

A379_2016AbstractDooleyLogan

Abstract

The Deaf Community is rich in culture, yet is not represented frequently in the entertainment media industry today. Films and television shows should strive to be more inclusive of minorities, such as deaf and hard of hearing individuals, who have much to offer and deserve to be visible in such mediums. There are several examples of quality portrayals, like that contained in *Children of a Lesser God*, *Switched at Birth*, *Veronica Mars*, and *The Sandlot 2*, among others. The issue is that these portrayals are few and far between. And, often times, when individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing are included in the media, they lose their personality in favor of showing their disability. The truest way to represent the Deaf Community in film and television, is to create complex characters with unique personalities and goals separate from being deaf.

Honors College
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306