

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating for kids' entertainment.

Mary Poppins Returns (2018)
Highest rating possible: 8 stars
Mary Poppins Returns rating: 2 stars

Met criteria = 1

Did not meet criteria = 0

Egregiously did not meet criteria = -1

What to look for in kids' entertainment	Rating	Explanation of rating
<p>Throughout story, no gender or biological sex is disrespected.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>In the opening scenes, the workers around town seem to be exclusively men*, and the kids running with Jack, the chimney sweep, are all boys. Jack is singing a song, called "You're a lucky guy" (instead of "You're a lucky one.") They have created a world that seems to be focused on men and boys. Granted, it is somewhat a period piece, but creative license is already used liberally (flying people, etc.). The movie would be better if the writers had righted more wrongs from the past, so kids today could see people represented more fairly.</p> <p>*If there was a woman or women, their presence was easy to miss.</p> <p>A woman screaming is the first female voice we hear. She yells for a man (Michael Banks) to urgently fix the sink. As he rushes back, the woman next to him (Jane Banks) doesn't also go to help fix the sink. All this perpetuates stereotypes.</p> <p>The creators decided to update the story racially a bit by adding at least three African-Americans, two of which are male. One of the bankers, Frye; a milk delivery person, and a bank secretary.</p>

		<p><i>Too bad they didn't update the movie even more.</i></p> <p><i>"One never discusses a woman's age," said by Mary, is a sexist comment. It sends the message to our kids that age is supposed to be different for women than men, and that a woman's age can be used against her if it's not kept a secret.</i></p> <p><i>Problematic lyrics in the song Mary and Jack sing:</i> <i>"Nellie Rubina was made of wood...when Mr Hickory saw her blossoms blooming there He took root despite her bark And now there's seedlings everywhere"</i></p>
<p><i>Females are half the characters who drive the plot throughout the entire story.</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>Not completely equitable, but there are three solid female characters who drive the plot. Plus the movie's title focuses on Mary.</i></p>
<p><i>Female and male bodies are clothed, filmed and/or drawn with equal respect.</i></p>	<p>0</p>	<p><i>Disappointing to see so many impractical, ornamental clothes on Mary. Again, granted, it is somewhat a period piece, but creative license is already used liberally (flying people, etc.) so the movie would be better if the writers had been more creative with attire.</i></p> <p><i>Jane Banks thankfully is shown wearing pants, so there is some variety of clothes shown.</i></p> <p><i>The male characters' clothes are so much more practical for moving about and physically participating in life.</i></p>
<p><i>Female-male relationships demonstrate mutual respect throughout entire story.</i></p>	<p>0</p>	<p><i>Sister and brother are generally respectful to each other, which is good.</i></p>

		<i>However, not enough females and males are running the world together in this movie.</i>
<i>Female shows physical strength or agility without a male's assistance.</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>There is too much of Mary being assisted or not participating. She is carried about by the sweeps, doesn't climb Big Ben, and doesn't help fix the carriage. Though Mary has magic, she does not come across as physically capable.</i>
<i>A female's new idea (among a group with males in it) is enthusiastically validated and implemented.</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Did not happen. Jack goes along with some of Mary Poppins's ideas, which is great, but that is one on one.</i>
<i>A male shows fear or sadness without shame.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Michael Banks shows sadness more than once about his wife dying.</i>
<i>A female shows aggressiveness without shame.</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Did not happen.</i>



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