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The Portrayal of LGBT in the Media

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Abstract: The Portrayal of LGBT's in the Media
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CMS 4920 Capstone Senior Project
Spring 2015

My senior project examines the portrayal of LGBT people in the media. The purpose of this research is to show how the media's portrayal of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered people (LGBT) affects individuals and society as a whole. The research will explore the history of the LGBT community's relationship with the media from the 1920s to the present, with emphasis on the Stonewall Riots as the beginning of an organized LGBT movement. The research will focus on films, television programs, and press articles for their depiction of LGBT's and the issues impacting their lives. I will explore the evolution from LGBT stereotypes to the presentation of more positive and complex characters. The study will demonstrate that despite the media's more positive portrayal of LGBTs in recent years, negative stereotypes continue to hurt individuals and divide us as a society.