

The Daily Telegraph

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WE'RE FOR SYDNEY

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UNSCRIPTED DRAMA: THE OSCAR STAR SCANDAL

I was in
the show.
I believe
(her)

STC actor Meyne Wyatt

WE'RE WITH YOU

Theatre cast back accuser
as Rush denies 'touching'

JONATHAN MORAN

TWO Sydney Theatre Company actors yesterday spoke out in support of the actress who has accused Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush of touching her inappropriately during the stage production of *King Lear*.

Rush — one of Australia's biggest stars — was yesterday continuing to vehemently deny the claims.

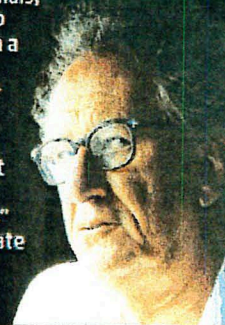
Meyne Raoul Wyatt, who also appeared in *King Lear*, said he believed the allegations. "I believe (the person who) has come forward. It's time for Sydney Theatre Company and the industry in Australia and worldwide as a whole to make a stand," Wyatt said.

And Brandon McClelland, who has

worked alongside the actress, urged others to believe the complaints. "It wasn't a misunderstanding," he said.

Two STC sources said the company stood by her claims. Both said the company wouldn't work with Rush again. Despite denials, Rush was told who made the claims in a phone call with executive director Patrick McIntyre weeks ago. Mr McIntyre last night said the STC had "reviewed policies" about "inappropriate behaviour".

FULL REPORTS P4-5



SCOOP

THE BANK BUST

SHARRI MARKSON
& KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

FORMER premier Mike Baird played a key role in convincing the Turnbull government to agree to a royal commission into the

big banks. As Mr Baird and his new boss NAB chair Ken Henry got the banks onside, Treasurer Scott Morrison also had a call with Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe that reversed his position.

FULL REPORTS PAGE 9

REVEALED

TOP KIDS GO BUSH

ANNA CALDWELL

HIGH-achieving students will be given free university degrees and a \$7500-a-year payment in exchange for spending three years teaching in the NSW bush.

Sixty free degrees will be offered from next year as part of a radical push to get better teachers in rural areas as the government fights to maintain a political grip on crucial country electorates.

FULL REPORT PAGE 3

REVEALED

WHAT A SHOCKER

ANNA CALDWELL

ONE of the state's power fat cats has sparked uproar after it was revealed he has pocketed a whopping \$117,000 pay rise as rocketing bills leave families struggling to keep the lights on.

Essential Energy chief executive John Cleland has taken home \$882,076 even as his own company described its patchy service reliability as "unfavourable".

FULL REPORT PAGE 7

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04 | STAGE DRAMA



The Old Vic Theatre on The Cut in London.

HR overhaul to lift curtain on bad deeds

EXCLUSIVE
JONATHAN MORAN

THE Sydney Theatre Company has revised its HR policies in a bid to ensure it maintains a safe environment for staff.

Executive director of the STC Patrick McIntyre (below) said it was important actors feel safe to speak up and believes maintenance of confidentiality to be key.

"We have reviewed policies and procedures in place and that includes educating actors when they come in to the company about our intolerance of inappropriate behaviour, who they should speak to and encouraging them to speak up," Mr McIntyre said.

Mr McIntyre's comments come after the STC confirmed it had received a complaint by a staff member over allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" by Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush. Rush vehemently denies any wrongdoing.

Mr McIntyre stressed that he and the executive team at the theatre company have a duty of care to ensure all staff feel safe and respected in the workplace.

"This isn't about creating drama and blame but if everyone holds each other accountable, we create the kind of workplace we

all want to be in," he said. More broadly, Mr McIntyre suggested it is a wideranging issue for the industry to address in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

"Many still view that speaking up comes with adverse repercussions," he explained.

"This is a trust issue that the industry needs to work towards resolving and the observance of confidentiality is key to this. If people don't trust us with their stories, they won't speak up."

The HR overhaul follows preliminary findings of an Actors Equity survey aimed at theatre actors which found that 40 per cent of respondents claimed they had directly experienced sexual harassment, bullying or misconduct.

Oscar winner Kevin Spacey became embroiled in the ongoing controversy rocking the entertainment industry with numerous victims coming forward — including 20 complaints from his time as artistic director at London's Old Vic Theatre between 2004 and 2015.

A law firm's investigation into allegations about Spacey stated: "Despite having the appropriate escalation processes in place, it was claimed that those affected felt unable to raise concerns and that Spacey operated without sufficient accountability."

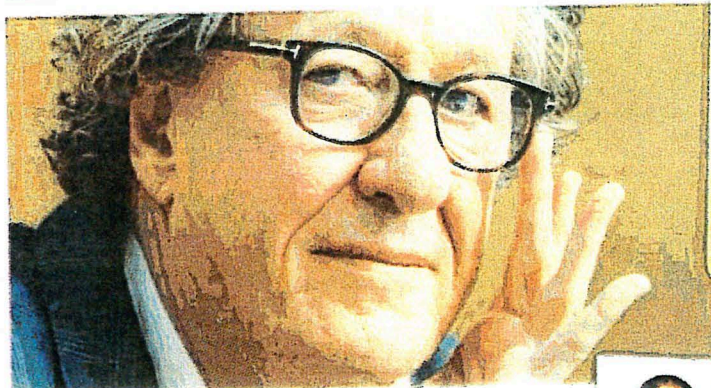


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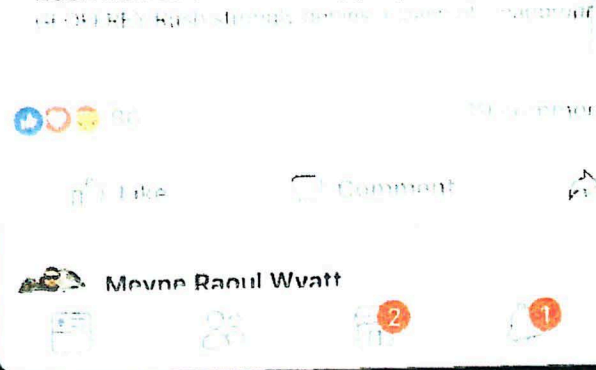


Meyne Raoul Wyatt

I was in the show. I believe whoever has come forward. It's time for Sydney Theatre Company and the industry in Australia and worldwide as a whole to make a stand on this behaviour!!!



Rush denies claim of 'inappropriate behaviour'

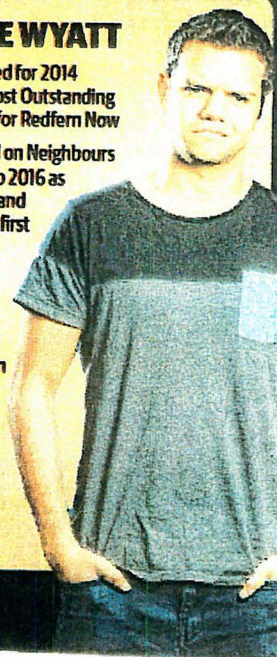


MEYNE WYATT

» Nominated for 2014 Logie for Most Outstanding Newcomer for Redfern Now

» Appeared on Neighbours from 2014 to 2016 as Nate Kinski and became the first indigenous actor to be part of the main cast since the soapie began

» Appeared in STC production of King Lear alongside Rush from 2015 to 2016



Brandon McClelland

BRANDON MCCLELLAND

» Appeared in 2014 television miniseries ANZAC Girls as Pat Dooley

» Also played Robert Donnelly in Love Child from 2014-2015

» Appeared in Sydney Theatre Company productions such as A Midsummer Night's Dream in 2016



Sydney Theatre Company actors support

EXCLUSIVE
JONATHAN MORAN

TWO actors who work with the Sydney Theatre Company yesterday publicly threw their support behind the actress who has accused Oscar-winner Geoffrey Rush of touching her inappropriately during the stage production of King Lear.

It comes as Rush — one of the country's most successful actors — was yesterday continuing to vehemently deny claims he inappropriately

touched a cast member of the local production of the classic William Shakespeare play.

Rising young actor Meyne Raoul Wyatt, who appeared in King Lear, said he believed his castmate's version of events.

"I was in the show," Wyatt, who has also starred in Neighbours and Redfern Now, wrote on Facebook yesterday after The Daily Telegraph broke the story.

"I believe (the person who) has come forward. It's

time for Sydney Theatre Company and the industry in Australia and worldwide as a whole to make a stand on this behaviour!!!"

And Brandon McClelland, who has worked alongside the woman at the centre of the alleged complaint and is in the company's current production of Three Sisters, urged others on Twitter to believe the actress.

"It wasn't a misunderstanding. It wasn't a joke," he posted.

McClelland's tweet was

also reposted by several other Sydney theatre actors as the story dominated social media yesterday.

The STC production of King Lear ran from November 2015 to January 2016.

The 66-year-old acting legend yesterday said he "immediately phoned and spoke to senior management" at the STC when he became aware of rumours there was a complaint.

But he said the STC refused to give him any details.

"They refused to illumi-

Statement for acting veteran blasts STC 'smear'

MANAGEMENT for Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush issued a comprehensive statement yesterday denying allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during the 66-year-old veteran actor's time with the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear.

The statement, following The Daily Telegraph's exclusive report yesterday, took aim at the Sydney Theatre Company, alleging that it

had "chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation".

It also claimed that: "His treatment of fellow colleagues and everyone he has worked with is always conducted with respect and the utmost propriety."

"The allegation made against Mr Rush comes from a statement provided by the Sydney Theatre Company," it reads.

The widely released document

says it is understood that the STC's own statement concerns a complaint made to it more than 21 months ago.

"To date, Mr Rush or any of his representatives have not received any representations from the STC or the complainant."

"In other words, there has been no provision of any details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to."

It goes on to quote Mr Rush:

"The moment I became aware of rumours of a complaint I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company asking for clarification about the details of the statement. "They refused to illuminate me with the details."

The statement then says Mr Rush can only reiterate that he denies being involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" whatsoever.



Geoffrey Rush in King Lear rehearsals.

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TV'S UNWELCOME MATT
WORLD, PAGE 40

05

DEFIANCE

STATEMENT FROM GEOFFREY RUSH

"The moment I became aware of rumours of a complaint I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company asking for clarification about the details of the statement. They refused to illuminate me with the details ... I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

STC STATEMENT

Sydney Theatre Company was asked by a News Corp journalist earlier this month whether it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by Mr Rush while he was employed by the company. STC responded truthfully that it had received such a complaint.

Geoffrey Rush in the lead-up to the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear in late 2015.

complainant's claims against megastar Rush

nate me," he said through a statement.

"I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level.

"However, no response was forthcoming."

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said it was a "great disappointment" that the STC had "chosen to smear his

name and unjustifiably damage his reputation".

"Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them, let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public, is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates," he said.

The actor's lawyer, a partner in legal firm HWL Ebsworth, said Rush "abhorred any form of maltreatment of any person".

"Until there is the decency

afforded to Mr Rush of what the 'inappropriate behaviour' actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage," Mr Pullen said.

Two sources who spoke to The Daily Telegraph yesterday said Rush was made aware who made the claims in a conversation with executive director Patrick McIntyre three weeks ago.

The sources said they believed the woman's claims.

And they said the STC would not be working with

Rush again. That's despite the veteran actor having worked with the company both acting and directing productions such as Uncle Vanya, Oleana, The Importance Of Being Ernest and The Government Inspector.

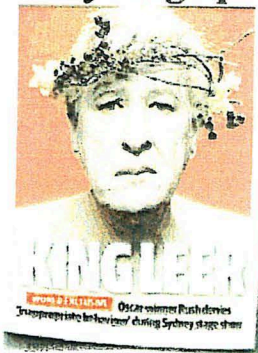
A new statement from the STC yesterday said that it had responded "truthfully" after being approached by The Daily Telegraph earlier this week.

It also clarified the anonymous nature of the alleged complainant, who had "re-

quested the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified".

"STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare," Mr McIntyre last night said the STC had "reviewed policies and procedures" including "educating actors when they come in to the company about our intolerance of inappropriate behaviour, who they should speak to and encouraging them to speak up".

Daily Telegraph



How we broke the story yesterday.

THEATRE'S FIRM STATE OF PLAY

THE Sydney Theatre Company yesterday confirmed it responded "truthfully" when asked if it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by leading Australian actor Geoffrey Rush.

In an updated statement, the STC said it "was asked by a News Ltd journalist earlier this month whether it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by Mr Rush while he was employed by the company. STC

responded truthfully that it had received such a complaint."

It also clarified the alleged complainant had "requested the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved" in any inquiry.

"STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare. As already stated, the Company received the complaint after Mr Rush's engagement had ended."



Rush in Pirates of the Caribbean.

Execs' exile for star

EXECUTIVES at the Sydney Theatre Company yesterday came forward in support of the woman at the heart of the Geoffrey Rush scandal, saying they wholeheartedly believe her claims.

They also said due to the seriousness of the allegations, the award-winning theatre company would not work with the Pirates of the Caribbean star again. "There is no chance," the source told The

Daily Telegraph. "How could we work with him again? That question doesn't even need an answer."

The executive added: "Another actor backed what she said ... we've taken this very seriously."

The source also defended not naming the woman, saying: "It is not our story to tell."

A high-profile actor, who did not want to be named, came forward to support the woman.

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