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A Special Report from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

Where

we are

Where we are on TV

GLAAD's 14th Annual Diversity Study Previews the 2009-2010 Primetime Television Seasc



Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) representations have increased slightly for the second year in a row according to an analysis of the 2009-2010 scripted primetime broadcast television season conducted by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). The *Where We Are on TV* report forecasts the expected presence of LGBT characters in the upcoming 2009-2010 television schedule.

The study shows that LGBT representations will account for 3% of all scripted series regular characters in the 2009-2010 broadcast television schedule, up from 2.6% in 2008 and 1.1% in 2007. However, on mainstream cable networks the number of LGBT scripted series regular characters has decreased from last year's analysis, from 32 to 25.

For 14 years, GLAAD has tracked the visibility of the LGBT community on television by counting the number of LGBT characters. Since the creation of *Where We Are on TV* in 2005, GLAAD also began to compile statistics on the sexual orientation, gender identity and race/ethnicity for all scripted characters expected to appear on broadcast television in the coming season. The information compiled in this report is accurate at printing but is subject to changes in programming that may occur during the course of the TV season. At the conclusion of the 2009-2010 season, an in-depth analysis of the LGBT images that aired will be provided by GLAAD in its fourth annual *Network Responsibility Index* (NRI).

Of the 600 series regular characters counted on the five broadcast networks (ABC, CBS, The CW, Fox and NBC), 18 are LGBT, an increase of two from 16 LGBT characters in the previous year. This modest rise stands out considering that the total number of series characters has actually decreased. NBC will show the most improvement with their total of LGBT series regulars doubling to four this year. Included in this number is the announced presence of an LGBT character on NBC's new series *Trauma*. However, the specifics of the LGBT character remain unclear, with the network only acknowledging that one of the lead or supporting characters will in fact be gay or lesbian. With eight LGBT series regular characters out of 159 total, ABC has the highest percentage of LGBT characters for any network (5%) and leads all other broadcast networks. CBS continues to disappoint with zero LGBT series regular characters and only one recurring LGBT character.

"It's promising to see not only an increase in the quantity of LGBT characters but that storylines about the LGBT community are becoming more reflective of current issues impacting our lives," said GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios. "Americans now have the opportunity see LGBT couples marrying on shows like Brothers & Sisters, raising children on Modern Family and LGBT youth coming out on Glee. As more and more Americans see fair and accurate images of our community and the issues impacting our lives reflected on the small screen, they come to accept and better understand their LGBT family members and neighbors."

As the number of LGBT regular characters continues to rise, the number of recurring LGBT characters has declined significantly to levels more in line with 2007. That year, there were 13 LGBT recurring characters on the broadcast networks. This year, there are only 12, down from a high of 19 in 2008. Though this decline is potentially troubling, the increase in lead or supporting LGBT characters is encouraging and could serve to counterbalance fewer LGBT recurring characters.

Diversifying the images of LGBT characters to reflect

the presence of women, people of color, and the transgender community remains a struggle for the broadcast networks. Unless Trauma's LGBT character is a lesbian rather than a gay man, Dr. Arizona Robbins on Grey's Anatomy (ABC) will be the only series regular lesbian character on broadcast primetime. The four remaining female series regulars are all bisexual: Dr. Callie Torres on Grey's Anatomy, Dr. Remy "Thirteen" Hadley on House (Fox), Angela Montenegro on Bones (Fox), and new character Ella Simms on Melrose Place (The CW). Unfortunately, with the loss of Alexis Meade on Ugly Betty (ABC) and Carmelita on Dirty Sexy Money (ABC), there will be zero transgender regular or recurring representations in the new season.

In addition to Callie on *Grey's Anatomy*, there are only three other LGBT people of color: Oscar Martinez on *The Office* (NBC) and Angel Garcia on Mercy (NBC) are both Latino, and Angela on Bones is Asian-Pacific Islander. There are zero black LGBT series regular characters and one non-human, American Dad's Roger the alien on Fox.

"Our analysis also shows where there's still work to be done. This past year, we've seen real progress from many networks toward making their scripted programming more LGBT inclusive," said Barrios. "At the same time, we continue to advocate that other networks follow suit and better reflect the diversity of the LGBT community."

On mainstream cable networks, the number of LGBT characters continues a steady decline that began last year. Even with the addition of several characters on new and existing series, the loss of a major program like The L Word is being felt as the number of regular LGBT characters drops from 32 last season to 25 this year. If the 14 recurring characters are added, the overall total of LGBT characters is 40 on mainstream cable networks. The LGBT-focused cable networks here! and Logo add an additional 27 LGBT characters.

Notes on Method:

In preparing this report, GLAAD has compiled as best as possible complete character data for all scripted broadcast network shows, and the identities of all LGBT characters on scripted cable programming. The report constitutes the most accurate information available at press time, and thus is presented with the disclaimer that some character information may change before or during the programming season.

Breakdown of Series Regular Characters on Broadcast Networks



2009-2010 Diversity Breakdown by Broadcast Network









The 2009-2010 season will see significant change in the quantity of LGBT representations on dramatic broadcast series. Whereas last year's report counted six dramatic series at the start of the season with leading and/ or supporting LGBT characters, this year the report has counted nine, four of which are new series. The increase in the 2009-2010 season is even more impressive when compared to the 2007-2008 season, which counted only two LGBT-inclusive dramas. That means in two years, the total number of dramatic series with LGBT characters has increased from two to nine.

ABC, The CW and Fox have two dramas each this year, but NBC has shown the most improvement with three dramatic series featuring an LGBT series regular. Noticeably absent is CBS, which has no regular or recurring LGBT characters on any of its dramatic programming.

ABC's *Grey's Anatomy* worried its LGBT fans last season after lesbian character Erica Hahn was hastily written off the show. Nevertheless, the show has since shown excellent promise with a new storyline in which Callie Torres began dating Arizona Robbins, a lesbian character that has been promoted to series regular this season and is now the only lesbian series regular on broadcast primetime.

Southland on NBC features a rare character for a crime drama: a gay police officer, John Cooper, played by Michael Cudlitz. In its second season, Southland is being restructured to focus on two sets of officers, including Officer Cooper, so further development of his complex character can be expected.



One of the recurring LGBT characters in a dramatic series is a new addition to a veteran show: Madeline Zima will appear on NBC's *Heroes* as Claire Bennett's college roommate, Gretchen. The two will kiss at some point in the season but it is unclear whether Claire will subsequently be counted as a bisexual or lesbian series regular character. One formerly recurring gay character has been removed from our count: Joe the bartender on *Grey's Anatomy* made scant appearances last season, and thus we have not included him in our count this year. It would be a pleasant surprise, however, to see him receive more screen time this season.



Dramatic Series with Leading and/or Supporting LGBT Characters on Broadcast TV:

- The Beautiful Life, The CW
- Bones, Fox
- Brothers & Sisters, ABC
- Grey's Anatomy, ABC
- House, Fox
- Melrose Place, The CW
- Mercy, NBC
- Southland, NBC
- *Trauma*, NBC

Dramatic Series with Recurring LGBT Characters on Broadcast TV:

- Friday Night Lights, NBC
- Gossip Girl, The CW
- Heroes, NBC

Regrettably, the number of comedic series with regular or recurring LGBT characters has declined this year. Last year, six comedies featured regular LGBT characters and five included recurring LGBT characters. In the 2009-2010 season, only five series include regular LGBT characters and three include recurring LGBT characters. The character of Andrew Van de Kamp on Desperate Housewives has been downgraded from supporting to recurring following actor Shawn Pyfrom's decision to pursue other projects.

Two of the most buzzed about new comedy series include LGBT series regulars. *Glee*, the new show from openly gay *Nip/Tuck* creator Ryan Murphy, features Kurt Hummel, a musical theater geek who performs in his high school glee club. Recent episodes featured Kurt coming out to his best friend and his father, who proved to be very accepting of his gay son, much to Kurt's surprise. ABC's new sitcom Modern Family centers around three very different families, one of which is a gay couple who recently adopted a baby.

CBS' only LGBT character in its scripted primetime programming is Brad, a recurring gay man played by Orlando Jones on Rules of Engagement. Several recurring characters on returning shows who were counted last year are not counted this season: On Ugly Betty, Marc St. James' boyfriend, Cliff, and transgender CEO Alexis Meade were written off of the show, and Will Arnett's Devin Banks appeared in only a single episode of 30 Rock last season as a guest star. NBC has not announced any plans for him to return.





Comedic Series with Leading and/or Supporting LGBT Characters on Broadcast TV:

- American Dad!, Fox
- *Glee*, Fox
- Modern Family, ABC
- The Office, NBC
- Ugly Betty, ABC

Comedic Series with Recurring LGBT Characters on Broadcast TV:

- Desperate Housewives, ABC
- Rules of Engagement, CBS
- The Simpsons, Fox

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SEXDER

Judging by the most recent estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, The CW is the only broadcast network to accurately reflect the U.S. population with respect to gender, with 51% of its lead or supporting characters being female. The other networks feature majority male representations. Fox and NBC are the bottom two broadcast networks in terms of female series regular characters: Fox's programming is only 37% female and NBC's is 38% female.

In terms of LGBT female characters, the current landscape is bleak. Of the 17 confirmed LGBT lead or supporting characters, only five are female. Jessica Capshaw's Dr. Arizona Robbins on *Grey's Anatomy* (ABC) is currently the only regular or supporting lesbian character on broadcast television. However, that could change if NBC's yet-to-be-announced LGBT character on *Trauma* (NBC) is revealed to be a lesbian.

The remaining female characters are all bisexual: Callie Torres on *Grey's Anatomy* (ABC), Ella Simms on *Melrose Place* (The CW), Remy "Thirteen" Handley on *House* (Fox) and Angela Montenegro on *Bones* (Fox). There are currently no bisexual males on the broadcast networks. However, Roger on *American Dad!* is described by Fox as an "omnisexual alien."

The 2007-2008 TV season on ABC was a groundbreaking one for transgender visibility when the network featured two major transgender characters, one of whom, Carmelita on *Dirty Sexy Money*, was played by Candis Cayne, an openly transgender actress. Unfortunately, last season these roles dwindled as Carmelita was accidentally shot and killed and Rebecca Romjin-Stamos' character Alexis Meade was written off of *Ugly Betty*. Furthermore, *Dirty Sexy Money* was cancelled. Heading into the 2009-2010 season, there are zero transgender regular or recurring characters on broadcast television.

IDENTITY DIVERSITY



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By GLAAD's count, Fox leads among the broadcast networks in overall racial and ethnic diversity, with people of color making up 30% of the total series regular characters. NBC has 26%, followed by ABC with 21%, CBS with 20% and The CW with 10%.





As poorly as most of the broadcast networks fare in terms of representing people of color in their overall character totals, the numbers are even more dismal with regard to LGBT people of color. Of the 17 announced LGBT regular characters in the 2009-2010 season, only four are people of color: Callie Torres on Grey's Anatomy (ABC), Angel Garcia on Mercy (NBC), and Oscar Martinez on The Office (NBC) are all Latino/a, and Angela Montenegro on Bones (Fox) is Asian-Pacific Islander. Although CBS has no LGBT regular characters, its one LGBT recurring character is African American: Brad on Rules of Engagement.

On cable, 27 series feature at least one LGBT character, but only 13 series have an LGBT person of color. Among the most notable of these, Lafayette Reynolds on HBO's True Blood and Calvin Owens on ABC Family's GREEK are African American, Mohammed De La Cruz on Showtime's Nurse Jackie is Middle Eastern, and Camille Wray on SyFy's Stargate Universe is Asian-Pacific Islander.



Scripted Series with LGBT People of Color, Broadcast:

- Bones, Fox
- Grey's Anatomy, ABC
- Mercy, NBC
- The Office, NBC
- Rules of Engagement, CBS*
- * Denotes recurring character

Scripted Series with LGBT People of Color, Cable:

- The Closer, TNT*
- Dante's Cove, here!
- Entourage, HBO
- GREEK, ABC Family
- The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency, HBO
- *Nip/Tuck*, FX
- Nurse Jackie, Showtime
- Paradise Falls, here!
- Rick & Steve, Logo
- Shameless, Sundance Channel
- Stargate: Universe, SyFy
- True Blood, HBO
- The United States of Tara, Showtime*

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* Denotes recurring character





LGBT CHARACTERS IN SCRIPTED PROGRAMMING CABLE

In the 2009-2010 season, the number of series regular LGBT characters on mainstream cable channels continues a significant decline that began last year. From the 2007-2008 season to 2008-2009, the number fell from 40 to 32. This year, the total drops by an additional 10 characters to 25, a 38% decline in two years.

There are 15 recurring LGBT characters, which bring the cable total of LGBT characters to 40. Showtime, HBO and Sundance Channel continue to account for much of the LGBT representation on mainstream cable networks. ABC Family and SyFy are showing promise as their programming becomes increasingly LGBT-inclusive. ABC Family has limited original programming but features gay, African American college student Calvin Owens on *GREEK* and also recently added a gay character to *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*. SyFy, which had very limited LGBT-inclusive programming last year, will be featuring several LGBT characters on the high-profile new series *Stargate Universe* and *Caprica*.

GLAAD has also included scripted programming from Logo and here!, the only two cable networks which air content catered to the LGBT market. These two networks alone account for 27 regular and recurring LGBT characters on cable television in addition to the 40 LGBT characters on the 11 mainstream cable networks. These networks were included in the report to acknowledge the value of the programming that is being produced by these two networks.

The loss of standout shows such as *The L Word* and *South of Nowhere* has not only impacted overall total of LGBT series regulars, but also paints a bleaker picture for lesbians on cable television. Entering into the new season, lesbian characters will make up a scant 23% of the total LGBT characters on cable. On the season five finale of FX's *Nip/Tuck*, lesbian Liz Cruz married Christian Troy. It remains to be seen how that storyline will play out and whether Liz will now be counted as a bisexual character.

Representation of bisexual and transgender characters represents an important growth area for cable networks this season. Although there are fewer bisexual characters on cable than on broadcast, cable does feature the only major male bisexual character on television: *Torchwood*'s Captain Jack Harkness on BBC America. Unfortunately, that show lost a regular gay character when Jack's boyfriend, Ianto Jones, was killed off in the recent miniseries, *Torchwood: Children of Earth*.

While transgender characters are completely absent from the broadcast networks, they fare slightly better on cable, but not by much when one considers the quality of these representations. *Nip/Tuck*'s Ava Moore will appear in the coming season, but was a problematic character who displayed psychotic and incestuous behavior when she appeared several seasons ago. The character of Miriam on Sundance Channel's *The Life and Times of Vivienne Vyle* was considerably less offensive but was also a minor and poorly fleshed out character.







GREEK's Paul James, ABC Family

Series with Leading and Supporting LGBT Characters on Cable:

- Big Love, HBO
- Dante's Cove, here!
- Entourage, HBO
- Eureka, SyFy
- Greek, ABC Family
- Mad Men, AMC
- Nip/Tuck, FX
- Nurse Jackie, Showtime
- Paradise Falls, here!
- Raising the Bar, TNT
- Rick and Steve: The Happiest Gay Couple in All the World, Logo
- Shameless, Sundance Channel
- Skins, BBC America
- Stargate Universe, SyFy
- The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency, HBO
- The Lair, here!
- The Life and Times of Vivienne Vyle, Sundance Channel
- The Sarah Silverman Program, Comedy Central
- The United States of Tara, Showtime
- Torchwood, BBC America
- True Blood, HBO

Series with Recurring LGBT characters on Cable:

- Degrassi: The Next Generation, The N
- The Closer, TNT
- The Secret Life of the American Teenager, ABC Family
- · Weeds, Showtime

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LGBT ANIMATION

Many of the animated LGBT images on television can be attributed to Fox. Marge's lesbian sister Patty on the long-running series *The Simpsons* is joined by the dutiful Wayland Smithers, who has confessed his undying love for the character Mr. Burns on many occasions. Seth MacFarlane's *American Dad!* regularly features Roger, an "omnisexual alien," and the recurring gay couple Terry and Gerry. MacFarlane recently stated that Baby Stewie on *Family Guy* will likely grow up to be gay, but since he is only one year old he is not out on the show. However, the show occasionally includes LGBT storylines, albeit with varying degrees of success.

On cable, Logo features *Rick and Steve: The Happiest Gay Couple in All the World* with a mixed-race lead gay couple and numerous other LGBT characters. Comedy Central's satirical animated series *South Park* has historically included LGBT characters and storylines, but like *Family Guy*, can be hit or miss.





Simpsons' Patty Bouvier, Fox

REALITY PROGRAMMING

LGBT representation is strong in reality series, and with this genre growing every season it is important to acknowledge those networks that have been diverse and inclusive versus those that need more work. Due to the nature of reality programming, casting is rarely announced far enough in advance to give a thorough preview of the coming season. However, thanks to hit series like *Top Chef, Top Chef Masters, Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List, Flipping Out, Make Me a Supermodel, Miami Social,* and *Million Dollar Listing,* Bravo continues to be the most LGBT-inclusive network in reality programming.

Among broadcast networks, Fox has done a strong job of including LGBT participants in their popular reality series *Hell's Kitchen* and *So You Think You Can Dance*. It was also recently announced that openly gay director and choreographer Adam Shankman will be joining *Dance* as a permanent judge and out comedian Ellen DeGeneres would be taking over for Paula Abdul as the fourth judge on *American Idol*. CBS, despite severely lacking in scripted LGBT characters, has also consistently included LGBT contestants on shows such as *Survivor* and *Big Brother*. *The Amazing Race 15* will feature Dan & Sam McMillen, a pair of openly gay brothers. The CW has a lesbian contestant, Lulu, on the current season of *America's Next Top Model*.

Reality series have had a strong track record recently in representation of the transgender community and MTV has recently continued that strong trend. Transgender singer Jaila Simms was featured on Sean "Diddy" Combs' new series *Making His Band*, and for the first time on *Randy Jackson Presents America's Best Dance Crew*, an openly gay and transgender dance crew – Vogue Evolution – competed.





While LGBT representations in daytime television are not counted in this report, their increasing inclusivity means they deserve to be acknowledged as well. Daily dramas in particular have seen a rapid rise in LGBT characters. *One Life to Live* continues to follow the story between Kyle and Oliver, while Phillip has returned to *The Young and The Restless* and came out to the family who believed him dead. *As The World Turns* regularly features gay couple Luke and Noah and has also introduced new gay characters as well.

The Emmy Award winning *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, which stars openly gay host Ellen DeGeneres, will no doubt continue to address the issues that face the LGBT community in a fun, accessible, yet poignant way. Judge David Young, another openly gay TV personality, will continue presiding over cases with wit, flair and compassion in his self-titled daytime courtroom series.



Four Year Trends:







Four Year Trend - Number of Regular and Recurring LGBT Characters on Cable Networks (figures represent counts made at each season's launch)



GLAAD'S MEDIA PROGRAMS TEAM

While the entertainment industry has made great strides in including LGBT stories and characters in movies and television, there is still a long way to go before the images at the local Cineplex and during primetime accurately reflect the diversity of gay and transgender community.

The Entertainment Media Program staff works to ensure that authentic and compelling images of LGBT people can be seen in the movies and on TV, helping to create a climate where gay and transgender people – especially young people – see images of their lives reflected back at them when they go to the movies or turn on the TV. GLAAD works proactively with studio executives, producers and showrunners to integrate LGBT characters and stories into their shows and movies, and regularly provides feedback on scripts and story ideas and early cuts of TV shows and films.

The Entertainment Media Team also creates two signature reports – Where We Are on TV and The Network Responsibility Index – that provide a comprehensive assessment of the quality, quantity and diversity of LGBT images on television. In addition, the Entertainment Media Team is the home of QueerLounge, the signature event for LGBT filmmakers at the Sundance Film Festival.

GLAAD's Entertainment Media Team

GLAAD's Entertainment Media Team not only works with television and film as a resource to encourage fair, accurate and inclusive representation of LGBT people, but also combats issues of defamation in these industries. This process is unique to each individual project, but may involve reading scripts, viewing rough cuts, pitching stories, consulting with writers and producers, or working with talent to better inform them about portraying LGBT characters. GLAAD also promotes LGBT-inclusive projects through the entertainment section of glaadBLOG.org and the weekly LGBT TV listings, *TV Gayed*. Contact us at entertainment@glaad.org.

Taj Paxton Director of Entertainment Media

Taj is GLAAD's 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 and Tribeca to launch new LGBT voices. She directs the Entertainment Program's response to acts of anti-LGBT defamation. She oversees the publication of the Network Responsibility Index and Where We Are on TV. Taj is an award-winning producer and screenwriter. Prior to joining GLAAD, she created a half hour comedy pilot for NBC, produced two films and was head of production for Forest Whitaker's company. She is a graduate of Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

Jonathan Rosales Entertainment Media Manager

Jonathan Rosales monitors and evaluates LGBT images in television and film, tracking the development of characters and storylines to serve as a resource to journalists and the entertainment industry. He is the lead researcher and writer on the annual *GLAAD Network Responsibility Index* and *Where We Are on TV*. He is also a contributor to glaadBLOG.org, regularly updating the entertainment section. Jonathan holds degrees in gender studies and political science from the University of Southern California and has been at GLAAD since 2005, serving first as the Media Awards Intern and then as the Media Awards Communications Associate before moving into his current role.

Callan Koenig Entertainment Media & Advertising Fellow

Callan Koenig researches and monitors LGBT content and images in television programming in her role as the principle author of GLAAD's weekly guide to LGBT television, *TV Gayed*, which can be read at glaad.org and glaadBLOG.org. Callan served as a contributing researcher and writer on the *GLAAD Network Responsibility Index* and *Where We Are on TV*. She is also the primary researcher and curator of GLAAD's Advertising Media Program. Callan holds degrees in theatre and marketing from Emerson College.

Brian McGough Entertainment Media Intern

Brian McGough joined GLAAD's Entertainment Media Team for the summer, assisting with research for the *GLAAD Network Responsibility Index* and *Where We Are on TV*, as well as working on other varied tasks two days a week. In late August, Brian returned to Massachusetts for the final year of his studies in business administration, marketing and law at Boston University's School of Management.

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The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.