Rush quits arts academy

EXCLUSIVE
JONATHON MORAN

ACADEMY Award-winning actor Geoffrey Rush yesterday stood down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema, Television and Arts (AACTA) in the wake of allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" levelled against him by a female co-star.

Rush will no longer attend the annual AACTA Awards in Sydney on Wednesday, and producers of the live television broadcast have scrapped a video introduction to the night that he filmed with Robb Wilson last week.

"AACTA acknowledges the decision today of Geoffrey Rush to voluntarily step down as president of AACTA and accepts and respects his decision to do so," AACTA said in a statement.

"We have been deeply concerned about the situation and support a course of action that both respects Geoffrey's rights to the presumption of innocence and due process, but also acknowledges good corporate governance in these circumstances."

The Sunday Telegraph can reveal the allegations against Rush, which he has repeatedly denied - caused a major shake-up of the AACTA board.

Festive executive director of television Brian Walsh has written to the board to make it clear that he is stepping down in protest of the situation, a Channel 7 spokeswoman said.

Rush, 66, has strongly denied accusations of repeatedly inappropriately touching a cast member during The Sydney Theatre Company's stage production of King Lear, which ran from November 29 to January 2016.

It is understood the alleged incidents at times occurred in full view of the audience in the Roslyn Packer Theatre. The STC confirmed a complaint was made to the company and brought to everyone's attention.

While the actor who filed the complaint has asked not to be named, two of her fellow actors have come out in support of her, including King Lear co-star Wayne Renaut Wyatt.

"I was in the show," Wyatt wrote on social media after The Daily Telegraph broke the story. "I believe (the person) who has come forward.

A Sunday Telegraph journalist attempted to contact Rush at his Melbourne home yesterday, where his wife, actor Anne Longo, would not comment.
Cruel end as system fails kids

BY ANNA CALDWELL
STATE POLICE EDITOR

There has been a dramatic rise in the number of children committing suicide after coming into contact with the NSW child safety system, according to a shocking new report.

The government has been alerted to the horror statistic that, in 2016, 30 children between 13 and 17 were found dead, with 16 known by the Department of Families and Community Services (FACS) committed suicide. In the three years prior, that number had been steady at around five deaths per year.

Family Services Minister Pru Goward declared the government must "continuously improve its child safety systems to keep vulnerable children and young people safe."

The report into the deaths of the children known to the child safety system noted that all but one of the victims had experienced childhood trauma, including "physical abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault," but that despite this, FACS did not recognise the children needed help.

"FACS did not recognise the children as being in need of care and support and therefore we missed opportunities to understand the risk their behaviour posed to other children... and themselves," the Child Deaths Annual Report said.

It detailed how the warning signs existed: "A number of the children were suffering from mental health problems prior to their death. Reported concerns were about risk-taking behaviour such as problematic substance use and self-harm. Several of the children had made previous suicide attempts or had made threats to end their life."

It comes as statewide figures show that one child a week is being lost to suicide in the state identified in the past year as being at risk of significant harm, just one in three assessed face-to-face by caseworkers in October.

Coroner Harriet Grimes considered the suicide of a 13-year-old boy known to FACS - warned the government the system was in "ongoing crisis". That boy had been repeatedly FACS, multiple times, but was not adequately followed up before his 2013 death. Coroner Grimes said in his findings: "It is more than a sad state of affairs. It is an ongoing crisis. Time after time this court grapples with the under-resourced Department of Families and Community Services.

SCOUTS’ GIRLS GUIDE

SCOUT leaders in the UK have been told to avoid referring to children as "boys" and "girls" to ensure that transgender members are not offended.

Official guidelines instruct leaders to use "gender-neutral" phrases such as "friends" when addressing Scout troops.

They also say the phrase "hello gentlemen" should be avoided and warn against calling female Scout leaders "lady leaders."

The advice has come ahead of a summer week at the girl guides' "friend", following a government review of a complaint made by a transgender Scout leader.

The comment has been condemned by Barnardo's, which has called for a "zero tolerance" approach to "gender dysphoria".

Children get the run of the House

IT has hosted some of the biggest names in entertainment but next year, the Sydney Opera House will be home to a 78-storey treehouse and a billionaire boy.

Australia's cultural icon has a goal to host the biggest showcase of children's entertainment in the country. Bridgette Van Leeuwen, Head of Children, Families and Creative Learning, said: "It is our fervent belief and desire to treat our younger audience with the respect they deserve and present stories of worlds removed from them to enjoy."

The Opera House first began programming for children in 1972, four years after it first opened. "Four decades on, our program reaches 700,000 young people and their families each year and is a foundation for learning and inspiring the next generation of innovators, creators and future leaders," Ms Van Leeuwen said.

The 2018 Children's program includes the stage adaptation of Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton's bestseller The 78-Storey Treehouse and the production of David Walliams' hit book Billionaire Boy... among many others.

Ugly open secret is centre stage

TV and theatre star's warning

JOHNATHON MOORE

ACCLAIMED Australian actor and Sydney Theatre Company regular Yael Stone says the "truth is hitting home" after complaints of inappropriate conduct in the local entertainment industry exposed a culture which has been an "ugly open secret."

Stone - who stars in the popular US series Orange Is The New Black - says "clear guidelines" and "well-established, protected systems" must be put in place to safeguard actors.

The comments follow legendary actor Geoffrey Rush standing down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema, Television and Arts in the wake of allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" towards a female co-star during the STC's recent production of King Lear.

Rush has vehemently denied the accusations and any wrongdoing.

"The scale of this unspoken culture, and the abuse of power manifested in sexual aggression, shouldn’t really come as a surprise," Stone, 32, said.

"But the fact that we have collectively kept an open secret like this for so long is inherently shocking."

"Now we are discovering that this culture also exists in Australia, the truth is hitting home, and it hurts."

Stone has done several shows with the STC including Frankenstein, Elling and Honour.

She was set to be part of its 2018 season until she fell pregnant.

Stone said social media's #metoo movement, which has gathered steam after allegations of sexual misconduct were levelled at Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, has meant power "imbalance" is no longer "enough to keep less powerful victims silent."

"Some of those accused of inappropriate behaviour have never considered their manner of operating unhealthy or upsetting, be-
AUSTRALIA's version of the Oscars has been hit by a last-minute plot twist that has put the dark side of the entertainment industry squarely in the spotlight.

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards are supposed to be a celebration of local film and television, with honour and homage paid to the giants of stage and screen, but the question many were asking as the show kicked off yesterday was — how will this story end?
This year's event has been overshadowed by a series of sexual harassment and bullying allegations levelled at some of entertainment's biggest stars following Hollywood's earth-shaking Harvey Weinstein scandal.

Actor, writer and director Josh Lawson said the industry was in transition and would emerge stronger.

"I think like a lot of people. I stand beside all victims ... and I look forward to the new normal where anyone of any gender can work without intimidation and fear and on equal footing and equal pay," he said at yesterday's AACTA luncheon.
"It's like cutting out a tumour, it's messy, it's bloody and ultimately we will be better for it."

Among the figures in the spotlight is AACTA president and Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush who has stood down from his position after being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" towards a female co-star during a recent stage production of King Lear. A claim he strongly denies.

TV presenter Don Burke is also facing allegations he denies and dozens of other well-known figures are expected to be accused of misconduct.

At yesterday's ceremony winners of production categories were announced in advance of tomorrow's awards night, but the mood was subdued. Rush's fellow AACTA board member, respected film critic Margaret Pomeranz, refused to walk the red carpet or enter the media room after winning Best Female Presenter and ignored requests for interviews.
Margaret Pomeranz refused to walk the red carpet, enter the media room and ignored requests for interviews. Picture: Richard Dobson

Actor and fellow board member Noni Hazlehurst refused to comment, while Susie Porter said she respected Rush's decision to step down.

Walking Dead star Callan McAuliffe, who worked with Rush on Hollywood film The Book Thief, threw his support behind the actor, whom he described as a gentleman.

But he also revealed he'd been subjected to sexual harassment during his career without naming the perpetrator.

"It has happened to me before which is uncomfortable. People grope you," the 22-year-old said. "I certainly wouldn't call myself a victim."

MORE: **ACTORS SUPPORT WOMAN WHO COMPLAINED OF TOUCHING**

MORE: **RUSH DENIES ACCUSATION OF 'INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR'**

"I am not a victim of anything so severe as what we are hearing about now. But, you get the hug which lasts too long. Or someone taps you in a place where you would not tap someone else."
Actor Hunter Page-Lochard, who appeared with Rush in Bran Nue Dae, said while he would not comment on Rush's specific allegations because "I don't know anything personally" he supported people speaking out about inappropriate conduct.
ABC host Julia Zemiro also refused to comment on Rush, but said abuse was rampant in the industry.

"If you are a woman you are not shocked by men behaving poorly," she said.

"I've not had a hideous time of it. I am extremely proud of the women ... who are speaking out. We have to start calling out behaviours when they happen."

Melina Vidler, who won a Logie for her role in 800 Words, threw her support behind the women across the globe telling their stories: "It's really difficult to say because you don't want to tell your mother or your husband, let alone the world ... it shows how resilient women are."

There was a notable absence of discussion on the issue of the day from the presenters and award winners, however, AACTA did announce its collaboration with Women in Film and Television in NSW (WIFT), supporting an industry forum next week to address harassment.

A poll released last month by WIFT revealed 58 per cent of respondents have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace.
TV chiefs at centre of Rush departure

SALLY DUNSTABLE

FOXTEL and Channel 7 forced the Australian Academy of Cinema, Television and Arts to take a stand on Geoffrey Rush after allegations of inappropriate behaviour were levelled against the superstar.

The networks took the extraordinary step of writing a joint letter to AACTA chief executive Damian Trewhella, leading to Rush (pictured) stepping down as president of the organisation over the weekend.

"The entertainment industry ... is under intense scrutiny in relation to allegations of unacceptable behaviour by individuals in all areas of our businesses," FoxTel boss Peter Tonagh and Seven's director of programming Angus Ross wrote. "Both of our companies take very seriously the importance of having a safe and trusted work environment for our employees. The reason for this letter is to ensure that any organisation with which we are associated takes the same approach and adheres to the same principles."

The Daily Telegraph understands the letter was sent on Friday, a day after the AACTA board left its ties with Rush.

FoxTeI executive director of television strategy John Steelers resigned from his post on the board after that meeting.

The unprecedented step follows the current events unfolding the industry's dark side, with the intensity of the awards broadcast next Wednesday night. Wednesday night's FoxTel Seven letter read: "FoxTel and Seven seek assurance every effort will be made to ensure this next 12 months is not a replay of the past."

"The letter acknowledged the dark side of the entertainment industry, but it was a step to protect the organisation," Trewhella said.

"It's important to remember that we're not trying to punish people who have been wronged, but to protect the organisation from further damage."

The 57-page letter from the AACTA board member, respected film critic Margaret Pomeranz, referred to the red carpet in the lead up to the awards.

"If you come to the AACTA awards, you are accepting responsibility for what happens on the red carpet and the behaviour of all those associated with it," the letter read.

Actor and fellow board member Peter Tonagh said the organisation was being "put through the wringer".

"We have to make sure we're not being seen as a circus," he said.

Stars of stage and screen urge industry

RACHEL RUTHERFORD & ERIN CRANE

AUSTRALIA'S version of the Oscars has been hit by an 11th-hour twist that has put the dark side of the entertainment industry squarely in the spotlight.

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards are supposed to be a celebration of local film and television with honour and home grown talent in the spotlight. However, with the recent allegations, the industry has been called to account and condemnation of inappropriate behaviour has been raised in the media. The year's event has been overshadowed by a series of sexual harassment and bullying allegations levelled at some of entertainment's biggest stars following Hollywood's MeToo and Harvey Weinstein scandals.

Actor, writer and director in law, Lawson and the industry was in transition and would emerge stronger. "The #MeToo movement has made a lot of people think about their behaviour in the workplace and how they conduct themselves," he said. "We need to change and make sure everyone feels safe." The AACTA Awards is known for its high profile and glamour, with stars walking the red carpet and posing for photographs. This year's event has been marred by allegations of inappropriate behavior, with some attendees distancing themselves from the event.

Actress and fellow board member Peter Tonagh said the organisation was being "put through the wringer". "We have to make sure we're not being seen as a circus," he said.

"If you come to the AACTA awards, you are accepting responsibility for what happens on the red carpet and the behaviour of all those associated with it," the letter read.

Actor Rush, who has stood down from his position after being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" towards a female co-star during a recent stage production of King Lear, was accused of sexual harassment. "I claim he strongly denies TV presenter Don Burke is also facing allegations he damaged and sank the industry's reputation despite being accused of misconduct. At yesterday's ceremony, winners of production categories were announced in advance of tomorrow's awards night, but the mood was subdued. Rush's fellow AACTA board member, respected film critic Margaret Pomeranz, refused to walk the red carpet or enter the media room even winning Best Female Presenter and ceremony invitations for his support behind the actor, whom he described as a gentleman. But he..."
BUT WORTH IT

I support (people speaking out) where it's valid... you have to stand behind the right.

HUNTER PAGE-LOCHARD

I’m extremely proud of the women... who are speaking out. We have to start calling out behaviours when they happen.

JULIA ZEMIRO

I’ve seen bits and pieces... I also used to model... so I’ve seen it there... it’s not something that’s hugely affected me but people know it’s been going on... and I think it’s a beautiful change.

EMMA BOOTH

Mercedes rage led to death

A WOMAN who fatally stabbed her cousin after a prolonged argument over the use of her car was yesterday found guilty of manslaughter. Katherine Abdallah, 37, claimed she had acted in self-defence when she killed Suzie Sarkis, 21, at her Brighton-Le-Sands townhouse on February 9, 2013. However, after almost five days of deliberations, a NSW Supreme Court jury found Abdallah guilty of manslaughter, before her bail was revoked and the case put over to December 13. Abdallah originally faced a murder trial but was found guilty of a lesser charge of manslaughter and jailed in May 2005 for at least eight years and three months. Later that year, she successfully challenged her conviction and was ordered to face a second trial. The Crown contended during the retrial the stabbing was not self-defence but a continuation of a series of violent acts by Abdallah that day after she became angry at her cousin for using her new Mercedes.

A flood of damages

COMMON sense and dam manuals were ignored by flood engineers during Queensland’s deadly 2011 deluge, according to a class-action lawsuit aiming to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in damages for victims.

Launched in Sydney yesterday, the case comes nearly seven years after thousands of homes and businesses in Brisbane and surrounding areas were inundated by swirling, muddy floodwaters. When the gates of Wivenhoe Dam, west of Brisbane, were opened on January 11, the water released reached an extraordinary rate of 64,644 cubic metres per second - more than double what it was only nine hours earlier.

Common real estate agents in Forster-Tuncurry 02 654 5011

www.thecoveforster.com.au

Stunning land release BERMAGUI, South Coast

Hurry from just $199,000

The Lifestyle Destination

Contact: Grant Kebble

0418 640 616

Michael Gowerko

0417 561 547

www.sapphirecovecom.au

9-137
Rush ‘just playful’: Director

The director of a film set to star a noted actor Geoffrey Rush “inappropriately touched” a co-star yesterday in a “playful” way, part of his “great act.”

However, director Neil Armfield said he did not know the full details of the alleged incident. “In no time at all, the weeks and months of rehearsal and performance, I have absolutely nothing other than an artist at the top of his game leading a company with respect and playfulness and good grace,” he told ABC presenter Frau Kelly. “The allegation is no different.”

A demurred call to the Daily Telegraph was followed up by asking if he knew details of the allegation. “No, I do not,” Armfield replied.

Spacely was sex suspect

Production on the 1995 film The Good Son was shut down for two days after actor Kevin Spacely was accused of inappropriate behavior towards a co-star. Armfield has revealed.

Spacely was accused of sexual misconduct by a young actor, but he did not know the full extent.

“I mean, he was kind of a joke in that people would say ‘That’s Kevin’ but nobody really understood the depth of his productions,” Byrne said.

Byrne labelled Spacely a “fully sick moron”.

Harvey Weinstein

Best lead actress winner Emma Booth on the red carpet before her AACTA triumph. Picture: Richard Dobson

‘Brave’ women win praise at glam awards

ALISON STEPHENSON & KRIS GRANT

WOMEN speaking out against abuse and harassment in the entertainment industry have won praise for their courage while more big names revealed they had also been victims.

The revelations come as the biggest names in Australia’s film and television industry have been accused of inappropriate behavior towards female costars during a period of women’s rights activism.

After 40 years of activism, the film industry is now reeling after revelations of sexual misconduct.

But some actors believe there is hope for change.

“I think it is two things,” said Australian actress of her experience. “One is the changing passion for our pursuit and the other is sensitivity.”

“People that were being talked about on the sets don’t think about the women that were there. They were important.”

However, others say the industry is only now starting to change.

“We have an opportunity to set some standards,” said one woman.

“Not just for women but for everyone.”

Wendy Williams, who won a Golden Globe for her role in the film The Post, said it was “a huge step forward”.

“It is a huge step forward for women and men to be treated equally.”

While Rusty’s joke falls flat

RUSSELL Crowe stunned the audience at last night’s AACTA awards with a bizarre speech about how he accidentally “sodden” Romper Stomper co-star Jacqueline McKenzie during filming.

After first asking the audience if they were “bored,” Crowe (pictured) launched into a story about filming sex scenes.

“I just wanted to talk about what we do together, whether we work in film or television or theatre. I think it is two things,” he said.

It wasn’t the opening night of the film that it was pointed out by none other than Jackie McKenzie’s beautiful late mother that we were actually engaged in sodomy.” Some observers were left “disgusted”.

Crowe’s remarks

“People that are brave enough to e...
‘Brave’ women win praise at glam awards

ALISON STEPHERSON
& KIRS CRAVE

WOMEN speaking out against abuse and harassment in the entertainment industry were last night hailed as "pioneers" while two more big names revealed they had also been victims.

THE industry is reeling after allegations against film and television titles AACTA Awards at The Star in Pyrmont last night.

"Get over yourselves," Crowe (pictured) launched into a story about filming sex scenes.

"I just want to talk about what kinds of passions, whether we are working on film or television, the things that bind us together, whatever it is that we are doing," she said.

Mr. McKenzie also opened up about the incident allayed and I didn't actually intend to do that. I tried to keep my bits away from her this.

"I had been given one of those pieces of advice that the girls get that protects them. All my bits and pieces were in a canvas sack with a drawing... It wasn't until the opening night of the film that it was pointed out by none other than Jackie McKenzie's beautiful mother that we were actually engaged on sodomy," some observers were left 'shocked' by Crowe's remarks.

"I'm not the only one. I was soddled. I was about to keep my bits away from her this.

"I had been given one of those pieces of advice that the girls get that protects them. All my bits and pieces were in a canvas sack with a drawing... It wasn't until the opening night of the film that it was pointed out by none other than Jackie McKenzie's beautiful mother that we were actually engaged on sodomy," some observers were left 'shocked' by Crowe's remarks.

BEST lead actress Emma Booth on the red carpet after her AACTA triumph. Picture: Richard Dobson

WHILE RUSTY'S JOKE FALLS FLAT

RUSSELL Crowe stunned the audience at last night's AACTA awards with a bit of a speech about how he accidentally "sodded" Romper Stomper co-star Jacqueline McKenzie during filming.

"If he knew the full details of the accusation, he would just say, 'Get over yourselves,'" she said.

"I have an opportunity to set things right, not just for the women but for the people who are being the victims of the same thing."

"They are brave enough to come forward and speak out."

However director Neil Armfield conceded he did not know the full details of the incident. "In my time in all the weeks and months of rehearsal and performances, I never knew the full details of the accusation."

"In the end, there are very few things as much as I love and respect Jack and the film company, " the film producer Don Burke is facing multiple allegations, which he also denies.

BEST lead actress Emma Booth on the red carpet after her AACTA triumph. Picture: Richard Dobson

"I'm not the only one. I was soddled. I was about to keep my bits away from her this.

"I had been given one of those pieces of advice that the girls get that protects them. All my bits and pieces were in a canvas sack with a drawing... It wasn't until the opening night of the film that it was pointed out by none other than Jackie McKenzie's beautiful mother that we were actually engaged on sodomy," some observers were left 'shocked' by Crowe's remarks.

"I'm not the only one. I was soddled. I was about to keep my bits away from her this.

"I had been given one of those pieces of advice that the girls get that protects them. All my bits and pieces were in a canvas sack with a drawing... It wasn't until the opening night of the film that it was pointed out by none other than Jackie McKenzie's beautiful mother that we were actually engaged on sodomy," some observers were left 'shocked' by Crowe's remarks.

BEST lead actress Emma Booth on the red carpet after her AACTA triumph. Picture: Richard Dobson

"I'm not the only one. I was soddled. I was about to keep my bits away from her this.

"I had been given one of those pieces of advice that the girls get that protects them. All my bits and pieces were in a canvas sack with a drawing... It wasn't until the opening night of the film that it was pointed out by none other than Jackie McKenzie's beautiful mother that we were actually engaged on sodomy," some observers were left 'shocked' by Crowe's remarks.

BEST lead actress Emma Booth on the red carpet after her AACTA triumph. Picture: Richard Dobson

"I'm not the only one. I was soddled. I was about to keep my bits away from her this.

"I had been given one of those pieces of advice that the girls get that protects them. All my bits and pieces were in a canvas sack with a drawing... It wasn't until the opening night of the film that it was pointed out by none other than Jackie McKenzie's beautiful mother that we were actually engaged on sodomy," some observers were left 'shocked' by Crowe's remarks.

BEST lead actress Emma Booth on the red carpet after her AACTA triumph. Picture: Richard Dobson
The code of silence that allowed arts industries to ignore complaints is over, writes Rosemary Neill.

A recent report from California's San Diego State University showed that women accounted for just 7 per cent of directors attached to the 250 top-grossing Hollywood films last year. In a telling comparison, this figure was two percentage points lower than it had been in 1998, almost two decades before.

In Australia, the prospects for female feature film directors during the past 47 years were only moderately better. Screen Australia statistics reveal women comprised 16 per cent of local film directors between 1970 and this year (though that figure is increasing because of the screen agency's recent, if sometimes contentious, affirmative action programs).

To put this in perspective, women are more likely to be accepted into the air force than they are to secure film directing gigs. (Women filled 19 per cent of jobs in the RAAF last year.) Yet unlike the military, the movie business promotes itself as inherently, unimpeachably progressive — early adopters of everything from gay marriage to wheatgrass shots; among the first to call out Donald Trump's grossly offensive comments about women on the Access Hollywood bus.

Even so, it has often seemed as if the more women complained about the celluloid ceiling, the less Hollywood — and film industries here and in Europe — were prepared to listen. Now, however, the tsunami of sexual harassment, assault and inappropriate behaviour allegations is engulfing some of the arts and screen industry's most powerful men, including Australia's Don Burke and Geoffrey Rush, who have both firmly denied the claims of misconduct.

Nonetheless, the ever-widening scandals are casting women's lack of career progress in a new, harsher light: It's only logical to assume that if an industry like Hollywood treats young actresses like glorified escorts — sending them off to job interviews with producers wearing bathrobes, expecting them to cop groping or indecent exposure as part of the job — then that industry is unlikely to take seriously women's broader career aspirations.

As the tidal wave of complaints about internationally influential figures (Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Brett Ratner, Roger Ailes, Matt Lauer) shows little sign of receding, the arts and screen industries' dirtiest secret is being exposed: in the 21st century, there is no equivalent sector, apart from the sex industry, in which young people are so exploited for the sexual gratification of older, powerful men.

Megan Riakos, the president of Women in Film & Television NSW, says "there is an absolute link" between this diminished view of women, and their lack of career progress as, say, film directors or cinematographers. "I think it's an inextricable link. If you are objectifying women and you don't have that respect, you are unlikely to facilitate their careers in a meaningful way. That's 100 per cent a problem." Deb Verhoeven, a former chief executive of the Australian Film Institute and an associate dean with the University of Technology -Sydney's faculty of arts and social sciences, tells Review: "Sexual harassment and assault are -defining features of all film industries around the world and Australia is no exception."
"When we talk about a culture of silence around sexual predation, what we really mean is that these crimes and behaviours are rarely prosecuted ... Sexual discrimination and crimes in the Australian film industry are widely discussed - by those who are harmed by them (mostly women), but their experiences are seldom taken seriously." Until now.

This week, WIFT is holding a groundbreaking forum in Sydney that will discuss implementing a sexual harassment code of ethics for the local screen industry. It also will canvass how to empower witnesses to report harassment and bullying. Normally, such an event would be a case of preaching to the converted. But in the current charged climate, major players are taking notice and taking part. Foxtel, Screen Australia, the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts, and Screen Producers Australia plan to attend the event.

Riakos says the initiative was sparked by the slew of sexual-misconduct allegations, including rape, made against former Hollywood kingpin Weinstein (who denies engaging in non-consensual acts). She says the forum's objective is to "break the culture that encourages this kind of harassment".

If real change is to occur, the arts and screen industries must confront another uncomfortable question: Is there something about these industries that encourages an unusually high level of sexual harassment and intimidation?

Given the sheer volume of revelations made since The New York Times broke the Weinstein story two months ago, the answer is an unequivocal yes. The Los Angeles Police Department is investigating 28 sex-crime cases linked to Hollywood, while a further 37 cases are being looked at in other US jurisdictions. Police in Boston and London are investigating three sexual-assault allegations, involving male victims, against Oscar-winning actor Spacey. London's Old Vic theatre recently found that Spacey, the theatre's former artistic director, was involved in 20 cases of alleged "inappropriate behaviour" between 1995 and 2013.

In Australia, former top-rating gardening guru Burke is facing multiple allegations of sexual misconduct — which he denies — from women working inside and outside the screen industry.

The Sydney Theatre Company says it received a complaint that Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush engaged in "inappropriate —behavioun" during a 2015-16 production of King Lear — a charge Rush vehemently denies. Other claims have been made about the Nine Network's past blokey, boozy culture — former program host Kerri-Anne Kennerley told news.com.au last week that an ex-network executive exposed his genitalia at an office party in the 1990s. "He literally pulled out his old fella and put it on the Channel 9 bar in front of the work-experience girl," she said.

In the wake of the Weinstein scandal, former broadcast journalist Tracey Spicer tweeted that she was investigating harassment and abuse in the media and entertainment industries. Within weeks, she received calls and emails from about 500 women identifying 65 men who were alleged serial offenders.

Preliminary findings from a survey by the Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance's Actor's Equity division found that 40 to 60 per cent of Australian actors had been sexually harassed. Forty per cent of those actors report-ed the harassment, but most said there was no response, or an unsatisfactory response.

What are the factors that have allowed harassment in the arts, media and screen industries — and an attendant code of silence — to persist for decades, even as other male-dominated professions faced pressure to clean up their acts?

WIFT's Riakos says the wall of silence that can entrench harassment "has a lot to do with the freelance, unstable nature of the work". Many actors or directors only gained breakthrough jobs after years of sacrifice. This meant "the stakes were really high" when it came to making a misconduct complaint against a powerful figure.

Jane Hansen, a former journalist and co-author of Boned, a satirical novel that took aim at commercial TV's unrepentant sexism, recently wrote of surviving life as a war correspondent — and of having someone expose his penis to her in a television boardroom. Writing in The Sunday Telegraph, she argued that harassment in TV was fuelled by "an appalling sense of entitlement."
Like kids in a lolly shop, it is an industry where powerful men hold the strings to the hopes of so many vulnerable, beautiful and talented young women.

"The temptation to abuse such power is too much for some, but when such men form an impene-trable club ... rewarding bad behaviour with promotions, those who wish to stand up to it do not have a chance." Another factor that militates against calling out abusive behaviour is the high-risk economics surrounding film and TV projects.

Stage and screen actress Jacqueline McKenzie told The Australian last week she had endured "sexual harassment, bullying, groping, lascivious comments and unwanted advances" while working here and overseas. On the two occasions- she complained, "the behaviour was ignored".

McKenzie, who appears in a forthcoming remake- of Romper Stomper, said entertainment executives were incapable of being objective about harassment claims because they were terrified- their productions could be shut down. "So often, they do not back you up because people- stand to lose livelihoods if productions are shut down — and not just one person, but hundreds of people," she says, calling for an independent body to investigate screen harassme-nt cases.

The idea that artists are outliers, that the rules do not apply to them, has long had currenc-y in the arts and entertainment worlds, and this, too, has nourished a culture of harassment and even child abuse.

Director Roman Polanski confessed to having unlawful sex with a 13-year-old schoolgirl when he was 43. Almost three decades later, Hollywood gave him an Oscar and a 30-second standing ovation.

A more recent case involving Hollywood producer and director Ratner, who has directed or produced hits including Rush Hour and X-Men: The Last Stand, and actress Olivia Munn also speaks to the idea of powerful artists being a protected species.

In a 2010 collection of essays, Munn told of visiting the set of a Hollywood film six years earlier, when she was an aspiring actress. As she dropped off food to the director's trailer, the director- who she didn't name — allegedly masturbated and ejaculated in front of her. In a 2011 television interview, Ratner admitted he was the unnamed director.

He denied the masturbation claim, but said he and Munn had been dating; that he "banged her a few times ... forgot her", so "she's bitter". Days later, in a radio interview, he admitted he had lied — he and Munn had never dated or been intimate.

In any other industry, a man who admitted he lied to discredit a woman complaining of seriou-s sexual abuse would be toast. Not in Hollywood. Ratner went on to produce the Oscar-winning The Revenant (2015) and was an executive producer on the recently released children's film The LEGO Ninjago Movie.

Last month, however, six women including Munn approached the Los Angeles Times, accusing Ratner of sexual misconduct and harassment-. The producer and director denies the claims.

For all its self-styled progressivism, the arts and entertainment sector is surprisingly hierarchical. The notion directors are infallible is entrenched inside the rehearsal room and this can encourage bad behaviour.

I once asked a well-known Australian actor whether he would refuse to perform a stunt -demanded by a director, if he considered it to be demeaning. I was thinking of one actor who had to simulate sex with a bunch of flowers; and an actress who had to drop her knickers and sit on the loco a couple of metres away from the audience. "But ... but ... it's the director," stammered the actor, suddenly sounding like an intimidated schoolboy. "You can't say no ..." The media has also neglected its duty to challenge a culture built on unquestioned reverence for starry, bankable names. These days, interv-iews with Hollywood directors and stars are too often interviews in name only — they typically last about 15 minutes and difficult questions are usually banned. Through such tight control — coupled with widespread acquiescence by journalists — a culture of scrutiny is discouraged.

Of course, there will always be grey areas in an industry where men and women are paid to take off
their clothes, or perform simulated sex. And, as fresh revelations of sexual misconduct come to light almost daily, the allegations can feel relentless.

Certainly, we need a vocabulary that better distinguishes between different types of harassment. There is a vast difference between rape and a butt cheek being pinched; between mildly inappropriate language and Don Burke allegedly discussing the size of an Olympian's genitalia in her own home. Yet in the current debate all transgressors tend to be treated as equally culpable.

This leads us to the vexing case of Rush, and the accusation he denies that he engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" during an STC production of King Lear. This allegation, published by Sydney's The Daily Telegraph, generated headlines around the world, and has seen the Oscar-winner step aside as president of screen awards body AACTA.

Yet the nature of the alleged offending is unknown- and the complainant has not been identified, spoken publicly or gone to the police. Rush says he has not been given any details of the "inappropriate" conduct — a source close to the STC, who did not want to be named, disputes this.

This week the production's director, Neil Armfield, told ABC radio: "I believe a great injustice is being perpetrated." Armfield said that, throughout the King Lear rehearsals and performances, "I saw absolutely nothing other than an artist at the top of his form, leading a company with respect and playfulness." A King Lear cast member has backed the complainant and the STC has conducted an investigation. However, this was carried out without Rush's knowledge, meaning he wasn't able to defend himself. The unnamed source says the STC "followed the complainant's wishes and didn't involve Geoffrey, investigated it [the allegation], and now the focus is on looking after her, which we're still doing." The STC has been criticised for telling journalists that a complaint was made while withholding details from the accused actor, but the source explains that "if we said nothing and a journalist had chapter and verse, then it would look like we were covering up. On the other hand, we've gone to a lot of trouble to respect the complainant's position." Through his lawyers, Rush has accused the STC of trying to "smear his name". Despite the troubling uncertainties surrounding the case, the sense that a turning point has been reached has come from an unexpected quarter. Conservative columnist Andrew Bolt confessed this week he has had an epiphany about the importance of women occupying key roles in the screen and media industries, so that bad behaviour is more likely to be challenged. Bolt asked what had catalysed the change under which "so many powerful men are today being outed? One thing above all. There are lots more women at work and in power enough to call out the creeps."

While he opposed screen industry quotas, the man who progressives love to hit admire wished I’d seen what a difference sheer numbers would make in bringing bastards to heel.

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

COMPANY: FOXTEL MANAGEMENT PTY LTD; RUSH ENTERPRISES INC; Sydney Theatre C; BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE; SUNDAY TELEGRAPH; CROWN RESORTS LTD; NINE DIGITAL PTY LTD
NEWS SUBJECT: Assault & Battery (1AS33); Crime (1CR87); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Violent Crime (1VI27)
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Motion Pictures (1MO51)
REGION: Americas (1AM92); Australasia (1AU58); Australia (1AU55); California (1CA98); New South Wales (1NE75); North America (1NO39); Oceania (1OC40); U.S. West Region (1WE46); USA (1US73)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (NINE NETWORK; The Daily Telegraph; Donald John Trump; Donald Trump; Tracey Spicer; Deb Verhooven; Kerri-Anne Kennerley; Neil Armfield; Olivia Munn; Kevin Spacey; Roger Alles; Geoffrey Rush; Jane Hansen; Brett Ratner; Rosemary NeillA; Roman Polanski; Don Burke; Jacqueline McKenzie; Harvey Weinstein; Matt Lauer; Megan Riakos)
EDITION: Review
WORD COUNT: 2398
Geoffrey Rush has secured an interim order to suppress The Daily Telegraph's defence to his defamation claim in the Federal Court.

There was no sign of the actor at the first hearing of the case in Sydney today.

Mr Rush's barrister Richard McHugh SC argued against allowing even a redacted version of the defence to be given to media, after submitting that vast slabs must be crossed out to prevent further damage to his client's reputation.

Justice Michael Wigney deferred argument on that issue to later this month. He found that to preserve Mr Rush's position until then so much material would have to be redacted that it would nullify the argument that the document should be released in the interests of the fair and open administration of justice.

Mr McHugh submitted that if the media was provided with the documents, it would allow them to publish material, based on "rumour", that would go further in damaging his client's reputation than the original articles he says defamed him.

"The problem is no one has ever gone close to saying anything like that," he said.

"It goes vastly beyond what was in the article ... and my client will have no redress ... It will be a fair and accurate court report, and my client will have no right to sue over it."

Mr McHugh argued that some particulars of the defence may be later abandoned and that they should therefore not be made public at this stage of the proceedings, as there was a risk that "these particulars become a vehicle through which the defendants can further damage my client."

Mr McHugh will also seek to have The Telegraph's defence struck out on the basis that it did not make out the truth of the defamatory imputations his client alleged had been made about him.

He said the damage to Mr Rush's reputation was "ongoing" as the articles about him remained online.

Mr Rush sued Nationwide News, publisher of The Daily Telegraph, in December after it published a story detailing an investigation into the actor by the Sydney Theatre Company over alleged sexual misconduct, along with a follow-up story and associated social media posts.

Barrister David Sibtain appeared on behalf of Fairfax Media and Nine, arguing that the defence should be made available.

Mr Rush alleges that the newspaper made him out to be a "pervert" and "sexual predator" with the headline of its front page story, which read "King Lear" in capital letters.
Geoffrey Rush secures interim order to gag The Daily Telegraph's evidence

8/02/2018, 2:13 PM

And he alleges, in documents filed with the court, that *The Daily Telegraph* billboard displayed in newsagents implies that he had “engaged in scandalously inappropriate behaviour” and “inappropriate sexual behaviour” towards another person during the STC’s 2015 production of *King Lear*.

It read: “World exclusive: Geoffrey Rush in scandal claims, theatre company confirms ‘inappropriate behaviour’.”

Rush’s legal team will argue that his reputation was “irreparably damaged” by the publication, and seek special damages including economic damages.

The actor is also suing entertainment journalist Jonathon Moran, who broke the story.

His lawyers will argue that the stories, headlines, billboard and social media posts defamed him.

Mr Rush claims that he was forced to resign as president of AACTA following the publication of the articles.

*The Daily Telegraph* and *The Australian* share common ownership. Both newspapers are published by News Corp. Nationwide News is a News Corp subsidiary.

THE AUSTRALIAN® PRESENTS

2018 Global Food Forum

The forum will focus on beyond China – Australia’s food opportunity in Southeast Asia, the rise of the home delivery business and Amazon Fresh, animal welfare and the growing importance of social licence to operate in agriculture and the science of food and GMO versus organic food.

Tuesday March 27, 2018
The Westin Sydney

BOOK NOW >

NBN users vote with their wallets

ANTHONY KLAN

Most NBN users are opting for slower speed packages, according to the ACCC’s latest snapshot of the market.

ABC retrenches Walkley winner

STEPHEN BROOK
She has won three Walkley Awards but it seems there is no room at the ABC for journalist Ginny Stein.

MARGIN CALL

Catalano calls in the big gun

WILL GLASGOW, CHRISTINE LACY
Antony Catalano has engaged defamation lawyer Mark O’Brien, as a review is launched into Domain’s working environment.

MARGIN CALL

Minchin to join Conroy’s book

WILL GLASGOW, CHRISTINE LACY
Liberal grandee Nick Minchin will shortly join one time rival Stephen Conroy at local gambling lobby RWA.

Medibank’s out-of-pocket reveal

SARAH-JANE TASKER
Medibank has launched an out-of-pocket cost calculator as the industry steps up efforts to highlight medical procedure costs.

Missing in the mini-bounce

JAMES KIRBY
Many of the nation’s favourite stocks failed to shine in today’s recovery, falling short of the market’s miserly gains.

A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collected information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. This is also known as Online Behavioral Advertising. You can find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out here.

LET JOYCE KEEP HIS JOB: WIFE

SHARRI MARKSON & KYLIE LOUISIAN

NATALIE Joyce has told close friends she wants her estranged husband Barnaby to keep his job despite the devastation his affair with a new pregnant young staffer has caused her and their four daughters.

Trying to shake off the trauma of the past two weeks, Mrs Joyce made her first public appearance since the scandal broke on Saturday night when she attended a history ball to celebrate the 25th anniversary of a major Christian director on Sydney Harbour. Friends of Mrs Joyce's said she does not want the Deputy Prime Minister to lose his job, which is partly why she has been reluctant to agree to a major media interview.

Mrs Joyce even voiced concerns about colleagues using the family's name to jostle for the party's leadership.

It comes as only one-third of Nationals were yesterday willing to publicly back Mr Joyce as leader of the party.

ABBOTT'S BIG DIG AT GLIB MAL

SHARRI MARKSON

FORMER prime minister Tony Abbott will today unleash a scathing rebuke of modern Australian politics - including a thinly veiled take-down of Malcolm Turnbull's vision for the country and the growing gulf between the "talking class" and the "working class".

Delivering a speech to the Sydney Institute tonight, Mr Abbott will deliver a brutal assessment of Mr Turnbull's National Energy Guarantee and education policy, while highlighting the "insiders versus outsiders" chasm dividing Western democracies.

Meanwhile, speaking publicly in Sydney yesterday, Mr Turnbull said he would set a "national benchmark for immigration" in a bid to "open up" immigration caps and make sure "people feel welcome".

But it is Mr Abbott's attack on Mr Turnbull and his "glib talk" that is the real sting.

"All too often, it seems, the people

"STOP DOING IT"

MATTHEW BERN

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush reportedly touched his Sydney Theatre Company co-star on stage in a way that made her uncomfortable and ignored a request to "stop doing it", the Federal Court heard yesterday.

It was also alleged that Rush followed briefly regarded star Cate Blanchett into the female toilets at the after-party on the final night of King Lear and stood outside her cubicle until she told him to "stop".

The trial allegedly went "violently upset", Norvill complained about the star after he allegedly touched her on the private rights, the trial found. The Daily Telegraph for reporting of Norvill's complaint about alleged inappropriate behaviour are bound to the STC via the "actor's protection of the defence of truth being made public".

Court hears allegations
Rush touched actor five times & confronted her in female toilets

We lived next door to malice

NEIGHBOURS of Australian terrorist Khaled Sharrouf have given a shocking account of the 13-year-old's years in Syria.

Sharrouf, 36, who packed up his young family and travelled half-way across the world to fight for the Islamic State group in 2013, used his brother's passport to leave Australia. He then set up home in the Syrian city of Raqqa.

"He was so corrupt, it's unbelievable. He was such an enigma. He was even outside Horne the neighbour Abdul Aziz's home," Mr Khaleed remembered.

"Whenever he would drop outside him, as soon as he'd see me, he'd carry his weapons and fire in the air or he'd relit to make a point - I am here, I have weapons."

His neighbours often complained to 15 about his behaviour and the extremists eventually turned on him, one time sending one of them to remand him at 2am.

Sharrouf's two of his children were reportedly killed by a US air strike last year.

Navy life not so fulfilling

MORE than 200 men are suing the Commonwealth, claiming they were never promised training in the navy which was supposed to give them a trade in debt life.

Opening the Supreme Court class action yesterday, the meet minister, Nick Kaldas SC, said the training contracts were nothing but were not honoured by the Royal Australian Navy. One man claimed he and other veterans posted to HMAS Kutubia in 2011 spent a lot of time just playing games on their phones.

"They are necessarily beasts," Kaldas said.

The court heard the navy had to go to the Bar to get the claims as the defence was unprepared.

According to The Daily Telegraph for their article, the Commonwealth "has failed to meet its obligations".

"The allegations go to the heart of their training contract, with claims ranging from a failure to provide appropriate training to not being paid the standard rate of pay."

ANNOUNCED in 2005, the training contract was established to provide a skilled workforce for the Royal Australian Navy. But the Commonwealth failed to deliver the promised training.

Opening the class action, the minister said the Commonwealth's defence failed to meet the obligations because of a "lack of compliance with the training plan".

"It's a matter of profound concern that the Commonwealth has failed to meet their obligations," Kaldas said.

The minister said the investigation into the training contract had been "very disappointing".

"I've been to the Bar to get the claims," he said.

"We have now brought this matter to court and we intend to seek compensation for those who were misled."

"We have a very strong case against the Commonwealth."

"We are going to fight this case all the way."

"We will not be deterred by the Commonwealth's attempt to undermine this case."

The Commonwealth hasuntil now not paid any compensation to the men.

"We will stand up for these men and we will fight for them."

"We will not allow the Commonwealth to get away with this."
reason for publication than it was true."

According to the defence document, "Following the investigation the STC decided that it would never work with the Applicant (Rush) again."

Apart from truth, The Daily Telegraph is also relying on the defence of qualified privilege in defending the defamation case.

It argued the allegations were "matters of proper and legitimate public interest" in the wake of a string of allegations concerning "sexual misconduct, bullying and harassment in the entertainment industry" which started with the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

The Daily Telegraph argues it had more information about the Rush allegations at the time of publication but did not include them in its reports. This included an allegation that Rush had touched Norvill on the genitals.

The defence document stated: "That a complaint had been made to the STC by the complainant (Norvill) in substance that the Applicant (Rush) had touched her genitals during the production of King Lear without her consent."

The Judge reserved his decision on Mr McHugh's application to strike out large parts of The Daily Telegraph's defence including the entirety of its truth defence.

Justice Wigney also reserved his decision on Rush's application to stop the issuing of a subpoena by Nationwide News on the Sydney Theatre Company for documents relating to the alleged complaint.

Mr McHugh opposed the request for a subpoena as a "fishing expedition" and an abuse of process.

Mr Rush launched the defamation proceedings in the Federal Court in December 2017, alleging The Daily Telegraph had engaged in "hyperbole, lies and spurious claim..." in its report of the complaint from the actress to the STC.

---

Win a $12,000 Collette Travel Voucher!

To celebrate Collette's 100th year of leading travel, we are offering you the chance to win $12,000 worth of travel with Collette.

With classic tours, mini groups and spotlight city stays, Collette offers over 150 tours across the globe, with exceptional choice, inclusive value and quality.

Discover the Collette difference today! See the Collette range at gocollette.com/win

To enter visit: escape.com.au/win
Backdown on radical wage plan

Labor finds some overlap with Abbott - but not for Adani

Labor has moved to reassure.dirname and interest groups that it will continue to support existing union contracts, while declaring its readiness to negotiate with businesses to reduce redundancy payments.

Labor has also moved to reassure business groups that it will continue to support existing union contracts, while declaring its readiness to negotiate with businesses to reduce redundancy payments.

"It's important that the New York Times get the right signals," said a Labor official.

Abbott's call to cut migrant intake

Pauline Hanson..."No one...wants to see a major cut in our labor force."

The Nationals..."No one...wants to see a major cut in our labor force."
**STATE OF DISORDER**

**African street gangs taskforce 'a front for ALP'**

**FACT CHECK ON ABERTHI**

The ABC's opinion guidelines under fire

**ABC chief executive correspondant Emma Alberfeld has been criticised by management**

**FACT CHECK ON ABERTHI**

The ABC's opinion guidelines under fire

**ABC chief executive correspondant Emma Alberfeld has been criticised by management**

**Rush case actress revealed**

**Labor finds some coal comfort**

**Warnings as cyclone surf hits**

**Newcastle and its beaches could be hit by the post-tropical remnant of Cyclone Debbie.**

**ABC's call to cut migrant intake**

**Stephen Broad**

The ABC's call to cut fire intake

Continued from Page 1...
LUCIE VAN DEN BERG
STROKE victims could soon be given an infusion of cells from the placenta to help heal the brain after promising world-first Australian research.

STROKE victims could soon be given an infusion of cells from the placenta to help heal the brain after promising world-first Australian research.

ONE FINE DAY
AT just 17, Queenslander Riley Day has claimed Athletics Australia’s highest honour, the Betty Cuthbert medal, in her sprint to the Commonwealth Games.

REPORT P5

Aged-care homes
EXCLUSIVE Failed safety audits tip of the iceberg, nurses warn

NATASHA BITA
VIOLENCE, malnutrition and neglect have been exposed in Queensland nursing homes, with one in seven failing government inspections in the past year.

Fifteen homes have failed audits in the past 12 months, including one that failed to report assaults to police, and another that neglected to “minimise skin tears and breaking” when restraining elderly residents.

Aged-care inspectors have alerted the federal Health Department about a “serious risk” to residents’ safety in four homes, including two run by the Queensland Government.

Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union secretary Beth Mohle yesterday warned the failed audits were “the tip of the iceberg” and urged families to check on their loved ones in nursing homes.

REPORT P5

Rush was told to ‘stop’
MATTHEW BENN
OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush allegedly touched an actress repeatedly in a way that made her uncomfortable and ignored her requests for him to “stop doing it”, the Federal Court heard yesterday.

Eryn Jean Norvill, Rush’s co-star in the theatre production of King Lear, claimed she also followed her into the female toilets at the after-party. He denies the allegations. REPORT P9

REPORTS P4

TIME TO DUCK OUT
BRISBANE'S HOTEL RESTAURANT ROOM P4

Rush was told to ‘stop’
MATTHEW BENN
OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush allegedly touched an actress repeatedly in a way that made her uncomfortable and ignored her requests for him to “stop doing it”, the Federal Court heard yesterday. Eryn Jean Norvill, Rush’s co-star in the theatre production of King Lear, claimed she also followed her into the female toilets at the after-party. He denies the allegations. REPORT P9

REPORTS P4

Rush was told to ‘stop’
MATTHEW BENN
OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush allegedly touched an actress repeatedly in a way that made her uncomfortable and ignored her requests for him to “stop doing it”, the Federal Court heard yesterday. Eryn Jean Norvill, Rush’s co-star in the theatre production of King Lear, claimed she also followed her into the female toilets at the after-party. He denies the allegations. REPORT P9

REPORTS P4

Rush was told to ‘stop’
MATTHEW BENN
OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush allegedly touched an actress repeatedly in a way that made her uncomfortable and ignored her requests for him to “stop doing it”, the Federal Court heard yesterday. Eryn Jean Norvill, Rush’s co-star in the theatre production of King Lear, claimed she also followed her into the female toilets at the after-party. He denies the allegations. REPORT P9

REPORTS P4
'STOP DOING IT'
Actress tells King Lear to 'f--- off' in toilet, court told

MATTHEW BENNS

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush repeatedly touched an actress in a way that made her uncomfortable and ignored her requests for him to "stop doing it," the Federal Court was told yesterday.

Rush's co-star in the Sydney Theatre Company's 2015-2016 production of King Lear, Eryn Jean Norvill, complained about the Pirates of the Caribbean star after he allegedly touched her four more times during the final week of the play.

The court heard the actor followed her into the female toilets at the after-party on the final night and stood outside her cubicle until she told him to "f--- off." He said, "The allegation is not that I was touching her in a public place but she was touched in a way that made her uncomfortable. She said stop and he kept doing it," he said.

Mr Blackburn said: "There can be no more compelling reason for publication than that it was true."

According to the newspaper's defence document, Rush engaged in further inappropriate behaviour at the final night after-party.

Mr Blackburn told the court this touching amounted to "scandalous and inappropriate behaviour."

"She was touched in a particular place but she was touched in a way that made her uncomfortable. She said stop and he kept doing it," he said.

Mr McHugh said Rush denied the allegations.

"They are necessarily touching as part of what the production requires," he said.

And he said an earlier report which quoted Rush as saying he had a "stage door Johnny crunch" on the actress was clearly said in jest.

According to the defence document, "Following the investigation the STC decided it would never work with the Applicant (Rush) again."

The Daily Telegraph is also relying on the defence of qualified privilege in defending the defamation case.

It argued the allegations were "matters of proper and legitimate public interest."

The judge reserved his decision on Mr McHugh's application to strike out large parts of The Daily Telegraph's defence.

ACTION: Geoffrey Rush and Eryn Jean Norvill in King Lear.

She was touched in a way that made her uncomfortable

Tom Blackburn, QC

Unerwent the defence, Rush engaged in further inappropriate behaviour at the final night after-party.

Yesterday the Federal Court lifted a suppression order on the newspaper's defence document, releasing the details being made public.

Now, for the first time, the extent of the allegations against Rush can be revealed.

According to the document, Rush touched the actress "in a manner that made the Complainant feel uncomfortable" during the final scene.

As King Lear, Rush had to carry Norvill on to the stage as she simulated the lifeless body of Lear's daughter, Cordelia.

Norvill asked Rush to "stop doing it!" but it is alleged he repeated the touching on another four occasions in the final week of the play in January 2016.

Tom Blackburn, QC, counsel for The Daily Telegraph, told the court this touching amounted to "scandalous and inappropriate behaviour."

"The allegation is that not only was she touched in a particular place but she was touched in a way that made her uncomfortable. She said stop and he kept doing it," he said.

Mr McHugh said Rush denied the allegations.

"They are necessarily touching as part of what the production requires," he said.

And he said an earlier report which quoted Rush as saying he had a "stage door Johnny crunch" on the actress was clearly said in jest.

According to the defence document, "Following the investigation the STC decided it would never work with the Applicant (Rush) again."

The Daily Telegraph is also relying on the defence of qualified privilege in defending the defamation case.

It argued the allegations were "matters of proper and legitimate public interest."

The judge reserved his decision on Mr McHugh's application to strike out large parts of The Daily Telegraph's defence.

ACTIVITY: Geoffrey Rush and Eryn Jean Norvill in King Lear.

Don't learn, don't earn

QUEENSLAND'S poor rate of higher education "just won't cut it" if the economy is to meet its goals over the next 10 years, a Deloitte report says.

The report said people were being left behind when their industry was overtaken by technology.

Education has not been a strong point for Queensland in recent years, "the report said.

"In a knowledge economy, this just won't cut it. There is much more work to be done here."

Deloitte said that if Queensland "gets it right" the economy could grow by $54 billion and 200,000 jobs over the next decade.

Two-hour limit pain for nurses

NURSES fear they will have to leave every two hours during hospital shifts to move their vehicles due to the lack of long-term parking options around the Commonwealth Games Village.

The Courier-Mail can reveal Queensland Health staff at Parklands have been told the only guarantee of getting a park was the expensive private parking facility used by patients and their families.

Staff are being advised that "the only way of a guaranteed park is to salary sacrifice" to obtain a concession spot at the car park. But nurses were advised by the parking management that "we are nearing the cap for designated staff parking through salary sacrificing once that figure is reached a waiting list will be established for applicants."

Concession rates for staff are not advertised but daily parking can cost between $5 an hour and $62.50 for more than three hours.

The two-hour zones around the precinct and other Games hot spots will take effect from Friday, and enforced between 8am-5pm on week days.

Opposition health spokesman Ron Bates said: "I'm concerned for the safety of these hard-working staff."

Two-hour limit pain for nurses

NURSES fear they will have to leave every two hours during hospital shifts to move their vehicles due to the lack of long-term parking options around the Commonwealth Games Village. The Courier-Mail can reveal Queensland Health staff at Parklands have been told the only guarantee of getting a park was the expensive private parking facility used by patients and their families.

Staff are being advised that "the only way of a guaranteed park is to salary sacrifice" to obtain a concession spot at the car park. But nurses were advised by the parking management that "we are nearing the cap for designated staff parking through salary sacrificing once that figure is reached a waiting list will be established for applicants."

Concession rates for staff are not advertised but daily parking can cost between $5 an hour and $62.50 for more than three hours. The two-hour zones around the precinct and other Games hot spots will take effect from Friday, and enforced between 8am-5pm on week days.
Court hears that actress repeatedly asked Geoffrey Rush to...

STOP DOING IT

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush allegedly touched an actress repeatedly in a way that made her uncomfortable and ignored her requests for him to “stop doing it” the Federal Court heard yesterday.

Rush’s co-star in the Sydney Theatre Company’s 2016 production of King Lear, Eryn Jean Norvill, complained about the Pirates Of The Carribbean actor after he allegedly touched her on two occasions during the final week of the play.

The court heard the actor followed her into female toilets at the after-party on the final night of the performance of the Shakespeare classic and

MATTHEW BENNS

stood outside her cubicle until the “visibly upset” actress told him to “F--- off.”

Rush, 66, is using the Daily Telegraph for its reporting of Ms Norvill’s complaint about alleged inappropriate behaviour, made to STC in 2016.

Rush denies the allegations.

According to the document, Rush touched the actress “in a manner that made the Complainant feel uncomfortable” during the play’s final scene.

As King Lear, Rush had to carry Norvill on to the stage as she simulated the lifeless body of the title character’s daughter, Cordelia.

Norvill asked Rush to “stop doing it” but it is alleged that he repeated the touching on another four occasions in the final week of the play in January 2016.

Tom Blackburn, SC, counsel for Nationwide News, publisher of the Daily Telegraph, told the court this touching could amount to “scandalous and inappropriate behaviour”.

“The allegation is not that she was touched in a particular place but she was touched in a way that made her uncomfortable. She said stop and he kept doing it,” he said.

Mr McHugh had argued the newspaper’s truth defence should be struck out because it lacked sufficient detail.

Mr Blackburn said the need for open justice outweighed fears that revealing details of the defence case could further damage Rush’s reputation.

Mr McHugh said Rush denied the allegations.

“They are necessary touching as part of what the production requires,” he said.

And he said an earlier report which quoted Rush as saying he had a “stage door Johnny crush” on the actress was clearly said in jest.

Mr McHugh had argued the newspaper’s truth defence should be struck out because it lacked sufficient detail.

According to the newspaper’s defence, Rush engaged in further inappropriate behaviour at the party to celebrate the final night.

During the party, Rush allegedly “entered the female bathroom located in the foyer of the Roslyn Packer Theatre, knowing (Norvill) was in there and stood outside a cubicle” until she said “F--- off.”

He left when she told him to “F--- off.” She was “visibly upset” following the incident.

Mr Blackburn said “There can be no more compelling reason for publication than it was true.”

According to the defence document: “Following the investigation the STC decided that it would never work with the Applicant (Rush) again.”

The Daily Telegraph is also relying on the defence of qualified privilege in the defamation case, arguing it was in the public interest.

The Daily Telegraph says it had more information about the Rush allegations at the time of publication but did not include them in its reports.

This included an allegation that Rush had touched Norvill on the genitals.

http://metros.amedia.au/auheraldsun/PrintPages.asp?id=CH/18/02/20&from=5&ton=5

STARTS TOMORROW

MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS
TV gossip mill working overtime As an item of TV gossip, it is irresistible. And everyone is talking about Seven director of programming Angus Ross and his blazing row with Seven West Media chief executive Tim Worner over the botched launch of Australian Spartan, which tanked and prompted Ross to storm off to Noosa for a week. Pity it is not true, says the man in question. Ross tells Diary with a laugh: "I don't have that sort of relationship with Tim Worner. I was in Noosa but it was a holiday my wife insisted I go on because we hadn't had a holiday in about three years." Nice idea, but the reality turned out quite differently. "It wasn't much of a holiday when those week-two Spartan figures came out. Also, I injured my back while I was up in Noosa and Jetstar lost our bags. They didn't turn up until the second day. Not fun when you have a small child."

A work in progress But there is more. Seven doubled down. filming two series of Spartan, which survived for only two nights before it was pulled from the schedule. It will reappear at Easter, during a non-ratings period when Seven will try to build its audience. But what to do with season two, which is already in the can? Ross is already clear on one point: "We wouldn't put it up against Married at First Sight."

Newsmen depart More changes at Sky News. Rob Raschke, executive editor of Sky News Australia, has left the network. Chief executive Angelos Frangopoulos told staff in a note last week he had accepted Raschke's resignation. Police charged Raschke, 52, last month with assault following an incident at his home. Raschke, a Walkley Award winner and former news director of Seven Network, then consented to an apprehended violence order and pleaded guilty to the charge of assault. Meanwhile, the network is giving Herald Sun columnist Rita Panahi a 4pm program titled The Friday Show.

Rapid promotion James Chessell's speedy elevation last week from national editor to group executive editor left some Fairfax journo's "stunned and shocked". As Diary tipped, Australian Metro Publishing boss Chris Janz was going to want to reduce his 16 direct reports at some point. But who will replace Chessell? It looks like his old job will be advertised, which means an outsider might walk through the door.

Look Marr. no appendix David Marr has had his appendix out. Just FYI.

Kids' TV under review Last year Diary accused Communications Minister Mitch Fifield's office of being a Bermuda Triangle when it came to actually doing anything about the multitude of reviews, reports and appointments it was tasked with acting on. Our list was long but the jab certainly shook away the stupor as news of the appointment of Brian Hass
Delal to chair SBS leaked out that very day — to Fairfax! Diary is certain things will move much more swiftly with the Australian and Children's Screen Content Review, which sailed into the Triangle in December. Diary expects the government will respond to it by offering to reduce the output-based quotas that govern how many hours of drama, children's and preschool programs must screen on commercial free-to-air television. At the same time, tax offsets to fund local productions are expected to be increased and/or broadened. The theory being that the audience will demand more episodes of Offspring and The Wiggles anyway, and if networks and production companies can share in a bit of financial relief in making and buying them, then everyone's a winner.

Hutchy's challenge Good times and bad times for Craig Hutchison's Crocmedia content company. On Thursday shareholders gave a big tick to the proposal to merge Crocmedia with Pacific Star. This means Hutchy, who has worked at the Herald Sun, Seven and Nine in his time, will run the merged entity, which includes the SEN sport radio station. Crocmedia already holds AFL rights and distributes footy content to other stations. The bad times came on Tuesday when radio ratings were released and SEN fell 0.5 percentage points, not the world's greatest drop but it reduced SEN's share from 3.2 to 2.7, which is just ahead of ABC Radio National. And this at a time when high-profile broadcaster Gerard Whateley moved from ABC to SEN, described in Melbourne media as a "stunning leap of faith". Ratings in his slot, partly covering his arrival, fell 1.3 points from 4.4 to 3.1 per cent. Hutchy can't be too glum about the tanking ratings. In his new gig his take-home salary is $883,752.

Guardian deputy goes A changing of the guard at Guardian Australia. Will Woodward, the site's deputy editor for three years who is said to hold the whole show together, is heading back to Britain to rejoin the mothership as head of sport, which sounds like his dream job. As is his wife, Claire Phipps, senior live blogger, who becomes digital editor. Guardian Australia's editor is Lenore Taylor, and Diary (who once worked at The Guardian in Britain) was wondering if this departure would mean the local operation would have two Aussies at the editorial helm for the first time since launch in 2013, instead of the traditional Brit/Aussie combo. Answer: no. Another Brit, David Munk, international news editor for Asia Pacific and already based in Sydney, is taking over as deputy in April. "Will and Claire have both done fantastic work during their time in Australia and we're sorry the time has come for them to return to the UK. The deputy editor position was open to internal applications and David Munk was an outstanding candidate," Taylor says. Guardian Australia chief executive Ian McClelland is heading to a London role as managing director of corporate development. Guardian US chief executive Evelyn Webster will run the Australian operation, but is searching for a managing director.

Aussies to the fore A stellar night for antipodeans at the British Press Awards last week. Pilita Clark, formerly of the Sydney Morning Herald and currently with The Financial Times, was named environment journalist of the year, and The Sunday Times reporter Richard Kerbaj, formerly of The Australian, shared the scoop of the year. Clark won the award for a magazine feature on the state of renewable energy while Kerbaj's scoop reported that police had found pornographic material on one of the computers of then deputy prime minister Damian Green. Clark has won the award three times, putting her ahead of fellow Australians Phillip Knightley, Clive James and Peter Harvey, but still some distance behind John Pilger, who has won about half a dozen. Clark is unlikely to catch him. She has been promoted to associate editor and now writes a weekly column.

ABC in hire mode The ABC is continuing its hiring spree in the wake of axing Lateline and diverting the funds into journalism. The national broadcaster is hiring Guardian Australia's Michael Slezak as its environment reporter, and also Brisbane reporter Josh Robertson. And Michaela Boland, who left The Australian last year, started at Aunty last week as national arts, culture and entertainment reporter. She's not at the ABC, but Lydia Bilton is now an associate digital producer on Nine's 60 Minutes, a great result for the recipient of the 2017 Jacoby-Walkley Scholarship. Entries are open for this year's scholarship, funded by media executive Anita Jacoby. It includes a 10-week job placement at Nine. Check the Walkleys website.

Rush dateTomorrow is a big day in the legal action Geoffrey Rush has taken against Sydney's Daily Telegraph. As this newspaper reported, the Telegraph's amended defence documents, which were at one point suppressed, include
THE DIARY, 2018 WLNR 8320762

allegations Rush inappropriately touched Eryn Jean Norvill while they were on stage in a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear. Rush strenuously denies the allegations. The newspaper's particulars of qualified privilege claim Norvill complained to the STC that Rush "had touched her genitals during the production of King Lear without her consent". Rush denies this claim and the actor said it had not been raised with him by the complainant or the STC. Federal Court judge Michael Wigney will deliver judgment on the interlocutory application from Rush's lawyers. Meaning, whether he will strike out parts of the Telegraph's defence.

--- Index References ---

Company: PACIFIC STAR NETWORK LTD; SEVEN NETWORK (UNITED STATES) INC; SEVEN WEST MEDIA LTD; FEDERAL CAPITAL PRESS OF AUSTRALIA PTY LTD (THE); SUNDAY TIMES LTD (THE)

Industry: (Broadcast TV (1BR25); Broadcast TV Programming (1BR42); Celebrities (ICE65); Entertainment (IEN08); Radio (IRA81); TV (ITV19); TV Programming (ITV26); TV Stations (ITV23); Traditional Media (ITR30))

Region: (Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Australian Metro Publishing; Guardian Australia; Sunday Times; Sydney Morning Herald; Sydney Theatre Company; abc radio) (Michael Slezak; John Pilger; Timothy G. Worner; Tim Worner; Claire Phipps; David Marr; Bulent Hass Dellal; Chris Janz; Michael Wigney; Richard Kerbaj; James Chessell; Jean Norvill; Clive James; Peter Harvey; Peter Harvey; Phillip Knightley; Michaela Boland; David Munk; Geoffrey Rush; Will Woodward; Mitch Fifield; Josh Robertson; Rob Raschke; Evelyn Webster; Angelos Frangopoulos; Ian McClelland; Angus Ross; Craig Hutchison; Anita Jacoby; Rita Panahi; Damian Green; Lenore Taylor)

Edition: Australian

Word Count: 1369
Daily Telegraph's defamation defence removed in Geoffrey Rush case

ACTOR Geoffrey Rush has had a win in his defamation lawsuit, with the Daily Telegraph not able to use truth as a defence.

THE Daily Telegraph will not be able to use truth as a defence in the defamation lawsuit brought by Australian actor Geoffrey Rush.

The Oscar winner is suing the Sydney newspaper and its journalist Jonathon Moran following articles alleging he behaved inappropriately to a colleague during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear in 2015.

In the Federal Court on Tuesday, lawyers for the 66-year-old were successful in their preliminary application to have all of the paper's truth defence struck out.

Rush's legal team's bid to remove part of the paper's qualified privilege defence, which is that it was reasonable to publish the article, was also accepted.

Justice Michael Wigney also ruled against a bid by the defence to subpoena the Sydney Theatre Company.

A defence document from News Corp Australia subsidiary Nationwide News alleges Rush touched co-star Eryn Jean Norvill in a way that made her feel uncomfortable on five separate occasions during the final week of the production.

Rush is also accused of following his co-star into the women's toilet and standing outside her cubicle until she told him to "f*** off" at a party to celebrate the end of the production.

The defence denies that the Telegraph articles made Rush out to be a pervert and a sexual predator, and previously told the court they made no allegations of a sexual nature.

The Telegraph can no longer seek to prove it substantially true that Rush engaged in scandalously inappropriate behaviour.

News Corp Australia is also the publisher of news.com.au
Playing with house money

MAJOR infrastructure projects in Sydney's far west are set to boost house values by up to $100,000 as eager buyers cast an eye over the region.

The Western Sydney City Deal has already attracted interest from developers looking to snap up greenfield sites near the proposed transport links.

And with more activity expected, experts predict prices in suburbs such as St Marys and Glenfield could jump $100,000, roughly 5 per cent, over the next few years. That would defy the cooling market elsewhere in Sydney, where the median house price is expected to drop 5 per cent this year.

$12 picture a gold mine

A COLLECTOR paid $12 for a photograph on eBay - which turned out to be a rare snap of notorious Wild West outlaw Jesse James worth millions.

Justin Whiting had a hunch about the Victorian image, described by the seller as simply "a young man in dark suit standing by a chair." And now he has been told the picture could fetch up to $16 million at auction in Britain.

The photo shows James as a 14-year-old in the 1860s, before he made his name leading a gang of bank-robbing bandits.

Rush case to head for trial

Tele may appeal truth defence ruling

THURSDAY 22ND MARCH
6PM – 8PM

Bring the family along for a great night of free fun!

- Easter B.V. workshops
- Visit from the Easter Bunny
- Easter egg hunt

Bookings recommended. For more information or to book ask one of our team members in-store or visit hunnings.com.au/yourstore

WELCOME TO THE CUB

It was clear for a super celebration. And Bula and Bontle were happy to make the most of it in their new home at Johannesburg Zoo's lion enclosure yesterday.

The five-month-old cubs were born at the zoo in May and have spent the first part of their lives under special observation to make sure all was well. Helpless at birth, lion cubs are born blind and are not able to stand until they're two weeks old. In the wild, they stay at least two months old before they join the rest of their pride.

Clairly feline fine, the dynamic duo cavorted happily, wrestling and playfighting as keepers and zoo visitors watched on.

Justice Wigney said the newspaper had provided "insufficient details" about the complaint in its defence documents filed last month.

The Telegraph was seeking to prove that Mr Rush, 66, touched his co-star Lizzy Sumiller in an inappropriate manner while he carried her on stage as she simulated the lifeless body of King Lear's daughter Cordelia.

Justice Wigney also sat aside the newspaper's application to subpoena the STC, saying it was not permitted to undertake "a fishing expedition" for evidence.

Mr Rush's lawyer Sue Chyntalis said the actor was keen to push ahead with an eight-day trial in early August.

SEX & THE CITY HALL FOR STAR

FORMER Sex And The City star Cynthia Nixon is running for New York governor.

After flirting with a run for months, Nixon tweeted that she will challenge Governor Andrew Cuomo in New York's Democratic primary in September. It sets up a longshot bid pitting an openly gay liberal activist who has never held political office against a two-term incumbent with a $30 million war chest and possible presidential ambitions.

Nixon clearly has her work cut out for her, with a poll released on Monday showing Cuomo leading her 66 per cent to 19 per cent among registered Democrats.

STC over Mr Rush's "inappropriate behaviour".

Federal Court Justice Wigney yesterday agreed with an application by Mr Rush's lawyers to remove "truth" from the newspaper's defence of the star's claim.

The Daily Telegraph editor Chris Dore said: "The Daily Telegraph considers that its conduct in publishing the article concerning a complaint made to the STC against Geoffrey Rush was reasonable. This is one stage of complex legal proceedings. The Daily Telegraph is considering the judgment and whether it will make an application for leave to appeal."

Justice Wigney said the newspaper had provided "insufficient details" about the complaint in its defence documents filed last month.

The Telegraph was seeking to prove that Mr Rush, 66, touched his co-star Lizzy Sumiller in an inappropriate manner while he carried her on stage as she simulated the lifeless body of King Lear's daughter Cordelia.

Justice Wigney also sat aside the newspaper's application to subpoena the STC, saying it was not permitted to undertake "a fishing expedition" for evidence.

Mr Rush's lawyer Sue Chyntalis said the actor was keen to push ahead with an eight-day trial in early August.

Justice Wigney said the newspaper had provided "insufficient details" about the complaint in its defence documents filed last month.

The Telegraph was seeking to prove that Mr Rush, 66, touched his co-star Lizzy Sumiller in an inappropriate manner while he carried her on stage as she simulated the lifeless body of King Lear's daughter Cordelia.

Justice Wigney also sat aside the newspaper's application to subpoena the STC, saying it was not permitted to undertake "a fishing expedition" for evidence.

Mr Rush's lawyer Sue Chyntalis said the actor was keen to push ahead with an eight-day trial in early August.
A Federal Court judge has struck out The Daily Telegraph's entire truth defence in a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush, arguing the newspaper's claims were too "vague" and "imprecise" to prove the allegation the Oscar-winning actor had "inappropriately touched" a co-star during a King Lear production.

"The particulars provided no meaningful details of the alleged touching, and how and why the touching made the actress feel uncomfortable," judge Michael Wigney said yesterday in a summary of his decision.

At a pre-trial hearing in Sydney, Justice Wigney also struck out three paragraphs from the newspaper's qualified-privilege defence and set aside its application to subpoena documents from the Sydney Theatre Company, criticising this move as a "fishing expedition".

Rush launched defamation proceedings against The Daily Telegraph and journalist Jonathon Moran late last year after the paper published allegations the actor had been the subject of an "inappropriate behaviour" complaint made by a female colleague during a 2015-16 Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear.

Rush strongly denied the allegation and, in his statement of claim, alleged the newspaper articles carried "defamatory meanings" that he "behaved as a sexual predator" while working on the production.

The Telegraph's defence document last month identified Eryn Jean Norvill as the cast member who made the complaint against Rush. She played Cordelia, Rush's daughter, in King Lear, and the document claimed the "inappropriate" touching occurred during the production's final five nights, when Rush carried her lifeless body across the stage.

However, Justice Wigney found the newspaper's truth defence offered "inadequate and insufficient details" about the alleged touching. He said its nature and duration, how and why it made the actress feel "uncomfortable" and "what part of Mr Rush relevantly touched the actress" — were not specified.

The Telegraph's defence document also claimed that at a closing-night cast party, Rush entered the women's toilets and "stood outside a cubicle" occupied by Norvill. The actress told him to "f...k off", the document stated, and he left.

Rush has denied all allegations of inappropriate behaviour, while Justice Wigney yesterday found "the particulars of this bathroom incident are insufficiently precise and specific". Daily Telegraph editor Chris Dore yesterday said: "This
Rush defamation case: truth defence rejected, 2018 WLNR 8512247

is one stage of complex legal proceedings. ... The Daily Telegraph considers that its conduct in publishing the articles concerning a complaint made to the STC against Geoffrey Rush was reasonable."

--- Index References ---

Company: RUSH ENTERPRISES INC

News Subject: (Crime (ICR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (IDE07); Sex Crimes (ISE01); Social Issues (ISO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (ICE65); Entertainment (IEN08); Live Entertainment (ILI85))

Region: (Australasia (IAU56); Australia (IAU55); New South Wales (INE75); Oceania (IOC40))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Chris Dore; Cordelia; Michael Wigney; Jonathon Moran; Jean Norvill)

Edition: Australian

Word Count: 398
LET JOYCE KEEP HIS JOB: WIFE

SHARRI MARKSON & KYLAR LOUSISIAN

NATALIE Joyce has told close friends she wants her cheating husband Barnaby to keep his job despite the devastation his affair with a now pregnant young staffer has caused her and their four daughters.

Trying to shake off the trauma of the past two weeks, Mrs Joyce made her first public appearance since the scandal broke on Saturday night when she attended a hero's home birthday party of a major Coalition donor on Sydney Harbour. Friends of Mrs Joyce said she does not want the Deputy Prime Minister to lose his job, which is partly why she has been hesitant to agree to a major media interview.

Mrs Joyce even voiced concerns about colleagues using the family's pain to pounce for the party's leadership.

It comes as only one third of Nationals MPs were yesterday willing to publicly back Ms Joyce as leader of the party.

ABBOTT'S BIG DIG AT GLIB MAL

FORMER prime minister Tony Abbott will today unleash a stinging rebuke of modern Australian politics — including a thinly veiled take-down of Malcolm Turnbull's elitist attitude and the growing gulf between the "talking class" and the "working class".

Delivering a speech to the Sydney Institute tonight, Mr Abbott will deliver a brutal assessment of Mr Turnbull's National Energy Guarantee and education policy, while highlighting the "inside versus outside" charm dividing Western democracies.

Mr Abbott, who lost the leadership to Mr Turnbull in September 2015, will also call for immigration levels to be cut to 190,000 people a year from 190,000, until migrants are able to properly integrate into the Australian way of life, and to help wages grow and make homes more affordable.

But it is his attack on Mr Turnbull and his "glib talk" that is the most cutting.

"All too often, it seems, the people..."
We lived next door to malice

NEIGHBOURS of Australian terrorist Khalded Sharrouf have given a scathing account of the IS recruiter’s time in Syria.

Sharrouf, 36, who packed up his young family and travelled halfway across the world to fight for the cowardly terror group in 2013, used his brother’s passport to leave Australia.

He then set up home in the Syrian city of Raqqa.

“He was so corrupt, it’s unbelievable. He was such an outlaw. He was even outside blanking me,” the neighbour told ABC’s Four Corners.

Khalded remembered the way Sharrouf exposed his children to a violent life.

“Whenever he would step outside here, as soon as he'd see me, he'd carry his weapons and fire in the air – I am here, I have weapons,” he told Khalafa.

His neighbours often complained to IS about his behaviour and the extremists eventually turned on him, one time sending security to respond at 2am.

Sharrouf and two of his children were reportedly killed by a US air strike last year.

Navy life not so fulfilling

MORE than 200 men are suing the Commonwealth, claiming they did not receive promised training in the navy which was supposed to give them a trade in civilian life.

Opening the Supreme Court class action yesterday, the men's barrister, Nick Kidd SC, said their training contracts were not honoured by the Royal Australian Navy. One man claimed he cut out a room in his back yard to fit a full-size HMAS Kutta as in 2011 spent a lot of time just playing games on their phones.

The Daily Telegraph, Tuesday, February 20, 2018, pages from 7 to 7

reason for publication than it was true."

According to the defence document: "Following the investigation the STC decided that it would not work with the Applicant (Rush) again."

Apart from truth, The Daily Telegraph is also relying on the defence of qualified privilege in defending the defamation case.

It argued the allegations were "matters of public and legitimate public interest" in the wake of a string of allegations concerning "sexual misconduct, bullying, and harassment in the entertainment industry" which started with the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

The Daily Telegraph argued it had more information about the Rush allegations at the time of publication but did not include them in its reports. This included an allegation that Rush had touched Norvill on the genitals.

The defence document stated: "that a complaint had been made to the STC by the complainant (Norvill) in substance that the Applicant (Rush) had touched her genitals during the production of King Lear without her consent." The Judge reserved his decision on Mr McHugh's application to strike out large parts of The Daily Telegraph's defence including the entirety of its truth defence.

Justice Wigney also reserved his decision on Rush's application to stop the issuing of a subpoena by Nationwide Win a $12,000 Collette Travel Voucher!

To celebrate Collette's 100th year of leading travel, we are offering you the chance to win $12,000 worth of travel with Collette!

With classic tours, small groups, and spotlight city stays, Collette offers over 150 tours across the globe, with exceptional choice, inclusive value and quality.

Discover the Collette difference today! See the Collette range at collette.com/au

For your chance to win, tell us in 25 words or less which Collette tour you would choose and why.

The Daily Telegraph is a division of News Corporation Australia Limited (ACN 600 534 775) and publishes The Daily Telegraph (ACN 604 028 907) and The Daily Telegraph (ACN 604 028 907) and is the owner of Daily Telegraph (ACN 604 028 907) and is the owner of Daily Telegraph (ACN 604 028 907). Total prize value is $12,000. For full terms and conditions visit collette.com.au/win.

To enter visit: escape.com.au/win

Escape | Daily Telegraph | Win a Collette Tour!
Backdown on radical wage plan

Labor finds some comfort, but not for Adult

Once a key plank, Labor has shifted to defend its social justice commitments, and is starting to think more about the changing nature of work. The ALP has been knocked back, but is still optimistic of a win.

The Australian

Actor at heart of case against Rush revealed

Geoffrey Rush and Eryn Jean Norvill as King Lear and his daughter Cordelia in the STC production of the Shakespearean play.

Nationals phone a friend on Joyce crisis

Putrajaya's pet project off track

The Australian Trade Commissionerhas concluded that Putrajaya's (Okinawa) island project was to help generate a commercial offer, despite initial upbeat statements.

Abbott's call to cut migrant intake

The Liberal Party under Tony Abbott has released its policy document for the upcoming federal election, calling for significant reductions in the number of net overseas migrants, predominantly from China.

INSIDE

Ewen Cameron-Wilson is one of the most intransigent members of the Liberal front bench. At least he has seen the light on this particular, reckless idea.

Sonia B.exe

Tony Abbott

The article suggests that catching the fugitive might not be the only issue, as the police are also working to trace the missing documents, which are believed to be in the possession of the suspect.

Inside the phone conversation between Ewen Cameron-Wilson and one of his colleagues, the former minister is seen expressing concerns about the integrity of the government's immigration policies.

The phone conversation indicates that the minister was not pleased with the way the government has been handling the issue of detained individuals and the risk of information leakage.

The government is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring the integrity of the immigration system, and any breach of confidentiality could lead to legal ramifications.

On January 30, Ms Cameron-Wilson told the minister that the issue of missing documents was a concern and that further investigations were necessary to determine the extent of the leak.

The conversation also highlights the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of information, especially in sensitive cases like this one, to prevent any potential damage to the government's reputation and the security of the country.

The government is expected to take appropriate action in response to this leak, and it is crucial that all involved parties work together to address the issue and prevent any further breaches of confidentiality.

In conclusion, the phone conversation between Tony Abbott and Ewen Cameron-Wilson highlights the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of information and the need for strong measures to prevent any potential damage to the government's reputation and the security of the country.
The ABC has opinion guidelines that have been critical of the government's climate change policies. ABC political editor Craig McPherson has come under fire from ABC News managing director Gordon Wu. Wu defended Mr McPherson and other political editors, saying the ABC's climate change coverage was subjective and not fact-based.

ABC chief economics correspondent Emma Alberici has been critical of the government's climate change policies. ABC political editor Craig McPherson has come under fire from ABC News managing director Gordon Wu. Wu defended Mr McPherson and other political editors, saying the ABC's climate change coverage was subjective and not fact-based.

ABC's call to cut migrant intake

Geraldine (Jeja) Chisholm

ABC's call to cut migrant intake

 legible
We surrender - turf war is over

Hills bowls club to give up last grass

PROUD HISTORY: Kathy Roberts, Geoff Deebel, Malcolm and His Story at the Unandilla Bowls Club, before the green is dug up and replaced with a synthetic surface next month.

RECE HOMFRAY

URAILLA Bowls Club is preparing to farewell 70 years of history this month when the last grass green in the Adelaide Hills is dug up and replaced with a synthetic surface.

The club’s volunteer greenkeeper Geoff Deebel, 60, said the move would help the 150-member club save money on maintenance costs and reduce the risk of floods.

According to Bowls SA, about 30 per cent of its 220 clubs have replaced their grass greens with synthetic and a further 10 per cent are considering it. "Because the bowling club's population is getting older and we're relying on volunteers to do the work - we've got one guy who rolls the greens for me in his 80s - you can't go on forever," Mr Deebel said.

"The cost of maintaining the green you factor into your running costs but it's the manpower required and, here in the Hills, the growing season doesn't start until late spring and if we get a wet spring then we can't get people to the club practicing," he said.

"Every year we've got people there, you're generating revenue with bar sales and things like that and with an artificial surface somebody can turn up, get some bowls out and go for it."

"But the club put a proposal to a member vote last summer and, while it was passed, there was still some resistance."

"There's people that are unhappy in our club; there are a few who would rather stay the traditional way, but you've got to move forward," Mr Deebel said.

"Every club that visits us says 'this is fantastic; we're really sorry to see it go' but every other club has got rid of their grass and gone artificial for the same reason we are."}

"Uralla Bowls Club was formed in 1945 and the green - which was refurbished in the 1960s - has been in the same location ever since. The final game on the grass will be played on February 24 and digging will start in early March, with the new surface ready for next summer," Mr Deebel said.

"We're hoping it will be fully in play by next year, but it all depends on the weather and the contractor," he said.

"But we're hoping to have a mix of both, with a synthetic surface and a grass surface," he said.
Rush to take action over claim

LEADING actor Geoffrey Rush is taking defamation proceedings over allegations of inappropriate behaviour made against him.

The Oscar winner yesterday announced he would take action in the Federal Court against Sydney's Daily Telegraph, which first published the story, "I must now seek vindication of my good name through the court," he said.

Rush has strongly denied the allegations, which date back to a Sydney Theatre Company performance of King Lear in 2015.

Lawyer Nicholas Pollen said Rush was unable to answer questions about the case.

The veteran actor's break-through performance in the 1996 film Shine earned him an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA.

He has gone on to become one of America's biggest and most respected Hollywood exports, starring in Shakespeare in Love, Elizabeth and The King's Speech.

Perth-born Rush, 66, was a prominent actor at the Queensland Theatre Company before his movie success.

He now lives in Melbourne with his wife.

The Daily Telegraph's editor Christopher Davey said: "The Daily Telegraph accurately reported that the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour."

"We are defending our position in court," he said.

\[ INSIDE TODAY \]

RUSH to take action over claim

**NEWS**

LEADING actor Geoffrey Rush is taking defamation proceedings over allegations of inappropriate behaviour made against him.

The Oscar winner yesterday announced he would take action in the Federal Court against Sydney's Daily Telegraph, which first published the story, "I must now seek vindication of my good name through the court," he said.

Rush has strongly denied the allegations, which date back to a Sydney Theatre Company performance of King Lear in 2015.

Lawyer Nicholas Pollen said Rush was unable to answer questions about the case.

The veteran actor's break-through performance in the 1996 film Shine earned him an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA.

He has gone on to become one of America's biggest and most respected Hollywood exports, starring in Shakespeare in Love, Elizabeth and The King's Speech.

Perth-born Rush, 66, was a prominent actor at the Queensland Theatre Company before his movie success.

He now lives in Melbourne with his wife.

The Daily Telegraph's editor Christopher Davey said: "The Daily Telegraph accurately reported that the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour."

"We are defending our position in court," he said.

\[ INSIDE TODAY \]

RUSH to take action over claim

**NEWS**

LEADING actor Geoffrey Rush is taking defamation proceedings over allegations of inappropriate behaviour made against him.

The Oscar winner yesterday announced he would take action in the Federal Court against Sydney's Daily Telegraph, which first published the story, "I must now seek vindication of my good name through the court," he said.

Rush has strongly denied the allegations, which date back to a Sydney Theatre Company performance of King Lear in 2015.

Lawyer Nicholas Pollen said Rush was unable to answer questions about the case.

The veteran actor's break-through performance in the 1996 film Shine earned him an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA.

He has gone on to become one of America's biggest and most respected Hollywood exports, starring in Shakespeare in Love, Elizabeth and The King's Speech.

Perth-born Rush, 66, was a prominent actor at the Queensland Theatre Company before his movie success.

He now lives in Melbourne with his wife.

The Daily Telegraph's editor Christopher Davey said: "The Daily Telegraph accurately reported that the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour."

"We are defending our position in court," he said.

\[ INSIDE TODAY \]

RUSH to take action over claim

**NEWS**

LEADING actor Geoffrey Rush is taking defamation proceedings over allegations of inappropriate behaviour made against him.

The Oscar winner yesterday announced he would take action in the Federal Court against Sydney's Daily Telegraph, which first published the story, "I must now seek vindication of my good name through the court," he said.

Rush has strongly denied the allegations, which date back to a Sydney Theatre Company performance of King Lear in 2015.

Lawyer Nicholas Pollen said Rush was unable to answer questions about the case.

The veteran actor's break-through performance in the 1996 film Shine earned him an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA.

He has gone on to become one of America's biggest and most respected Hollywood exports, starring in Shakespeare in Love, Elizabeth and The King's Speech.

Perth-born Rush, 66, was a prominent actor at the Queensland Theatre Company before his movie success.

He now lives in Melbourne with his wife.

The Daily Telegraph's editor Christopher Davey said: "The Daily Telegraph accurately reported that the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour."

"We are defending our position in court," he said.

\[ INSIDE TODAY \]
COURT HEARS THAT ACTRESS REPEATEDLY ASKED GEOFFREY RUSH TO ...

STOP DOING IT

Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush allegedly touched an actress repeatedly in a way that made her uncomfortable and ignored her requests for him to "stop doing it" at the Federal Court heard yesterday.

Rush's co-star in the Sydney Theatre Company's 2016 production of King Lear, Eryn Jean Norvill, complained about the alleged inappropriate behaviour. The court heard yesterday that Rush's co-star in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear, Eryn Jean Norvill, complained about the alleged inappropriate behaviour.

The court heard that Norvill followed her into female toilets at the after-party on the final night of the performance of the Shakespearean classic.

Matthew Benncis

stood outside her cubicle until the "visibly upset" actress told him to "- off"

Rush, 66, is suing the Daily Telegraph for its reporting of Ms Norvill's complaint about alleged inappropriate behaviour, made to the STC in 2016. Rush denies the allegations.

Yesterday the Federal Court lifted a suppression order on the newspaper's defence document rejecting an application by Rush's lawyer Richard McHugh, SC, to stop the details being made public.

Justice Michael Wigney said the need for open justice outweighed fears that releasing details of the defence case could further damage Rush's reputation.

According to the document, Rush touched the actress in a manner that made the complainant feel uncomfortable during the play's final scene. As King Lear, Rush had to carry a sword on to the stage as she simulated the body of the title character's daughter, Cordelia.

Norvill asked Rush to "stop doing it" but it is alleged that he repeated the touching on another four occasions in the final week of the play in January 2016.

Tom Blackburn, SC, counsel for Nationwide News, publisher of the Daily Telegraph, told the court this touching could amount to "scandalous and inappropriate behaviour".

"The allegation is not that he was touched in a particular place but she was touched in a way that made her uncomfortable," he said.

Mr McHugh had argued the newspaper's truth defence should be struck out because it lacked sufficient detail.

According to the defence document, "Following the investigation the STC decided that it would never work with the Applicant (Rush) again."

The Daily Telegraph is also relying on the defence of qualified privilege in the defamation case, arguing it was in the public interest.

The Daily Telegraph says it had more information about the Rush allegations at the time of publication but did not include them in its reports.

This included an allegation that Rush had touched Norvill on the genitalia.