

This is a conversation I had with a user named Truetexian on IMDB, regarding the live production of *The Wiz* which was aired on NBC. Truetexian thinks that it is "outdated" for black artists to create remakes and reboots of works that were made by white people and for white people. My position is that **a nonblack person has no standing in a conversation about what black artists should or shouldn't be doing**. That is a conversation to be had amongst black people. I feel that nonblack people are constantly recommending what THEY think is or isn't appropriate for black people to do, and frankly it's just another echo of white supremacist thinking.

Re: Very racist production



by [truetexian](#) » 5 days ago (Mon Dec 14 2015 19:01:25)
IMDb member since January 2006

Flag ▼ | Reply | OO

You're right there's never been a shortage of "freaking" idiots out there. But I hope in writing your post that you at least silently acknowledged the fact that whenever the original Wizard Of Oz was produced there weren't as many people of mixed race as there are today. Although there might not be as much racial diversity depicted in the original cast of the Wizard Of Oz, it's my hope that everyone (of all creed, color, and race) realize that it was meant for everyone and is in no way inherently racist.

I personally have no problem with all white/all black/all Asian/all Mexican/all anything other productions or casts...but in today's society they must accept the moniker they invoke.

I'm of a certain age in which I can appreciate the reasoning and need for something like *The Wiz*, but to perpetuate that is outdated. From the start though, *The Wiz* was an unoriginal plagiaristic derivative of the *Wizard Of Oz* and should never been allowed to be herald as something to be respected.

Re: Very racist production



by [blackalaureate](#) » 5 days ago (Mon Dec 14 2015 22:00:43)
IMDb member since July 2005

Flag ▼ | Edit ▼ | Reply | OO

i Post Edited: Mon Dec 14 2015 22:02:43

I'm of a certain age in which I can appreciate the reasoning and need for something like *The Wiz*, but to perpetuate that is outdated.

have you seen any new films lately?

i just went to see *Mockingjay Part 2* this weekend.

there are very few non white actors in that film who have substantial roles. there are maybe two. three others are extras.

i watched 5 film trailers. ONE of the movies for them had two non-white actors in it with speaking parts. ONE. all the rest of the films were white films.

and it's like this every time i go to the movie theater.

once in a while, i might be treated to a film like "*Creed*" or "*Dear White People*" that has a black cast. the last film i saw with a substantial latino cast (and it wasn't even all latino) was the biopic about *Cesar Chavez*. unless i'm looking for a bollywood film, i don't get to see other casts that are non-white.

if your experience is different, please share. i'd love to know what films you're watching that have a substantial amount of non-white actors in them.

"Please disabuse yourself of the notion that my purpose on earth is to tuck ignorance in at night."

Re: Very racist production



by [truetexian](#) » 4 days ago (Tue Dec 15 2015 13:16:10)
IMDb member since January 2006

Flag ▼ | Reply | ☰

I take your points, and agree with you. My experience isn't different and I wasn't implying otherwise in what I had said earlier.

I was speaking directly to projects such as The Wiz for which I've already expressed how I feel. You may have somewhat misinterpreted my intent.

Re: Very racist production



by [blackalaureate](#) » 4 days ago (Tue Dec 15 2015 22:09:29)
IMDb member since July 2005

Flag ▼ | Edit ▼ | Reply | ☰

this is what you said:

I'm of a certain age in which I can appreciate the reasoning and need for something like The Wiz, **but to perpetuate that is outdated.**

please explain what you meant by "outdated." why is the "need" for something like this production "outdated?"

"Please disabuse yourself of the notion that my purpose on earth is to tuck ignorance in at night."

Re: Very racist production



by [truetexian](#) » 4 days ago (Wed Dec 16 2015 11:10:16)
IMDb member since January 2006

Flag ▼ | Reply | ☰

As I stated before, conceptually, The Wiz (in my opinion) is overly derivative.

What I feel (or hope) is "outdated" is the need to revisit someone else's project with the intent to play exclusively to race.

Our mutually acknowledged lack of cinematic ethnic representation clearly isn't what I'm speaking about here.

Re: Very racist production



by [blackalaureate](#) » 3 days ago (Wed Dec 16 2015 22:52:44)
IMDb member since July 2005

Flag ▼ | Edit ▼ | Reply | ☰

What I feel (or hope) is "outdated" is **the need to revisit someone else's project with the intent to play exclusively to race.**

are you black?

i'm guessing no.

consider the fact that you may be unaware of what the "need" is and why it's relevant for black people. it may not be relevant for black people to YOU, but you probably aren't black...so your views on the outdatedness or relevance of it don't really matter in the grand scheme of things within the black cultural context.

you don't get a vote. you don't get to have a say.

i really need non-black people to stop acting like they know what's best for black folks.

"Please disabuse yourself of the notion that my purpose on earth is to tuck ignorance in at night."

Re: Very racist production



by **truetexian** » 2 days ago (Thu Dec 17 2015 19:53:25)
IMDb member since January 2006

Flag ▼ | Reply | ☰

Your reply seems to confirm my suspicions that you are attempting to draw me into an argument. Although it doesn't matter, I am biracial. You are simply wrong to feel other's don't get a "vote" are don't get to "have a say". That way of thinking is a prime example of something I feel is "outdated". It's the way a victim thinks. Whether you like it or not, we individually get to assign merit or not according to how each of us feel about a certain subject. No doubt quite a few will agree with you, but you're not the chosen spokesperson for an entire race of people. As I just eluded to, you're entitled to your opinion but I can't respect it because it is egotistical, self-serving, polarizing, and so far off-topic from what I was even talking about.

If you wish to continue this thread, please keep in mind the premise of my criticism of The Wiz and stay on point. Or perhaps I should just flat-out ask you; When (and more importantly perhaps why) do you think it is "relevant" and "needed" for black people (or for that matter any other race of people) to present an adulterated version of someone else's work expressly for the purpose of exclusiveness.

Re: Very racist production



by **blackalaureate** » 2 days ago (Thu Dec 17 2015 23:55:08)
IMDb member since July 2005

Flag ▼ | Edit ▼ | Reply | ☰

1.

That way of thinking is a prime example of something **I feel** is "outdated".

your feelings don't count, except to some other non-black people. as i said before, you don't get a vote or a say in what is or is not relevant cultural content for black people. trust me, no substantial group of black people will look to you or others like you to decide whether or not artistic contributions are fitting for your gaze.

2.

but you're not the chosen spokesperson for an entire race of people.

first off, i didn't say that i was a spokesperson, nor was it implied. i didn't express in this thread what i thought black cultural works should or shouldn't be. that was all you. i'm not passing judgment on what is or isn't relevant. you are. seems to me the finger of unelected spokespersonship points at you. YOU'RE not the spokesperson of what is relevant for black art.

secondly, **you are not the intended target audience**. the outpouring of enthusiasm for this production is easily witnessed in social media activity, ratings numbers, watercooler conversations, and chats in homes. that pretty much proves that your idea of "outdatedness" is nothing but irrelevant haterism that *isn't being entertained* - except by other non-black people who are threatened by reboots and remakes starring black actors.

the chosen spokespersons about this particular issue are the black people who viewed, commented upon, and enjoyed the production. not YOU, but them.

lastly (and this should be glaringly apparent), that's why NBC is airing an encore performance. people's responses to it show that this type of reboot isn't the slightest bit "outdated."

3.

Although it doesn't matter, **I am biracial**.

i asked you if you were black. a yes or a no would have sufficed. however, lying about yourself is just silly. why are you lying about your race?

<http://i.imgur.com/H70iWH3.png>

Re: Very racist production



by [truetexian](#) » 2 days ago (Fri Dec 18 2015 09:59:01)

IMDb member since January 2006

Flag ▼ | Reply | ☰

i Post Edited: Sat Dec 19 2015 08:46:40

I take it that you don't have an answer for the questions I had asked you. Again, you prove my point that you're just here to argue anyone else's pov which doesn't coincide with your own.

To discredit my voice in the discussion you went so far as to dredge up an old post of mine in which I referred to myself as white. You're right, you did ask me if I am black or not. Perhaps my answer was silly to you, but it was truthful. I am biracial, but obviously (to you) not of the right or correct mixture that you would recognize as someone having something worthy to say on the subject. You must be the WIZARD himself (self-appointed of course) to presume all that you do.

I haven't been demanding that anyone accept my opinions about The Wiz, I merely expressed them.

By telling someone, especially someone you don't personally know that they "don't have a vote" or that they're "not the intended target audience" is a prime example of why I said "you're not the chosen spokesperson for an entire race of people".

Again, as much as you might like to, you don't (nor does anyone else) get to dictate anyone else's opinions. You can definitely influence them with reasoned discussion (which again--stays focused and on point to what is actually being discussed) but certainly not by belligerence. You seem like a segregationist to me. Am I wrong? The world seems to be full of them these days, aside and regardless of race.

Again, it's glaringly obvious by your avoidance of my prior questions (which pertained to the conceptual deficiencies of The Wiz--again only my opinion) that you don't have a good answer for me, just a pithy comeback...disqualifying me as someone not being able to hold an opinion about such things in the first place.

Wow, to coin a popular phrase from my time, here come dah Judge!



by [blackalaureate](#) » 1 day ago (Sat Dec 19 2015 08:29:55)

IMDb member since July 2005

Flag ▼ | Edit ▼ | Reply | ☰

i Post Edited: Sat Dec 19 2015 08:36:41

I take it that you don't have an answer for the questions I had asked you.

i'm under no obligation to answer any of your questions. if you'd like someone to engage in a particular sort of exchange with you, it would behoove you *not* to insult that person while simultaneously desiring answers to your question.

I haven't been demanding that anyone accept my opinions

i didn't claim that you demanded anything.

Again, as much as you might like to, you don't (nor does anyone else) get to dictate anyone else's opinions.

what do you mean "again?" this is your first time making this statement. anyway, i didn't tell you what your opinion *should* be. i'm merely telling you your opinion doesn't matter on this one. you can think whatever you want about the wiz, but what you think about it makes no difference in the discussion. that's the reason why very few people (if any) have given you responses that you like about this production, as of yet.

You seem like a segregationist to me. Am I wrong?

i'm under no obligation to answer any of your questions. think what you want. that's probably what you'll do anyway.

additionally, people who are dishonest in conversations have already disqualified themselves in being taken seriously, IMO.

Re: Very racist production



by **truetexian** » 1 day ago (Sat Dec 19 2015 10:05:11)
IMDb member since January 2006

Flag ▼ | Reply | GO

i Post Edited: Sat Dec 19 2015 10:34:31

blackalaureate: "I'm under no obligation to answer any of your questions. if you'd like someone to engage in a particular sort of exchange with you, it would behoove you not to insult that person while simultaneously desiring answers to your question."

"....think what you want. that's probably what you'll do anyway."

First off: I didn't intentionally insult you or anyone by posting what I initially did. However, I do offer you a sincere apology for having done so subsequently.

Secondly: You're absolutely right, you're under no obligation to answer any of my questions. Left to my own, what have I other than to think what I do?

Continuing to shut any and everyone out who doesn't share one's own opinion (and in this case, even heritage) will enlighten no one...even worse, never allow one's own critical analysis of things to be challenged. I get that you don't share my opinions about The Wiz nor want to answer my questions. Disqualifying someone from being able to have an opinion about something in the first place though is counter-productive and I dare say intentionally insulting. Why engage them in the first place if ultimately your intent is to exclude?

Thirdly: I have not been dishonest in conversations, perhaps not as forthcoming as you'd like though. Yes I have previously referred to myself as white but I am of mixed-race, just not the mix you deem allowable to have a pony in this particular race.

Re: Very racist production



by **blackalaureate** » 1 day ago (Sat Dec 19 2015 11:17:00)
IMDb member since July 2005

Flag ▼ | Edit ▼ | Reply | GO

i Post Edited: Sat Dec 19 2015 14:41:23

However, I do offer you a sincere apology for having done so subsequently.

i acknowledge your apology.

I have not been dishonest in conversations

i've already posted evidence of your dishonesty. i find it to be baffling. i'll leave you to wrestle with it, internally.

EDIT: i will post your lie here again below, for others who may be wondering:

<http://i.imgur.com/H70iWH3.png>

this conversation has now been exhausted. moving on.

"Please disabuse yourself of the notion that my purpose on earth is to tuck ignorance in at night."

Re: Very racist production



by **truetexian** » 23 hours ago (Sat Dec 19 2015 12:20:15)
IMDb member since January 2006

Flag ▼ | Reply | GO

i Post Edited: Sat Dec 19 2015 12:30:25

No, you have not posted evidence of any dishonesty. And, I assure you I'm not internally or otherwise wrestling. No doubt, the way you obviously see things and thus the world, whenever someone tells you that they're biracial you automatically assume that they've just told you that they're half black/half white....because those are the only two races on the planet, right? Have you had your ancestry traced? You might not be so adamant and entrenched in your beliefs if you would give it a go.

I'm in agreement with you, this conversation (if one could call it such) has not only been exhausting it is exhausted.

Here is *Truetexian's* lie that was posted earlier. I asked TT if s/he was black. S/he said "I'm biracial." Months earlier, TT posted "I'm white" in another thread. The last time I checked, *white* and *biracial* are not the same thing.

Re: Controversy?

by [truetexian](#) » Mon Apr 27 2015 10:14:53 Flag ▼ | Reply | GO
IMDb member since January 2006

i Post Edited: Mon Apr 27 2015 10:40:17

'So I don't know if this helps or not...'
Are you kidding me? Thanks, I had no idea all that had gone on! But now that I think about it, there must be countless similar stories surrounding almost all of Hollywood's iconic sitcoms.
When I posed the question, I was assuming that the 'controversy' was one directed more personally at Ja'net Du Bois. I'm glad to know it wasn't. It does sadden me a bit to learn that Lear and Amos had their disagreements. I admire them both. And although I've always admired Rolle, I do so even more knowing what you've told me. I remember the episodes you've cited very distinctly. I was so crushed by the death of James and for that family, I outwardly cried. I remember wishing that I had had a father like him. Although I'm white, James, Florida, J.J. Thelma, Michael, Willona, and Penny were my 'peeps' and I miss 'em all.
Even though I was young at the time, I recognized J.J. as a 'stereotype'. Not so much an ethnic one as much as simply a 'buffonish' one. I had numerous similar real-life examples in my own circle of friends and family. But I love learning that Amos and Rolle fought for better scripts and representation. The network probably had no ill-intent and was just following a tried-n-true, easy-way-out, sitcom formula.
Thanks again for all that you've shared.

Re: Very racist production

by [truetexian](#) » 3 hours ago (Thu Dec 17 2015 19:53:25) Flag ▼ | Reply | GO
IMDb member since January 2006

Your reply seems to confirm my suspicions that you are attempting to draw me into an argument. Although it doesn't matter, I am biracial. You are simply wrong to feel other's don't get a "vote" are don't get to "have a say". That way of thinking is a prime example of something I feel is "outdated". It's the way a victim thinks. Whether you like it or not, we individually get to assign merit or not according to how each of us feel about a certain subject. No doubt quite a few will agree with you, but you're not the chosen spokesperson for an entire race of people. As I just eluded to, you're entitled to your opinion but I can't respect it because it is egotistical, self-serving, polarizing, and so far off-topic from what I was even talking about.
If you wish to continue this thread, please keep in mind the premise of my criticism of The Wiz and stay on point. Or perhaps I should just flat-out ask you; When (and more importantly perhaps why) do you think it is "relevant" and "needed" for black people (or for that matter any other race of people) to present an adulterated version of someone else's work expressly for the purpose of exclusiveness.