

ANNEXURE 13

18/05/2018

NewsCorp Australia Mail - Fwd: Mr Geoffrey Rush [HWLE-Matter.C0141544.687753]

News Corp Australia

Fwd: Mr Geoffrey Rush [HWLE-Matter.C0141544.687753]

1 message

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Nicholas Pullen <[REDACTED]>

Date: 29 November 2017 at 20:03

Subject: Mr Geoffrey Rush [HWLE-Matter.C0141544.687753]

To: "jonathon.moran" <jonathon[REDACTED]>

Cc: "anthony.deceglia" <anthony.deceglia[REDACTED]>, Ben Weintraub <[REDACTED]>

Dear Mr Moran,
PUBLICATION

NOT FOR

We act on behalf of the acclaimed actor, Geoffrey Rush.

We refer to your email of today's date (below) and advise that any report by you or the Daily Telegraph in the terms indicated will be grossly defamatory of our client. Further, it will cause incalculable damage to his unblemished and unassailable reputation.

Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company, the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised. Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves.

Our client has not been involved with the STC or any of its representatives for a period of more than 22 months. In the circumstances, if such a statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least. Without any details as to what the specific allegations involve, when they occurred and who it was with, it is impossible to provide any meaningful response. Your "understanding" of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded. It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue.

In the circumstances, we require from you an undertaking that you or your publication will not publish any material that associates our client with the current media frenzy taking place over the allegations of sexual and verbal abuse, bullying and abhorrent behaviour currently being reported as taking place in the entertainment industry concerning Harvey Weinstein and Don Burke.

Mr Rush has never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour". His regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach.

The seriousness of this matter and the nature of the baseless claims and associations you and your publication are indicating go to the very heart of our client's reputation and standing in the entertainment industry and the community at large. We require your written undertaking not to proceed with any article or publication in the terms we have described. Should we not receive such a written undertaking by 10pm this evening, 29 November 2017, we have instructions to issue injunctive proceedings against you and the Daily Telegraph immediately thereafter.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Pullen
Partner

HWLE
BSWORTH

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From: Moran, Jonathon [mailto:jonathon.moran@news.com.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 29 November 2017 5:06 PM

To: Ann Churchill-Brown <[REDACTED]>; Sophy Jones <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Anthony DeCeglie <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Coming over

Hi Anne,

I'm writing this email with an urgent enquiry regarding a story running in tomorrow's The Daily Telegraph.

I have been investigating an alleged incident of abuse by your client Geoffrey Rush during his time working on The Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear.

The following statement from the STC was provided to us yesterday confirming an incident of "inappropriate behaviour" took place.

This is their official statement:

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour. The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended. The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace."

It is our understanding colleague Eryn Jean Norvill claims Mr Rush touched her inappropriately on a number of occasions.

We are not naming the "complainant".

This is part of a broader investigation into a number of high profile people in the entertainment industry in the wake of the Don Burke scandal, and previously the Harvey Weinstein allegations.

Can you please provide an official response on behalf of Mr Rush as soon as possible regarding the incident and subsequent investigation by the STC.

Regards,

Jonathon

On 29 November 2017 at 16:59, DeCeglie, Anthony <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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Regards,

Jonathon

ANTHONY DECEGLIE

Deputy Editor

Daily Telegraph

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