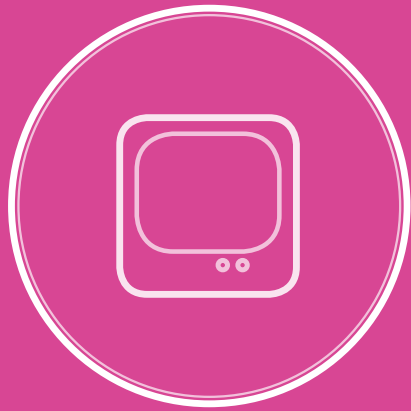


2013 NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX



glaad.org/nri2013



2013 NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

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2013 NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

Glee, FOX

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.

The past year has truly been a momentous one for LGBT Americans. Since last year's *NRI* was released we've seen numerous states pass marriage equality through voter referendum and the U.S. Supreme Court rule that the federal government must accord those marriages full federal recognition. This rapidly growing acceptance of LGBT people has been apparent on television, where the number of LGBT characters and stories reached an all-time high.

But, TV hasn't merely reflected the changes in social attitudes; it has also had an important role in bringing them

about. Time and again it's been shown that personally knowing an LGBT person is one of the most influential factors in shifting one's views on LGBT issues, but in the absence of that, many viewers have first gotten to know us as television characters. In fact, polls commissioned by GLAAD and *The Hollywood Reporter* found that seeing LGBT characters on television was a contributing factor in viewer's opinions of LGBT people growing more favorable over the years. Telling our stories to a mass audience is an important role that television continues to play.

However, public perception of transgender people seems to remain 20 years behind where it now is for gay and lesbian people. Transgender people face shockingly high levels of discrimination, and GLAAD's own study of transgender representations in the last 10 years of television found that more than half were negative. By fairly and accurately depicting transgender people, networks could not only find fresh characters and stories to entice viewers with, but also continue to play an important role in creating a more accepting society.

OBSERVATIONS **AND** RECOMMENDATIONS

Though last year's *NRI* saw the levels of LGBT inclusion on primetime television remaining largely in line with the numbers recorded the year before, this year's report has found a considerable increase in quantity.

This is particularly true on the broadcast networks, where the four largest (ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC) all posted their highest percentages of LGBT-inclusive primetime

programming hours ever. At 42%, Fox also achieved the highest percentage ever recorded for a broadcast network since the report was introduced in 2006.

On cable, GLAAD tracked the same 10 networks as the previous report, and found that six of them had also improved over last year.

overview of broadcast network findings

- Fox improved by an impressive 18 percentage points over last year, setting a new broadcast network record with 42% of their primetime programming hours including LGBT impressions. Among those hours, they also had the highest percentage of bisexual (41%) and trans inclusive hours (9%). However, Fox was the only network in which the majority of their LGBT character impressions (54.5%) were considered minor rather than major.
- ABC has long been one of the most reliably inclusive broadcast networks, and this year their percentage of LGBT-inclusive hours rose from 27% to 33%. The majority of those impressions were white (81%) and gay men (72%), again demonstrating the consistent need for more diversity on all networks, but on the plus side the majority of those impressions (78.5%) were considered major rather than minor.
- Thanks to several new programs, inclusive hours on NBC rose from 19% to 29%. New drama *Chicago Fire* was one reason the network also boasted the highest percentage of lesbian impressions (54%) among the broadcast nets.
- Though it was the only network to drop, The CW only decreased by one point from last year to a still notable 28%. Among their LGBT-inclusive programming hours they also featured the most diversity among the characters they depicted, with 50% of them being people of color thanks to shows like the now cancelled *L.A. Complex* and *Emily Owens, M.D.*
- Ranking last among the broadcast networks for the fifth year in a row was CBS, where 14% of their primetime programming hours featured LGBT impressions, up from just 8% last year. Nearly half of their inclusive programming hours were on alternative programs (45%), where series like *The Amazing Race*, *Survivor*, and *Big Brother* have reliably included out competitors for years.

RANKING OF THE BROADCAST NETWORKS 2012-2013

1. Fox	42%
2. ABC	33%
3. NBC	29%
4. The CW	28%
5. CBS	14%

RANKING OF THE BROADCAST NETWORKS 2011-2012

1. The CW	29%
2. ABC	27%
3. Fox	24%
4. NBC	19%
5. CBS	8%

*LISTED BY PERCENTAGE OF LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

highlights of cable network findings

- ABC Family received the second ever “Excellent” score in 2011 thanks to a year of strongly inclusive programming featuring great storylines and diversity. This year they have put in another good showing, and rank first among the cable networks tracked by GLAAD with 50% of their original programming hours featuring LGBT impressions. Thanks to characters like Emily on the hit show *Pretty Little Liars*, many of those impressions also featured lesbian characters (77%) and people of color (43%).
- After reaching a network high of 46% last year, Showtime has fallen back to 31% LGBT- inclusive original hours. The loss of several shows and characters precipitated the drop, but the network continues to prominently feature LGBT impressions on programs like *Shameless*.

RANKING OF THE CABLE NETWORKS 2012-2013

1. ABC Family	50%
2. FX	40%
3. Showtime	31%
4. MTV	28%
5. TLC	27%
6. HBO	26%
7. USA	20%
8. TNT	17%
9. TBS	10%
10. History	0%

RANKING OF THE CABLE NETWORKS 2011-2012

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%

*LISTED BY PERCENTAGE OF LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS OF ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING

- MTV rose somewhat over last year (23 to 28%), and seemed to make a concerted effort to include more LGBT characters in its scripted programs like *Underemployed* and *Awkward*.
- TLC also increased over last year from 20 to 27% of their original programming hours (a whopping 533 hours) including LGBT impressions. The vast majority of these are from out stylists on TLC’s many bridal programs; most of whom are gay, white men.
- With so many original scripted programs not returning, HBO’s LGBT-inclusive hours dropped from 33 to 26%, but upcoming inclusive shows like *Open* and *Looking* should help push that number up next year.
- Despite the fact that GLAAD tracked 246 original programming hours on History this year, we were unable to identify even one appearance by an openly LGBT person on either their scripted or unscripted shows. At 0%, this puts History firmly in last place among the cable networks tracked for the 2012-2013 *NRI*.

methodology

For this seventh 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, 2012 – May 31, 2013. Total primetime programming hours researched: 4353.5 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 2012-2013 report remained the same as last year, and 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, 2012 – May 31, 2013. Total programming hours: 1912 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. Live sporting events were not 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 sexual 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 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.



BROADCAST
NETWORKS



ABC

The Taste, ABC

Disney-owned ABC has a long and distinguished history of including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) stories in its programming, offering up a number of television "firsts." Although ABC's LGBT history begins with Jody 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 ever in the *Network Responsibility Index* with 33% inclusive programming hours, and the most inclusive hours of any other network tracked. For the past five years, ABC has maintained a consistent 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, the net's programming has often served as an admirable model of LGBT inclusivity.



1086

TOTAL HOURS OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

354 (33%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:

2011-12 SCORE: 27%

2010-11 SCORE: 23%

2009-10 SCORE: 26%

2008-09 SCORE: 24%

2007-08 SCORE: 24%

2006-07 SCORE: 15%**

**OPENLY GAY CAST MEMBERS IN SOME UNSCRIPTED/ REALITY PROGRAMMING WERE NOT COUNTED IN THE FIRST NRI, HENCE A MUCH LOWER PERCENTAGE.

- *Dancing With the Stars* continued to be ABC's most inclusive reality program thanks to the presence of out judge Bruno Tonioli in every episode. The show's spring season also featured bisexual comedian Andy Dick as a contestant.
- Season four of *Modern Family* was a considerably less eventful one for couple Cameron and Mitchell. Having given up on their attempts to adopt a second child (for now), this season saw Cam reentering the work force and teaming with sister-in-law Claire to flip a property. Additionally Cam and Mitch befriended a lesbian couple with a child in daughter Lily's class.
- Comedy *Suburgatory* featured a more prominent role for school counselor Mr. Wolfe, who this season broke up with school cook Chef Allen. Unfortunately, it seems Mr. Wolfe's role will be reduced in the coming season. Additionally it was revealed that teenager Dalia had an ex-girlfriend, and wasn't above getting jealous at her friendship with main character Tessa.
- On *Grey's Anatomy*, it wasn't all wedded bliss for married couple Callie and Arizona. Following her horrific plane crash, Arizona lost her leg, causing strain in her relationship with her wife that culminated in infidelity with another female doctor in the season finale. The show also featured several LGBT patients throughout the ninth season, including a transgender teenage couple.
- *Happy Endings'* third season sadly turned out to be its last, but it still prominently featured gay slacker Max engaging in assorted hijinks. Max's love life provided fodder for several episodes throughout the season as did his search for his own specific type of gay "identity." It was also revealed that Jane had been in a relationship with a woman for a period in her college years.
- Shonda Rhimes' hit show *Scandal* continued to feature scheming White House Chief of Staff Cyrus, who this season went so far as to order an attack on his own journalist husband to cover up potential wrong doing in the Oval Office. Thankfully he changed his mind before allowing it to happen, but a heart attack in the season finale left his fate up in the air.
- Other inclusive dramas on ABC this season included *Revenge*, which continued to feature bisexual co-conspirator Nolan, whose ex-boyfriend appeared in several episodes. The final season of *Private Practice* featured several same-sex couples facing medical tragedy, while new hit drama *Nashville* revealed a male character to be gay before he began going out of his way to attempt to prove himself straight. That storyline is set to continue this season.
- In other comedies, Reba McEntire starred in one season of *Malibu Country*, which also featured Jai Rodriguez as gay music label secretary Geoffrey. The second season of *Don't Trust the B---- in Apartment 23* was the show's last, and featured a more prominent role for James Van Der Beek's gay assistant Luther. And teenager Brad (described as gay by producers) continued to appear in several episodes of *The Middle*.
- In other reality programming, competitive cooking show *The Taste* was won by out lesbian contestant Khristianne Uy. On competitive diving program *Splash*, gay Olympian Greg Louganis served as a diving coach to the show's celebrity contestants, while *The Glass House* featured a gay contestant named Jeffrey.
- News program *20/20* featured a story about transgender adolescent Jazz among others, while Primetime: *What Would You Do?* featured a setup in which a trans teen is rejected by her father for wanting to come out as trans at her prom.

suggested areas of improvement

- With *Happy Endings*, *Apartment 23*, and *Malibu Country* not returning for additional seasons, and Mr. Wolfe seeing reduced screen time on *Suburgatory*, ABC's comedies stand to feature far less gay content (not to mention gay characters of color) in the coming fall season. Hopefully the network will make up for the losses in other areas.



The Amazing Race, CBS

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.

After a slight drop last year, the percentage of inclusive hours increased somewhat to 14%, the highest the network has ever achieved. A significant portion of the 157.5 inclusive hours continue to be attributed to CBS’ critical darling *The Good Wife*, which features bisexual investigator Kalinda Sharma, though most of these hours (45%) 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 fifth year in a row.

ADEQUATE

1089.5

TOTAL HOURS OF
PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

157.5 (14%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:

2011-12 SCORE: 8%
2010-11 SCORE: 10%
2009-10 SCORE: 7%
2008-09 SCORE: 5%
2007-08 SCORE: 9%
2006-07 SCORE: 9%

the 2012-2013 season

- Much of Kalinda's storyline on this season of *The Good Wife* was focused on her relationship with her abusive criminal ex-husband, though her off-and-on flame Lana Delaney did put in a few brief appearances, as did Alicia's gay brother Owen. One episode featured a plotline in which a same-sex couple challenged the Defense of Marriage Act. On the whole this season was comparatively light on LGBT content, but *The Good Wife* remains a highlight of CBS' scripted line-up.
- One of CBS' most high profile new fall series was the sitcom *Partners*, which focused on a lifelong friendship between a gay man and a straight man, both of whom were also in relationships. *Partners* featured some of the most prominent new gay characters of the season, but unfortunately it only lasted a handful of episodes before being cancelled.
- *The Amazing Race* featured reality TV vets and married couple the Beekman Boys in their fall season, who eventually went on to win the competition. The show also featured a gay man who was one of a pair of Chippendales dancers competing as a team, though his orientation wasn't addressed in the broadcasts.
- CBS' other prominent reality programs also featured several gay and lesbian contestants this year. *Survivor: Philippines* included lesbian player Dana, who left the show for medical reasons, while *Survivor: Caramoan* included gay player Michael, who made it to mid-season. Last summer's edition of *Big Brother* also featured lesbian contestant Jenn and gay contestant Wil. The show *Undercover Boss* also featured an episode in which an employer authorized domestic partner benefits at his company after shadowing a lesbian employee.
- The crime drama *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* has had a checkered past when it comes to transgender representation, which continued this season with no less than two

trans women being shown dying violent deaths. On the other hand, the Sherlock Holmes-inspired series *Elementary* featured a well-portrayed transgender woman (played by a trans actress) in a role that left the door open for her to return. Additionally, one episode of *Person of Interest* featured a storyline with a lesbian doctor and her girlfriend, while gay agent Dorneget appeared in one episode of *NCIS*.

- The final season of *Rules of Engagement* brought back lesbian surrogate Brenda for four episodes in which she gave birth. On *Two and a Half Men*, Alan's bisexual mother Evelyn appeared in just one episode, though another episode featured Walden falling for a lesbian. *Two Broke Girls* featured a gay "bear" couple in an episode, while another included a gay doorman. And on *Mike & Molly*, recurring character Harry came out of the closet late in the season.

suggested areas of improvement

- Between *CSI* and jokes on shows like *Mike & Molly*, defamatory or problematic transgender content was sadly more prevalent than acceptable representations. This summer, GLAAD met with CBS to discuss the problem and where improvement might be made. GLAAD will continue to monitor the network's content.
- Following *Partners*' cancellation, CBS is left with the same problem it had last year, in that only one of its scripted series will feature a regular LGBT character. Of the six new series set to premiere on the network next season however, none have been announced to include any new LGBT characters. Hopefully that will change before the new season begins.



The L.A. Complex, The CW

THE 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.

Three years ago, The CW hit a benchmark score for a broadcast network with 35% of its programming being LGBT-inclusive, but has slowly dropped since. This year the inclusive hours dipped another point down to 28%, but that’s still a relatively high amount compared to most networks. The CW deserves praise for consistently featuring a number of non-white LGBT characters in prominent roles, and still has one of the best ethnic diversity ratios of any network. This year, 50% of the LGBT impressions on the network were made by people of color, with most of those being African American.



521

TOTAL HOURS OF
PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

147 (28%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:

2011-12 SCORE: 29%
2010-11 SCORE: 33%
2009-10 SCORE: 35%
2008-09 SCORE: 20%
2007-08 SCORE: 21%
2006-07 SCORE: 12%

the 2012-2013 season

- *America's Next Top Model* went through a bit of makeover this year, and featured a new roster of judges and mentors. These included social media correspondent Bryanboy (Brian Grey Yambao) and photo shoot consultant Johnny Wujek.
- One of the CW's most anticipated new series was the 1980s set *Sex and the City* prequel, *The Carrie Diaries*, which featured a closeted high school student named Walt in a regular role. Over the season, Walt struggled with accepting his orientation, though eventually admitted his feelings for magazine employee Bennett, who told him they couldn't pursue anything further until Walt turned 18.
- After leaving the show last year, gay jock Teddy returned to *90210* for a handful of episodes in the show's final season, in which he fought with former best friend Silver for custody of the child they had agreed to have together. Bisexual Adrianna remained a regular character all season, though it has been several seasons since she was romantically linked with another woman.
- *The L.A. Complex* ended its run this year, but continued to feature some of the only black gay characters on broadcast television. These included closeted rapper Kaldrick, who came out in the show's final episode after falling for a lawyer named Christopher. Also contributing to the CW's

strong LGBT diversity was black, lesbian surgical intern Tyra on the medical drama *Emily Owens, M.D.* Though it only lasted one brief season, the show gave Tyra a brief love interest and featured several gay and lesbian people and couples as patients.

- Cult hit *Supernatural* brought back fan-favorite lesbian hacker Charlie for two episodes this season, including one in which she got to save her own damsel in distress. Both viewers and the show's creators have shown a definite fondness for the character (played by geek icon Felicia Day), so hopefully we'll see a lot more of the character in the future.

suggested areas of improvement

- With both *Emily Owens, M.D.* and *The L.A. Complex* cancelled this season, racial diversity among LGBT characters on broadcast television will be greatly decreased. In fact with *90210* also not returning and none of the CW's new series currently expected to feature LGBT characters, diversity in general will likely be much lower on the net in the coming TV season. The CW should examine where it might make up the deficit.



FOX

Glee, 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, the network received a "Failing" grade in the first *NRI* for its mere 6% of LGBT-inclusive content. When questioned about that grade in the press, Fox Entertainment President Kevin Reilly said 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.



673.5

TOTAL HOURS OF
PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

280 (42%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:

2011-12 SCORE: 24%

2010-11 SCORE: 29%

2009-10 SCORE: 30%

2008-09 SCORE: 11%

2007-08 SCORE: 4%

2006-07 SCORE: 6%

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. After a two year decline, they have jumped another 18 points to 42% this year, achieving the highest score ever for a broadcast network. The network continues to feature numerous LGBT characters on programs like *Glee* and *The Simpsons*, but the majority of their inclusive programming (43%) are unscripted shows like *MasterChef*, *The X Factor*, and *So You Think You Can Dance*. Even *American Idol* finally included a few out contestants this season, following a decade of not doing so.

the 2012-2013 season

- *Glee* remains, without a doubt, one of the most inclusive shows on Fox and on television in general. Teen couple Kurt and Blaine broke up, but left the season close to reconciliation and a possible engagement. Brittany and Santana broke up as well, with Santana moving to New York and Brittany not expected to be part of the regular cast. Recurring transgender high-schooler Unique, however, is actually expected to enjoy an expanded role in the coming season, making her the most prominent trans character on television.
- Though they're sometimes a source of offensive content, Fox's back-to-back animated comedies on Sunday evenings are also still some 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 (who had several male love interests this season) and numerous appearances by gay neighbor dads Greg and Terry.
- Angela remained a regular cast member on *Bones*, though now that she's happily married to a man, her bisexuality is no longer addressed on the show. On new series *The Following*, about a serial killer cult, two male characters were tasked with masquerading as a gay couple over a long period of time only to seemingly develop feelings for one another (before meeting their untimely demise.) *The Mob Doctor* featured an episode in which a mobster's transgender girlfriend was treated for cancer, and handled the character with respect. On the comedy side, *New Girl*, *The Mindy Project*, and *Ben and Kate* all featured minor, sporadic LGBT content over the year, while *Raising Hope* also featured a GLAAD Media Award-winning episode in which a gay couple asked one of the main characters to be their surrogate.
- As mentioned before, the majority of inclusive programming on Fox were reality shows. Cooking competition *MasterChef* included gay contestant Michael Chen, while *Hell's Kitchen* featured several out competitors. Talent competition *The X Factor* featured a few out contestants, while *So You Think You Can Dance* continued to feature appearances by occasional judges Adam Shankman and Jesse Tyler Ferguson, as well as choreographer Travis Wall. And after nearly a decade of *American Idol* contestants coming out publicly AFTER their season had ended, the show finally featured a couple of contestants who were out from the get go. Though none of them made it all that far, it was still a positive (if long-overdue) development for the show.

suggested areas of improvement

- Of all the networks Fox certainly deserves the award "Most Improved," as many of the issues we cited in last year's report seem to have been addressed since then. *American Idol* finally started including out singers, while Fox's animated comedies, while not spotless, seemed to avoid much of the grossly defamatory humor they had often featured in the past. Taken in conjunction with the expanded role for Unique on *Glee*, a transgender character of color, it certainly appears as though Fox is stepping ahead of the pack when it comes to LGBT-inclusion on their programming. Our suggestion is that they keep it up.



The New Normal, 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



983.5

TOTAL HOURS OF
PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

285.5 (29%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:

2011-12 SCORE: 19%

2010-11 SCORE: 15%

2009-10 SCORE: 13%

2008-09 SCORE: 8%

2007-08 SCORE: 6%

2006-07 SCORE: 7%

since then, reaching an all-time high this year. NBC’s jump from 19% to 29% can be traced to a number of new inclusive series such as *The New Normal*, *Go On*, and *Chicago Fire*, as well as out contestants on *The Biggest Loser* and *America’s Got Talent*.

the 2012-2013 season

- For the second year in a row, most of the inclusive hours on NBC were on reality and alternative programming. *America's Got Talent* featured drag performer Jason Gerber (All Beef Patty) who made it to the season's quarterfinals, and *The Voice* featured several out contestants in both its fall and spring seasons. On *The Biggest Loser*, trainer Jillian Michaels returned to the show after coming out, but the spring season also featured the show's first openly gay contestant, Jackson Carter, who made it all the way to the finale.
- The highest-profile new inclusive series of on NBC last year, and possibly any network, was certainly *The New Normal*, Ryan Murphy's new comedy about a gay couple's friendship with the woman they hire as a surrogate. Though it only lasted one season, the show tackled a range of LGBT issues over its 22-episode run.
- The final season of the musical drama *Smash* once again included several gay characters, including musical composer Tom, who found himself taking over a musical as director and breaking up with his boyfriend Sam. Additionally the show featured a dancer named Bobby, and a writer named Kyle who was killed in a hit and run. Out celebrities such as Cheyenne Jackson, Harvey Fierstein, and Rosie O'Donnell also put in appearances as themselves.
- Among other NBC dramas, the Canadian show *Saving Hope* was run over the summer and featured a gay doctor and his nurse boyfriend, though it only aired for a handful of episodes. *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* included LGBT characters in several episodes, including one in which a gay man murdered closeted men. The most significant regular LGBT content was probably found on the new series *Chicago Fire*, which featured a lesbian paramedic named Shay who struggled with feelings for her ex-girlfriend.
- Among other NBC comedies, new series *1600 Penn* depicted the U.S. first family, including a teen daughter who mentioned her attraction to a female classmate, while *Go On* featured a sharp-tongued lesbian widow. *The Office* aired its final season in which gay accountant Oscar's affair with his co-worker's congressman husband was made public. Also ending its run was *30 Rock*, which featured several inclusive episodes and the return of scheming gay executive Devon Banks.

suggested areas of improvement

- NBC's main challenge in terms of LGBT inclusivity going into the new TV season will just be sheer numbers, given how many shows won't be returning. *The Office*, *30 Rock*, *Go On*, *The New Normal*, and *Smash* were all either cancelled or retired, leaving a massive gap in the LGBT character numbers. One bright spot is that Sean Hayes will star in a new comedy called *Sean Saves the World* as a single gay father struggling with a difficult boss at work, but the all-time high percentage NBC charted in this year's *NRI* will more than likely see significant decline.



CABLE
NETWORKS



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.”

Two years ago, ABC Family became the second network to ever to receive an “Excellent” rating after 55% of its programming hours were found to include some kind of LGBT impression. Following a drop to 34% last year, the network rebounded to 50% this year thanks to new programs like *Beverly Hills Nannies* and continuing hits like *Pretty Little Liars*. What’s more, 43% of the LGBT impressions were by people of color and 79% of them were female, making their inclusive programming some of the most diverse on TV.

129.5
TOTAL HOURS OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

65 (50%)
LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:
2011-12 SCORE: 34%
2010-11 SCORE: 55%
2009-10 SCORE: 37%

ABC FAMILY

the 2012-2013 season

- Once again, the majority of LGBT impressions on ABC Family (or more specifically, lesbian impressions) were on the drama *Pretty Little Liars*, one of ABC Family's most popular and recognizable series. Multiracial lesbian teen Emily Fields remains one of the show's four lead characters, and has rekindled a romance with ex-girlfriend Paige after mourning the death of former girlfriend Maya. And a new possible couple, Shana and Jenna, became part of the show, though they seem to have nefarious intentions.
- The final season of soapy drama *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* continued to feature out characters like Nora, Anne, and Willadean (not to mention a guest appearance by Chaz Bono) though not quite as prominently as in previous seasons. Regardless, the show accounted for the second highest amount of inclusive hours on the network.
- The reality series *Beverly Hills Nannies* focused on the lives of a group of nannies to wealthy employers in Los Angeles, and included a black, gay nanny named Justin in a prominent role. *Nannies* further helped ABC Family achieve one of the highest amounts of racial diversity among all the networks GLAAD tracked this year.
- The fashion drama *Jane by Design* included several gay characters in minor or background roles, though it won't be returning for another season. The also cancelled series *Bunheads* included a subplot about a young ballet dancer's father coming out of the closet and moving away, though he was the subject of conversation more than he

actually appeared. However, the series *Switched at Birth* will return, including lesbian character Natalie, who is also deaf.

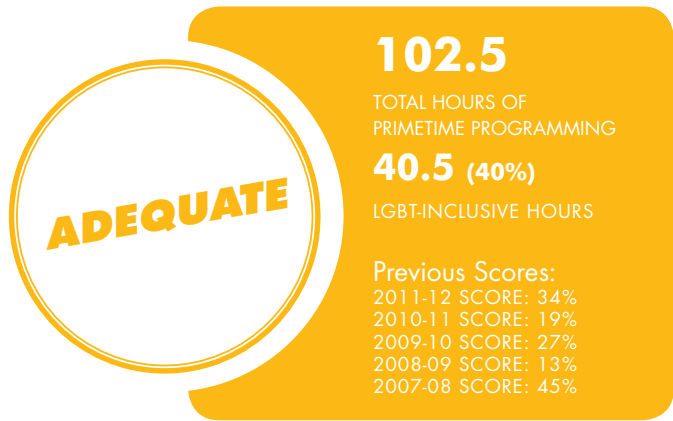
- Though it didn't begin airing until after the end of this report's research period, the new hit drama *The Fosters* is already one of the most inclusive shows on television, not to mention one of the most racially diverse. Following a biracial lesbian couple and their growing family, the show demonstrates great commitment on ABC Family's part to telling fresh stories from diverse perspectives. We hope other networks take note of the show's success and follow suit.

suggested areas of improvement

- With *The Fosters* set to be included in next year's report, ABC Family is already well on their way towards making up the gap in LGBT impressions that will be left by the exit of shows like *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* and *Jane by Design*, and perhaps even exceed this year's findings. The only area we'd love to see them improve upon is in transgender representation, which no network besides Fox is showing much promise in for the future. Given their outstanding track record depicting gay and lesbian teens, we think they could tell a compelling new trans youth storyline with skill and respect.



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 *American Horror Story*.



FX has premiered a number of inclusive series over the years, though the quality of those representations has often been inconsistent, as seeming attempts to create “edgy” characters and humor has resulted in problematic portrayals. That continues to be an issue for the network, but it should also be recognized that the sheer number of LGBT impressions on FX is the highest it’s been in years, which seems to demonstrate an attempt on their part towards greater inclusion.

the 2012-2013 season

- The majority of FX's inclusive hours were on the sitcom *Anger Management*, which featured both a regular gay character named Patrick, as well as a couple of gay prison inmates named Cleo and Donovan who appeared in a recurring capacity. It's good that FX decided to include multiple characters, with the recurring characters also being black, but the degree to which the show relies on humor based in stereotypes remains problematic.
- Ryan Murphy's *American Horror Story* returned for a second season with a new story and cast of characters. Central to the plot was a lesbian reporter named Lana whose investigation into a New England asylum resulted in her being committed against her will for being gay. Lana is subjected to shock conversion therapy but eventually emerges as the show's heroic protagonist by overcoming her captors and bringing the facility down.
- 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. Unfortunately, this season also included a scene featuring a seemingly homicidal and deranged cross-dressing biker gang who were referred to as "trannies" by *Archer*; a character prone to making offensive statements.
- *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *Louie*, and *Sons of Anarchy* also included episodes featuring LGBT characters. This included an offensive episode of *Anarchy* in which a transgender woman is hired to sleep with someone to create incriminating pictures.

suggested areas of improvement

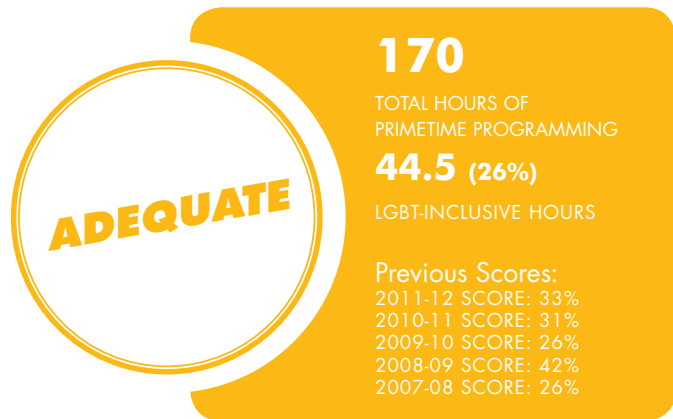
- The problems in the way FX sometimes depicts LGBT characters have been around about as long as they've been depicting them. The network needs to understand that "edgy" does not need to mean "offensive." They are certainly capable of doing better however, as many of their own programs have shown. This is especially true when it comes to transgender characters, which FX has a particularly checkered past with. Yet they have also demonstrated that they can handle the material well, as they did with their groundbreaking depiction of a transgender child on *The Riches* some time ago. Now they just need to do it consistently.



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 it dropped back to 26%.





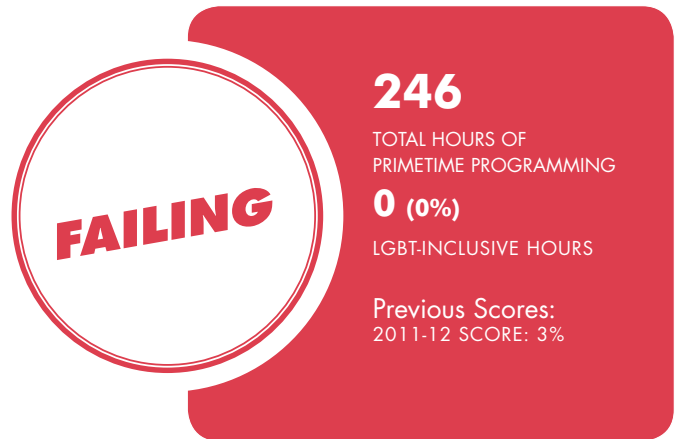
the 2012-2013 season

- *True Blood* remained one of the most inclusive shows on all of television last season, but like the season before it, not every LGBT character made it out alive. Lesbian vampire Pam enjoyed a few moments in the spotlight, particularly after turning Tara into a vampire as well. Lafayette also remained a regular character, and gay vampires Steve Newlin and Russell Edgington became a couple until Russell was killed in the finale.
- The second season of the critically acclaimed comedy *Girls* featured Hannah living with her gay ex-boyfriend Elijah, who questioned his own sexuality after sleeping with one of Hannah's female friends. Unfortunately the character had to leave the show when actor Andrew Rannells began filming his role on *The New Normal*. HBO's monster hit *Game of Thrones* continued to feature gay knight Loras in a recurring role.
- Though LGBT characters were regulated to just a couple of HBO's original series following the end of so many shows and characters last year, HBO also premiered several very inclusive TV movies and documentaries. Among these was the highly anticipated Liberace biopic *Behind the Candelabra* starring Michael Douglas and Matt Damon, which prompted many articles and discussions about Hollywood's reluctance to make LGBT characters the main focus of films. That was a topic close to the heart of film historian and GLAAD co-founder Vito Russo, who was himself the subject of the HBO documentary *Vito*.
- Openly gay YouTube star Chris Crocker was the subject of the acclaimed documentary *Me @ the Zoo*, while fashion docs *In Vogue: The Editor's Eye* and *About Face: Supermodels* both featured appearances by out designers.
- Weekly talk show *Real Time with Bill Maher* featured a number of LGBT guests again this year, including Rachel Maddow, John Waters, Barney Frank, Nate Silver, Andrew Sullivan, Zachary Quinto, and Clive Davis. On the less positive side, the year also included a discussion between Maher and Snoop Lion in which he appeared to agree with the rapper's unfounded assertion that children are "turned" gay through sexual abuse.

suggested areas of improvement

- After so many show cancellations and character killings last year, it was inevitable that HBO's percentage of inclusive programming hours would drop, but the abundance of significant LGBT content in their original films and documentaries helped make up part of the difference. The most exciting new programming should premiere in 2014 however, when the network is set to introduce a new eight-episode dramedy, *Looking*, which focuses on the lives of several gay men living in San Francisco. It will be a tremendous step forward that we hope provides the opportunity to tell a range of *diverse* LGBT stories.

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 & McCoy*s, which debuted to enormous ratings.

A&E received consistently failing grades in every previous *NRI*, and unfortunately its sibling network History continues that tradition. The number of original programming hours produced by History is among the highest of any cable networks tracked in the *NRI*, but GLAAD was unable to identify any LGBT content or people within it.

suggested areas of improvement

- Last year, History included a gay competitor on their reality series *Full Metal Jousting*, as well as several out guests on *Top Gear*, but that wasn't the case this year. The closest the network seemed to get was on the scripted drama *Vikings*, which depicted one "straight" Viking couple sexually propositioning a monk they had enslaved. Given how similar shows like *The Borgias*, *Spartacus*, and *Game of Thrones* have all prominently featured gay and bisexual characters, it definitely wouldn't be a stretch for *Vikings* to do the same.
- History's programming has some repeating themes running through it, such as southern settings and blue collar jobs, which aren't typically associated with diverse representations. This actually presents the network with the opportunity to tell some fresh and unique stories. Certainly not all big rig drivers, lumberjacks, and automotive enthusiasts are straight.



MTV Networks is a division of the Viacom label with sister networks including MTV2, mtvU, VH1, BET, 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 has regularly featured 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. In fact, with the scripted series *Underemployed*, the network showed it’s still more than willing to prominently feature LGBT characters.



209.5

TOTAL HOURS OF
PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

58.5 (28%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:
2011-12 SCORE: 23%
2009-10 SCORE: 42%
2008-09 SCORE: 17%
2007-08 SCORE: 16%



the 2012-2013 season

- Most of MTV's programming falls under the "alternative" category, so it's not surprising that most of its inclusive hours were on reality shows. The most inclusive of which was *The Challenge*, which features past *Real World* contestants competing against each other in physical challenges. This past season included a handful of lesbian, gay, and bisexual contestants including former couple Ancesa and Rachel.
- MTV's new drama *Underemployed* was especially notable not only for having an Asian American lead character, but also having her come out as a lesbian in the first episode. Over the course of the season, Sophia had several romantic interests, and the show also featured several gay and bisexual men in recurring roles.
- Supernatural drama *Teen Wolf* returned for another season, and continued to feature gay lacrosse player Danny in a supporting role. This season Danny broke up with a boyfriend, and made a visit to a gay bar with his straight male friends.
- In addition, the comedy series *Awkward.* featured Tamara, who came out as bisexual last season, in a

supporting role, while the TV movie *Ladies Man* focused on a teen boy who was perceived to be gay. *Jersey Shore* spin-off *Snooki & JWOWW* featured appearances by several of the girls' gay male friends, and Cara on *Buckwild* revealed she had an ex-girlfriend. MTV also aired a second edition of the *It Gets Better* special.

suggested areas of improvement

- In last year's report, GLAAD mused that maybe it was time for MTV to debut a scripted series with an LGBT lead, and with *Underemployed* they did just that. The show focuses on a group of friends struggling to make ends meet post-college graduation, and Sophia's sexual orientation is by no means her defining characteristic. The show was a terrific example of how to organically integrate LGBT identities into a larger narrative in a way that mirrors the diverse peer groups many young people already have. Unfortunately, the show hasn't been announced as returning. If there's an area they need to improve in, it's being more vigilant about problematic content showing up from time to time on shows like *True Life* or *Catfish: The TV Show* (which aired partially outside of primetime this season), and marring an otherwise strong record.



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. Showtime is now a division of the CBS Corporation.



187.5

TOTAL HOURS OF
PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

59 (31%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:
2011-12 SCORE: 46%
2010-11 SCORE: 37%
2009-10 SCORE: 32%
2008-09 SCORE: 26%
2007-08 SCORE: 32%

Of all the cable networks, Showtime has been one of the most consistent in terms of maintaining a relatively high 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*. Last year it set a network record at 46%, but has dropped back to 31% this year.

the 2012-2013 season

- In terms of overall number of individual LGBT impressions, the highest scorer on Showtime (and possibly television) is reality series *The Real L Word*, which follows a large group of lesbians (and some bisexual women). This season the show expanded out from Los Angeles to also include several women living in New York, though much of the relationship drama remained the same. One distinct exception was the storyline of young couple Kacy and Cori, who tragically lost their first child shortly after it was born. The show will not return as series next year, but Executive Producer Ilene Chaiken may be returning to Showtime with a documentary about LGBT people in Middle America.

SHOWTIME

- The show with the most LGBT-inclusive hours on Showtime remained the scripted drama *Shameless*, based on the long-running UK series of the same name. *Shameless* follows the Gallaghers; a low income 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 this season was seen carrying on an affair with his sister's boyfriend's father, as well as a teenage delinquent named Mickey who he had developed feelings for. Another storyline saw Gallagher patriarch Frank pretend to be gay as part of a scam and become an accidental viral video hero, while another saw two of the Gallagher sons taken in by an interracial gay couple as foster children. Less well handled however was the story of a child named Molly who was born male, but convinced by his mother that he was female, in a storyline unfortunately echoing false right-wing claims that transgender children are being confused by their parents.
- *The Borgias* aired its final season this year, but continued to feature gay bodyguard and assassin Micheletto, who in a tragic storyline developed feelings for a man that turned out to be a spy he was forced to kill. The pope's bisexual lover Giulia also appeared on the show.
- *Nurse Jackie* returned for another season, but unfortunately the bisexual Dr. O'Hara appeared only briefly before leaving the show. Gay Nurse Thor remained a regular on the show, though he received no personal storylines and none of the episodes within this report's research period contained any other LGBT patients.
- Among other Showtime comedies, TV exec Andy Button returned to the comedy *Episodes*, following his suing his former employer for discrimination. *The Big C* aired its final season as a four-episode miniseries, and featured designer Isaac Mizrahi as Andrea's fashion mentor. The series *Web Therapy* featured a storyline about Fiona's husband being revealed as gay, though it only aired two of its episodes in primetime last year. The final season of *Weeds* also featured some minor gay content.
- On *House of Lies*, the protagonist's young bisexual son Roscoe continued to hold a minor role on the show, while his ex-wife had a relationship with her female vegan chef,

before leaving her and declaring herself to be straight. Meanwhile on *Californication*, talent agent Charlie pretended to be gay to land a gay actor client, while protagonist Hank's bisexual friend Bates appeared sporadically as he carried on an affair with a rehab center therapist named Gabriel. Neither show portrayed any of these characters particularly well, but it must be mentioned that they've also handled LGBT content much worse in the past. And on *Dexter*, the season's principal villain was revealed to be gay just before he was killed off.

- Showtime once again aired several LGBT-inclusive specials this year, including a documentary about the designer Halston and another about lesbian, Burmese immigrant basketball player Emily Tay.

suggested areas of improvement

- Last year, 29% of the network's LGBT impressions were made by people of color, but that has decreased to 11% this year. Ethnic diversity among LGBT characters remains a weak area on most networks, but as one of the most consistent in terms of inclusion, we'd like to see Showtime lead the pack in this area as well.
- One of GLAAD's biggest concerns with Showtime in the 2011-2012 *NRI* were the defamatory depictions (or descriptions) of transgender women that occurred on both *Californication* and *House of Lies*, but this year transgender content was practically non-existent. The closest they came was *Shameless*' depiction of a child convinced by their mother that they were female, which plays into right wing claims that transgender children are simply being confused by outside influences rather than expressing themselves honestly. Though it didn't fall in this report's research period, the new drama *Ray Donovan* also featured defamatory trans content in its premiere episode, demonstrating that this is one area in which the network needs significant improvement.



TBS

House of Payne, TBS

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 has also featured 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 it produces a relatively small amount of original content. LGBT impressions on TBS have been few and far between, and it has never received anything but a failing score in the *NRI*. This year they showed a marked improvement, but they remain one of the lowest ranked networks tracked in this report.



69

TOTAL HOURS OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

7 (10%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:

2011-12 SCORE: 5%

2010-11 SCORE: 5%

2009-10 SCORE: 2%

2008-09 SCORE: 1%

2007-08 SCORE: 7%

the 2012-2013 season

- On *Tyler Perry's House of Payne*, Rashard, the best friend of the Payne family's college aged-son Malik, came out as gay. He made a second appearance following his coming out to help Malik with a relationship problem, but hasn't been seen since. Still, it's refreshing to see one of Tyler Perry's projects taking this step in a non-sensationalistic manner.
- Following its cancellation on ABC, the comedy series *Cougar Town* found a new home on TBS. This season it included very minor gay content in several episodes, including one in which the gang accuses Grayson of being homophobic.
- Additionally, TBS once again aired the Screen Actors Guild Awards, which included appearances by Jim Parsons and Neil Patrick Harris, and the reality competition series *King of the Nerds* included an episode guest starring George Takei.

suggested areas of improvement

- Considering that last year the network's only inclusive content was the Screen Actors Guild Awards, having LGBT content appear in six other original episodes of television is certainly a significant improvement. In the last edition of this report, GLAAD also hoped to see inclusive-content in one of TBS' predominantly African American programs, and since then a gay character made multiple appearances on *House of Payne*. None of this content was significant enough to raise TBS from a grade of "failing," but they are on the right track. As TBS adds more original series to its roster, we'd like to see one of them include a regular gay character, which would greatly improve the network's still rather low percentage of inclusive hours.



TLC

TLC was originally founded in 1972 by the U.S. 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*.



533

TOTAL HOURS OF
PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

142 (27%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:
2011-12 SCORE: 20%

Last year was the first time GLAAD tracked TLC, and considering the audiences they market to, we were pleasantly surprised to find that 20% of its programming hours were LGBT inclusive. 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 odd human behavior. It's especially important and impressive that networks like TLC also bring LGBT stories to these same audiences, whose understanding of LGBT people and issues is crucial to changing hearts and minds in more conservative pockets of the country. This year, TLC's inclusive programming hours rose to 27%.

the 2012-2013 season

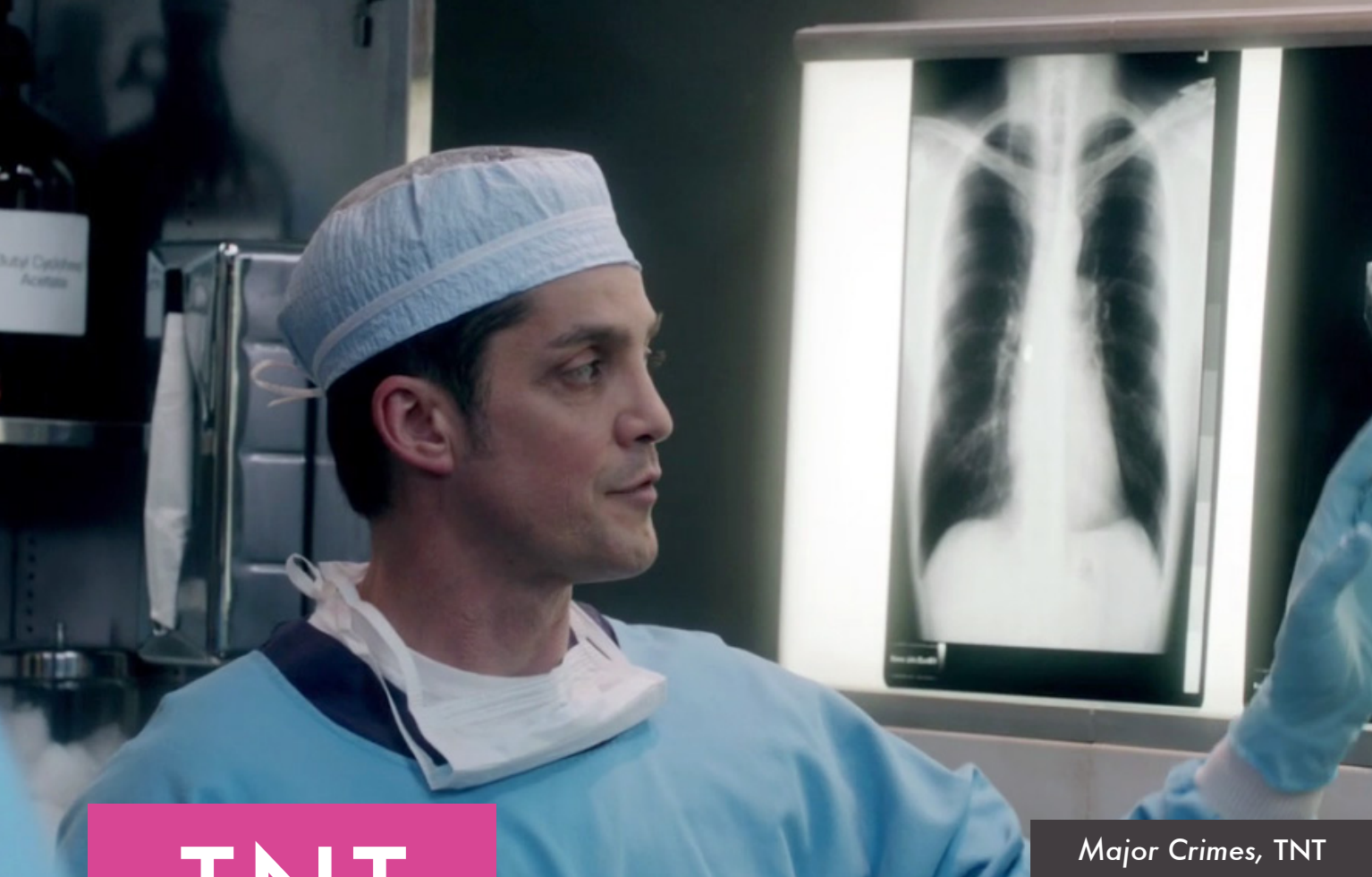
- Without a doubt, the bulk of TLC's LGBT impressions were still on shows in which openly gay men helped women choose clothes and dresses, usually for weddings. *Say Yes to the Dress* continued to include stylist Randy Fenoli, who was also featured on the series *Randy to the Rescue* and *Randy Knows Best*. Gay stylists also appeared on *Dress* spinoffs like *SYTTD Atlanta* and *Bridesmaids*, and *Something Borrowed Something New*, *Brides of Beverly Hills*, and *What Not to Wear*.
- One of the low points on TLC last year was an episode of *Cake Boss* which featured defamatory treatment of transgender performer Carmen Carrera, which resulted in a great deal of online anger at her treatment and TLC pulling the episode following outreach from GLAAD. This was one of the only transgender impressions TLC included in the last TV season, and it was unfortunately one of the worst on TV that year. On the other hand, a young transgender woman was featured in a good episode of *What Not to Wear* that showed the network is fully capable of depicting trans people fairly when they eschew sensationalism and exploitation.
- *Cake Boss* competition spin-off *The Next Great Baker* featured two gay male contestants last year; Peter and Garrett. The interior design competition show *Four Houses* also featured several episodes with gay participants, and a lesbian couple was included on *Four Weddings*.
- *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo* is by far one of TLC's biggest hits, and follows a child pageant star and her southern family of self-described "rednecks." The family's gay uncle was featured in several episodes, and their loving acceptance of him and of LGBT people positively challenged many viewers' preconceptions. The same

was true of *Welcome to Myrtle Manor*, which was set in a trailer park which included a gay man among its residents, and *My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding*, which included the weddings of both a gay couple and a lesbian couple. LGBT people were also featured on shows like *Hoarding: Buried Alive*, *My Crazy Obsession*, *Sin City Rules*, *Virgin Diaries*, and *Toddlers and Tiaras*.

suggested areas

of improvement

- Though there was a surprising number of inclusive hours on TLC, the LGBT impressions in those hours remained quite uniform. The vast majority of these were white (93%) gay men (98%), most of whom were stylists like Randy Fenoli populating TLC's wedding themed programs. To say they could use more diversity here would be an understatement.
- As mentioned before the anti-trans episode of *Cake Boss* shows there are areas in which TLC needs improvement, while a different episode of *What Not to Wear* was a good example of what they should be aiming for. When transgender people are first and foremost depicted as everyday people, and not objects of ridicule or exploitative fascination, viewers are given the chance to see a humanity they can relate to, which helps to erode the anti-trans bias that remains all too common in society. Many of TLC's programs tell the stories of people who aren't often depicted in the media, and they have the opportunity to do just that for transgender people as well.



TNT

Major Crimes, 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. However this year, it dropped from 34 to 17% following the cancellation of several programs.



131.5

TOTAL HOURS OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

22 (17%)

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS

Previous Scores:

2011-12 SCORE: 34%

2010-11 SCORE: 33%

2009-10 SCORE: 34%

2008-09 SCORE: 19%

2007-08 SCORE: 1%

the 2012-2013 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. The show's final season briefly depicted him with a boyfriend, though the relationship didn't last. He also struggled in his professional life, where he was paired with two different partners, neither of which worked out. In the show's final episode, Cooper is ultimately shot by fellow officers (unaware of who he is) following a violent altercation with a neighbor. This unfortunately makes him another deceased gay TV character, of which there have been far too many in recent years.
- The final season of *The Closer* featured a few appearances by gay deputy medical examiner Dr. Morales, and the series finale included a storyline about a teenage runaway named Rusty who had sex with men for money. Following the show's end, both Dr. Morales and Rusty were moved

over to the show's spin-off, *Major Crimes*, where they both continue to appear. As yet, Rusty hasn't identified his own sexual orientation.

- Aside from those shows, the only other LGBT content on TNT this year was an episode of *Franklin & Bash* centered on a lawsuit involving gay softball league which was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award. Like TBS, TNT also aired the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

suggested areas

of improvement

- With *Southland* now over, we'd like to see TNT add a regular LGBT character to one of its many crime procedurals, as its one genre in which we still typically appear as victims or villains. LGBT depictions on the network this year were also overwhelmingly white and male, so it wouldn't hurt if they diversified their characters as well.

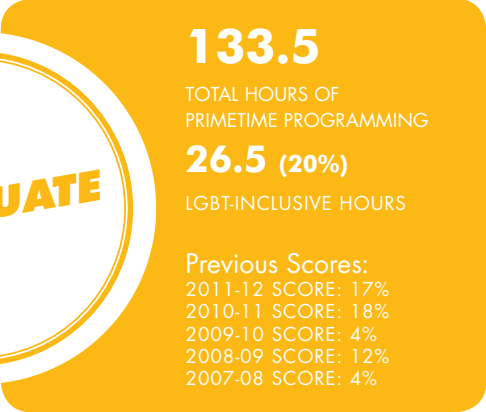


USA

Political Animals, 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 with its “Characters Unite” campaign.

For several years, the only regular gay character on USA has been lesbian Agent Diana Barrigan on *White Collar*, whose introduction helped the network make substantial improvement in their number of inclusive hours. This year the addition of the miniseries *Political Animals* has helped them reach an all time high.



the 2012-2013 season

- As was the case for the past two years, most of the LGBT-inclusive hours on USA came from *White Collar*, which features lesbian FBI agent Diana Barrigan. Once again this season she spent most of her time wrapped up in cases in predominantly minor roles, though one episode did focus somewhat on her personal life, and mentioned her breaking up with her fiancé Christie. Diana remains one of the only black, lesbian characters currently on television.
- As mentioned before, the other big addition to USA's inclusive hours was the miniseries *Political Animals*, which followed fictional U.S. Secretary of State Elaine Barrish and her family members. One of those being her son T.J. Hammond, who was depicted as struggling with an addiction problem and having an affair with a closeted Republican senator. Unfortunately the six episode miniseries will not be returning for future editions.
- The most significant LGBT content on USA outside those two shows was certainly the two-episode storyline on *Necessary Roughness* about an active NFL quarterback coming out publicly, which was aired as part of the networks "Characters Unite" month addressing social issues and discrimination in their programming. It didn't hurt that the story happened to coincide with several real-world pro athletes coming out this year as well.
- One episode of *Psych* featured a transgender sex-worker in a minor role, whose purpose in the episode seemed predominantly to be a defamatory punch line and was one of the low points of transgender representation on television last year. And though the main character's gay brother was nowhere to be seen this season, the series finale of the mediation drama *Fairly Legal* featured two coworkers who had been fired for their lesbian relationship, though they had since experienced a bitter breakup.

suggested areas

of improvement

- Though *Political Animals* won't be returning, it's rumored that a character on the legal drama *Suits* will be coming out in the upcoming season, so *White Collar*'s Diana may not be the only LGBT regular on USA after all. However, the real issue we'd like to see addressed is how poorly *Psych* handled its transgender character, demonstrating that USA needs to recognize that transgender people are a vulnerable, marginalized group, just like those the networks asked for understanding and acceptance of in their social action campaigns. USA's annual "Characters Unite" programming month would be the perfect place to air a better story to help make up for it.

ADDITIONAL 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 NBCUniversal, Disney-ABC Television Group, and Hearst Corp. It consistently produces one of the largest slates of original primetime series of any cable network, which is mainly made up of reality programming. A&E was tracked in the *NRI* in the past where it received consistently failing grades. Despite its wide slate of original programming, the network's track record of LGBT images remains weak and the community often remains invisible to A&E viewers.

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, including the award-winning *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad*. The highlight on the network when it comes to LGBT representations is on the unscripted program *Small Town Security* which features Captain Dennis Starr, 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*, *Orphan Black* and *In the Flesh*. 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 NBCUniversal, 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 *Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles* and *Million Dollar Listing New York*, *Tabatha Takes Over*, *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, *It's a Brad Brad World*, *Newlyweds: the First Year*, *LOLwork*, *Start-Ups: Silicon Valley* and *Watch What Happens Live*.

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 programs airing as part of Adult Swim.

Comedy Central

A division of Viacom, Comedy Central is probably best known as the home of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* and *The Colbert Report* which regularly include LGBT content, attacking mistreatment of LGBT people by politicians and the media using their trademark wit. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the network's animated programs *South Park* and *Brickleberry* which often make a mockery of the LGBT characters featured on the shows.

Disney Channel

A sister channel to the very inclusive ABC and ABC Family, the Disney Channel airs original animated programs and scripted series as well made for television films. The network aims to reach pre-teens and young teenagers. While highly rated, it is unfortunate the network's programming hasn't been inclusive of the LGBT community in the past, however, the Disney Channel announced earlier this year that it would introduce LGBT characters in an episode of its original series *Good Luck Charlie* set to air in 2014; a first for the network.

E!

Formerly known as E! Entertainment Television, E! is an NBCUniversal property featuring celebrity focused news and unscripted programs. Among the network's hosts, out stylist George Kotsiopoulos serves as a co-anchor of the celebrity outfit critique show *Fashion Police*. The network has also employed out personality Ross Matthews for its red carpet specials, and recently gave him his own talk show. The latter has also appeared on *Chelsea Lately*, a talk show featuring comedians Fortune Feimster and Chris Franjola. Feimster and Franjola also appear on the spinoff series *After Lately*.

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, and has featured a variety of out cooks and hosts including Ted Allen and more recently Anne Burrell, who stars in her own show, *Chef Wanted with Anne Burrell*. The network also featured ice skater Johnny Weir in its past season of the reality competition *Rachael vs. Guy*.

HGTV

Issues of home buying, home renovation, and home design dominate the programming lineup of HGTV. Among its programming lineup, *HGTV Design Star*, a reality competition hosted by David Bromstad and judged by Vern Yip, often includes several LGBT contestants per season. 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 on its different programs.

ADDITIONAL NETWORKS

IFC

Owned by AMC Networks, the Independent Film Channel (IFC) airs feature-length motion pictures, documentaries and original series. On the third season of its hit comedy *Portlandia*, IFC has featured a variety of lesbian, gay and bisexual peripheral characters.

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 continues to be *Project Runway*. The network also aired an episode of the scripted series *Drop Dead Diva* that focused on the FDA ban on donations by gay and bisexual men which was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award.

Logo

For quite some time, Logo was the only basic cable network dedicated to programming for an LGBT audience, and is part of the Viacom family of networks. 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*, *DTLA*, *1 girl 5 gays*, and *The Baby Wait*.

Netflix

Launched in 1997, Netflix is an online streaming provider of entertainment media content. Earlier this year, the company started providing original content to its consumers and received several Emmy nominations for some of its series. In its first year of original content, the provider has shown a commitment to LGBT inclusion on series such as *Arrested Development*, *Hemlock Grove*, which includes lesbian and gay characters of color, and *House of Cards*. The majority of Netflix's inclusive content can be found on *Orange is the New Black* which features several lesbian and bisexual inmates as well as Sophia Buset, a trans woman of color.

OWN

Launched in 2011, the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) features a mix of original programs, scripted shows, documentaries and films. During the past year, *Oprah's Next Chapter* has featured several LGBT guests including Neil Patrick Harris and David Burtka. Among its original programs is the Tyler Perry created drama *The Haves and the Have Nots*, which unfortunately includes a very problematic gay character. The network has also aired several inclusive specials including *10 Kids 2 Dads* and *Wanda Sykes Presents Herlarious*.

Oxygen

Oxygen launched in 2000 as a privately owned network airing reruns and original reality programs. In 2007, NBCUniversal purchased the network and continued to expand its popular slate of unscripted series. Last year the network premiered *All the Right Moves*, which follows a dance company co-created by Travis Wall and featured several gay dancers. Among its other inclusive shows, Oxygen also aired *I'm Having Their Baby* which featured a gay couple as well as a straight couple with a trans man hoping to adopt a baby.

PBS

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is a non-profit network of stations around the country, providing content to public broadcasting channels. While inconsistencies between PBS markets means not all PBS stations air the same content, it should be noted that during the past year, PBS continued to air British dramas *Downton Abbey* which features duplicitous butler Thomas Barrow. During the past year, PBS stations also aired *Love Free or Die*, a documentary about Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop.

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: War of the Damned*, which featured a warrior named Agron and his lover Nasir as well as a Cilician pirate named Castus. The network also recently aired the original drama *Da Vinci's Demons* which did feature gay content, but also cast the famous inventor as a predominantly heterosexual womanizer despite historical evidence that he had romantic relations with men.

Spike

Owned by Viacom, Spike was founded in 2003 as Spike TV, a network whose programming was solely aimed at adult male viewers. Spike airs a combination of reality programs, informative programs, docufiction, and syndicated shows. The network frequently receives high ratings but unfortunately lacks in diversity and rarely features LGBT images. The network did feature a gay "character," LV, on its reality spoof *The Joe Schmo Show: Bounty Hunting*.

Syfy

As a division of NBCUniversal, 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. Though they are coming to an end, the popular drama *Warehouse 13* continues to feature 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 several LGBT characters on its new drama, *Defiance*.

TeenNick

A sister channel to the immensely popular Nickelodeon network, TeenNick is a Viacom 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. In the past year transgender teen Adam continued to be a strong part of the show's universe which also featured freshman Tristan and Fiona and Imogene who form one of the couples at Degrassi Community School. Unfortunately, Adam's character recently died in a car crash.

TV Land

Owned by Viacom, 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*. One of the network's recent original programs was *Happily Divorced*, about a woman living with her ex-husband, Peter, who has come out as gay. It was recently announced the show would not be returning for another season.

VH1

VH1 continues to show music videos and airs an assortment of music-related and celebrity-heavy reality programming and pop culture specials. Omar continues to be a driving force on the network's first scripted series, *Single Ladies*. The network has also featured several LGBT people on its unscripted programs over the past year including *The Gossip Game*, *Off Pitch* and *Black Ink Crew*.

We

Woman's Entertainment Television or We TV is an AMC Networks property airing original content and syndicated series with a focus on a female audience. During the past year, the network premiered *Cyndi Lauper: Still So Unusual* which focused on the singer-songwriter and addressed her work as an outstanding LGBT youth advocate. The network also airs *My Fair Wedding*, hosted by out wedding planner David Tutera and *L.A. Hair*, which features LGBT cast members.

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 GLAAD's blog, social media and the daily LGBT TV listings, "What to Watch on TV."

matt kane

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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 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 *Studio Responsibility Index*, *Network Responsibility Index*, and oversees the publication of *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

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Max Gouttebroze serves as an active member of the GLAAD Programs Team by identifying and monitoring LGBT repre-

sentations, 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 *Studio Responsibility Index* and *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.

megan townsend

Entertainment and Operations Coordinator
Megan Townsend serves on GLAAD's Entertainment Team where she monitors LGBT-inclusive content on television and film and is a frequent contributor to GLAAD's blog. She is the principal author of "What to Watch on TV," GLAAD's daily guide to LGBT-inclusive television programming, and a contributing researcher for GLAAD's *Studio Responsibility Index*, *Network Responsibility Index* and *Where We Are on TV* report. She also serves on the Operations team as the coordinator of GLAAD's internship program. A graduate of Central Michigan University, Megan joined GLAAD in January 2012 as the Entertainment Media Fellow and moved into her current role in March 2013.

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 *Studio Responsibility Index*, *Network Responsibility Index* and contribute to GLAAD's blog.

Ricky Carter - University of Florida – Class of 2012

Hayley Thayer - Loyola Marymount University – Class of 2013

Natalie Meier - Mills College – Class of 2015