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1 Apple TV's *The Problem With Jon Stewart: The Problem With White People*

2 March 24, 2022

3 (...)

4 LESLIE JONES: Hey America! It's me Leslie Jones, America's motherfucking sweetheart here to illuminate
5 something for all y'all. Racism is a spectrum and it can go from RACISM to racism, with many shades and
6 flavors in between. But what degree of racist are you?

7 We have the extreme racist: skinheads, KKK, most of all of Boston. Boom. Right here.

8 Now, right in the middle. Are you the person who says "I have a black friend?" Do you consider me that
9 black friend? Lynyrd Skynyrd fans. *Free Bird*, is that by Lynyrd Skynyrd? I love Free Bird. I didn't know
10 that they's were racist until later on in my life. Right here.

11 [Racism light] The ladies who think Megyn McCain got bullied on *The View*. That bitch didn't get bullied,
12 she ain't get bullied! Do you secretly wish *Bring It On* ended in a tie? So, you saying the bitches from
13 Compton really, really was going to tie with you bitch?! No. This is where you care.

14 And at the very end of the spectrum, we have the unconscious bias, a catch-all for the rest of y'all. Did
15 you assume Uncle Ben and Aunt Jemima were a couple? You racist and dumb as Hell! Do you think all
16 nipples are pink even while you looking at my black-ass face?! That's racism sneaking in without you
17 knowing it. Tricky little bitch.

18 Okay, white people, I'm done teaching. If you didn't see yourself on the spectrum. That's the category
19 you in: giving yourself the best white person award. Congratu-fuckin'-lations!

20 (...)

21 JON STEWART: Here's what I think holds back our race conversation in America. I think at its core I think
22 white people put blame on black people for the position that they are in. and then believe that white
23 people will lose something in order for black people to gain it. And that's what creates that resentment
24 and difficulty to overcome.

25 And I'll start with Chip because Chip.

26 CHARLES "CHIP" GALLAGHER: It's Charles.

27 STEWART: That don't help.

28 GALLAGHER: No. Yeah. Yeah.

29 A significant amount of white people in the United of America see race relations through a colorblind
30 lens. And I don't mean that white don't see race, they see one's that black or Asian. But they don't in
31 any way attach any meaning to the color in effecting life chances. And what that fundamentally means is
32 that race doesn't matter in getting ahead. It just doesn't.

33 STEWART: They believe that we are in a race-neutral environment.

34 GALLAGHER: The playing field has been leveled and if you make it or you don't –

35 STEWART: It's a meritocracy.

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GALLAGHER: It's a meritocracy. And it's a narrative that also does a lot of things. It makes white privilege invisible and it also makes whites feel that whatever they did, whatever success they've had had nothing to do with 50, 100, 200 years ago.

(...)

LISA BOND: Where I come from is that this system of white supremacy has done such a good job of teaching us as white people that racism is bad. And when we talk about racism, we're talking about your character flaw. If we say your racist, that's a character flaw. I'm bad. And I know I'm not bad. I think I'm a good person, I think I'm a nice person. And I know that I am racist. And I know that I'm racist because I every single day uphold the systems and the structures of racism.

And if we don't start having a conversation about that and about the ways we are complicit every day daily, if we don't talk about it, then we are never going to see movement, ever.

(...)

ANDREW SULLIVAN: I think it's possibly the most absurd hyperbole I've ever heard. I come from – I'm an immigrant so I have a slightly different view of this. [Bond throws her head to the side] I can tell you, America in 2022 is the most multiracial, multicultural, tolerant, diverse melting pot that has ever existed on planet Earth, and there is no other place on Earth even like it. That's why 86 percent of our immigrants are non-white. Do you think they want to come to a white supremacist country?

STEWART (speaking before Sullivan finishes): Let me ask you a question though Andrew because I think you bring up an interesting point and we might be getting hung up on semantics.

So, the fact that you're an immigrant speaks volumes. It means you chose to come here. But America didn't start that way for black people. They didn't immigrate here. They were living somewhere else and they were kidnapped and raped and murdered and taken here. And for you to just say that this a magnificent place that doesn't have racism—

SULLIVAN: I didn't say that.

STEWART: -- is actually, I think, more of a foundational lie than anything else.

SULLIVAN: I didn't say that. I did not say that.

(...)

BOND (speaking over Sullivan): This is what happens when you don't talk about it.

STEWART: Right.

BOND: This is what happens when white people don't talk about it. You have racist dog whistle tropes like this that actually perpetuate and perpetuate and perpetuate. So, I am – And it did not come here on this show here to argue with another white man. That's one of the reasons that we don't even engage with white men at Race2Dinner. So, you know, quite honestly if white men were going to do something about racism, you had 400 years. You could have done it. Okay?

SULLIVAN: I am 58 years old.

[Type here]

1 BOND: I'm shutting you down right now.

2 SULLIVAN: I am not responsible for anyone before me.

3 BOND: And so the point is, I'm so tired of just engaging in this conversation and this deep hurt that
4 Andrew has about talking about racism. And Chip, God bless you but I'm going to put everybody in the
5 thing. All of us white people do this. I don't care if we say we're abolitionist. I don't care if we say we're
6 progressive. I don't care we are literally members of the KKK. Every single white person upholds these
7 systems and structures of white supremacy. And we have got to talk about it.

8 (...)

9 STEWART: So we had a conversation with white people. I can tell you, it did not go well.

10 SEN. CORY BOOKER (D-NJ): Really?

11 STEWART: Yeah. It got heated fast. One of our guests used the phrase "white supremacy" that the
12 country was designed in white supremacy. And that language was a bur in the saddle of this one
13 individual who said how dare you say white supremacy even though, to my mind, I don't know how you
14 would describe it any other way. In terms of the design of it.

15 BOOKER: I don't want to quibble with some of your words.

16 STEWART: Yes. Quibble away though. I'm here to be quibbled with.

17 BOOKER: But of the language – The reason why your language makes me feel uncomfortable –

18 STEWART: Yes.

19 BOOKER: Is because it makes it sound like there's sinister person who's designing a system today. We
20 need to tell the truth. But somehow it can't be a conversation about blame but more that inspires a
21 sense of responsibility.

22 STEWART: So that's really interesting.

23 [Transition]

24 So, would we agree that the experience of African-Americans is unique in this country.

25 SEN. TIM SCOTT (R-SC): Yes.

26 STEWART: The that the government really did set structural barriers for them.

27 SCOTT: For 180-190 years of American history, African-Americans by and large specifically carved out of
28 a free market system that works incredibly well it you're in it.

29 STEWART: Right. Right.

30 SCOTT: Without a question. If you can't acknowledge that, you're not acknowledging the truth. But I see
31 so many signs of strong progress that I've personally experienced. And at the same time, I see some of
32 the challenges we still need to confront.

33 (...)

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1 STEWART: How do you move forward when the still overwhelming majority of the country believes: if
2 you help the black community, that's going to come out of our pot. It's resource guarding.

3 SCOTT: Those who believe that in order for me to have what I need you need to give up what you need.
4 That's just an illusion.

5 STEWART: Why do you think the resentment then is so ingrained?

6 SCOTT: To much of success in this nation feels elusive.

7 STEWART: Right.

8 SCOTT: And so, the future challenge that we have coming our way I think is less black and white and it's
9 more structural to those who feel like their resources are inadequate to meet their needs.

10 If you're looking for a great equalizer, the closest thing to a panacea is understanding that education is
11 the closest thing to magic in America. With a good education, almost all things are possible.

12 STEWART: Is it about convincing maybe white Americas that this investment actually enriches everyone?

13 SCOTT: Jon, I don't spend as much time on white versus black as you do.

14 STEWART: I spend most of my time.

15 SCOTT: I can tell. But to me it's eliminating the challenges so that everything starts off on a level playing
16 field.

17 (...)

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