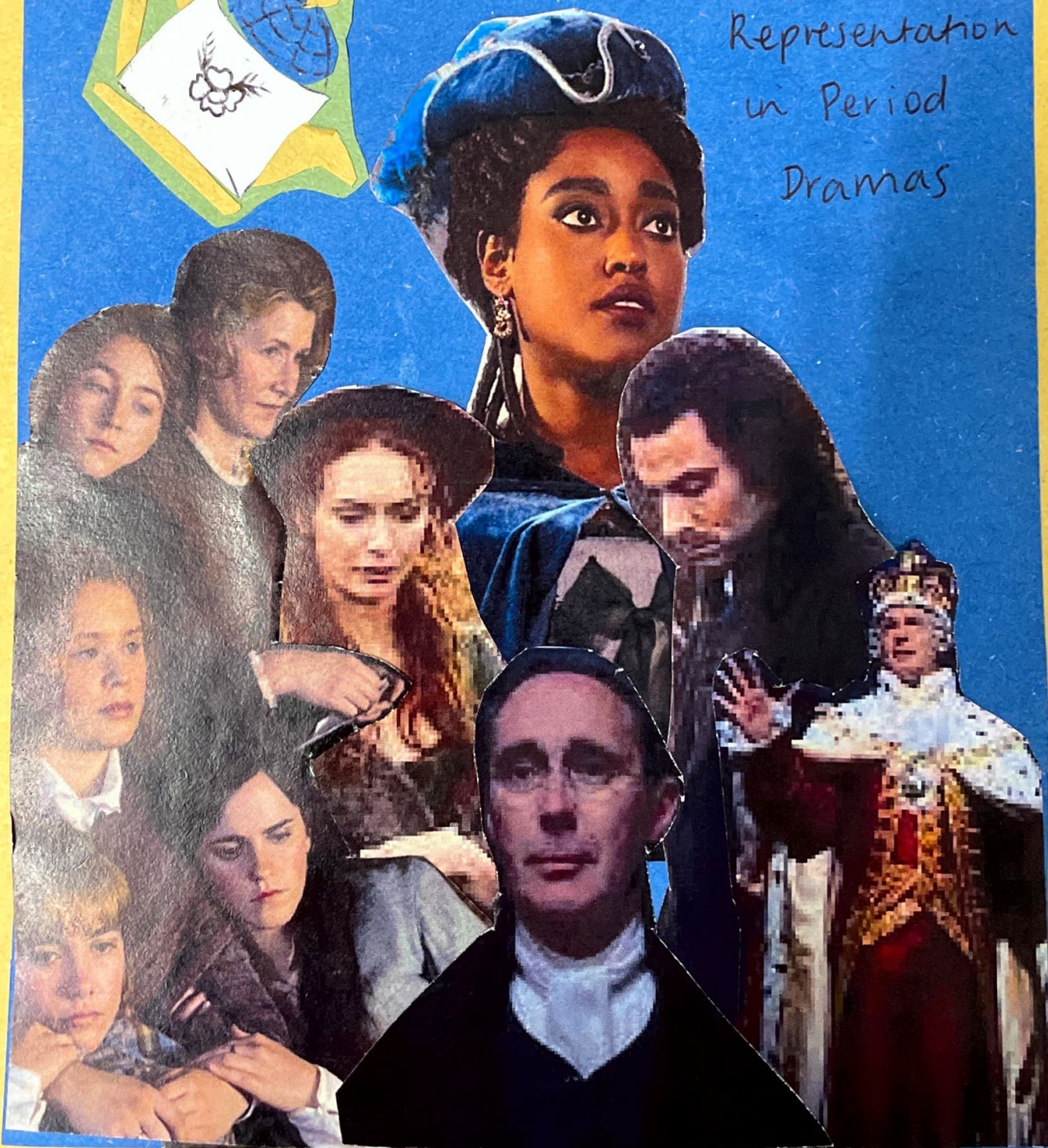
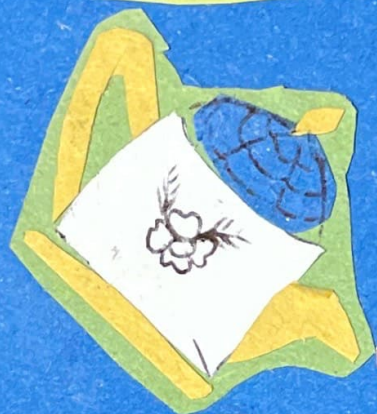


DRIP Drama

Diversity and
Representation
in Period
Dramas



I Introduction

Welcome to DRIP Drama - a project exploring Diversity and Representation in Period Dramas.

This will include LGBTQ+, Disability, Class, Race + Gender.

We believe that this is an under-explored topic which deserves more attention.

A study conducted by Annenberg Foundation demonstrated the lack of diversity in TV and film. The trends found appear in

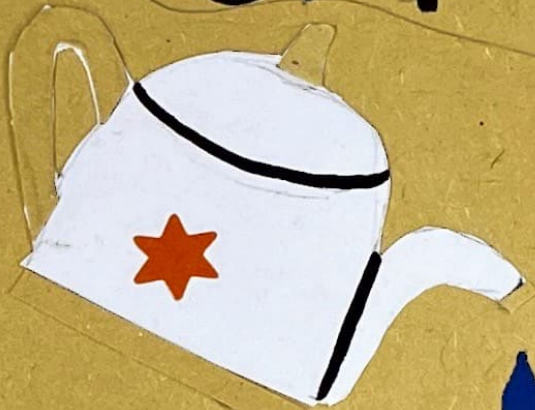
period dramas. For more information

see our blog and Instagram:

@drip-drama

This is a University of Exeter
Grand Challenges Project.

CONTENTS



• Race

• Gender

• Class

• Disability

• LGBTQ+

Race



It has been criticised for portraying that interracial love saved the world, ignoring the hardships faced by slaves.



Was Queen Charlotte the first black queen? The recent Netflix show has sparked much discussion from viewers. The lexical choice by director was a way to let him 'celebrate the modern world' and has been highly commended. Despite this, some are displeased due to the sacrifice of historical accuracy, which they believe has led to a false notion.

Queen Charlotte



Poldark, a show traditionally considered a show with appeal for minority viewers, has one questionably represented POC. Catherine 'kitty' Despard, is introduced after 4 seasons of an all-white cast. Her whole plot revolves around racism and her position as a former slave who married her master.

Poldark

Hamilton

Hamilton utilises colourblind casting which has sparked conversation in the field of representation and diversity in film and tv. Importantly, Hamilton is based on real people. The colour-blind casting could be drawn from the concept of New World America where anyone can achieve anything.



GENDER

This has become an increasingly prevalent theme in more recent dramas.

The representation of gender in Queen Charlotte is a prominent theme which allows for the creation of underrepresented scenes in TV and film, especially period pieces. It gives

backstories to Lady Danbury, Queen Charlotte and Violet

Brigerton. The reality of women's lives are revealed whilst simultaneously celebrating independence.

Queen
Charlotte



Greta Gerwig's adaptation shows Jo as defying traditional stereotypes and the other sisters are more aware of their constraints whilst pursuing their own ambition.



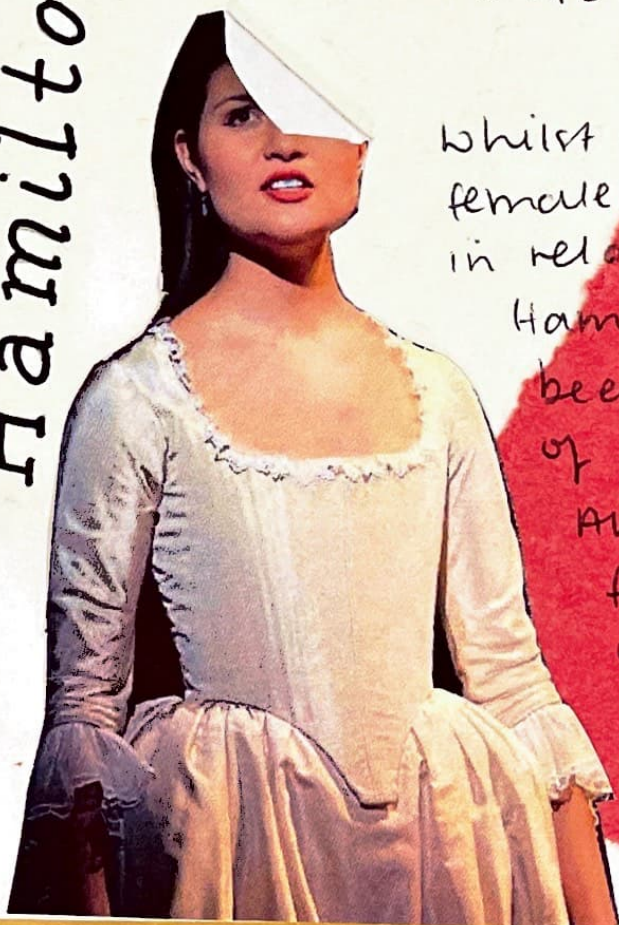
Little Women

Hence, the other sisters' stories become more valued in this new adaptation.

Whilst Hamilton features a few female characters, but all function in relation to Alexander Hamilton. Therefore, it has been criticised for its portrayal of gender inequality.

Angelica, Eliza and Mary fit into the stereotypes of the muse, the wife and the whore.

Hamilton



CLASS

Some argue it downplays the hardships of the working class.

The series engages with class and accountability landowners chose to take or not over their workers. Ross is a political leader and landowner who cares about the working class, engaging in manual labour on his land.

Poldark

Ross' marriage to Delmeza is controversial as she is working class. The show engages with working class issues.



Gentlemen Jack

Anne Lister is able to stay unmarried, due to her wealth, allowing her to explore her sexuality.

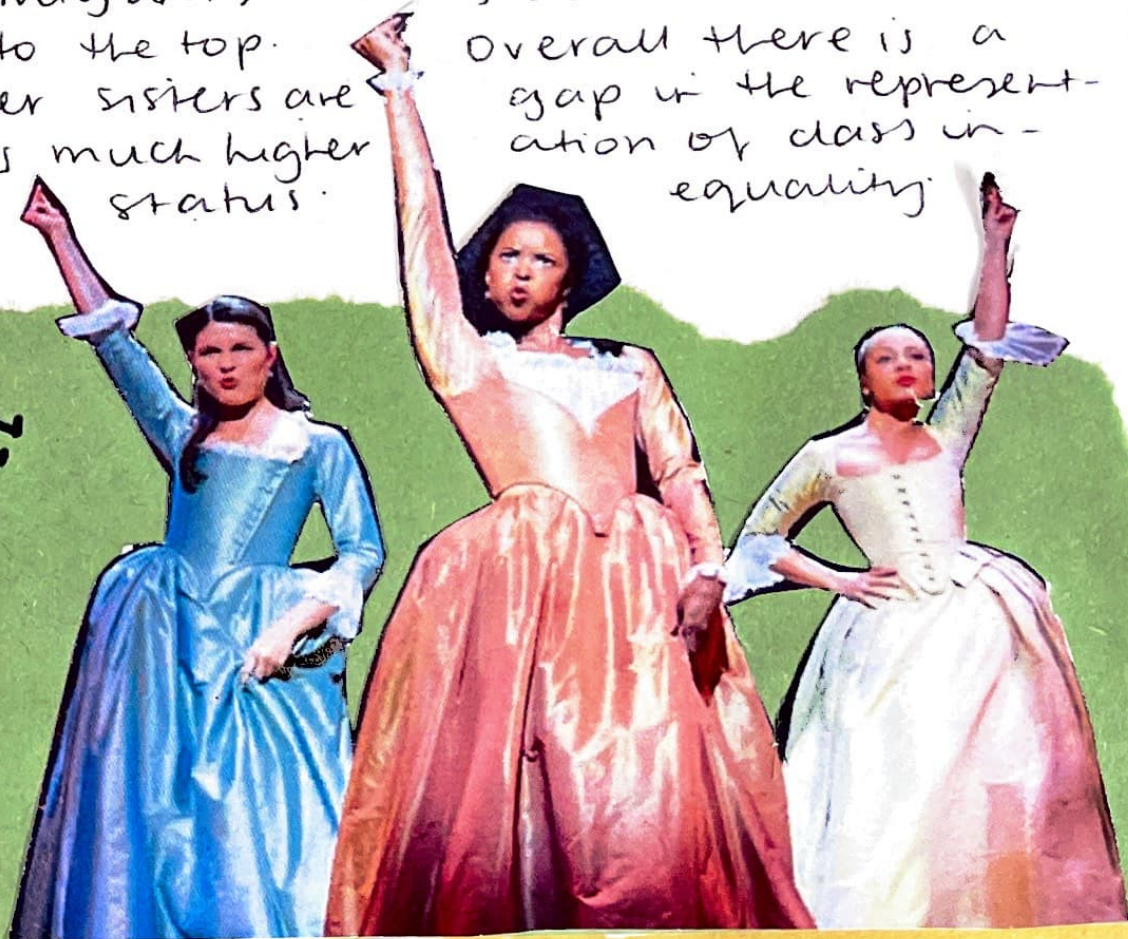
Class and wealth intersect in this show.



Hamilton represents class disparities, but it is not a central theme. Hamilton is an illegitimate, orphan, immigrant, working-class man who climbs his way to the top. The Schuyler sisters are presented as much higher in social status.

Overall there is a gap in the representation of class inequality.

Hamilton



DISABILITY

This theme is perhaps the most neglected in period dramas.

Jane Eyre

Bertha is labelled from her first appearance as the 'mad woman in the attic' and portrayed very stereotypically through her hysterical nature and demonic laughter.

Queen Charlotte

King George →



King
George
in Hamilton



The two
portrayals of
King George
differ massively
in these two pieces
of media. Spanning
across the pond and
with the point of
view of both sides
of the fight (even)

↳ Queen
Charlotte
has no mention
of the war
of independence,
the two
different
portrayals
makes
sense.

Hamilton



However, this
raises questions
of whether the
suggestion of George's
madness is trivialised
and mocked?

Or is it representing
the historically accurate portrayal in
America at the time?

LGBTQ

This theme has historically been one of the least represented.

The show ends with Brimsley dancing alone, but the heterosexual couple has a concrete ending.

Some argue their story is sadder - forced to end due to societal pressures

Queen Charlotte features 2 queer characters, but has been met with mixed opinions due to their ambiguous ending



Reynolds



Despite this both actors have described their feelings of empowerment and most believe their story extends beyond a tick-boxing inclusion.

Queen Charlotte



Based on Anne Lister, a Yorkshire gentlewoman who 'loved the fairer sex.'

Gentleman Jack

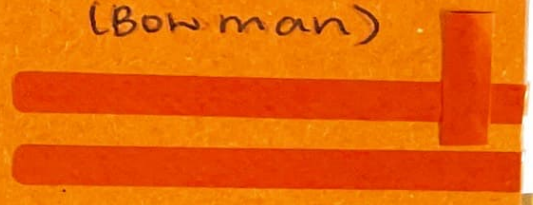
The representation in the series is considered significant to many, demonstrated at the outrage at there being no renewal for

a third season.



The representation is important in the face of 'symbol annihilation' - 'the erasure of people - specifically... women, people of colour, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, in popular media.'

(Bowman)



Conclusion

Please scan the QR code
for our blog.

Key questions we expanded
on through this project:

- How much should historical accuracy be sacrificed to be more diverse?

Is the oppression of diversity throughout history being mirrored in period pieces historically accurate or historically ignorant?

