

The Many Controversies Of Disney's 'Snow White' Remake, Explained



Disney's upcoming live-action remake of *Snow White*, starring Rachel Zegler, has been enduring a long, melodramatic backlash that refuses to die. As Disney continues to churn out remakes, the critical discourse has been infected by reactionary content creators who blend anti-woke talking points with fan grievances, and *Snow White* has proved no exception. Here are the many controversies of *Snow White*, explained:

Casting Of Snow White

When first announced, the casting of *West Side Story* star Rachel Zegler as the titular Snow White sparked racist backlash from commentators who believed that Zegler (who is of Colombian and Polish descent) wasn't pale enough for the part, as the princess is described as having skin "as white as snow."

Zegler acknowledged the backlash in an interview with *Variety*, stating that she was "trending on Twitter for days, because all of the people were angry." Zegler went on to emphasize that "Snow White is really a big deal in Spanish-speaking countries" and expressed pride at playing "a Latina princess." On "X," the site formerly known as Twitter, Zegler posted pictures of herself dressed as various Disney princesses as a child, writing: "I hope every child knows they can be a princess no matter what."

Snow White And The Seven Companions

Note that the upcoming remake is titled *Snow White*, not *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The upcoming remake features only one actor with dwarfism, with their six companions played by non-dwarf actors. The absence of dwarfs has sparked backlash online, but the idea of seven dwarfs appearing in the remake also proved controversial.

Appearing on Marc Maron's *WTF* podcast, *Game of Thrones* star Peter Dinklage dismissed Disney's remake as a "backwards story," stating that he "was a little taken aback when [Disney] were very proud to cast a Latina actress as Snow White, but you are still telling the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

In response to Dinklage's comments, Disney stated that "to avoid reinforcing stereotypes from the original animated film, we are taking a different approach with these seven characters and have been consulting with members of the dwarfism community."

Actress Katrina Kemp described the casting as "a missed opportunity to make a movie with seven little people where they actually have intended characters. There will have been people who gladly would have taken those roles."

Altering The Original Fairytale

David Hand, the son of the original 1937 *Snow White* director, joined the conversation. The 91-year-old, who previously worked as a designer for Disney, told *The Telegraph* that Walt Disney himself would not agree with the changes being made to the original story:

"They change the stories, they change the thought processes of the characters, they just aren't the original stories anymore. They're making up new woke things and I'm just not into any of that," Hand said.

Snow White, however, has been retold many times; indeed, the very idea of an "original" version of a fairytale is a fiction, as fairytales are an oral tradition that are fluid by nature; even the brothers Grimm revised their stories several times to suit the cultural expectations of the time.