# 2014 NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX



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	Overview	3
BROADCAST NETWORKS	ABC	9
	CBS	
	The CW	
	FOX	
	NBC	20
CABLE NETWORKS	ABC Family	24
	A&E	26
	FX	28
	нво	30
	History	33
	MTV	34
	Showtime	37
	TLC	40
	TNT	42
	USA	44
	Additional Networks	46
	GLAAD's Entertainment Media Team	49



**HBO** Looking

he 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.

This year, GLAAD is tracking only hours of original primetime programming on the broadcast networks, thereby bringing them in line with how we have always tracked their counterparts on cable. As such, year to year comparisons are somewhat more difficult to make, but it's still readily apparent that there has been

significant progress on TV overall. For the first time, GLAAD awarded "Excellent" grades to three networks in the same year.

These improvements follow several years of critical milestones for the LGBT community at large, including the end of the military's ban on openly gay service members, numerous states legalizing marriage for same-sex couples through both the courts and the ballot box, and even official federal recognition of those marriages after a landmark Supreme Court ruling. It is only fitting that the heightened awareness of our community's lives and personhood should translate into better media representation as well.

That's not to say this has been the norm for every network. The continuing exclusion of LGBT people from programming on some networks begins to appear more politically polarized with each passing year. They must recognize that as long as they present an outdated view of the world, these networks will fail to connect with a younger generation of viewers whose peer group is increasingly open and diverse.

However, that same sentiment could be expressed regarding the overall lack of significant or accurate stories about transgender people on TV at large. As GLAAD's own report on the subject has found, the majority of depictions of transgender people on TV over the last ten years were problematic to outright defamatory. On a brighter note, this year also signified the beginning of a trans "media moment." Thanks to pioneers like actress and advocate Laverne Cox, public awareness of the transgender community is swiftly on the rise, and more forward thinking programs and networks would be wise to capitalize on that. It's no coincidence that new online content creators like Netflix and Amazon feature some of the most groundbreaking and fully realized depictions of transgender characters on programs like Orange is the New Black and *Transparent* respectively.

That is why GLAAD is officially announcing that from the next report forward, networks must feature significant transgender content in their original programming in order to receive a grade of "Excellent" in the *NRI*. We hope they won't simply leave it to their online competitors to set the bar.

# IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT NEW ONLINE CONTENT CREATORS LIKE NETFLIX AND AMAZON FEATURE SOME OF THE MOST GROUNDBREAKING AND FULLY REALIZED DEPICTIONS OF TRANSGENDER CHARACTERS

Last year, GLAAD found a significant increase in the number of LGBT-inclusive programming hours on the five broadcast networks, but the new standard we have adopted to track them this year makes a direct comparison difficult. From this point forward, the *NRI* will track only original primetime programming hours for broadcast networks, rather than also including hours of repeats as has typically been the case. By doing so, we will be able to make direct comparisons between broadcast and cable.

On cable, GLAAD tracked nine of the same 10 networks as the previous report, replacing TBS with A&E, which was last tracked in 2011.

RANKING OF THE BROADCAST NETWORKS 2013-2014			RANKING OF THE BROADCAST NETWORKS 2012-2013		
1.	NBC	37%	1.	FOX	42%
2.	FOX	36%	2.	ABC	33%
3.	ABC	34%	3.	NBC	29%
4.	The CW	33%	4.	The CW	28%
5.	CBS	28%	5.	CBS	14%

Listed by percentage of LGBT-inclusive hours of primetime programming

## OVERVIEW OF BROADCAST NETWORK FINDINGS

- On NBC, the drama *Chicago Fire* and reality series *Hollywood Game Night* and *The Voice* resulted in the network having both the highest percentage of lesbian impressions (46%) and highest percentage of inclusive reality hours (58%) among broadcast nets. Unfortunately, their LGBT impressions were also the least racially diverse, with only 11% of impressions being made by people of color.

- ◇ CBS still ranks last among broadcast TV for the sixth year in a row, but with 28% of their programming now being LGBT-inclusive, the network has closed the gap considerably. Close to half of the network's inclusive hours came from alternative programming (47%) with series like Survivor and Big Brother including out contestants.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF CABLE NETWORK FINDINGS

- ⟨ FX tied at first place among cable networks with 49% of its primetime programming including LGBT impressions. The new animated comedy Chozen and returning series Anger Management helped the network reach the highest percentage of inclusive comedy hours (54%) among cable networks.
- ♦ While ABC Family dropped by eight percent this year, the network still posted an admirable 42% LGBT-inclusive primetime programming hours. Thanks to characters like Emily on *Pretty Little Liars* and Lena on *The Fosters*, ABC Family featured the highest percentage of impressions made by lesbians (90%) and LGBT people of color (57%) among all cable networks tracked.
- ♦ Premium cable network HBO rose by five percent this year to 31% LGBT-inclusive hours of primetime programming. In addition to several inclusive series, the network excelled in specials with TV movie *The Normal Heart* and documentaries *Valentine Road* and *The Out List* among the year's inclusive programming.

### RANKING OF THE CABLE **NETWORKS** 2013-2014 49% MTV 2. **FX** 49% **ABC FAMILY** 42% 3. **SHOWTIME** 34% 5. **HBO** 31% TLC 17% 6. **7. USA** 17% 8 **TNT** 9% A&E 6% 10. HISTORY 0%

RANKING OF THE CABLE NETWORKS <b>2012-2013</b>							
1.	ABC FAMILTY	50%					
2.	FX	40%					
3.	SHOWTIME	31%					
4.	MTV	28%					
5.	TLC	27%					
6.	НВО	26%					
7.	USA	20%					
8	TNT	17%					
9	TBS	10%					
10.	HISTORY	0%					

Listed by percentage of LGBT-inclusive hours of primetime programming

#### **METHODOLOGY**

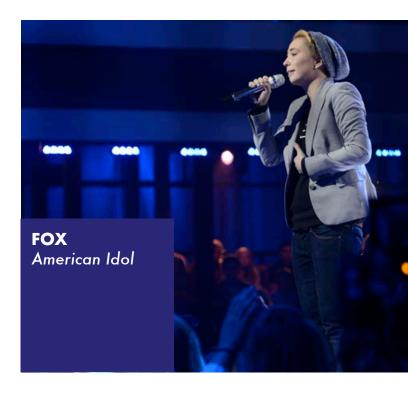
For this eighth annual report, GLAAD divided its analysis into two sections: broadcast networks and cable networks.

For broadcast, GLAAD researched original primetime programming hours on ABC, CBS, The CW, FOX and NBC from June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014. Total primetime programming hours researched: 2,832 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 does not track primetime broadcast hours programmed by local affiliate stations; only hours of national broadcast.

In an effort to more closely align broadcast and cable networks, this year GLAAD opted to track only first-run original content hours on broadcast, whereas previous years have analyzed the total of all broadcast programming hours. Repeat episodes, acquired (syndicated) series and films, as well as live sporting events, were not counted for any network, keeping the focus exclusively on network-generated original programming.

The 10 cable networks examined for the 2013-2014 *NRI* include ABC Family, A&E, FX, HBO, History, MTV, Showtime, 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, 2013 – May 31, 2014. Total programming hours: 2,292.75 hours.

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 or content. GLAAD analysts noted whether the LGBT depictions had a minor or major presence in the story, as well as the orientation/gender identity and the race/ethnicity of those depicted. Any significant discussion of issues pertaining to LGBT lives, whether in a scripted or newsmagazine setting, was also counted, though no race/ethnicity could be assigned.

For the purpose of this report, each representation of an LGBT person, or significant discussion of an LGBT issue, during the course of an hour counts as one 'impression.' If one LGBT character appeared on 12 episodes, for example, this character made 12 impressions.

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**

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 Jodie Dallas on *Soap* back in 1977, perhaps the most notable moment came in the spring of 1997 when Ellen DeGeneres came out both off-screen and on-screen on her sitcom *Ellen*. Over the years, ABC has shown considerable commitment of the five major broadcast networks to include LGBT characters and storylines on their scripted series with programs such as *Ugly Betty, Brothers & Sisters, Grey's Anatomy, Desperate Housewives, Modern Family*, and *Happy Endings*.

This year, GLAAD found that 34% of ABC's original programming was LGBT-inclusive, which is similar – though not directly comparable – to last year's findings that 33% of ABC's *total* primetime programming hours were inclusive. Though the network was topped by both FOX and NBC this season, ABC has consistently done well over the years and often produced groundbreaking LGBT storylines. However, they also need to make serious efforts toward making the characters in those storylines more racially diverse.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ Another of ABC's long-running properties, comedy series Modern Family, continued to prominently feature gay couple Mitchell and Cameron this season. It ended up being an eventful year for the pair as the committed couple decided to make it "official" by getting legally married, which finally became an option for real-life California

- couples following the overturning of the discriminatory Proposition 8.
- ♦ The drama continued for married couple Callie and Arizona on Grey's Anatomy, with Arizona's infidelity last season resulting in the two splitting up. Arizona eventually became romantically involved with another established character on the show, surgical resident Leah, but broke it off once Callie told her she wanted to get back together and work on their marriage. On a show in which a couple's dramatic ups and downs mean more screen time, Callie and Arizona's marital discord demonstrates Grey's continued investment in the characters.

GOOD

**2014 RANKING** 

742

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME

**PROGRAMMING** 

250.5

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (34%)** 

2012-13 Score: 33%

2011-12 Score: 27%

2010-11 Score: 23%

2009-10 Score: 26%

2008-09 Score: 24%

2007-08 Score: 24%

2006-07 Score: 15%

Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.



- ♦ Shonda Rhimes' other soapy drama Scandal also prominently featured a same-sex couple, though their problems went far beyond cheating. As the White House Chief of Staff, Cyrus Beene has committed many despicable acts over the course of the show, but using his own husband as blackmail bait was certainly an eyebrow-raiser. Unfortunately their relationship came to an end this season when political reporter James was murdered to cover up another murder (of the Vice President's closeted husband no less), which might be considered offensive treatment of a gay character on a different show. On Scandal, however, it's par for the course.
- ♦ The country music drama *Nashville* gave a bigger role to closeted singer Will this season, who continued to hide behind a straight public persona despite having to work with an openly gay aspiring manager named Brent, with whom he had a romantic past. Will eventually had Brent fired and married a musician named Layla to keep his secret, but the pressure led him to come out to her in the season finale. At the time, his character was in front of a reality show camera lens, so next season may also see Will publicly forced out of the closet. Given that the show is set in the conservative and very Southern world of country music, Will's storyline is unique.

**ABC** Grey's Anatomy

♦ In other dramas, Revenge continued to feature bisexual Nolan, who is one of protagonist Emily's few allies on the show, and this season had an ill-fated romance with a duplicitous man named Patrick. On the Canadian cop drama Rookie Blue, Officer Gail began dating a woman for the first time; a forensic specialist named Holly. Mistresses featured lesbian couple Alex and Sally who became entwined with Josslyn (one of the main characters), though many viewers were put off by the show's treatment of Josslyn's "fluid" sexuality. Betrayal also featured a lesbian relationship between regular characters Valerie and Jules, though the show was cancelled after one season.

♦ In other comedies, the series Suburgatory lost gay school counselor Mr.

- Wolfe, but still featured teenager Dalia, who was revealed to have an ex-girl-friend last season. On *Super Fun Night*, one of the main characters was Marika, who came out to her friends near the series' end. Gay teenager Brad also made several appearances on *The Middle*.
- ♦ The hidden camera set-up show Primetime: What Would You Do? has often presented situations involving fictionalized LGBT people, and this season included actors playing gay basketball players, gay Boy Scouts, and a lesbian couple being refused a wedding cake by a baker. On 20/20 the stories included a transgender teenage couple and a piece about the Rutgers basketball coach fired for using gay slurs.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ Despite the growing number of significant lesbian, gay and bisexual characters on the network, most of those characters are still overwhelmingly white. This year, only 15% of the network's LGBT impressions were made by people of color, with most of those being Callie on *Grey's Anatomy*, who is Latina. ABC should make a concerted

effort to address this in the future with more diverse casting of these roles. Like every other network, they should also consider introducing more significant transgender storylines, particularly since ABC programs like *Dirty Sexy Money* and *Ugly Betty* were ground-breakers in this regard.

# **CBS**

CBS premiered Norman Lear's classic series *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.

Of all the broadcast networks, CBS has struggled the most when it comes to including LGBT people and stories in their programming. They have routinely trailed the other networks in the report by a wide margin, but this year the gap has dramatically shrunk. This is partly due to GLAAD changing how it tracks broadcast networks, but is also the result of discernible efforts on CBS' part to address its lack of LGBT representation on programs like *Two and a Half Men, How I Met Your Mother*, and *The Crazy Ones*. It's a welcome improvement.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ Reality competition programs are rarely given repeat airings on broadcast television, which is why in previous years of the Network Responsibility Index they accounted for a lower percentage of each network's overall programming hours. This put the often very inclusive CBS programs like The Amazing Race and Survivor at a bit of a disadvantage, which has been eliminated now that GLAAD will only track original primetime hours for the report. It's not surprising then that Big Brother accounted for most of CBS' inclusive hours last year (36.5 hours) given that gay competitor (and eventual
- winner) Andy Herren appeared in every episode. Unfortunately it was also a season marred by rampant racist, sexist, and homophobic slurs, some of which Herren himself took part in.
- ♦ The Good Wife remained CBS' most inclusive fictional program thanks to the continued presence of bisexual investigator Kalinda Sharma. This season saw Kalinda getting close to a female detective in an attempt to dig up dirt on a colleague, but the two had a nasty falling out when the truth was revealed. Alicia's gay brother Owen also made a few appearances.

### **ADEQUATE**

**2014 RANKING** 

605

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

171

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (28%)** 

2012-13 Score: 14%

2011-12 Score: 8%

2010-11 Score: 10%

2009-10 Score: 7%

2008-09 Score: 5%

2007-08 Score: 9%

2006-07 Score: 9%

Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.



**CBS** Two and a Half Men

- ♦ Both seasons of Survivor included gay competitors this year, with the first actually featuring a gay couple competing against each other. Survivor: Blood vs Water, competitors from previous seasons were pitted against loved ones, which included the returning Colton and his fiancé Though Colton left early, Caleb. Caleb remained for the duration of the episodes. Last spring's Survivor: Cagayan included Brice, who also left early. Like Big Brother and The Amazing Race, Survivor has consistently included gay, lesbian, and bisexual cast members.
- ♦ One of the most high profile new characters of the year was Jenny on *Two* and a Half Men, who was introduced as the long lost daughter of the now deceased Charlie Harper. A consummate womanizer and partier, Jenny takes after her father, but eventually fell for a woman named Brooke, with whom she is currently in a relationship. The show also featured numerous line-straddling inferences that the two male leads act like a gay couple, and two episodes in which Alan dated a transgender woman, which contained even more borderline humor. Potentially offensive content not-withstanding, the show has certainly become more LGBT-inclusive.

- ♦ The summer sci-fi hit Under the Dome is about a community trapped inside a mysterious structure, and included a lesbian couple and their daughter among those who could not escape; attorney Carolyn and her psychiatrist wife Alice. As a diabetic, the dwindling insulin supply in the town eventually led to Alice's tragic death, but Carolyn and her daughter remain. LGBT characters remain rare in big budget genre/ event shows of this kind, so the couple were a welcome inclusion.
- ♦ In other dramas, Elementary brought back transgender housekeeper and ancient Greek expert Ms. Hudson for an episode, though we continually hope they'll up her to at least a recurring role. The show also featured several gay or lesbian characters in other minor roles throughout, demonstrating consistent attention to inclusion even without a regular or recurring character.
- Much of CBS's additional inclusive hours came from the weekly newsmagazine program 60 Minutes, which included gay journalist Anderson Cooper in its lineup of reporters. The Amazing Race also brought back gay and deaf contestant Luke for an "all-star" season this spring.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ CBS has established positive momentum with their increasing LGBT content, and was even one of the few networks to feature multiple appearances by transgender characters across its programming. Some old habits die hard however, and borderline offensive humor continues to be a consistent feature of the network's comedy lineup on shows like Mike & Molly, 2 Broke Girls, and Two and a Half Men, even as they bring in new characters and storylines. If they can iron out the rough edges on some of their depictions, the network will be in remarkably better shape than they were just a year ago.

# THE CW

Launched at the start of the 2006-2007 TV season, The CW was created following a merger between The WB and UPN, two networks that held respectable track records in offering LGBT content. In the network's freshman year, The CW failed to incorporate LGBT characters into their scripted shows, but was ultimately awarded a "Fair" grade in the inaugural *Network Responsibility Index* because 51 of The CW's 55 hours of LGBT content came from the highly LGBT-inclusive reality series *America's Next Top Model*. Since then, The CW has made significant improvements in their scripted programming as well.

After decreasing from a high of 35% in 2010, The CW has bounced back up this year from 28% in 2013 to 33% this year. That's thanks to inclusive programs like *Capture, The Carrie Diaries*, and especially the long-running *America's Next Top Model*, as well as GLAAD's new tracking structure. Unfortunately the racial diversity of those LGBT representations has gone down significantly. In last year's report, 50% of those impressions were made by people of color, but this year that number has dropped to 23%. Though they are still in better shape than some of their broadcast neighbors, the decrease is unfortunate. The vast majority of those impressions were also male, with only 4% of The CW's inclusive hours containing lesbian representation.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ Once again, America's Next Top Model was one of the most inclusive shows on The CW thanks to both its consultants and new contestants. Photoshoot consultant Johnny Wujek and social media consultant Bryanboy (Bryan Grey Yambao) both returned for the latest season, which also featured gay male contestant and finalist Cory Hindorff. The season also began with a transgender contestant named Virgg, who unfortunately left the show early for health reasons.
- ♦ The outdoor survival reality competition Capture featured not one, but three different gay male competitors. Two of

- those, Jacob and Rob, formed one of the twelve teams competing for the grand prize and made it all the way to the final episode before being eliminated.
- ♦ Both The CW's vampire-centric shows featured new gay characters this year, to varying degrees. In the latter half of its fifth season, The Vampire Diaries introduced a new gay character named Luke: a male witch whose fate on the show is still up in the air. On the new spin-off series The Originals, self-proclaimed "gay club kid" Josh became the franchise's first gay vampire, though his role was relatively minor throughout.

GOOD

**2014 RANKING** 

296

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

99

HOURS (33%)

2012-13 Score: 28%

2011-12 Score: 29%

2010-11 Score: 33%

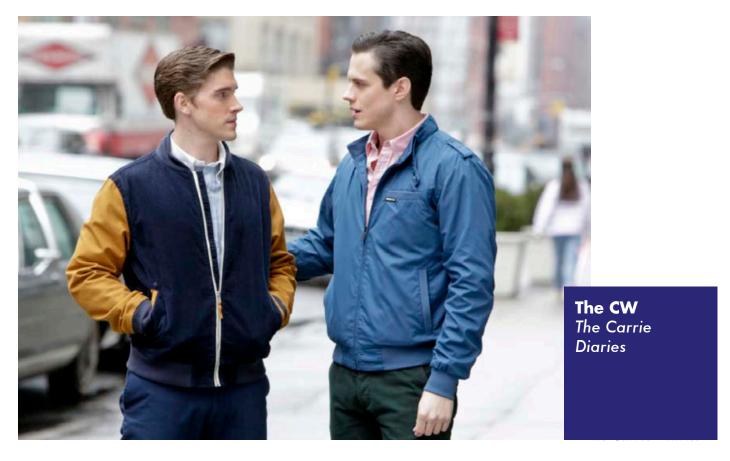
2009-10 Score: 35%

2008-09 Score: 20%

2007-08 Score: 21%

2006-07 Score: 12%

Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.



- ♦ On the final season of *The Carrie Diaries*, Walt continued to play a major role on the show. The season saw him kicked out of his home after his parents learned he was gay and consequently move in with Carrie and her family. Later, Walt and his boyfriend Bennet were confronted with the AIDS epidemic, after Bennet's ex tested positive and became ill. Meanwhile, Samantha didn't have any significant romantic plotlines with other women, though she and a straight-identified female character on the show (Larissa) ended up in bed together following a failed attempt at a threesome.
- ♦ In other CW shows, the comic-based series Arrow introduced the character of Black Canary this season, and then revealed that she had previously been in a relationship with a female assassin named Nyssa. The two eventually reunited in the season finale and are expected to return. On Star-Crossed, a race of aliens cohabitated with humans on earth and eventually revealed that they were pansexual, though this didn't play out in any significant way. And the ballet reality series Breaking Pointe included a regular gay male dancer and several appearances by his fiancé.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ As noted earlier, though The CW improved their overall percentage of inclusive hours this year, racial and gender diversity among LGBT characters has dropped significantly since the cancellation of *Emily Owens*, *M.D.* and *The L.A. Complex*. We hope the network will keep this in mind when casting potential new LGBT

roles, such as the yet-unannounced gay character set to recur on the highly anticipated new series *The Flash*, alongside the show's recurring gay Crime Lab Director, David Singh. Thankfully, it does look like Miss J has officially returned to *America's Next Top Model*.



Founded in 1986, FOX's sensitivity to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues has frequently been called into question. *Melrose Place* may be considered a pioneer in early representations of gay men, but in 1994, GLAAD took FOX to task for censoring a kiss between two gay characters on the show. Since then, GLAAD has taken issue with FOX on a number of occasions, and the network received a "Failing" grade in the first *NRI* for their 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. Since then they've certainly demonstrated that. Aside from a few years of minor decline, LGBT-inclusive programming on the network has steadily increased.

In last year's report, FOX actually achieved the highest percentage of LGBT-inclusive primetime hours ever for a broadcast network at 42%, which remains the benchmark. This year GLAAD found that 36% of their original programming was LGBT-inclusive, and they remain one of the most inclusive networks tracked in the *NRI*. Where they have most distinguished themselves among broadcast networks this year is in the racial diversity of those LGBT representations, with 43% being made by people of color thanks to shows like *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

♦ This was the second year that American Idol featured openly gay and lesbian contestants, but the first year that one made it to the finals. Lesbian singer MK Nobilette was upfront about her sexual orientation from early on, and later told the press she felt it was an important part of how she presented herself to the audience. We hope Idol will find more contestants like her in the future.

GOOD

**2014 RANKING** 

423.5

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

150.75

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (36%)** 

2012-13 Score: 42%

2011-12 Score: 24%

2010-11 Score: 29%

2009-10 Score: 30%

2008-09 Score: 11%

2007-08 Score: 4%

2006-07 Score: 6%

Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.



- ♦ Glee remained one of the most inclusive shows on television with at least seven different regular or recurring LGBT characters over the course of last season. Kurt and Blaine reconciled and got engaged, while Santana briefly dated a fellow waitress before reuniting with her high school girlfriend Brittany. Unique remained one of TV's only regular or recurring transgender characters, though she didn't have many significant storylines aside from an episode in which her right to use the women's restroom was challenged. It was great to see the show address what is a real-world issue for trans students, but sadly Unique is not expected to be part of the cast next season.
- ♦ One of FOX's most lauded new shows was the comedy series Brooklyn Nine-Nine, which features openly gay police Captain Ray Holt in one of the lead roles. Holt is a stereotype-defying character in more ways than one, but he always maintains his own uniquely deadpan sense of humor, and his sexual orientation is never exploited for laughs or conversely ignored. One episode found Holt struggling to remain president of the gay police officer association he helped found, while another saw he and his husband host a party at their home. In many ways, Holt is a model of the right way to include a gay character in a comedy.

FOX Brooklyn Nine-Nine

- ♦ FOX's animated comedies continued to feature a scattering of LGBT characters as well as some offensive humor. As usual, there was some particularly ugly content on Seth McFarlane's Family Guy, which included several jokes about anti-gay violence, some mincing gay depictions played for laughs, transphobic jokes, and an episode in which Peter tries to marry his own son for financial gain that was tied into the passage of marriage equality. American Dad! remains notably better in its handling of LGBT content despite the outrageous antics of bisexual alien character Roger. The Simpsons
- continued to feature occasional appearances by Smithers and Patty, and had a guest appearance by Rachel Maddow.
- In other FOX scripted series, Bones still featured bisexual forensic artist Angela, though now that the character is happily married, the subject of her sexual orientation is rarely broached. This season The Following featured a lesbian couple; one of whom unfortunately tried to murder the other, though that's not uncommon for a show about a serial killer cult. And the gay brother of a lead character on The Mindy Project made a handful of appearances.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ In recent years, FOX has become a leader in LGBT representation on television in general thanks to programming that is not only consistently inclusive but often diverse as well. Looking ahead to the coming roster of FOX shows, there's a lot to suggest they will remain near the top of the list. Empire, Gotham, and Red Band Society all feature significant

LGBT characters, many of whom are played by people of color. It's rare that a network will be able to boast of one show like that, much less three. Our suggested area for improvement is to take some of the unnecessarily mean edges off of their animated comedies, particularly on *Family Guy*.

## **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.

Every year we have seen NBC improve on their score from the previous report, and this year is no different. In fact, with GLAAD finding that 37% of the network's original programming hours were LGBT-inclusive, NBC has the highest amount of any broadcast network. That's all the more impressive considering just a year ago they ranked last out of the broadcast networks in terms of LGBT diversity in their upcoming scripted programming. It's not surprising then that almost 60% of the network's inclusive hours this year were due to their reality competition series, such as *The Voice*, *The Biggest Loser*, and *America's Got Talent*.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ Most of NBC's inclusive hours can be attributed to three seasons of a show that has fully embraced LGBT contestants from its very first episode; The Voice. The show's summer 2013 season featured singer Michelle Chamuel, who eventually became her season's runner-up in the finale. In the fall of 2013, contestant Nic Hawk made it through auditions to appear several more times before his elimination, while this spring Kristen Merlin continued to the semi-finals, cheered on by her girlfriend. The Voice should be commended for continuing to make openly LGBT contestants a part of its brand and legacy.
- ♦ The second biggest contributor to NBC's inclusive hours was actually its nightly

2014 Winter Olympics recap, owing mainly to the consistent presence of openly gay former Olympian Johnny Weir as a commentator on figure skating, as well as a handful of out Olympians like snowboarder Belle Brockoff and speed skater Ireen Wüst. The Olympics became a source of controversy when the International Olympic Committee refused to speak out against the anti-LGBT propaganda laws recently enacted by host country Russia. Alongside other LGBT organizations, GLAAD called on broadcaster NBC and other outlets to dedicate airtime to the stories of LGBT Russians being hurt by the law, but what little discussion of the issue happened on NBC was ultimately limited to reporters and pundits.

GOOD
2014 RANKING

765.5

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

286.5

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (37%)** 

2012-13 Score: 29%

2011-12 Score: 19%

2010-11 Score: 15%

2009-10 Score: 13%

2008-09 Score: 8%

2007-08 Score: 6%

2006-07 Score: 7%

Previous years' broadcast network rankings were based on total primetime hours, and took episode repeats into account.



**NBC** Hollywood Game Night

- ♦ The past season of The Biggest Loser turned out to be the final bow for out trainer Jillian Michaels, but she remained a major part of every episode of the show. What's more, her fellow trainer Bob Harper came out publicly as well. This was inspired by contestant Bobby Saleem, who revealed that he hadn't yet come out to his own father, which led Bob to discuss his own personal coming out story with him. Harper is expected to return next season.
- Nate Berkus hosted American Dream Builders, which also featured at least one gay contestant last season. TV survivalist Bear Grylls hosted the reality competition series Get Out Alive with Bear Grylls, in which gay friends Kyle and Royce were one of the teams pitted against each other to survive in grueling outdoor environments. And out Glee actress Jane Lynch hosted the new show Hollywood Game Night, which paired celebrities with non-celebrity contestants for the chance to win cash prizes following a series of party-style games. Lynch recently won an Emmy award for her performance as host in the show's first season, which featured several other out celebs.

- Will & Grace's Sean Hayes returned to network television with his sitcom Sean Saves the World, about a gay single father raising a teenage daughter and struggling with an erratic new boss at work. The show also touched on Sean's dating life but was cancelled after 13 episodes.
- ♦ The drama *Chicago Fire* continued to feature paramedic Leslie Shay, though her role this past season was somewhat subdued. In addition to the usual near-death experiences on the show, her one romantic storyline found her reconnecting with an old flame that her friends didn't approve of.
- In other NBC scripted programming, the drama *Dracula* depicted the classic character of Lucy as in love with her

best friend Mina, and saw Lucy turned into a vampire after their falling out. Additionally, there was the more unfortunate was the plotline of secret gay lovers Lord Laurent and Daniel, which saw one executed by a secret order and the other die by suicide. The 2013 summer series Camp featured an interracial gay couple in minor roles, who were married onscreen in a later Hannibal introduced the episode. lesbian character Margot Verger last season, who is expected to return with a love interest in season three. The fake reality series Siberia featured a female couple, one of whom died. And Law & Order: SVU once again featured minor gay content in several episodes, as well as one fairly questionable gay-specific plotline about male rape.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ Thanks to their numerous LGBT-inclusive reality series, the drop in LGBT content GLAAD feared might happen following many show cancellations last year never occurred. In fact it was just the opposite, with the network accruing more inclusive original primetime hours than any other broadcast network. Unfortunately, they also happen to have had the least racial diversity of any broadcast network

among those LGBT impressions. In fact, a whopping 89% of the LGBT people on NBC were white, with less than 1% of impressions being made by people who were Latino/a or Asian Pacific-Islander. If the network makes an effort to keep an eye on racial diversity when also casting for LGBT diversity, they'll be in great shape.

## cable networks

## **ABC FAMILY**

Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network was founded in 1977, but after changing hands and names a number of times, it underwent radical transformation after the network (which was at this point known as Fox Family) was sold to Disney in 2001 and became ABC Family. After a strategic revamp in 2006, the network began airing programming for teens and young adults that 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 channel continue to air Robertson's *The 700 Club*, which often serves as a platform for Robertson's anti-gay sentiments. However, the show is not affiliated with the network, and each telecast includes the disclaimer: "The following/preceding CBN telecast does not reflect the views of ABC Family."

Though the percentage of inclusive hours on ABC Family has decreased somewhat since last year's report, the quality of their LGBT inclusive programming has more than made up for it. With high profile series like *The Fosters* and some of the most diverse LGBT representations of any television network, GLAAD is giving ABC Family a grade of "Excellent" this year for the second time. The network was previously rated as "Excellent" in 2011.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

♦ Once again, the majority of LGBT impressions on ABC Family were on the drama Pretty Little Liars, which continues to be one of ABC Family's most popular and recognizable series, not to mention the largest source of the network's original programming hours. Multiracial lesbian teen Emily Fields remains one of the show's four lead

characters, but unfortunately suffered a swimming-career threatening injury and a breakup with girlfriend Paige this year. Still, it was better than the recent fate of lesbian character Shana, who was accidentally killed while attempting to murder someone else, which isn't too far from the norm on this program.

## **EXCELLENT**

**2014 RANKING** 

147.5

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

62.5

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (42%)** 

2012-13 Score: 50%

2011-12 Score: 34%

2010-11 Score: 55%

2009-10 Score: 37%



**ABC Family** The Fosters

- also featured a transgender actor in a recurring role as Cole, a trans teenager living in a group home, which addressed the very real crisis of homeless LGBT youth.
- ♦ Pretty Little Liars and The Fosters counted for nearly three quarters of ABC Family's inclusive hours, but the network has also reliably included recurring LGBT characters or one-off episodes in nearly every other series they put on the air. Switched at Birth continued to feature occasional appearances by deaf lesbian teen Natalie, and this season also featured a new adult gay character named Renzo, played by API actor Alec Mapa. Other series with minor content included Twisted, Baby Daddy, The Vineyard, and Melissa and Joey.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ Of ABC Family's LGBT-inclusive hours, a whopping 90% of those featured lesbian characters, which is indicative of the fact that the network's overall character gender balance also leans heavily female. What's more impressive is that those representations are also highly racially diverse, thanks in large part to the major roles

of Emily on *Pretty Little Liars* and Lena on *The Fosters*. Both of those programs will be back next year, along-side several new comedy series that feature supporting gay male characters. We hope the new programs will also continue the network's tradition of strong and diverse LGBT depictions.

## A&E

Created in 1981, A&E was originally a primetime and late-night programming block on Nickelodeon called ARTS until they merged with The Entertainment Network in 1984, as part of a joint venture between NBC Universal, Disney-ABC Television Group, and Hearst Corp. A&E consistently produces one of the largest slates of original primetime series of any cable network, which consists mainly of reality programming.

It's been three years since GLAAD last tracked A&E in the *NRI*, but we decided to take another look this year after seeing both an increase in their original scripted programming, ratings gains, and media attention focused on the network following anti-gay comments made by a cast member of its hit series *Duck Dynasty*. What we found is that not much has changed since 2011, with only a slight improvement in LGBT-inclusive programming from 5 to 6%.

#### THE 2013-2014 SEASON

♦ The majority of A&E's LGBT-inclusive hours came from the series Storage Wars: New York, which is one of a number of shows on the network featuring the auctioning off of storage spaces to people hoping to strike it rich on the contents. Among the bidders regularly followed by the show are Chris and Tad, a gay couple who own a Hoboken, NJ antique shop. The show's treatment of the couple is matter-offact about who they are and also very much in keeping with the overall tone of the show, which is in many ways the ideal for LGBT-inclusion in the genre of reality television. Unfortunately, no other shows currently on A&E followed suit.

## **FAILING**

**2014 RANKING** 

247
TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME

**PROGRAMMING** 

15

**HOURS (6%)** 

2010-11 Score: 5%

2009-10 Score: 3%

2008-09 Score: 1%

2007-08 Score: 4%



**A&E** Storage Wars: New York

♦ Aside from Storage Wars: New York, LGBT content on A&E was scarce. The series Beyond Scared Straight — in which juvenile delinquents are taken to an adult prison to "scare them straight" — featured a couple of visits to a prison's "alternative lifestyle" wing, where LGBT inmates were housed. In some moments the LGBT inmates were depicted as genuinely trying to help by telling their stories, but in other instances they were clearly being paraded out as freakish cautionary tales meant to repulse the kids into avoiding prison. Additionally, an episode of *The Killer Speaks* featured a man who had murdered several gay men recounting his crimes, while an episode of the scripted series *Bates Motel* featured a minor gay character.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ In terms of LGBT-inclusivity, A&E's programming could use radical improvement across the board, and we're hopeful that they will soon make the effort. In truth, with programs like Longmire and Crazy Hearts Nashville, A&E's programming slate offers many

opportunities for unique LGBT stories. Television needs to reflect the reality that LGBT people live in every community, including those that might look outwardly conservative, and A&E is in the right position to do just that.



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." The network 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 their smash-hit plastic surgery drama *Nip/Tuck*, which aired for six seasons. Today they're best known for hits like *Archer*, *Sons of Anarchy*, and *American Horror Story*.

FX as a network hasn't always correctly gauged the line between "edgy" and "offensive," which has been a repeated problem GLAAD has cited in its annual analysis of FX programming. The network has long prided itself on skirting that edge, but recent programs like *The Americans* and *Fargo* suggest they have started investing in quality first and foremost. That also seems to have translated over to their LGBT-inclusive programming, with improved content and shows like *The Bridge* bringing fresh and diverse LGBT characters. This year also marks FX's highest percentage of inclusive hours ever at 49%.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- Once again, most of FX's inclusive programming hours came from the comedy series Anger Management, which continues to feature gay therapy group member Patrick in a regular role. The past season saw Patrick gain (and later lose) a new boyfriend, as well as agree to marry a female friend to save her from an arranged marriage and for a promised cut of her dowry. The show also still featured gay inmate Cleo, though his boyfriend and fellow prisoner Donovan seems to have left the show.
- The animated comedy Archer has always prominently featured LGBT characters, and this season Pam and Ray continued to appear regularly as the cast of spiesfor-hire found themselves getting into

the international drug trade after being blacklisted by the government. FX's new series Chozen was a very similar program in terms of style and tone, but focused on an aspiring and openly gay white rapper gay. The premise of the show itself - that there's something inherently funny about a gay rapper - did offend some viewers, and much like Archer some of the humor arguably crossed the line. Nevertheless, Chozen also made its gay protagonist someone the audience was meant to root for and rarely resorted to stereotypes to get a laugh. Chozen himself - boastfully macho and sexually aggressive - was also refreshingly unlike most of the "safe" gay male characters more commonly seen on television.

GOOD

**2014 RANKING** 

120.5

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

59

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (49%)** 

2012-13 Score: 40%

2011-12 Score: 34%

2010-11 Score: 19%

2009-10 Score: 27%

2008-09 Score: 13%

2007-08 Score: 45%



**FX** Chozen

- The new drama series *The Bridge* follows a joint serial killer investigation between U.S. and Mexican authorities, and featured a Mexican lesbian reporter named Adriana Mendez searching for her sister. Though Adriana only appeared in a recurring role, she has been upped to a regular for the show's second season.
- ♦ One of FX's most buzzed about newer shows is *The Americans*, which completed its second season this past spring, and follows a pair of married KGB spies secretly embedded in 1980s Washington, D.C. This year, the protag-
- onists found themselves up against Andrew Larrick: a closeted gay naval officer who had been blackmailed into becoming a KGB informant. Larrick was shot to death in the season finale.
- The motorcycle gang drama Sons of Anarchy featured the protagonist's bisexual ex-wife Wendy in a recurring capacity this season, which saw her fall back into drug abuse and ultimately go to rehab. Another storyline featured the transgender character Venus, who returned for two episodes to enlist the gang's help in rescuing her son from his abusive biological grandmother.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

 ⟨► FX's programming wasn't spotless in terms of offensive content, but it was certainly in much better standing than in previous years. Many of the LGBT characters that did appear were also

unique in some ways, yet they tended to be white gay men. Adriana on *The Bridge* was a step in the right direction, and we hope future FX shows will strive to tell more diverse stories.

## **HBO**

In 1972, the Home Box Office (HBO) was created to broadcast feature films and sports coverage to audiences across America. In 1983, HBO premiered their 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* highlighted LGBT experiences. Later, LGBT-inclusive series such as *Six Feet Under* and *True Blood* earned GLAAD Media Awards.

This year, HBO's percentage of inclusive hours increased from 26% to 31%, but what really set the network apart is the incredible breadth and quality of the LGBT stories they told. From *Looking* to *The Normal Heart* to *Real Time with Bill Maher*, HBO told groundbreaking stories about our community and addressed our issues head on. The strength of their LGBT-inclusive documentary programming alone, which included films like *Valentine Road*, *The Out List*, and *Whoopi Goldberg Presents Moms Mabley*, would have been enough to earn the network an "Excellent" grade in this year's report.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ The sixth season of True Blood continued to feature several gay, lesbian, and bisexual characters. Vampire couple Pam and Tara found themselves locked away in a vampire prison alongside gay vampire Steve Newlin, though he ultimately didn't survive the season. Gay medium and diner cook Lafayette was also on hand, albeit with little in the way of a storyline this year.
- well as discussions about LGBT issues in the media. Among the guests joining Bill on the show this year were Barney Frank, Rachel Maddow, Dan Savage, Glen Greenwald, Andrew Sullivan, Christine Quinn, and Jose Antonio Vargas.
- By far the most inclusive show on HBO this year, and arguably all of television, was the new series Looking, which focused on a group of gay male friends living in San Francisco. Not since Showtime's The L Word ended has there been a scripted show in which the lives of LGBT people were the dominant focus, and Looking stood out even

## **EXCELLENT**

**2014 RANKING** 

184.25

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

56.25

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (31%)** 

2012-13 Score: 26%

2011-12 Score: 33%

2010-11 Score: 31%

2009-10 Score: 26%

2008-09 Score: 42%

2007-08 Score: 26%



**HBO** The Normal Heart

more for its grounded storytelling and fresh, natural style. The regular and recurring cast included at least seven gay men of varying age and race (3 of them were men of color) in storylines that saw them examining their lives and navigating romantic and professional relationships. The series ran for eight half-hour episodes, and will return for a second season next year.

♦ Undoubtedly HBO's most popular show right now is the pop culture phenomenon *Game of Thrones*, which had previously featured gay prospective monarch Renly, who met an untimely and magical demise in the show's second season. His former lover and

knight Loras has remained on the show's periphery ever since, and did make several appearances this season. Much more memorably, this season also introduced Prince Oberyn and his lover Ellaria Sand, both of whom were explicitly depicted as non-monogamous and bisexual, as well as also openly dismissive of what they considered to be other characters' restrictive notions of human sexuality. Dubbed the "Red Viper," Oberyn's introduction as one of the season's major characters was eagerly anticipated by fans of the source books, though so was his sad and gruesome demise near the season's end. Ellaria is anticipated to return.

- ♦ In other HBO series, Real Sports with Bryant Gumble included segments on transgender MMA fighter Fallon Fox and anti-gay laws in Russia. Ja'mie: Private School Girl included a minor gay character, and Getting On seemed to suggest one of its main characters was about to come out in the season's end. Minor characters also popped up on Hello Ladies, The Newsroom, and Family Tree.
- ♦ In addition to its ongoing series, HBO also presented an impressive number of inclusive documentaries and original films, which delved into significant LGBT issues and events to a degree rarely seen on television. The documentary Valentine Road examined the tragic story of Larry King, a gender

non-conforming child murdered by a classmate in 2008 and the ensuing media frenzy around the crime and trial. Americans in Bed interviewed ten couples about their relationships, and included both a lesbian and a gay male couple. Comedian Whoopi Goldberg presented a documentary profiling pioneering black comedian Moms Mabley, who was a lesbian. The Battle of amfAR recounted the story of Dr. Mathilde Kim and actress Elizabeth Taylor joining forces to take on the AIDS epidemic, while Six by Sondheim recalled highlights of the career of out Broadway titan Stephen Sondheim. The Out List was a documentary consisting entirely of interviews with out individuals, including famous faces like Neil Patrick Harris, Wanda Sykes, and trans advocate Janet Mock, discussing what it's like to be LGBT today. Finally, one of the year's most celebrated TV movies was Ryan Murphy's adaptation of The Normal Heart, Larry Kramer's scathing and heartfelt dramatization of the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

from segments in *The Out List* and *Real Sports*. We'd love to see what kind of original, authentic trans characters HBO's scripted shows could introduce, and in fact, *Looking* is currently set to do just that with its second season.

# **HISTORY**

The History Channel was launched in 1995 as a venture by A&E Television Networks. Their 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 they began airing reality series about high-risk jobs like *Ice Road Truckers* and *Ax Men*, which were so successful for the network that those series began to greatly outnumber the documentary programming, and the channel eventually switched to the simpler name of History. They recently have started to produce scripted content as well, such as the miniseries *Hatfields & McCoys* and the historical drama *Vikings*.

Despite the fact that History produces more hours of original programming than nearly any other cable network tracked by GLAAD in the NRI, this is the third year the network has received a failing grade.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

been long used to justify modern day prejudices against LGBT people. Several of the historians state that the bible never expressly condemned same-sex relationships.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ Though their roots began in documentary programming about historical events, as of late History's programming leans closer to reality programming that often involves Southern settings and blue collar jobs. Though shows like these aren't typically associated with diverse representations, it could actually be a great opportunity for inclusion. Particularly in many parts of the country where old prejudices remain, it's important that the stories of the LGBT people and families

that live there make it out to a wider audience. At the very least these communities need to see that LGBT equality is not simply something that happens in "blue" states, but directly effects their own friends and neighbors as well. These are the same communities depicted in some of History's original series.

## **FAILING**

**2014 RANKING** 

313.5

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

HOUR (0.3%)

2012-13 Score: 0%

2011-12 Score: 3%

## MTV

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 now consists of reality or unscripted series. Their 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*, and their other alternative series.

LGBT-representation on MTV bounced back to 49% this year, thanks to long running shows like *The Challenge*, and new series like *Wait 'Til Next Year* and *Faking It*. Though some of those programs consisted of the usual reality TV drama, others told authentic and moving stories about the lives and challenges of LGBT young people today. What's more, these representations included many people of color, and MTV achieved a better gender balance than most networks could claim. All in all, it was a very strong year for the network, and earned MTV a grade of "Excellent" for the second time.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ The biggest single source of both original programming hours on MTV, as well as LGBT-inclusive hours, was the scripted series Teen Wolf, which ran for a 24-episode season split into halves during the NRI's research parameters. Still on the show was gay lacrosse player Danny, but this season he was joined by a new wolf named Ethan who also became Danny's boyfriend. They made semi-regular appearances on the series, with Ethan in particular closely tied into the season's major story arc. Unfortunately, neither character has returned in the subsequent season.
- ⟨ The Challenge remained MTV's most inclusive reality show, with multiple out competitors from past seasons of both The Real World and The Challenge competing in physical contests for a cash prize while living together for the duration of the show. Among the lesbian, bisexual, and gay competitors in the last two seasons were Aneesa, Frank, Emily, Derek, Preston, and Marlon.

## **EXCELLENT**

**2014 RANKING** 

230.5

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

113.5

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (49%)** 

2012-13 Score: 28%

2011-12 Score: 23%

2009-10 Score: 42%

2008-09 Score: 17%

2007-08 Score: 16%



MTV Wait 'Til Next Year

♦ One of MTV's most intriguing and controversial new shows is Faking It, an Austin high school-set comedy about a pair of female best friends who suddenly find themselves popular after they are mistaken for a lesbian couple and decide to keep up the charade. The show's real twist was revealed in the first episode when one of the friends – Amy – realizes she has very real romantic feelings for her friend Karma. The show gained a lot of LGBT fans over its eight episode first season but also caused controversy with its season finale in which Amy sleeps with the guy Karma likes after being romantically rejected by her. Their story, along with that of regular gay character Shane and several new LGBT characters, will continue to play out when Faking It returns for a longer season two.

- ♦ The Real World has remained one of the most consistently inclusive shows on television since it first premiered in 1992 and this year was no different. Its 29th season was called Real World: Ex-plosion, in which participants learned they were being housed together with former flames. Among the cast were Arielle and her ex-girlfriend Ashley, who actually reconciled with one another over the course of the season. One particularly noteworthy episode saw Arielle introduce her roommates and viewers to several of her gender non-conforming and/or transgender friends in response to online criticism of her appearance.
- ♦ One of MTV's more unique shows this year was Wait 'Til Next Year, which took a more grounded look at a group of students at a Michigan high school where the football team was on a 43-game losing streak. On the cheerleading squad was Danielle, who began dating a female basketball player named Yanni.

- ♦ The high school comedy series Awkward. is currently in its fourth season and continues to feature Tamara, who previously came out as bisexual. More recently the character seemed to recant on that and won't be counted moving forward, but the show also features minor recurring characters Theo and Cole; two gay friends who produce school videos.
- In other MTV programming, the reality series Catfish: The TV Show featured a handful of episodes with LGBT individ-

uals, some of whom had been duped by false online relationships, and some of whom had done the duping. Generation Cryo followed lesbian teen Breeanna as she sought to find her biological father. House of Food combined Top Chef with The Real World, and included gay contestant/roommate Will. Ke\$ha: My Crazy Beautiful Life followed the bisexual pop star as she balanced touring and her personal life. And the nursing reality show Scrubbing In featured gay nurse Fernando.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

There really wasn't any significant transgender inclusion on MTV this year, aside from one episode of *The Real World* which addressed a cast member's decision to explore her own negative reactions to people speculating about her gender identity. The network has also incorporated trans issues into their new "Look Different" campaign, which seeks to raise awareness about less obvious forms of bigotry and prejudice. Moving forward however, MTV and all networks will need to feature some

kind of trans-inclusive programming in order to receive an "Excellent" grade in future editions of the *NRI*. With MTV's scripted content also seemingly on the rise, we hope they'll consider adding a regular or recurring trans character to a new or existing show.

# **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's great legacy of LGBT-inclusive shows continues on programs like *Shameless* and *Nurse Jackie*, though in recent years the network unfortunately has made a few significant missteps in their handling of transgender characters and content. Some of their "edgier" programming occasionally features problematic depictions of gay, lesbian, and bisexual characters as well, but over the years Showtime has produced enough laudable LGBT storylines that we remain hopeful there are still more to come.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ The comic-drama series *Shameless* continued to feature several gay characters, though teenager lan was absent for much of the show's fourth season. Instead, lan's delinquent ex-boyfriend Mickey stepped into the spotlight. In addition to becoming an amateur pimp, this year saw Mickey track the missing Ian down only to find him working as a go-go dancer in a gay club. After reuniting with Ian but being blackmailed by his Russian wife Svetlana, Mickey finally comes out to his family at his son's christening, resulting in a bloody bar brawl with his own father. As over the top as that sounds, it's completely in keeping with Shameless' freewheeling narrative of people living in society's margins.
- ♦ The new series Masters of Sex followed pioneering sex-researchers William Masters and Virginia Johnson in the early days of their professional collaboration in the 1950s and has featured gay and lesbian characters in several Among Masters' first storylines. subjects is a prostitute named Betty who sleeps with men for financial gain, but who is only attracted to women. It is also revealed that Barton Scully, the provost of the university at which the show is set, is a closeted (and married) gay man who eventually attempts to undergo painful "conversion therapy." The lives of these characters effectively depict the challenges faced by LGBT people living in a more socially regressive time period, and both their stories are expected to continue.

### GOOD

**2014 RANKING** 

165

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

55.5

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (34%)

2012-13 Score: 31%

2011-12 Score: 46%

2010-11 Score: 37%

2009-10 Score: 32%

2008-09 Score: 26%

2007-08 Score: 32%



Another of Showtime's inclusive new shows this year was Ray Donovan, though it didn't get off to a good start. The show follows a "fixer" in L.A. who helps make his client's problems disappear, and Ray's team includes his lesbian assistant Lena, who is revealed to have some rather violent anger problems. The first season included a storyline about a male actor "caught" in an affair with a transgender sex worker, for which Ray's "solution" to the situation was to instead place the actor with an overdosed female corpse,

effectively sending the message that the show considered that to be a preferable alternative. Following that highly offensive first episode, the storyline went on to depict the actor both marrying and being blackmailed by the trans woman, and seemed to have only a marginal understanding of gender identity and sexual orientation. This is one show we hope avoids transgender storylines altogether from now on, if this is the best it can do.

**Showtime**Masters of Sex

- ♦ Nurse Jackie returned once again, but gay nurse Thor remained a relatively minor character on the show. This season there was mention of a neverseen boyfriend, and one episode found him caring for an elderly gay man who was dying of cancer while another had him attempting to administer vaccinations in a gay bar.
- ♦ The comedy series House of Lies continued to feature the protagonist's bisexual, gender non-conforming son Roscoe and gave him a new friend and love interest this season with another gender non-conforming teen named Lex. Though they are in some ways perceived as a heterosexual couple on the show, Lex and Roscoe both strongly challenge gender norms. Unfortunately, as a character, Lex was thoroughly unlikeable to both viewers and Roscoe's father, who at one point

- attempted to covertly feel the teenager's chest to determine Lex's gender.
- ♦ In somewhat of a departure from Showtime's other programming, the documentary series *Time of Death* presented a hard and intimate look at people facing their own mortality. One individual followed over the course of the series was Little, a lesbian who suddenly found herself having to act as her siblings' caretaker as her mother was dying of breast cancer.
- ♦ On other Showtime series, Episodes continued to feature minor appearances by gay TV executive Andy, and Anderson Cooper delivered several stories on 60 Minutes Sports. A few episodes of The Borgias and Penny Dreadful aired during the report period as well, which featured gay assassin Michaleto and bisexual bon vivant Dorian Grey respectively.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ As was the case last year, racial diversity among the LGBT representations on Showtime was low, with only 14% of them not being made by white people. And as was mentioned earlier,

representations of transgender people on the network are sometimes badly mishandled. History dictates that Showtime can do better.

# **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 the network became known as The Learning Channel. For years, they 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 their more well-known programs of late have been *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo, 19 Kids and Counting, Little People Big World, Toddlers & Tiaras,* and *Say Yes to the Dress*.

GLAAD first began tracking TLC two years ago and, considering the audiences they market to, we were pleasantly surprised to find that 20% of their 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 bring LGBT stories to these same audiences, whose understanding of LGBT people and issues is crucial to changing hearts and minds in more conservative areas of the country. Though they have dropped to 17% from a high of 27% last year, we hope other reality programming-heavy networks like A&E follow their example.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ As was the case in the previous two years, the bulk of TLC's LGBT impressions are still on shows in which gay men help 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 Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta, as well as Something Borrowed Something New and What Not to Wear.
- One of TLC's most notable hits is the Toddlers and Tiaras spin-off Here Comes Honey Boo Boo, which follows a former pageant contestant named Alana and her eccentric family living in Georgia. Alana's gay uncle Lee who she affectionately refers to as "Uncle Poodle" began living with the family this season, and appeared in nearly half the episodes. For a family that likes to call themselves "rednecks," the Thompsons' unconditional love for their uncle challenges the preconceptions of many viewers and makes them a model of acceptance.

### **ADEQUATE**

**2014 RANKING** 

569.5

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (17%)

2012-13 Score: 27%

2011-12 Score: 20%



**TLC** Welcome to Myrtle Manor

- Welcome to Myrtle Manor is a reality series following the community of a South Carolina trailer park, which includes Roy, a former drag queen who now works in the trailer park salon. Roy is a consistent presence on the show and is depicted as accepted by his friends and neighbors.
- ♦ The reality series Breaking Amish: LA follows various Amish individuals who have left home for "Rumspringa," an Amish rite of passage in which young people explore the outside world before deciding whether to return to their own community. One of the storylines focused on an aspiring clothing designer named Matt, who met with a gay designer and his gay friends.
- ♦ In other TLC programs, Toddlers and Tiaras featured a group of drag queen judges for one pageant, while another episode included a lesbian couple whose granddaughter was a contestant. One episode of Family S.O.S. with Jo Frost featured a lesbian daughter, and Hoarding: Buried Alive included an episode with another lesbian who became a hoarder after being rejected by her family. The show Wedding Island featured gay couple Dwayne and Rodney as they conducted their destination wedding in Puerto Rico in one episode, and out actor Jim Parsons learned more about his family history on an episode of Who Do You Think You Are?

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ There were far fewer shows on TLC this season that seemed to highlight the lives of average LGBT individuals rather than gay men assisting in style decisions, which is unfortunate considering how groundbreaking many of those depictions have been in the past. We hope to see more on future TLC shows, even if it is just those LGBT people buying wedding cakes, talking about strange eating habits, or any of the other human interest stories that make up much of the network's programming.

## **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 repeats of television shows. In 2001, TNT rebranded itself with the tagline "We Know Drama" to emphasize their acquisition of syndicated series like *Law & Order* and *Cold Case*. It featured a number of original drama series in the past year, though an even number of its original programming hours were actually from unscripted series.

Following several years of relatively high scores in GLAAD's annual report, TNT has dropped down to their lowest percentage of LGBT-inclusive programming since scoring just 1% in 2008. Last year, GLAAD found that 17% of TNT's original primetime programming was inclusive following a high of 34% the year prior, but this year they have dropped again to just 9%. The cancellation of the drama series *Southland* had a significant effect on the numbers, but it's also clear that the network needs to keep an eye on character diversity in new shows moving forward.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ With the police drama Southland cancelled, the only series on TNT with a recurring or regular LGBT character last year was Major Crimes. A spin-off of past series The Closer, Major Crimes retained the majority of its predecessor's cast, including openly gay medical examiner Dr. Morales, who appears in roughly half the series' episodes. More promising is the fact that following hints and confirmation from producers, teenage runaway Rusty (a regular character) finally came out as gay in the season finale. Hopefully, this will lead to more storylines highlighting the struggles faced by many LGBT youth, though an episode centered on the murder of a transgender child last summer was problematically handled.
- In the episode, it was revealed that the child in question was murdered by her own brother who blamed her for ruining their family.
- ♦ On other TNT programs, LGBT representation was actually scarcer than it has been in recent years, with the only significant content appearing on the reality competition 72 Hours. In one episode, former Mr. Gay USA Michael Holtz was part of a winning team of strangers tasked with locating a suitcase full of money. The network also aired the Screen Actors Guild Awards, which included appearances by out performers like Jim Parsons.

### **FAILING**

**2014 RANKING** 

187

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

17

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (9%)** 

2012-13 Score: 17%

2011-12 Score: 34%

2010-11 Score: 33%

2009-10 Score: 34%

2008-09 Score: 19%

2007-08 Score: 1%



**TNT**Major Crimes

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ Now that Rusty has come out on Major Crimes, the number of inclusive hours on TNT should increase provided he remains a regular character on the show. The network should strive to be more inclusive in their other programming however, particularly when programs like *Rizzoli & Isles* and *Franklin & Bash* actually have significant LGBT fan bases. This goes for their unscripted and reality programming as well, which in terms of original hours, actually surpassed original scripted programming on the network this year.

## **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 their national reach. Among basic cable networks, USA boasts an enormous potential audience, since they're available in roughly 94 million homes as of 2008. USA has played host to a plethora of original programs, including shows like *Burn Notice*, *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 they have also shown an admirable commitment to partnering with progressive social causes with the "Characters Unite" campaign.

Following their highest score yet last year at 20%, USA has dropped a few percentage points. There have rarely been more than a few LGBT characters on the network in any given year, so the cancellation of *Political Animals* and Diana's absence on *White Collar* had a significant impact.

#### **THE 2013-2014 SEASON**

- ♦ Based on a British series, the new comedy Sirens followed the exploits of three paramedics, one of which is a Black gay man named Hank. As one of the show's leads, Hank gets a large amount of screen time, and as many good lines and funny moments as his straight male coworkers. The show's first season didn't give him much in the way of romance due to him still not being over an ex-boyfriend, though he eventually got some closure after attending said ex-boyfriend's wedding. Hank was one of the strongest new gay characters to appear this year, and the show will return for a second season.
- The reality series Summer Camp featured adults living together in a camp setting and participating in various themed

- challenges against each other in teams. Gay Broadway performer Kyle was one of the show's contestants.
- ♦ On other USA series, gay football player Rex was a recurring character on Necessary Roughness, following his big coming out storyline on the show the season prior. And Suits revealed that one of its longtime characters, Darby, was gay, but not until the very end of his final episode on the show.

### **ADEQUATE**

**2014 RANKING** 

128

TOTAL HOURS OF ORIGINAL PRIMETIME PROGRAMMING

22

**LGBT-INCLUSIVE HOURS (17%)** 

2012-13 Score: 20%

2011-12 Score: 17%

2010-11 Score: 18%

2009-10 Score: 4%

2008-09 Score: 12%

2007-08 Score: 4%



**USA** Sirens

♦ One other important thing to note is that though GLAAD does not track the show WWE Monday Night Raw on account of its airing live every Monday night, gay WWE wrestler Darren Young has made numerous appearances on the show since coming out publicly last year.

#### SUGGESTED AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

♦ Sirens is a strong addition to both USA's LGBT-inclusive programming and inclusive TV shows in general, but with Necessary Roughness gone and White Collar set to end soon, the vast majority of USA shows will consist of exclusively straight characters. We hope the network bears this in mind when adding new characters and greenlighting new series.

## **ADDITIONAL NETWORKS**

#### **AMAZON**

The world's largest online retailer hit the web in 1995, but didn't start producing their own original streaming content until 2013 through its Amazon Instant Video service. The Amazon original series *Alpha House* included two female legislative assistants who are dating and a male Senator who is perceived to be closeted. Though it didn't premiere the full series during this report's research period, Amazon also made the pilot for *Transparent* available to users, which is a new drama series about a family's reaction to their father coming out as transgender.

#### **AMC**

AMC (formerly American Movie Classics) has long been a haven for cinephiles, though the network has gone through several format changes and upped its slate of original series over the past decade. Scripted drama *Mad Men* included an appearance by closeted ad exec Bob Benson and *The Walking Dead* included zombie hunter Tara Chamber. The groundbreaking unscripted series *Small Town Security*, which featured transgender security officer Captain Dennis Starr, returned for a third season this spring.

#### **BBC AMERICA**

Part of BBC Worldwide's media network, BBC America brings some of the UK's top programs to U.S. audiences. The network has a long history of LGBT-inclusive programming such as *Tipping the Velvet* and *Torchwood. Doctor Who* featured several appearances by the mystery solving couple Madame Vastra and Jenny. *Orphan Black* introduced transgender clone Tony and continued to include gay and bisexual characters Felix, Cosima and Delphine. *In The Flesh* introduced Kieren's new love interest Simon and *The Graham Norton Show* ran new episodes as well.

#### **BRAVO**

Bravo has a well-known history of producing highly inclusive reality series, including *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and the first seasons of *Project Runway*. While the network aims to start producing original scripted content in the next year, the long list of LGBT-inclusive reality series that ran new episodes this past year include *Tabatha Takes Over*, the *Million Dollar Listing* franchise, *The People's Couch* and *Newlyweds: The First Year*.

#### E!

E!, an NBCUniversal network, features celebrity news and unscripted programming. Out stylist George Kotsiopolis continued to serve as a co-anchor for the celebrity fashion critique series *Fashion Police*. Ross Mathews had two seasons of his own talk show *Hello Ross*, which has since been cancelled. E.J. Johnson and Jonny Drubel were featured in the first season of *Rich Kids of Beverly Hills* with Johnson signing an additional overall development deal with the network.

#### **HGTV**

HGTV's programming focuses on issues of home buying, renovation, design, gardening and craft. The network was launched in 1994. The reality design competition *HGTV Star* (formerly *HGTV Design Star*), hosted by David Bromstad and judged by Vern Yip, often includes several LGBT contestants each season. Though the personal lives of hosts, judges and contestants are rarely explored, HGTV often features same-sex couples looking for home-related assistance in programs such as *House Hunters* and *Love It or List It*.

#### HULU

Video streaming service Hulu launched for public access in 2008 as a joint venture between NBCUniversal, Fox Broadcasting Company and Disney-ABC Television Group. They introduced the subscription service Hulu Plus in 2010. Hulu original series *Deadbeat* included an episode with a gay mafia boss. The streaming service has begun streaming the full *Sailor Moon* series uncensored including gay, lesbian and non-binary stories that were cut or edited from the first North American release. Hulu also has U.S. exclusive distribution rights for the inclusive British soaps *Coronation Street* and *Hollyoaks*.

#### LIFETIME

Lifetime, owned by A&E Networks and established in 1982, has focused on programming for women since its beginning. Scripted drama *Drop Dead Diva's* fifth season and the majority of the series sixth and final season fell in the research period, including one episode about a closeted baseball player and another with lead character Jane defending a trans student. *Witches of East End* featured few appearances by gay librarian Hudson. *Project Runway* continued to be a big source of inclusivity for the network and *Project Runway: All Stars* featured transgender designer Ari South.

#### **LOGO**

Logo was the only basic cable network devoted to programming for LGBT people, though the network has recently shifted its focus to programming for a broader audience. The network's inclusive unscripted offerings include *RuPaul's Drag Race*, *Bad Sex* and U.S. distribution of *1 Girl 5 Gays*.

#### **NETFLIX**

Netflix, launched in 1997, provides disc rental and online streaming of films and television programs. The company, which currently has over 50 million subscribers, began producing its own original series in 2012. Dramas *House of Cards* and *Lilyhammer* both included LGBT characters in recent seasons. *Orange is the New Black*, which features several lesbian and bisexual inmates as well as transgender woman of color, Sophia Burset, has received critical praise.

#### **OWN**

The Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), launched in 2011, provides a mix of original reality series, scripted shows, documentaries and films. During the past year, *Oprah: Where Are They Now?* featured several LGBT figures including Margaret Cho and a *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* cast reunion. The unscripted series *Houston Beauty* included trans beauty school student Mia and *Oprah Prime* aired a special "Gay Hollywood" episode with Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Dan Bucatinsky and Wanda Sykes. OWN also hosted the television premiere of the documentary *Bridegroom* and aired several *Wanda Sykes presents Herlarious* specials. *The Haves and the Have Nots* also continued to feature a gay character.

#### **PBS**

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is a nonprofit network of stations around the country which provides content, often educational, to public broadcasting channels. Due to inconsistencies among markets, not all PBS stations may air the same content, but during the past year, PBS continued to broadcast British drama *Downton Abbey*, which features duplicitous butler Thomas Barrow. They also added British import *Last Tango in Halifax*, which features couple Kate and Caroline. Documentaries *How to Survive a Plague* and *God Loves Uganda* also aired as part of PBS' *Independent Lens* series.

#### **PIVOT**

Pivot, owned by Participant Media, launched in 2013 as a new channel for millennials dedicated to programming promoting social change. Pivot has U.S. distribution rights of Australian comedy *Please Like Me*, from out writer Josh Thomas in which he plays a version of himself. Docuseries *Jersey Strong* featured couple Brooke and Maggie as they struggled to balance their work lives with their home lives and topical talk show *TakePart Live* included discussions on several LGBT issues.

#### **STARZ**

Premium channel Starz was founded in 1994 as a sister network to Encore. The network didn't begin serious expansion of its original scripted programming until 2005. Pirate drama *Black Sails*, a prequel to the *Treasure Island* novel, featured saloon owner Eleanor Guthrie and brothel runner Max who had an off-and-on relationship. *Da Vinci's Demons* continued to gloss over the famous inventor's relationships with men.

#### **SYFY**

Syfy specializes in science fiction, fantasy and paranormal programming as an NBCUniversal network. Syfy has made a concerted effort to include LGBT characters in many of its scripted series, miniseries and original TV movies. The network airs Canadian drama *Lost Girl* about bisexual succubus Bo who is in an off-and-on relationship with scientist Lauren. *Warehouse 13* and *Being Human* both had their last seasons air this year and new drama *Defiance* counts several LGBT characters. Adam Berry was featured on the most recent season of *Ghost Hunters*, but has since departed the series.

#### VH1

VH1 was launched in 1985 to show music videos and appeal to a slightly older demographic than sister music channel MTV. The network has shifted to music-related programming and celebrity reality series, while branching out to scripted original content in recent years as well. Omar continued to be a large part of drama *Single Ladies*, though the upcoming season will move to the Centric network. The last season of *Couples Therapy* featured *The Real L Word*'s Whitney Mixter and Sada Bettencourt and *Black Ink Crew* included former shop manager Sassy.

## 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**

Director of Entertainment Media mkane@glaad.org

Matt Kane is a GLAAD liaison to the entertainment industry, advocating for the inclusion of diverse LGBT stories in films, scripted television and reality programming and collaborating with film festivals 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**

Strategist - Entertainment Media mgouttebroze@glaad.org

Max Gouttebroze serves as an active member of the GLAAD Programs Team by identifying and monitoring LGBT representations, trends and developments in television and film. He is the lead writer of GLAAD's Where We Are on TV report and conducts long-term research and data collection for the annually released 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**

Strategist - Entertainment Media mtownsend@glaad.org

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, a contributing writer for GLAAD's Network Responsibility Index and conducts long-term research for GLAAD's Where We Are on TV and Studio Responsibility Index. A graduate of Central Michigan University, Megan joined GLAAD in January 2012.

#### **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.

#### **RENEE FABIAN**

University of Southern California, class of 2014

#### LJ BECKENSTEIN

#### **DREW SCHILSON**

The Evergreen State College, class of 2014

#### **MEGAN WALSH**

Michigan Technological University, class of 2015

#### **OMAR ROSALES**

Hampshire College, class of 2015 California State University at Northridge, class of 2015

#### **CLEO ANDERSON**

Antioch University, class of 2015