market her straight son as a gay skateboarding champ to solicit endorsements.

- On the drama front, *Boardwalk Empire* brought back Jimmy's bisexual wife Angela, who fell in love with a woman named Louise near the end of the season, but unfortunately they were both murdered. It wasn't much better on *Game of Thrones*, where gay would-be king Renly was killed by a demonic shadow, though his lover Sir Loras did reappear at the end of the season and seems set to return.
- Weekly talk show *Real Time with Bill Maher* featured a number of LGBT guests again this year, including Rachel Maddow, Jane Lynch, Andrew Sullivan, Chaz Bono, Dan Savage, Suze Orman, Mo'Nique, and Rep. Barney Frank.



# good

208.5 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
68.5 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (33%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 31% | 2009-10: 26% | 2008-09: 42% | 2007-08: 26%

## Suggested Areas of Improvement

- HBO continues to feature one of the most racially and ethnically diverse mixes of LGBT characters across its programming, and included a transgender character this past year, though we wish she'd had a chance to return. In fact, at least three of the shows that included regular or potentially LGBT characters have since been cancelled, while an additional five regular or recurring LGBT characters were killed off. Inclusive content on HBO programming in the coming year could face a significant drop off, so hopefully the network will make a concerted effort to include new characters on its other series moving forward.



# HISTORY

## The History Channel was launched in

1995 as a venture by A&E Television Networks, which has found success in various formats on a worldwide scale. Its initial original programming was largely comprised of historical documentary series, with topics like World War II and conspiracy theories making the channel famous for predictable programming. That eventually changed when it began airing reality series about high-risk jobs like *Ice Road Truckers* and *Ax Men*, which were so successful for the network that they began to greatly outnumber the documentary programming, and the channel eventually switched to the simpler name of “History.” This year, they also tried their hand at scripted programming with the miniseries *Hatfields & McCoys*, which debuted to enormous ratings.

A&E received consistently failing grades in every previous NRI, and unfortunately its sibling network History is currently continuing that tradition. History produced more hours of original programming than nearly every other cable network tracked in this year’s NRI, but produced the fewest number of LGBT-inclusive hours.



## The 2011-2012 Season

- The only History program that consistently featured LGBT-inclusive content this year was the reality series *Full Metal Jousting*, in which a group of 16 men trained and competed together in the medieval sport of jousting. Among them was openly gay horse trainer Jake Nodar, who was singularly responsible for almost all of History’s inclusive hours this year.
- Additionally, the automotive series *Top Gear* featured appearances by *Dancing with the Stars* judge Bruno Tonioli, celebrity stylist Clark Russell, and Lady Gaga impersonator Bobbi Pinn over two different episodes.



## Suggested Areas of Improvement

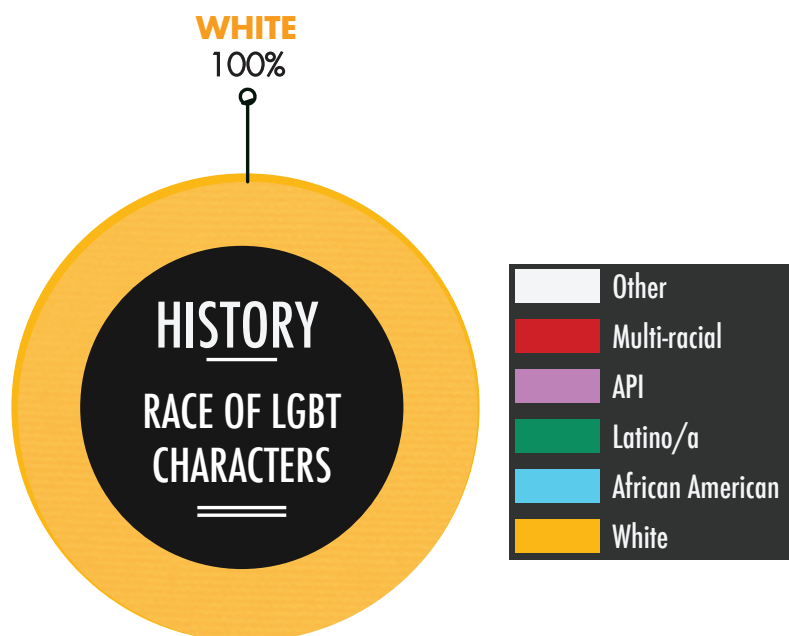
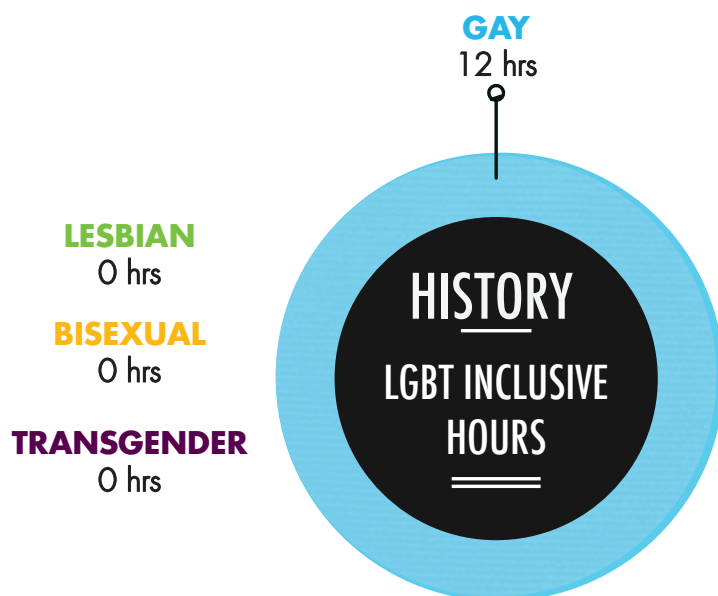
- History's programming certainly has some thematic commonalities running through it: blue collar jobs, southern states, and even some actual history. The fact that many viewers might not expect to see LGBT people in those contexts means History has the opportunity to bust some stereotypes and show that the LGBT community really is made up of people from all backgrounds and walks of life. Including Jake on *Full Metal Jousting* was a good start, but we'd like to see the channel go much further.

# failing

379 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
12 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (3%)

previous scores:

No Previous Scores





# MTV

## MTV Networks is a division of the Viacom label with

sister networks including MTV2, mtvU, and Logo. Though the network originally aired music videos, a majority of MTV's current programming consists of reality and alternative series. Its first reality smash hit, *The Real World*, offered a view into the lives of seven strangers living together. 1994's *The Real World: San Francisco* featured gay, HIV-positive Cuban American Pedro Zamora. Through his actions and relationship with Sean Sasser, he educated his housemates and Americans everywhere about the misconceptions of the LGBT community and gave a face to the AIDS crisis. The network regularly features LGBT participants in *The Real World*, *The Challenge*, *True Life*, *America's Best Dance Crew* and its other alternative series.

MTV has the distinction of being the first network to receive an "Excellent" grade in the Network Responsibility Index, after it was found that 42% of its programming included LGBT impressions during the 2009-2010 season, which included a diverse range of depictions. Since then, MTV's percentage and the diversity of its LGBT representations has declined, but the network is still reliably inclusive.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- Most of MTV's inclusive programming was found on its alternative programming this year, including a recent installment of *The Real World*, which has long been MTV's most consistently inclusive show. The 26th season was set in San Diego, and included two out housemates; Frank (bisexual) and Sam (lesbian). Over the course of the season, viewers watched them deal with a homophobic roommate and attend a pride rally among the usual hijinks.



THE REAL WORLD: SAN DIEGO

- *The Challenge* utilizes previous *Real World* and *Road Rules* participants in a series of physical challenges pitting them against one another, and ran in two different forms this year. Formerly involved couple Aneesa and Rachel took part in *The Challenge: Battle of the Exes*, but were eliminated in the sixth episode. Out lesbian Aneesa fared even worse in *The Challenge: Rivals*, where she was eliminated in the first episode while gay castmate Davis went home in the second. Openly gay player Tyler, however, eventually went on to win the competition on the males' side with his straight teammate.
- As it has in the past, *America's Best Dance Crew* included a team with openly gay members. Fanny Pak featured several out dancers, with the team making it all the way to the second to last episode of the season.
- New scripted show *Teen Wolf* included a gay recurring character in its first season; out lacrosse jock Danny. Zombie apocalypse comedy series *Death Valley* included a lesbian police officer named Carla, and a gay student named Clark was outed by a classmate in the final episodes of high-school comedy *Awkward*.



# adequate

261.5 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
59.5 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (23%)

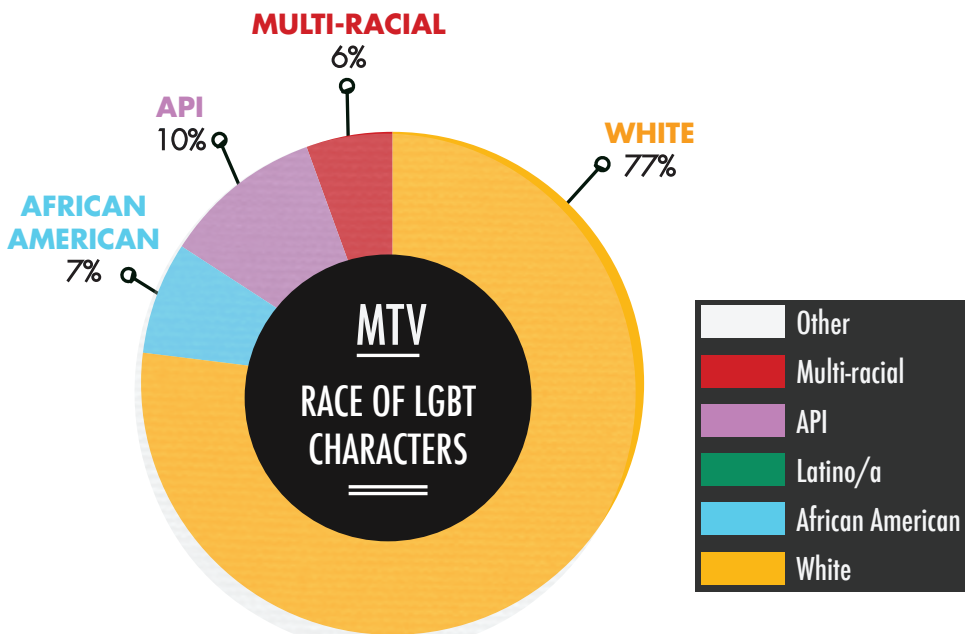
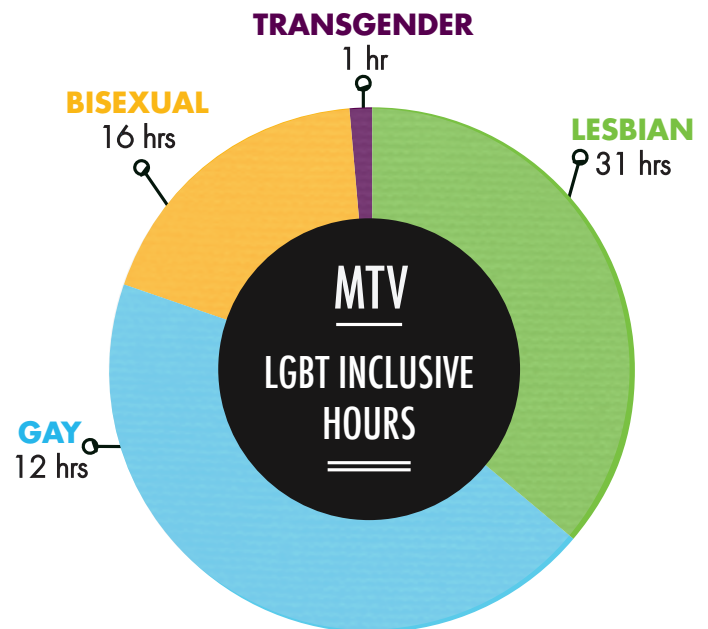
previous scores:

2009-10: 42% | 2008-09: 17% | 2007-08: 16%

- Many of MTV's most dynamic representations of LGBT people have been on the ongoing documentary series *True Life*, though this year there weren't many high points. One entire episode of the series actually focused on young people who identified (or wanted to eventually identify) as "ex-gays" by trying to date members of the opposite sex or engaging in "reparative therapy" (a practice condemned by every leading medical authority).
- The best single hour of LGBT-inclusive television MTV produced this year was undoubtedly Dan Savage's *It Gets Better* special, which followed three young people and examined how being LGBT influenced their lives and intercut the stories with celeb and web user testimonials. The special was also recently nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award.

## Suggested Areas of Improvement

- For years, *The Real World* has been one of the most reliable places for viewers to get to know LGBT people, and thankfully that continues to be true even today. But many of its new reality and alternative series formats don't include LGBT impressions of any sort, so we hope to see more done with the LGBT characters on their scripted series and some new ones added on as regulars. Perhaps it's even time for an MTV show with an LGBT lead.





# SHOWTIME

**Media giant Viacom expanded its service** in 1976 when it debuted the premium subscription network Showtime. Showtime has played an important role in increasing LGBT visibility by showcasing original films such as *Losing Chase* (1996), Armistead Maupin's *More Tales of the City* (1998), and *Soldier's Girl* (2003). Showtime has also committed itself to LGBT-inclusive programming through groundbreaking original series like *Queer as Folk* (2000) and *The L Word* (2004), both of which never shied away from physical intimacy, while also addressing multiple facets of the community, like parenting, marriage, and HIV/AIDS.

Of all the cable networks, Showtime has been one of the most consistent in terms of maintaining a decent to good level of inclusive programming. Over the past few years it has made a steady climb upwards thanks to shows like *Shameless*, *Nurse Jackie*, and *The Real L Word*. In fact this year it has managed to achieve its best score yet at 46%, which is the second highest score for a network ever recorded for the NRI.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- In terms of overall number of individual LGBT impressions, no program on Showtime (or possibly television) can come close to touching reality series *The Real L Word*, which follows a large group of lesbians (and some bisexual women) living in Los Angeles. This past season saw a number of new faces in the cast, including newly out Sajdha who was starting to date women, and young couple Kacy and Cori who were trying to have a baby. Executive Producer Ilene Chaiken was also the creator of the



successful lesbian-focused scripted series *The L Word*, a landmark series for lesbian visibility.

- The show with the most LGBT-inclusive hours on Showtime was the scripted drama *Shameless*, based on the long-running UK series of the same name. *Shameless* follows a lower class Chicago family of children struggling to get by with an addict father and an absent mother. One of the main characters is the semi-closeted gay teen Ian, who had been carrying on affairs with his married boss and a local criminal, only to see them skip town and end up in jail respectively this season. The kids' bisexual mother Monica also returned to their lives for a while, only to end up back in a mental hospital after a failed suicide attempt. A number of other gay, lesbian, and bisexual characters made sporadic appearances over the course of the season, and *Shameless* remained one of the most consistently inclusive shows on TV.



# good

118.5 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
55 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (46%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 37% | 2009-10: 32% | 2008-09: 26% | 2007-08 Score: 32%

- *Nurse Jackie* returned for another season, with bisexual Dr. O'Hara still occupying a substantial supporting role on the show, but without a romantic storyline this year. Instead, she tried to help Jackie through the recovery process while preparing for the birth of the child she was carrying via sperm donor. Nurse Thor also continued to be a regular presence on the show, which also featured a transgender woman dealing with insurance woes and a lesbian couple seeking medical help.
- *The Big C* had sporadic LGBT content in its first season, but that definitely improved in the second when Cathy befriended a gay cancer patient named Lee, who appeared in the majority of the season's episodes and introduced the Jamisons to the world of "bears" when he took the couple to a gay bar. Unfortunately Lee passed away at the end of the season.
- Period drama *The Borgias* features the Pope's lover Giulia, who has enjoyed the company of both men and women, including a girl named Vittoria who was presenting as male to secure employment. It was also revealed near the end of the second season that Micheletto – the Borgias' family bodyguard and assassin – is gay, when he reunited with a lover from his youth during a visit to his old home.
- Nancy started the seventh season of *Weeds* in prison, where it was revealed that she'd become intimately involved with her cellmate Zoya. Though it appeared to be a situation relationship borne out of convenience on Nancy's part, Zoya was significantly more invested and came back for several episodes near the end of the season. The final three episodes of *United States of Tara* also fell into this year's survey period, and included the last appearances of Tara's gay son Marshall, his ex-boyfriend Lionel (who died in a car accident), and the family's gay neighbor, Ted.
- New series *House of Lies* featured several LGBT characters, including a bisexual stripper named April who served as a fake girlfriend for consultant Marty. She seduced a client's wife in the premiere episode and made several significant appearances later. More interestingly, it was strongly implied that Marty's young son Roscoe may turn out to be gay or bisexual, after he was seen kissing another boy at school and asking his father about being attracted to both genders. Sadly, the series also included an episode in which a character was repeatedly teased and harassed for having gone out with an (unseen) "tranny."
- Unfortunately, that wasn't the only Showtime show to feature transphobic content this year, as the series *Californication* featured a transgender sex worker in an episode in which the main characters ride with a police officer. When one of the characters discovers she's transgender (while fooling around with her), he reacts with revulsion, and is later teased about it by friends. The series also included a pair of lesbian moms in one episode, and revealed that Hank's old professor friend Bates is likely bisexual.
- Showtime once again aired several LGBT-inclusive specials this year, including some specifically programmed to celebrate Pride month in June. This included another installment of the *Pride Comedy Jam*, which spotlights LGBT comedians, and a screening of Margaret Cho's concert film, *Cho Dependent*.



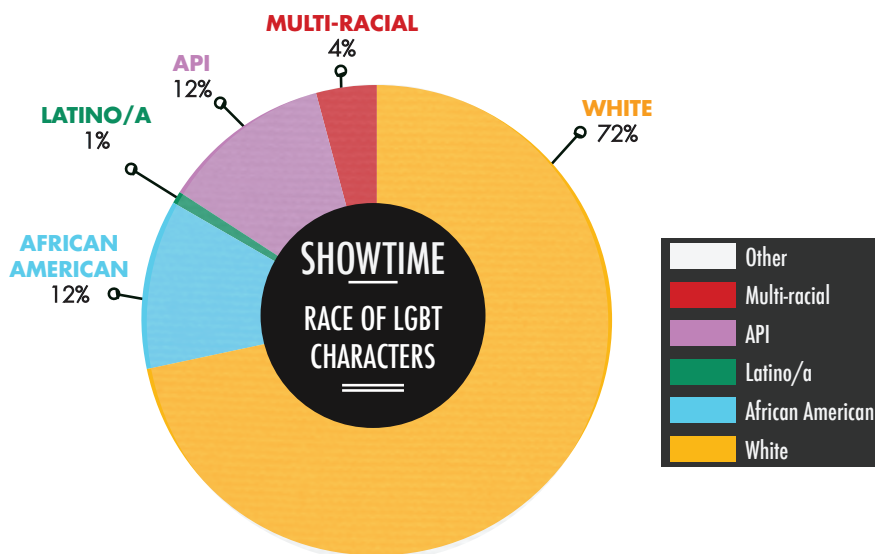
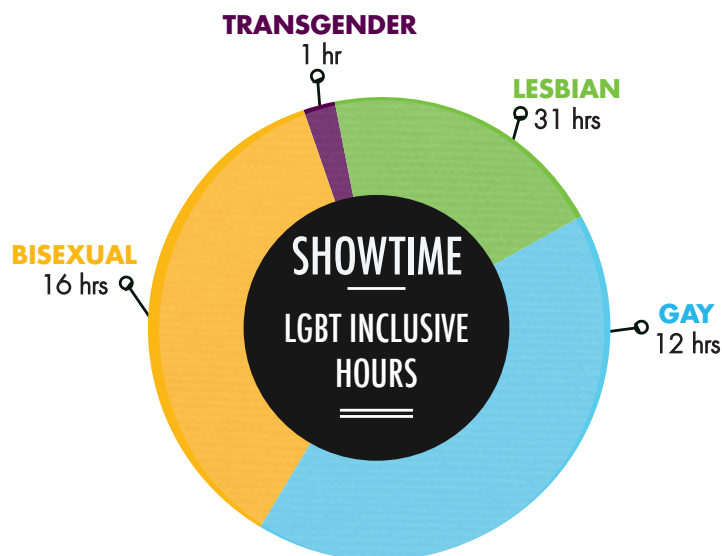
# SHOWTIME cont.

good

118.5 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
55 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (46%)

## Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Last year, we hoped that Showtime would make racial diversity a higher priority in its LGBT character depictions, and they definitely improved in that regard. While last year, only 15% of the LGBT characters were people of color, that number improved to 28% this year.
- The one area where Showtime did very poorly this year was its transgender content. While the guest character on *Nurse Jackie* was a very respectful portrayal, the episodes of *Californication* and *House of Lies* where multiple characters acted disgusted by transgender people and repeatedly referred to them as “trannies” left a significant blemish on an otherwise solid year of Showtime programming, and kept them from receiving an “Excellent” score in this report. Transgender visibility remains an issue on nearly all TV networks, and Showtime must make a concerted effort to improve the quality of their transgender impressions.





# TBS

## failing

37 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
2 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (5%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 5% | 2009-10: 2% | 2008-09: 1%  
2007-08: 7%

The Turner-owned TBS focuses on more lighthearted comic fare, re-airing popular sitcoms such as *Seinfeld*, *Family Guy*, and *The Office*, unlike the drama-focused TNT. In addition to its acquired sitcoms, TBS now also features a number of original comedies including Tyler Perry's *House of Payne*, *Are We There Yet?*, and *Meet the Browns*.

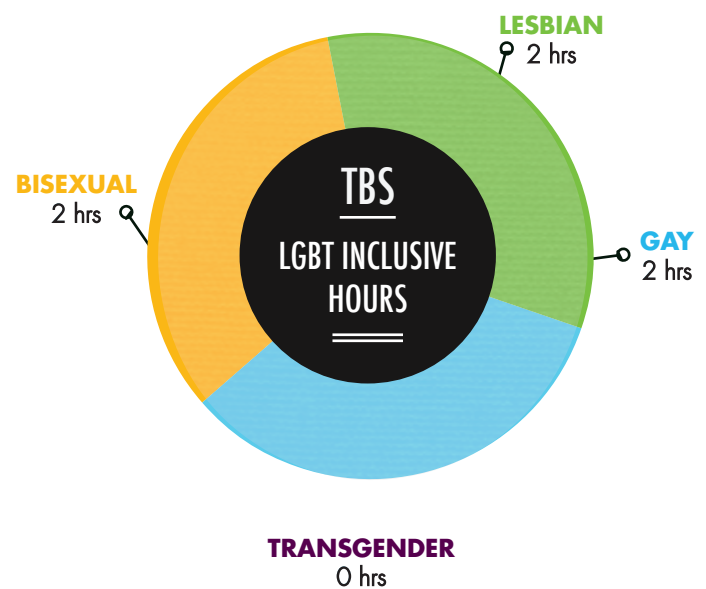
TBS remains one of the highest rated networks on cable, though the hours of original content it produced this past year were nearly half of what was counted in the last NRI. That certainly hasn't boded well for LGBT inclusivity which was already extremely anemic on the network to begin with. This year, none of TBS' original series included LGBT content, leaving only an airing of The Screen Actors Guild Awards to provide any original LGBT impressions.

### The 2011-2012 Season

- As stated above, the only new LGBT impressions on TBS in the past year were on The Screen Actors' Guild Awards, which included appearances by out actors like Jane Lynch, Chris Colfer, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, and Amber Heard. It should be noted however that the awards were actually broadcast on TNT as well, and were not fully exclusive to TBS.

### Suggested Areas of Improvement

- Several of TBS' series ended in the past year, which is largely to blame for its drop in original content. In part because there aren't many original shows left, it wouldn't take much on the network's part to greatly improve their "Failing" score. Including LGBT characters and content in any of their sitcoms designed to appeal to an African American audience could have a profoundly positive effect. Such was the case when the TBS series *Are We There Yet?* did it last year for an episode that was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award, and we'd like to see it happen again. LGBT people are very much a part of these communities and neighborhoods, which these shows should reflect.





# TLC

## TLC was originally founded in 1972 by the US

Government and NASA as a means of providing education programming at no cost, but was later privatized in 1980 when it became known as The Learning Channel. For years it focused on topics pertaining to science, history and current events, and was eventually bought by Discovery Communications, which it remains a part of today. The network's programming focus shifted to more human interest programming that emphasized personal stories and mass appeal topics. Among its more well-known programs of late have been *Trading Spaces*, *American Chopper*, *Jon & Kate Plus 8*, *19 Kids and Counting*, *Little People Big World*, *Toddlers & Tiaras*, and *Say Yes to the Dress*.

Much of TLC's programming is designed to appeal to a more conservative or Middle American audience, highlighting large Christian families, traditional ceremonies (like weddings), traditional gender roles, and unconventional human behavior. It might be considered somewhat surprising then that TLC also featured a number of LGBT impressions in the past year, revealing their programming to be more diverse and a truer representation of Middle America than it might appear at first glance.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- Without a doubt, the bulk of TLC's LGBT impressions were on their shows in which openly gay men helped women choose clothes and dresses, usually for weddings. *Say Yes to the Dress* included stylist Randy Fenoli (who even got his own special, *Randy Knows Best*), but gay stylists also appeared on spinoffs like *SYTTD Big Bliss*, *Atlanta*, and *Bridesmaids*. The similarly themed *Brides of Beverly Hills* included out stylist Kevin Lee, while Clinton Kelly remained on the long-running *What Not to Wear*.



- Thankfully, those same shows occasionally featured LGBT people in other roles, like when a lesbian couple shopped for wedding dresses on an episode of *Say Yes to the Dress*, while the *Bridesmaids* edition featured another lesbian couple and a drag queen bridesmaid in separate episodes. An episode of the reality competition show *Four Weddings* also featured a lesbian couple.
- The reality series *NY Ink* featured gay floor manager Robear as a regular cast member, who this year was seen trying to finagle his team into working and embarking on blind dates. Clients at the tattoo parlor also included a transgender woman.
- The *Cake Boss* spin-off competition series *Next Great Baker* included gay contestant (and former drag queen) Chad, who made it all the way to the final episode of the season. Meanwhile, the original *Cake Boss* featured a lesbian couple in one episode. Unfortunately, the show also featured defamatory treatment of transgender performer Carmen Carrera in an episode that aired after this report's research period. TLC pulled the episode following outreach from GLAAD, but it will remain a factor if the network is tracked again in next year's NRI.



- *Undercover Princes* was a show in which real-life royalty from around the globe tried living as everyday citizens, and included Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil of India who famously came out as gay in his home country and appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. In the series Prince “Manny” worked as a housekeeper and went on dates with men.
- LGBT people also popped up unexpectedly in several other TLC shows, including *Extreme Couponing*, which featured an out college student named Tyler with a passion for coupon clipping. Former *Drag Race* contestant Shangela made a guest appearance on an episode of *Toddlers & Tiaras*. *My Crazy Obsession* included a gay couple who were obsessed with appliances, while another gay couple appeared on the special *My Collection Obsession*. And transgender women appeared as subjects (alongside others) on episodes of *My Strange Addiction* and *Livin’ For the Apocalypse*.

## Suggested Areas of Improvement

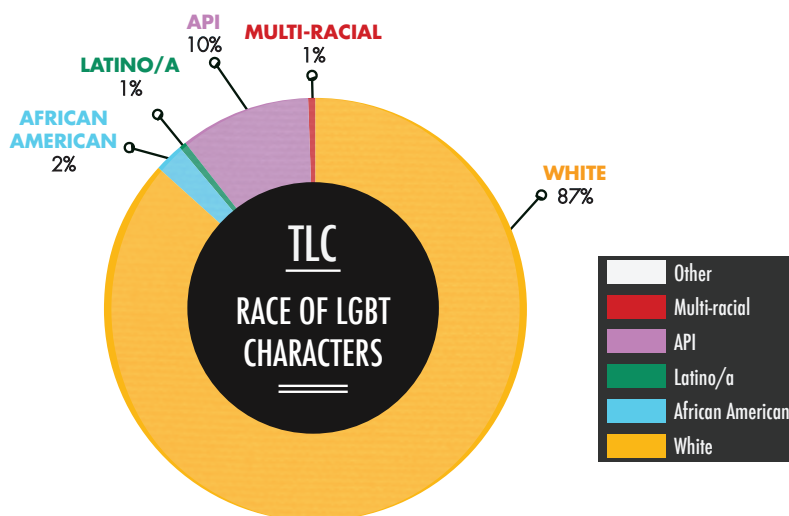
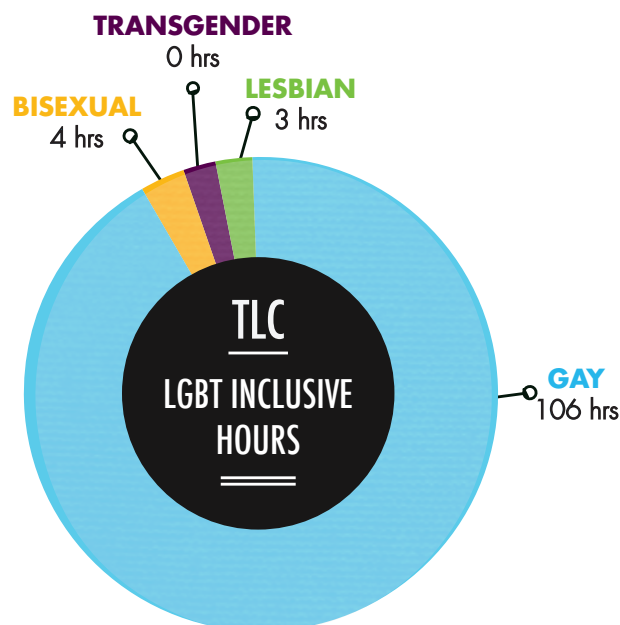
- Though some of the representations of LGBT people seen on TLC aren’t very accurate representations of average LGBT citizens, they are very much in keeping with the types of personalities the network likes to highlight, and they deserve credit for casting a diverse range of people and identities among their many quirky subjects. They also included a number of LGBT couples (predominantly “L”) on their shows about weddings. One area we’d love to see them include more diversity in is their depictions of families, which they have had much success with on a variety of programs. Seeing an LGBT family raising their children on the same network as the Duggar family and their TLC peers would be a great opportunity for viewers to see how our families share the same ups and downs.

# adequate

545.5 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
110 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (20%)

previous scores:

NO PREVIOUS SCORES





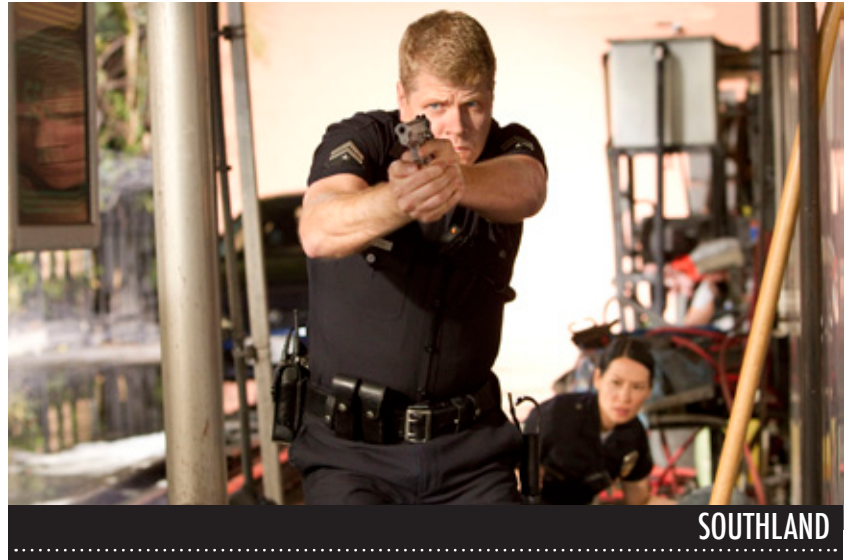
# TNT

Launched in 1988 by media mogul Ted Turner, Turner Network Television (TNT) was originally the destination for live sporting events like NASCAR races and NBA and NFL games. When launched as a cable service, the network also aired movies and reruns of television shows. In 2001, TNT re-branded itself with the tagline “We Know Drama” to emphasize its acquisition of syndicated series like *Law & Order* and *Cold Case*. It ran eight original drama series in the past year.

Coming a long way since the 2007-2008 season when only 1% of its 91.5 total hours was LGBT-inclusive, TNT has shown some dedicated and consistent improvement in incorporating LGBT characters and storylines into its original programming. This year, it remained at over 30% for the third year in a row.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- The police drama series *Southland*, which TNT rescued after it originally premiered on NBC, remained one of the most inclusive programs on the network as it continued to prominently feature gay LAPD officer John Cooper. This season, Cooper struggled through the process of addiction recovery while getting to know his new partner. One notable episode in particular had him trying to save the life of a suicidal gay teen. *Southland* also has the distinction of being one of the only crime procedurals on TV that features an openly LGBT lead character.
- The final season of *HawthoRNe* continued to feature lesbian nurse Kelly in a prominent role, though the show unfortunately didn't provide her with much of a personal life. Neither did *The Closer* give much backstory to gay deputy medical examiner Dr. Morales, though his recurring status among the large cast means he's usually lucky to score screentime. He did make an impressive number of appearances in the past season



however, which resulted in *The Closer* contributing as many LGBT inclusive hours as both *Southland* and *HawthoRNe*.

- Additionally, comedic-drama series *Men of a Certain Age* featured a few appearances by recurring lesbian character Maria Rios on the now cancelled series. The drama *Leverage* featured lesbian Detective Grayson in two episodes, while *Franklin and Bash* included a single episode storyline about a straight married couple cheating on each other with the same woman. Like TBS, TNT also aired the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

## Suggested Areas of Improvement

- *HawthoRNe* and *Men of a Certain Age* have been cancelled, while *The Closer* is set to wrap up its final season this year, though it's possible Dr. Morales could return on the show's anticipated spin-off series. Regardless, that leaves *Southland* as the only TNT series with a definite regular (or even recurring) LGBT character, so the network's next NRI



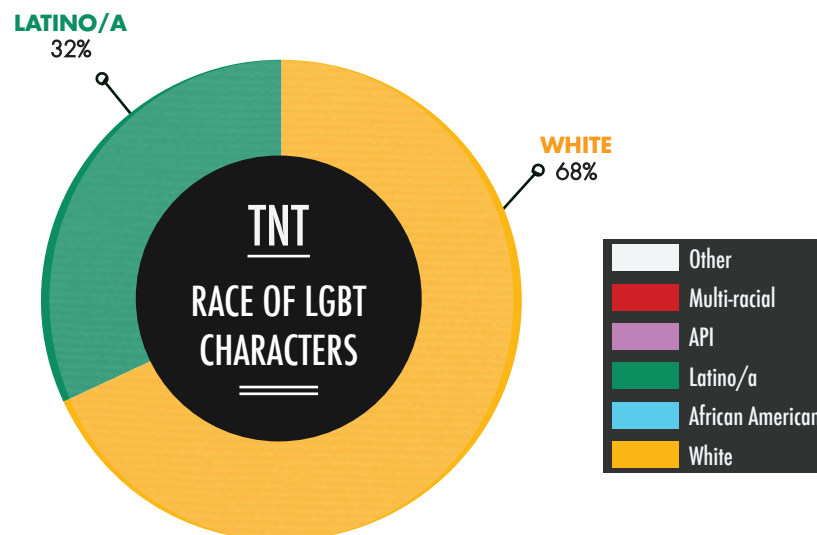
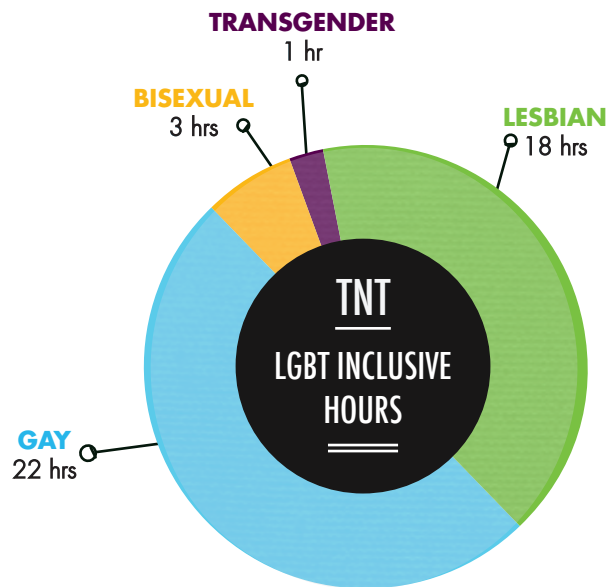
# good

116 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
39 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (34%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 33% | 2009-10 : 34% | 2008-09: 19% | 2007-08 Score: 1%

score is likely to fall unless new content or characters are introduced. And given how many crime dramas TNT has on the air, we definitely hope that will be the case, as the genre could use more LGBT representation.





# USA

USA Network started in 1977, when a New York City-based outlet was launched as the Madison Square Garden Network. Three years later, the channel was renamed USA Network to reflect its national reach. Among basic cable networks, USA boasts an enormous potential audience, since it is available in roughly 94 million homes as of 2008. USA plays host to a plethora of original programs, including hits *Burn Notice*, *In Plain Sight*, *White Collar* and *Psych*. The network also airs a number of syndicated hits like *House*, *Law & Order: SVU* and *NCIS*. With the slogan “Characters Welcome,” USA is committed to a slate that focuses on strong personalities, but it has also shown an admirable commitment to partnering with progressive social causes recently with its “Characters Unite” campaign.

For several years, the only regular gay character on USA was on the short-lived miniseries-turned-series, *The Starter Wife*, which starred Debra Messing as a divorced woman and featured her gay interior decorator friend, Rodney. It wasn’t until they made lesbian Agent Diana Barrigan a regular two years ago on *White Collar* that they made significant progress again.

## The 2011-2012 Season

- As was the case last year, most of the LGBT-inclusive hours on USA came from *White Collar*, which features lesbian FBI agent Diana Barrigan. This season she spent most of her time wrapped up in cases in predominantly minor roles, though she did get at least one standout episode that featured her going undercover as a journalist’s assistant and spending time with her girlfriend Christie. Diana also still has the distinction of being one of the only black, lesbian characters on television.
- Though the rest of USA’s programs don’t feature regular or recurring LGBT characters, it’s worth noting that more than half of the network’s



WHITE COLLAR

original series included individual episodes with LGBT content this year. Given the prominence the network has placed on its “Characters Unite” campaign which seeks to counteract prejudice through storytelling, it’s safe to assume this was a conscious decision on USA’s part to make their programming more inclusive.

- Witness protection drama *In Plain Sight* aired two inclusive episodes this year; one that featured a father reconciling with his gay son and another about a former drag queen desperate to perform again. *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* revealed an affair between a male murder victim and a bisexual rocker, and *Necessary Roughness* depicted a character attending a high school reunion where she learned the friend she had a crush on in high school was now a transgender woman played by transgender actress Candis Cayne. And medical drama *Royal Pains* revealed that recurring character Libby has lesbian moms who run an alpaca farm in an episode that saw them dealing with a suspected infidelity and a medical emergency.



## Suggested Areas of Improvement

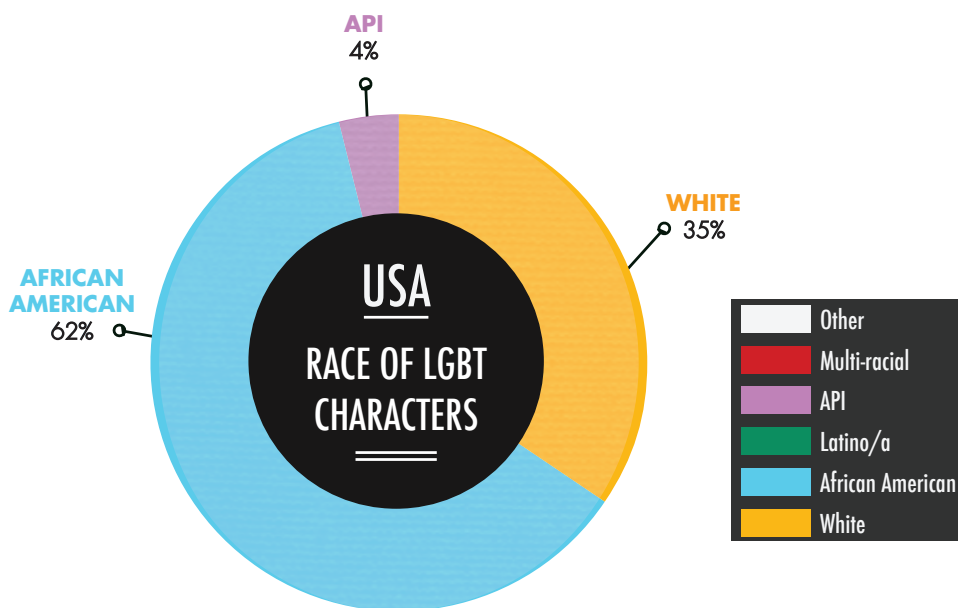
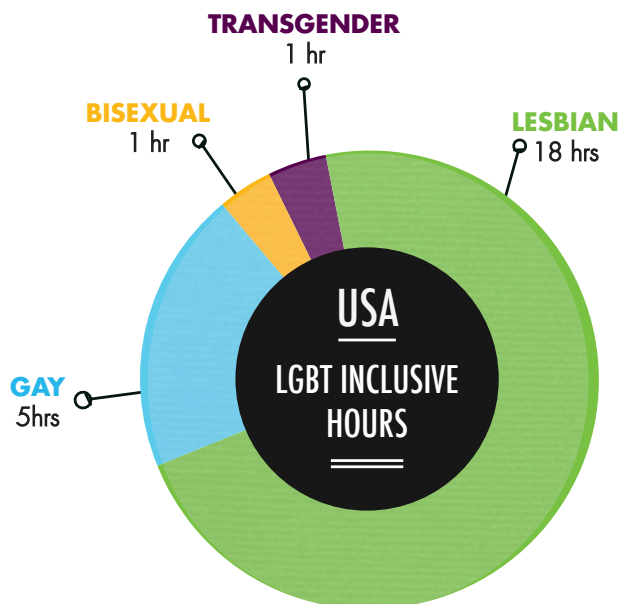
- Upgrading the character of Diana Barrigan to “regular” status on *White Collar* was the best move the network made in the past few years when it comes to LGBT content, but it would be great if she wasn’t the only regular or recurring LGBT character on the network. Hopefully others will be forthcoming in future series and seasons, but USA is moving in the right direction with its “Characters Unite” campaign and numerous LGBT guest characters.

# adequate

132 Total Hours of Primetime Programming  
23 LGBT-Inclusive Hours (17%)

previous scores:

2010-11: 18% | 2009-10: 4% | 2008-09: 12% | 2007-08: 4%





# MORE CABLE NETWORKS

**A&E** Created in 1981, A&E was originally a primetime and late-night programming block on Nickelodeon called ARTS until it merged with The Entertainment Network in 1984, part of a joint venture between NBC Universal, Disney-ABC Television Group, and Hearst Corp. It consistently produces one of the largest slates of original primetime series of any cable network, which mainly consists of reality programming. A&E was included in the NRI for the past few years, where it received consistently failing grades. With bisexual host Ryan Buell leaving the show *Paranormal State*, there was even less inclusive programming on A&E this past year than there had been before.

**AMC** AMC (American Movie Classics) has remained a haven for cinephiles over the years despite some format evolutions. It originally aired classic films and television ad-free, most of which came from the pre-color days of the 1940s and 50s. Since then, the network has started featuring more contemporary fare and greatly upped its slate of scripted original series, which now include the award-winning *Mad Men* and the ratings smash *The Walking Dead*, which could possibly include a gay couple next season if it hews closely to its comic book source material. Recently, the network delved into the reality genre by premiering *Small Town Security* which features a transgender man.

**BBC AMERICA** Part of BBC Worldwide's media network, BBC America brings some of the UK broadcaster's best programming to the states. The BBC has a history of crafting inclusive programming, including *Tipping the Velvet* and *Torchwood*. In the past year, their American arm has featured new episodes of the hit UK series *Doctor Who*, which included several gay and lesbian characters in its most recent season, in addition to inclusive programs such as *The Hour*, *White Heat* and *Come Fly With Me*. They also ran new episodes of *The Graham Norton Show*, a ribald late night talk show hosted by openly gay comedian Graham Norton.

**BRAVO** A division of NBC Universal, Bravo has a well-known history of producing highly inclusive reality programming, including *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and *Project Runway*. In fact, for the sheer volume of original programming they produce each year, they probably feature more reality series with gay and lesbian leads than any other. Among the shows that ran in the past year are *Flipping Out*, *Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles*, *Tabatha Takes Over*, *Shahs of Sunset*, *Interior Therapy*, *It's a Brad Brad World*, *Mad Fashion*, *Most Eligible Dallas*, *The Real Housewives of New Jersey* and *Watch What Happens Live*. Most of their competition shows also feature LGBT contestants and hosts, including recent seasons of *Work of Art*, *Around the World in 80 Plates*, and *Top Chef*.

**CARTOON NETWORK/ ADULT SWIM** Cartoon Network offers an outlet for Turner Broadcast System's large library of animated programs. The network offers kid-friendly programming during daytime hours; but in 2001 Turner launched Adult Swim, a primetime and late night programming slate of animated shows catering to an adult demographic. While Cartoon Network and Adult Swim share channel space, most of the network's LGBT content is found on the programs aired as part of Adult Swim. Some of the most prominent inclusive programs are *The Venture Bros.*, *Children's Hospital*, and *Superjail*.

**COMEDY CENTRAL** A division of MTV Networks, Comedy Central is probably best known as the home of *South Park*, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, and *The Colbert Report*. All of those shows regularly include LGBT content, with the latter two routinely attacking mistreatment of LGBT people by politicians and the media using their trademark wit.

**DIRECTTV** Launched in 1999 by the broadcast satellite provider, the network airs reruns of scripted series, films and a handful of original programs. Among the series currently airing is the inclusive drama *The Wire*. The network also recently featured the U.S. premiere of the British drama *Hit & Miss*, the first scripted show with a transgender lead character.



# NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

## DISCOVERY/ DISCOVERY FIT & HEALTH

While the Discovery Channel's LGBT content was limited this year, the recently launched Discovery Fit & Health network was more inclusive. During the past year, the channel featured a lesbian couple on its *Secretly Pregnant* program and reruns of the GLAAD Media Award-nominated documentary series *Sex Change Hospital*.

**FOOD NETWORK** Owned by Scripps Networks, the Food Network is the premium destination for foodies on television. The network airs a combination of instructional cooking shows and food related entertainment programs. The network has featured a variety of out cooks and hosts including Ted Allen and more recently Anne Burrell, who came out earlier this year. One of the network's most popular programs, *The Next Food Network Star*, has also featured out contestants, including Michele Ragussis this past season.

**HGTV** Issues of home buying, home renovation, and home design dominate the programming lineup of HGTV, which also features several programs with openly gay hosts and judges, including *Color Splash*, *Curb Appeal: The Block*, and *HGTV Design Star*, which typically includes several LGBT contestants per season as well. Though the personal lives of hosts, judges, or

contestants are rarely touched upon, the network sometimes features same-sex couples looking for home-related assistance.

**LIFETIME** Lifetime Television is owned by A&E Networks and has remained, since its establishment in 1982, a channel dedicated to programming for a female audience. In the past year, their most inclusive program was easily *Project Runway*. The network also aired an episode of the scripted series *Drop Dead Diva* that included a teenage lesbian couple which won a GLAAD Media Award in the Outstanding Individual Episode category. More recently the network added a lesbian couple to the cast of its popular drama *Army Wives*, where it addressed the stigma of the now thankfully defunct "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law.

**LOGO** For quite some time, Logo was the only basic cable network dedicated to programming for an LGBT audience, and is part of Viacom's MTV network. Recently the network has shifted focus to programming for a broader audience, though it still includes a number of inclusive series, including *Rupaul's Drag Race* and its spin-off series *Drag U*.

**OXYGEN** Oxygen launched in 2000 as a privately owned network airing reruns and original reality programs. In 2007, NBC Universal purchased the network and continued to expand its popular slate of reality series. Tori Spelling stars in several of Oxygen's programs and often includes her gay friends. Last year the network premiered the *Glee* reality casting program, *The Glee Project*, which was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award and featured several out contestants, including a transgender man. Oxygen also currently airs *The Next Big Thing* about out performance coach Trapper Felides, as well as *All the Right Moves*, a reality show starring out choreographer Travis Wall and his dance company peers.

**STARZ** The Starz network is a premium channel created in 1994 as a sister network to Encore. Unlike other premium channels like Showtime and HBO, Starz didn't begin a serious expansion of its original scripted programming until 2005. Earlier this year, it ran the original gladiator drama *Spartacus: Vengeance*, which featured a warrior named Agron and his lover Nasir. The network also recently aired a new season of *Torchwood* – coproduced with the BBC – which features Captain Jack Harkness, TV's only male, bisexual lead character and action hero. Starz also aired the inclusive drama *Magic City*.



# MORE CABLE NETWORKS

**SUNDANCE** The Sundance Channel was created in 1996 as an extension of the Robert Redford founded Sundance Institute, and as a means to broadcast the sort of independent films celebrated every year at the world renowned Sundance Film Festival. Just as the independent film scene has been extremely welcoming to LGBT artists and stories, the network has produced a great deal of LGBT-inclusive original programming, such as the groundbreaking series *TransGeneration*. More recently they have produced shows such as *Push Girls* and the GLAAD Media Awards nominated *Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys*, which follows several friendships between straight women and gay men.

**SPIKE** Owned by MTV Networks, Spike was founded in 2003 as Spike TV, a network whose programming was solely aimed at adult male viewers. Marketed as “the first network for men,” Spike airs a combination of reality programs, informative programs, docufiction, and syndicated shows. This past season the network has been airing reruns of the inclusive comedy series *Entourage*.

**SYFY** As a division of NBC Universal, Syfy specializes in science fiction, fantasy, and paranormal programming. The network airs a large variety of television movies, miniseries, and scripted series and has made a concerted effort to feature LGBT

characters. The network is airing the Canadian drama *Lost Girl* which revolves around a bisexual succubus named Bo and her on-and-off lover Lauren. Last season the popular drama *Warehouse 13* added gay agent Steve Jinks while werewolf Josh’s sister, Emily, on *Being Human* is a lesbian. The network also counts Adam Berry of *Ghost Hunters* and Vincent of *Eureka* as some of the LGBT representations they present.

**TEENNICK** A sister channel to the immensely popular Nickelodeon network, TeenNick is an MTV Network oriented to a teenage audience. One of its most popular shows is the Canadian teen soap *Degrassi*, which has included a number of LGBT characters over the years, such as football playing couple Riley and Zane. More recently the show has also featured the storyline of transgender teen Adam, which won *Degrassi* a Peabody Award and has received several GLAAD Media Award nominations.

**TRUTV** Originally named Court TV, the network aired live court trials with commentary by anchors until Time Warner bought full control of the network and rebranded it in 2006. Currently TruTV airs reality and documentary series in addition to its traditional court coverage. This past year the network covered the Dharun Ravi trial and featured a counselor discussing closeted gay men during an episode of *In Session*.

**TV LAND** Owned by MTV Networks, TV Land launched in 1996 and originally re-aired classic television programs. In 2007, the network started airing recent programs and in 2010 introduced its first original scripted program with the premiere of *Hot in Cleveland*. These past two seasons, the show aired two inclusive episodes, one of which won the GLAAD Media Award in the Outstanding Individual Episode category. Last year the network continued to expand its slate of original programs and introduced several scripted shows including *Happily Divorced*, about a woman living with her ex-husband who has come out as gay.

**VH1** VH1 continues to show music videos and airs an assortment of music-related and celebrity-heavy reality programming and pop culture specials. Last year, the network introduced its first scripted series, *Single Ladies*, which features Omar, a gay boutique worker who lives with his boyfriend.



# NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

## GLAAD's Entertainment Media Team

GLAAD's Entertainment Media Team not only works with entertainment-related media platforms to encourage fair, accurate and inclusive representation of LGBT people, but also to combat problematic content and instances of defamation in these industries. This process may involve reading scripts, viewing rough cuts, pitching story ideas, consulting with writers and producers, working with talent to better inform them about portraying LGBT characters, and arranging entertainment-related events and panels. GLAAD also promotes LGBT-inclusive projects through the entertainment section of GLAAD's social media and the daily LGBT TV listings, "What to Watch on TV."

### Matt Kane

Associate Director of Entertainment Media – Kane@glaad.org

Matt Kane is a GLAAD liaison to the entertainment industry, advocating for the inclusion of diverse LGBT stories in films, scripted television and reality programming and collaborating with film festivals like Sundance to launch new LGBT voices. He helps shape GLAAD's response to acts of anti-LGBT defamation in entertainment media, is the principal writer of the Network Responsibility Index, and oversees the publication of the NRI and Where We Are on TV. Prior to joining GLAAD, he worked for several television shows and film festivals and worked for GLAAD as a freelance programmer for the Queer Lounge at Sundance. He holds an M.F.A. in film studies from Boston University.

### Max Gouttebroze

Entertainment Media Strategist – Gouttebroze@glaad.org

Max Gouttebroze serves as an active member of the GLAAD Programs Team by identifying and monitoring LGBT representations, trends and developments in television and film. He is the lead writer of GLAAD's Where We Are on TV report and conducts long-term research and data collection for the annually released Network Responsibility Index. Max also serves on the GLAAD Media Awards Communications Team and is a frequent contributor to GLAAD's blog. A graduate of the College of Charleston's Communication Program, Max joined GLAAD in September 2010 as the Communications Intern. In December of that year, he became a part of GLAAD's Digital Initiatives Team and moved into his current role in June 2011.

### Tanya Tsikanovsky

Entertainment Media Fellow - 2011

Tanya Tsikanovsky began her fellowship at GLAAD in September 2011 after receiving a B.A. in English Literature and Writing from Dominican University of California and an M.S. in Organizational Behavior Management from New York University - Polytechnic. She was a contributing researcher for GLAAD's Network Responsibility Index and Where We Are on TV. She is now the Director of Jewish Life for the Student Affairs office at the University of Hartford in Connecticut.

### Megan Townsend

Entertainment Media Fellow – 2012

Megan Townsend joined GLAAD in January 2012 as the Entertainment Media Fellow where she researches and monitors LGBT-inclusive content on television and film in collaboration with the larger Entertainment team. She is the principal author of "What to Watch on TV," GLAAD's daily guide to LGBT-inclusive television programming, which can be found on GLAAD's blog. Megan is also a contributing researcher for GLAAD's Network Responsibility Index. Before coming to GLAAD, Megan graduated from Central Michigan University where she earned a degree in public relations and advertising and worked with a variety of nonprofit organizations.

## Entertainment Media Interns

GLAAD's Entertainment Media Interns join the Programs Team in researching and monitoring LGBT-inclusive content on television and in film. They conduct research for the Network Responsibility Index and contribute to GLAAD's blog.

**Anthony Nget** – California State University, Long Beach – Class of 2013

**Caitlin Ferrell** – University of California, Los Angeles – Class of 2012

**Kallie Larsen** – San Diego State University – Class of 2013



