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September 2026

As audiences respond to early trailers and promotional materials for Netflix's new competition series set in Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, Little People of America, along with disability advocates, are raising important concerns about how people with dwarfism are represented on screen.

In 2026, entertainment companies have a responsibility to move beyond outdated visual shorthand, stereotypes, and caricatures that reduce disabled performers to spectacle rather than recognizing them as full creative professionals with range, agency, and dignity.

Meaningful representation requires more than visibility. It requires accessible production environments, authentic consultation with disability communities, equitable casting and creative opportunities, and storytelling that reflects disabled people as complex individuals rather than props, punchlines, or nostalgic references.

We call on studios, streamers, producers, and creative teams to center accessibility and disability inclusion from the earliest stages of development through marketing and release. Disabled performers and audiences deserve entertainment that reflects progress, respects lived experience, and helps build an industry where representation is accurate, accessible, and affirming.