

# More information

# People with Learning Disabilities on TV



This guide is part of project called 'Getting Things Changed' at the Norah Fry Centre for Disability Studies, University of Bristol



As well as this guide, we have made a booklet called '**How to Get on TV.**'  
This is for people with learning disabilities .



We also made an animated film called '**The Audition**'  
You can watch this film on the internet:  
[www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/centres/norahfryresearch/resources/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/centres/norahfryresearch/resources/)



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## An Easy Read Guide by Beth Richards



# People with Learning Disabilities on TV

About the research



My name is Beth Richards.

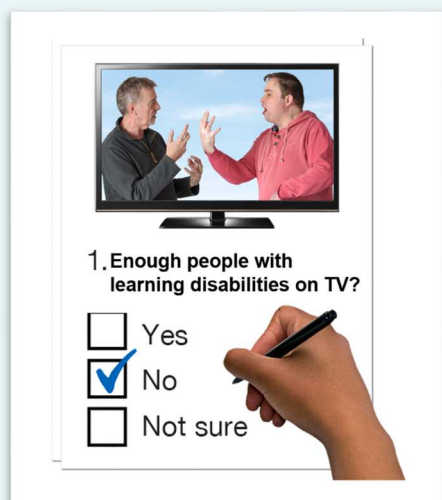
I did my research as part of a University of Bristol Project, 'Getting Things Changed'.

I wanted to find out why I wasn't seeing more people with learning disabilities on TV.



I talked to 18 actors with and without learning disabilities.

I also talked to theatre companies and other people working in TV.



I sent a survey to people with learning disabilities and non-disabled people.

Most people said there are not enough people with learning disabilities on TV.

## Main Messages

What people with learning disabilities want to say about TV



**We can write our own stories.**

**We can make our own films.**

**We can do different jobs in TV.**



**There are lots of people with learning disabilities in theatre and drama groups.**

**We are out there... work with us.**



**Things are getting better.**

**But... more people with learning disabilities working in TV could change what people think .**

**TV can be even better with us!**



# Main Messages

What people with learning disabilities want to say about TV



**People learn about the world from TV.**

**So, we want to see ourselves on TV.**



**Show the world as it really is!**



**We can act and play different roles.**

**We want to make TV programmes that are not just about disability.**



**We have good ideas and are creative.**

**People with learning disabilities want professional careers**

# What We Found Out

The Way TV is made leaves people with learning disabilities out



**TV does not show us as we really are**

When TV shows people with learning disabilities, they choose actors who 'look' disabled.

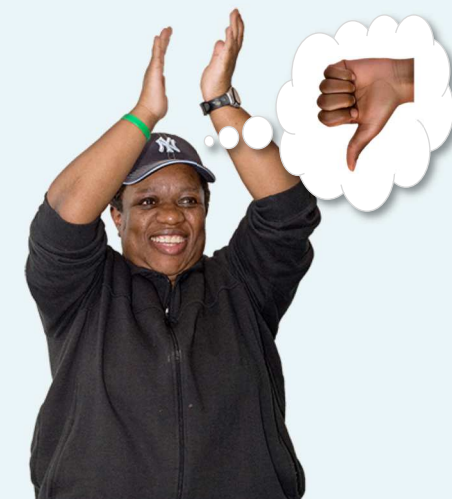
TV needs to show stories about our real lives, not just the bad bits.



**Bringing new ideas to TV**

People with learning disabilities can show new ways of acting and telling stories.

But the way TV is made doesn't give us a chance to do this.



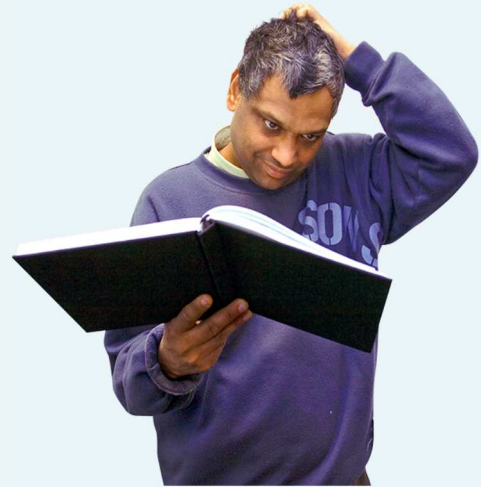
**Getting honest opinions**

Sometimes people feel sorry for us, and say everything we do is good.

But, actors with learning disabilities need to hear what people really think, so we can learn.

# What We Found Out

The Way TV is made leaves people with learning disabilities out



## Jargon

The words TV and film people use can be hard to understand.

Actors with learning disabilities might need different ways of learning the words they need to say.



## Timing

The way TV is made is too fast.

People with learning disabilities might need longer to show what they can do.



## Lack of chances to work in TV

There are not enough chances to act, or do different jobs in TV .

Sometimes, non-Disabled actors get jobs 'playing' Disabled people.

# What We Found Out

The Way TV is made leaves people with learning disabilities out



**There are lots of actors and writers with learning disabilities.**

Lots of us are in drama and theatre groups. We could be on TV.

But TV companies do not come and find us.



## Learning about TV

There are good courses to learn about acting and making TV.

But not enough of these courses include people with learning disabilities.



## Support

People on TV have support from family or friends.

If you don't have money to pay for support, or training, it is even harder to get on TV.