

Equality Matters

A Woman Doctor! Whatever Next?



The arrival of Jodie Whittaker in the role of the Doctor in Doctor Who has created quite a stir... *Why do liberals have to take everything we love and ruin it? Is nothing sacred?*

Social media was full of comments denouncing the decision. The audience, which

had managed thus far to accept an alien with two hearts who travelled through time and wore roughly the same outfit for decades, were apparently unable to contemplate a woman as a doctor! 'Controversial' they cried...even though every cell in the Doctors body can regenerate over and over, the female form was a step too far!

As Twitter lit up with critical comments, thankfully a game of 'Decrying Bingo' began to counter the negative comments.

TV executives constantly underline their commitment to equality, while happily paying women less and banishing them to radio at the first sign of wrinkles. Grey haired, wrinkled men okay, females not so!

It isn't just females either, featuring a person of colour (of any gender or any ethnic background) on the cover of fashion magazines is still considered 'a risk'. Disability, while now getting more and more exposure through TV presenters and dramas, is still missing from the majority of our shows. There are 9 Protected Characteristics and am pretty sure you will find they are all either underrepresented or stereotyped in TV and film.

Why do you think it is considered a 'risk'?

You can shout about diversity and equality all day long, but if you don't bring those values into the living room, the classroom or the workplace and normalise them, then attitudes won't change.

13TH DOCTOR CASTING COMMENTS				
B I N G O				
What's next, Jane Bond?	My childhood is RUINED!!!	Typical lefty BBC Brigade	RIP Doctor Who, 1963-2017	Political correctness gone mad!
I'm not sexist, but...	Looks like Dr Who just lost a fan	When can I expect a male Wonder Woman?	I'm a woman and I hate this decision	He's a Time LORD, not a Time LADY
Will the Cybermen be "Cyberpersons" now?	It's DOCTOR Who, not NURSE Who		The BBC has destroyed a great show	Well I won't be watching!
I HAVE to pay my TV Licence for this?!	BBC ratings are going to plummet!	The Doctor is a male, HOW can he become female?!	I'm all for gender equality, but...	I look forward to Miss Marple being a man.
This is definitely going to fail.	RUINED, just like Star Wars!	The BBC just has a lefty agenda...	What's next, Mrs Holmes?	Is nothing sacred?

There is some hope though, TV and film executives are finally discovering that you don't have to be a straight, white, abled-bodied male to be a hero - or anything else for that matter.



Black Panther, Breaking Bad, Star Wars, Doctor Who, Game of Thrones and the Hunger Games (to name a few) have all introduced characters where the gender, race, (dis)ability and sexual orientation of the characters challenge stereotypes.

Shows such as EastEnders, Strictly Come Dancing, Coronation Street, The Last Leg and Silent Witness are finally making sure that diversity is making into our living rooms. They look at disability, not as a hindrance, but as a characteristic. We now think nothing of seeing a dancer with a missing limb. Unheard of when the series' first started, but now the norm.

Rumour has it that they are discussing same sex dancing partners on Strictly.....Eyes down and get your bingo card ready as Twitter lights up if that happens!

[Gender inequality](#)
[BBC & Disability](#)

While created as a bit of a laugh, it really illustrates why tackling discrimination and prejudice is so difficult. You could probably change the character ...Black/Gay/Muslim and the show to James Bond and the comments would be similar.

So why all the fuss???

While we like to think of ourselves as liberal and open minded, but we often find that latent and historic attitudes inhibit our ability to accept change. We like familiar things and we become conditioned. It isn't just the female as the Doctor.