The Daily Telegraph
WE'RE FOR SYDNEY
$1.60 // THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2017

SCOOP

SHORTEN ASIO CALL FOR SAM

KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

BILL Shorten was so concerned by reports of Sam Dastyari's dealings with a billionaire Chinese donor he called ASIO's top officials to determine if the embattled senator was a national security concern.

The Daily Telegraph understands the Labor leader this week called the domestic spy agency after hearing allegations Mr Dastyari warned the property developer he was under surveillance.

Mr Shorten was advised he did not pose a security risk.

FULL REPORT PAGE 8

SCOOP

GAME ON TO SPY ON KIDS

BRUCE MCDOUGALL

TEACHERS will be able to spy on students by using a new program to keep tabs on what pupils are up to on their classroom laptops.

The colour-coding program throws up a "red flag" on the teacher's laptop when a student goes "off-task" on their computer. There are also other colours in the system, like green to show they are on-task and orange if they're searching Google or sending an email.

Six Sydney schools are already testing the software.

FULL REPORT PAGE 8

SCOOP

TRASH TALK ON CAN PLAN

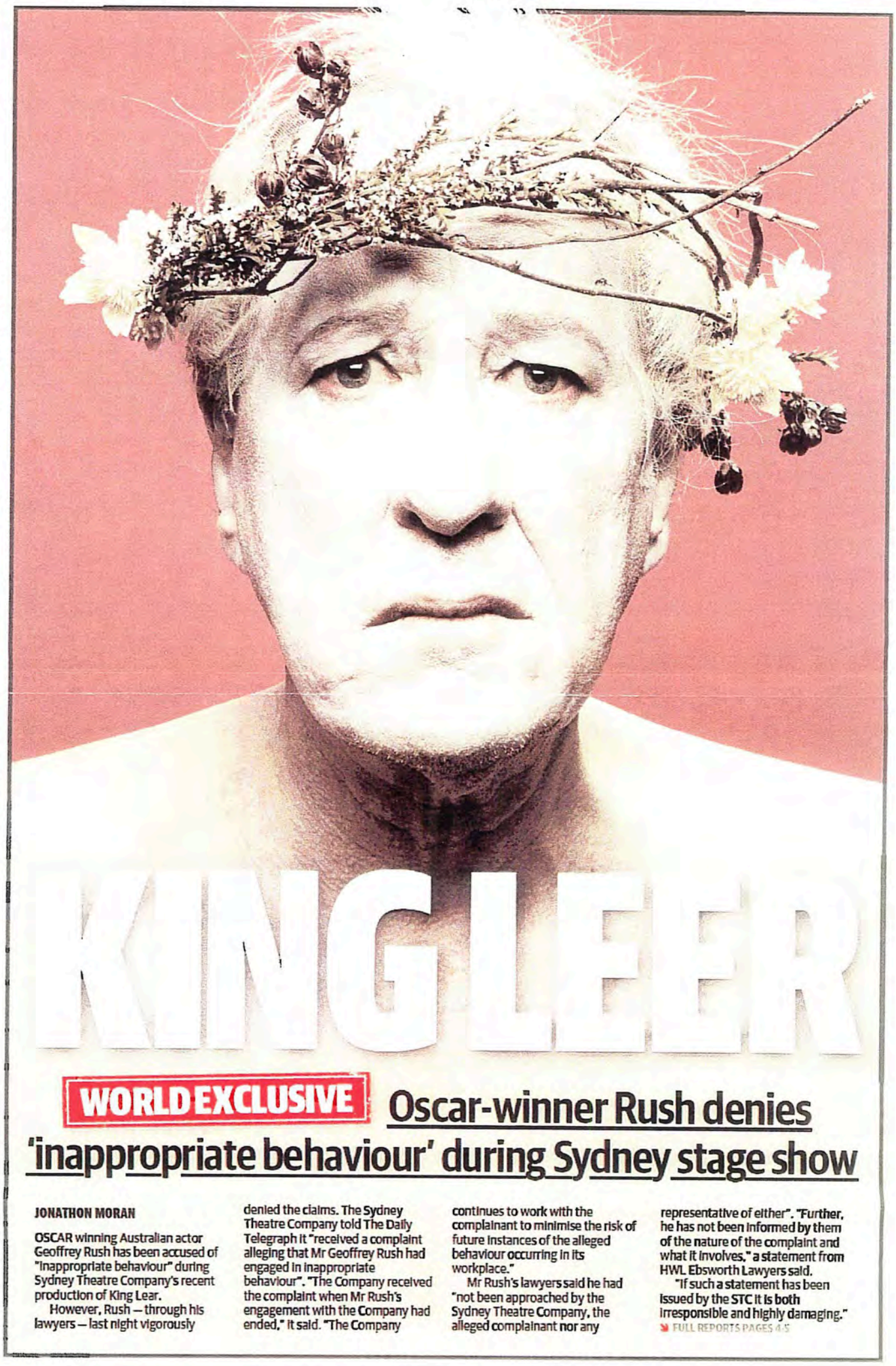
ANNA CALDWELL

HUNDREDS of vending machines ordered by the state government for its "shambolic" cash for cans scheme breach standards for disabled access, it can be revealed.

It is the latest blow for the recycling plan which is due to cause prices for drinks in bottles and cans to rise from tomorrow, as senior government MPs seethe about its "botched" rollout.

A case of beer or a box of soft-drink cans will increase by up to $4.80 from tomorrow.

CONTINUED PAGE 6



WORLD EXCLUSIVE

Oscar-winner Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' during Sydney stage show

JONATHON MORAN

OSCAR winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of King Lear.

However, Rush — through his lawyers — last night vigorously denied the claims. The Sydney Theatre Company told The Daily Telegraph it "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour". "The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended," it said. "The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace."

Mr Rush's lawyers said he had "not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company, the alleged complainant nor any representative of either". "Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves," a statement from HWL Ebsworth Lawyers said.

"If such a statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging."

FULL REPORTS PAGES 4-5

V1 - TELE03Z01MA

Oscar-winner Geoffrey Rush denies complaint made

STAR'S BARD BEHAVIOUR







EXCLUSIVE
JONATHON MORAN

OSCAR-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of King Lear.

But the star vigorously denies the allegations and says the company has never told him of any allegations of wrong doing.

The Daily Telegraph can today reveal that one of the country's most successful actors was the subject of a complaint during the production of King Lear.

It is understood the allegations of inappropriate behaviour occurred over several months. The local production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at the Roslyn Packer Theatre.

There were also several months of rehearsals.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman said to The Daily Telegraph.

"The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended. The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld.

"STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."

In a strongly worded legal letter, lawyers for Rush at HWL Ebsworth last night said he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" an that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach.

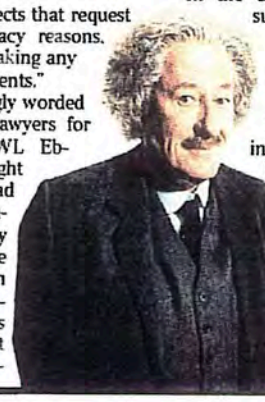
"Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised," the letter states.

"Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves."

The letter from the legal firm's partner Nicholas Pullen goes on to say that Rush has not been involved with the Sydney Theatre Company or its representatives for a period of more than 22 months.

"In the circumstances, if such a statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least.

"Your 'understanding' of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded.



Government's recycling scheme is a big load of rubbish

FROM PAGE 1

with families expected to recoup the money by collecting refunds for recycling the bottles.

But despite the government promising to roll out 800 reverse vending machines across the state, last night there were set to be only 236 recycling points in operation when the program begins tomorrow, made up of vending machines and over-the-counter arrangements.

Based on the government's map, more than 10 electorates across the state had no way to claim recycling refunds. Must-win seats for the government in regional NSW were missing collection points, including Orange, which the nationals spectacularly lost to the Shooters party in the 2016 by-election.

The Daily Telegraph can reveal that those vending machines that do exist don't meet national standards for disabled access. The chutes (pictured right) are 1470mm high — above the 900-1100mm required for public access. Physical Disabilities Council CEO Serena Ovens said it was "crazy the government hasn't considered legal access requirements".

A spokesman for the scheme's operator — Tomra Cleanaway — said the height was "within reach of an adult seated in a wheelchair"

One senior government member described the scheme as "shambolic", saying it was embarrassing to botch something so innocuous as a recycling scheme, and that it would hurt the government in regional seats that could determine the next election.

Small businesses in electorates on the northern border are preparing to lose revenue to shops in Queensland which does not have a container collection surcharge.

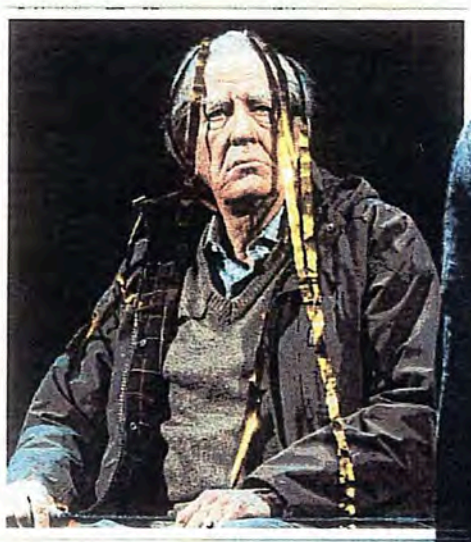


TELE03Z01MA - V1

in Sydney Theatre Shakespeare production

> *Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour*
>
> STC spokeswoman

> *It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue*
>
> Lawyer for Rush Nicholas Pullen





Clockwise from left: Rush and his 1996 Oscar; in Twelfth Night; receiving the Order of Australia with Governor-General Peter Cosgrove; in STC's King Lear; on location at Sydney Harbour on Tuesday; and (below left) as Einstein in TV series Genius. Main picture: Matrix Media Group

"It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue."

Rush has worked with the STC many times — both acting and directing productions like Uncle Vanya, Oleanna, The Importance of Being Ernest, You Can't Take It With You, King Lear and The Government Inspector.

Rush won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1996 for his role as David Helfgott in the movie Shine and was nominated for the best supporting actor role two years later for Shakespeare in Love.

His other Oscar nominations include best actor in 2000 film Quills and for The King's Speech in 2011 in the same category.

He has found fame for becoming one of the few people to have won acting's "Triple Crown" — the Academy Award, the Primetime Emmy Award and the Tony Award.

The 66-year-old married father-of-two and Melbourne resident is also the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema Television and Arts and is expected to attend the annual AACTA Awards at The Star Event Centre next week.

Service to counsel affected Nine staff

CHANNEL Nine has opened an independent counselling service following allegations this week of sexual assault by former TV personality Don Burke as the network's boss Hugh Marks addresses staff for the first time, saying "we cannot rewrite history"

A new phone line was set up yesterday to allow people to report instances of past behaviour they would like addressed.

"Former Nine employees with complaints can provide their personal contact details and HR will follow up directly on a strictly confidential basis," Nine said in an email to staff.

The counselling will be provided at no cost to them, Nine said, and will support the person to "work through any issues that relate to their time" at Nine.

Mr Marks, meanwhile, told staff that allegations of harassment and misconduct by Burke was "appalling", vowing to deal with misconduct, harassment, discrimination and bullying issues "effectively"

Burke returned to Nine's A Current Affair, this week where he admitted to behaving like a bullying tyrant, and having "a number of affairs", but cannot remember "exact things I did 20 years ago".

He has been described as a "sexual predator" and "psychotic bully" during the 17-year run of Burke's Backyard. Speaking to ACA host Tracy Grimshaw, he claimed to be a victim of a "witch hunt" ignited by the Harvey Weinstein scandal.



Don Burke being interviewed on ACA.

KIDS AWAKE TO FAKE NEWS

OLDER children are becoming increasingly savvy about fake news on social media.

More than half of youngsters aged 12 to 15 use Facebook and Twitter to access news online — often clicking on stories that have been recommended by "friends" in their network or by users they "follow". But even though they like to access news in this way, they are extremely wary about which articles they can trust.

The majority of those in this age group who read news on social media make an effort to check if it is true. Some 86 per cent make "at least one practical attempt" to check the veracity of an article.

For example, they might double check it with mainstream news sources.



Mount Agung in action.

Bali tourist relief as airport reopens

BALI'S airport reopened late yesterday and flights resumed as the amount of volcanic ash from the erupting Mt Agung volcano decreased.

After three days of closure, a decision was made late yesterday for the airport to open.

The decision brought relief to the 150,000 tourists stranded in Bali as a result of the volcano, which began erupting last week. Yesterday almost 58,000 passengers, on 430 flights, had faced cancellations.

Authorities said while the volcanic ash plume was still reaching 1500-2000m, it had decreased compared to the previous day.

The Volcanology and Geological Hazards Mitigation Centre chief, Kasbani, said everyone living inside the exclusion zone 8-10km from the crater had been told to leave.

An eruption on Tuesday, which hurled volcanic ash more than 4000m into the air had been the biggest so far, prompting warnings that a large-scale eruption was just hours away. But that has not yet happened.

Menu Rewards

The Daily Telegraph

NEWS BREAKING NEWS NEWSLOCAL NSW NATIONAL



TV Trailer: Genius

NSW

Geoffrey Rush denies accusation 'inappropriate behaviour' during Sydney Theatre Company's King Lear

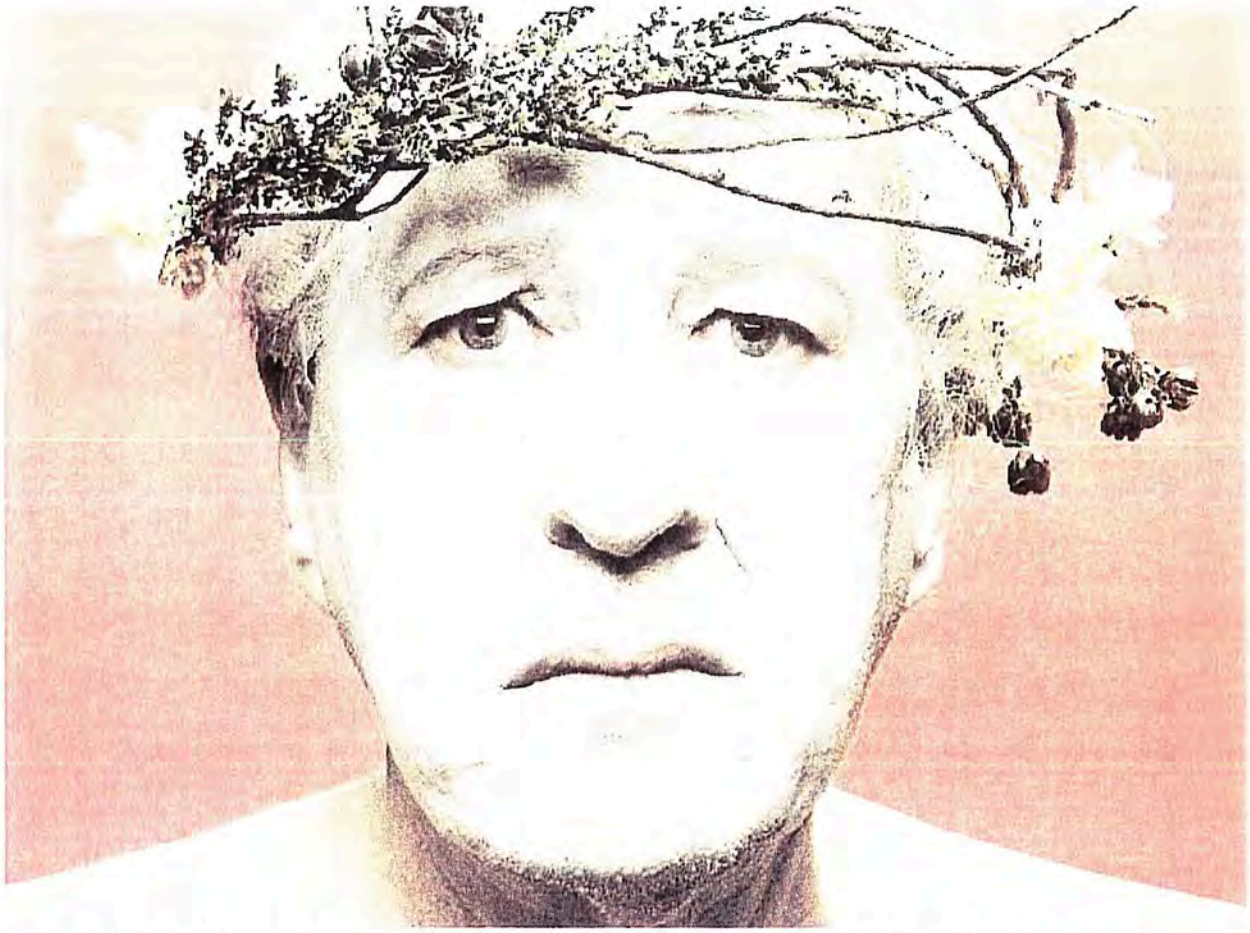
JONATHON MORAN, Exclusive, The Daily Telegraph
November 30, 2017 2:37pm
Subscriber only

OSCAR-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of King Lear.

But the star vigorously denies the allegations and says the company has never told him of any allegations of wrong doing.

The Daily Telegraph can today reveal that one of the country's most successful actors was the subject of a complaint during the production of King Lear.

It is understood the allegations of inappropriate behaviour occurred over several months. The local production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at the Roslyn Packer Theatre.



Geoffrey Rush in the commercial poster to promote the Sydney Theatre Company's King Lear.

There were also several months of rehearsals.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman said to The Daily Telegraph.

"The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended. The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld.

"STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."



Rush in a scene from the acclaimed Sydney Theatre Company stage production of Shakespeare's King Lear.

In a strongly worded legal letter, lawyers for Rush at HWL Ebsworth last night said he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" and that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach.

RELATED: GEOFFREY RUSH MORPHS INTO EINSTEIN

"Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised," the letter states.

"Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves."



Geoffrey Rush sighted on location in Sydney Harbour on Tuesday this week. Picture: Matrix



Geoffrey Rush after receiving his Companion medal in the Australian Honours and Awards in Canberra.

The letter from the legal firm's partner Nicholas Pullen goes on to say that Rush has not been involved with the Sydney Theatre Company or its representatives for a period of more than 22 months.

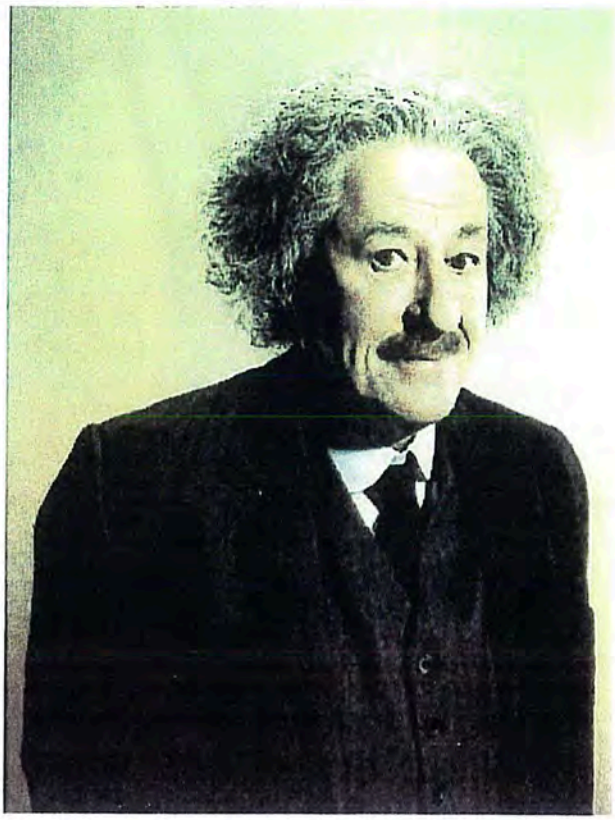
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"Your 'understanding' of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded.

"It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue."



Rush with his Academy Award for best actor in 1997. Picture: AP



Rush in his acclaimed portrayal of Albert Einstein.

Rush has worked with the STC many times — both acting and directing productions like Uncle Vanya, Oleanna, The Importance of Being Ernest, You Can't Take It With You, King Lear and The Government Inspector.

Rush won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1996 for his role as David Helfgott in the movie Shine and was nominated for the best supporting actor role two years later for Shakespeare in Love.

He is also well-known for his character of Hector Barbossa in The Pirates of the Caribbean franchise.





Rush won the Academy Award for best actor for his role as David Helfgott in the movie Shine.

His other Oscar nominations include best actor in 2000 film Quills and for The King's Speech in 2011 in the same category.

He has found fame for becoming one of the few people to have won acting's "Triple Crown" — the Academy Award, the Primetime Emmy Award and the Tony Award.







Rush as Barbossa. Picture: Disney



Rush with Kate Winslet in Quills.

The 66-year-old married father-of-two and Melbourne resident is also the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema Television and Arts and is expected to attend the annual AACTA Awards at The Star Event Centre next week.

The Daily Telegraph
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UNSCRIPTED DRAMA: THE OSCAR STAR SCANDAL

WE'RE WITH YOU



Theatre cast back accuser as Rush denies 'touching'

JONATHON MORAN

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

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

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

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

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

FULL REPORTS P4-5



SCOOP

THE BANK BUST

SHARRI MARKSON & KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

FORMER premier Mike Baird played a key role in convincing the Turnbull government to agree to a royal commission into the big banks. As Mr Baird and his new boss NAB chair Ken Henry got the banks onside. Treasurer Scott Morrison also had a call with Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe that reversed his position.

FULL REPORTS PAGE 9

REVEALED

TOP KIDS GO BUSH

ANNA CALDWELL

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

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

FULL REPORT PAGE 3

REVEALED

WHAT A SHOCKER

ANNA CALDWELL

ONE of the state's power fat cats has sparked uproar after it was revealed he has pocketed a whopping $117,000 pay rise as rocketing bills leave families struggling to keep the lights on. Essential Energy chief executive John Cleland has taken home $882,076 even as his own company described its patchy service reliability as "unfavourable".

FULL REPORT PAGE 7

V1 - TELE04Z01MA



The Old Vic Theatre on The Cut in London.

HR overhaul to lift curtain on bad deeds

EXCLUSIVE
JONATHON MORAN

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

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

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

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



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

"This isn't about creating drama and blame but if everyone holds each other accountable, we create the kind of workplace we all want to be in," he said. More broadly, Mr McIntyre suggested it is a wideranging issue for the industry to address in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

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

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

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

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

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

ACTS OF



MEYNE WYATT

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

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

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



BRANDON McCLELLAND

» Appeared in 2014 television miniseries ANZAC Girls as Pat Dooley

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

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

Sydney Theatre Company actors support

EXCLUSIVE
JONATHON MORAN

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

It comes as Rush — one of the country's most successful actors — was yesterday continuing to vehemently deny claims he inappropriately touched a cast member of the local production of the classic William Shakespeare play.

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

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

"I believe (the person who) has come forward. It's time for Sydney Theatre Company and the industry in Australia and worldwide as a whole to make a stand on this behaviour!!!!"

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

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

McClelland's tweet was also reposted by several other Sydney theatre actors as the story dominated social media yesterday.

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

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

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

"They refused to illumi-

Statement for acting veteran blasts STC 'smear'

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

The statement, following The Daily Telegraph's exclusive report yesterday, took aim at the Sydney Theatre Company, alleging that it had "chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation".

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

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

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

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

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

It goes on to quote Mr Rush:

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

"They refused to illuminate me with the details."

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



Geoffrey Rush in King Lear rehearsals.

TELE03Z01MA - V1

TV'S UNWELCOME MATT
WORLD, PAGE 30

DEFIANCE



STATEMENT FROM GEOFFREY RUSH

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

STC STATEMENT

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

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

complainant's claims against megastar Rush

nate me," he said through a statement.

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

"However, no response was forthcoming."

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said it was a "great disappointment" that the STC had "chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation".

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

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

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

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

The sources said they believed the woman's claims.

And they said the STC would not be working with Rush again. That's despite the veteran actor having worked with the company both acting and directing productions such as Uncle Vanya, Oleanna, The Importance Of Being Ernest and The Government Inspector.

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

It also clarified the anonymous nature of the alleged complainant, who had "requested the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified".

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



How we broke the story yesterday.

THEATRE'S FIRM STATE OF PLAY

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

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

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

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



Rush in Pirates of the Caribbean.

Execs' exile for star

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

They also said due to the seriousness of the allegations, the award-winning theatre company would not work with the Pirates of the Caribbean star again. "There is no chance," the source told The Daily Telegraph. "How could we work with him again? That question doesn't even need an answer."

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

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

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

V2- TELE03Z01MA

Menu Digital Print Edition | Rewards | Hi Jeremy

The Daily Telegraph

NEWS BREAKING NEWS NEWSLOCAL NSW NATIONAL

NSW

Geoffrey Rush accusal: Actors support woman who complained of touching

JONATHON MORAN, The Daily Telegraph
December 1, 2017 12:00am
Subscriber only

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It comes as Rush — one of the country's most successful actors — was yesterday continuing to vehemently deny claims he inappropriately touched a cast member of the local production of the classic William Shakespeare play.

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"I believe (the person who) has come forward. It's time for Sydney Theatre Company and the industry in Australia and worldwide as a whole to make a stand on this behaviour!!!!"

MORE: RUSH DENIES CLAIM OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

MORE: READ GEOFFREY RUSH'S FULL STATEMENT OF DENIAL

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

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

McClelland's tweet was also reposted by several other Sydney theatre actors as the story dominated social media yesterday.



Geoffrey Rush in Sydney Theatre Company's King Lear.



Rush was made aware who made the claims three weeks ago.

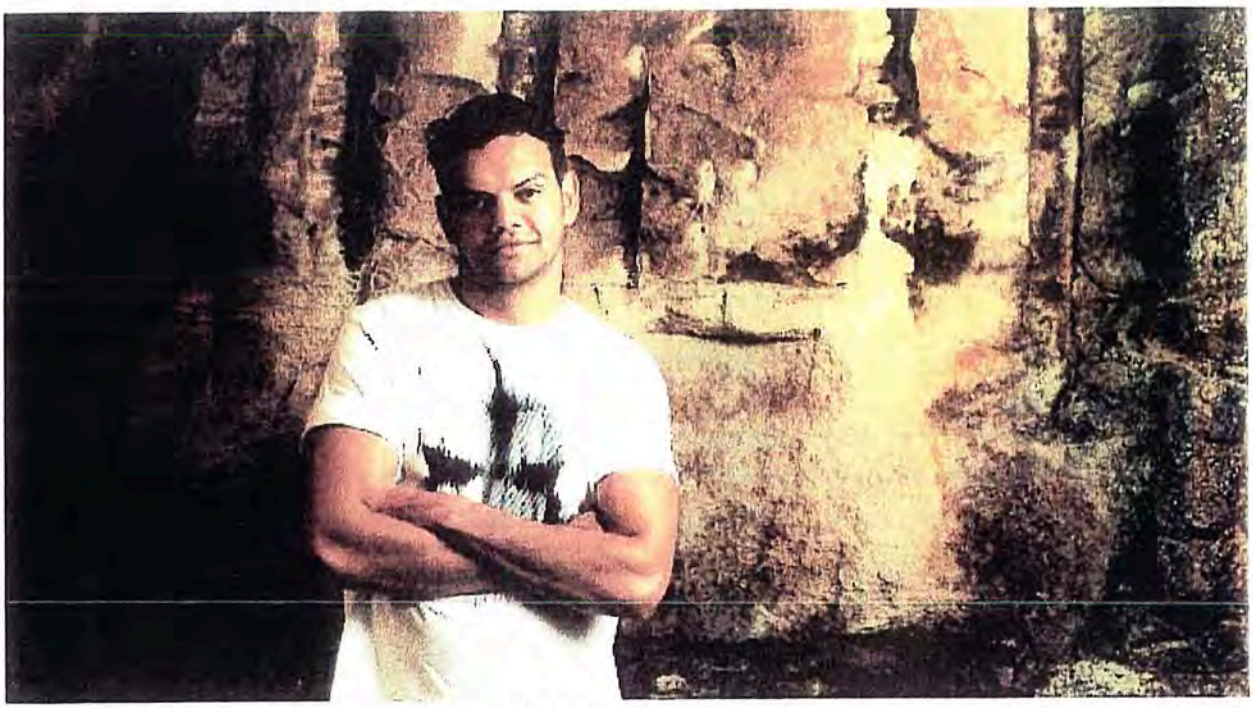
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"They refused to illuminate me," he said through a statement.

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



Actor Meyne Wyatt said he was in the show and believed whoever had come forward.

"However, no response was forthcoming."

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



not how our society operates," he said.

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

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



Brandon McClelland said he believed the women and it wasn't just a matter of a misunderstanding. Picture: John Appleyard

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

The sources said they believed the woman's claims.

And they said the STC would not be working with Rush again. That's despite the veteran actor having worked with the company both acting and directing productions such as Uncle Vanya, Oleanna, The Importance Of Being Ernest and The Government Inspector.



Geoffrey Rush continues to deny the allegations. Picture: David Caird

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

It also clarified the anonymous nature of the alleged complainant, who had "requested the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified".

"STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."

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

Rush rethink on awards

AACTA board in crisis talks ahead of next week's gala ceremony

AMELIA SAW

THE Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) has held crisis talks in the wake of accusations of "inappropriate behaviour" levelled at the organisation's president, Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush.

Rush, who has denied the allegations made by a female co-star during the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear, was due to open AACTA's seventh annual awards ceremony next Wednesday. The AACTA board met this week while executives debated how to proceed.

"They hope it will blow over," a source said. "But they are really not sure what to do."

Board members include Mark Morrissey, Noni Hazlehurst, Brian Walsh, Margaret Pomeranz and Alan Finney.

Until the allegations were made public on Thursday by The Daily Telegraph, AACTA planned to open the televised awards night with a prerecorded video featuring Rush (right) and comedian Rebel Wilson.

AACTA issued a no comment yesterday, refusing to disclose its plans for the video. Board members also declined to comment last night, hanging up when contacted. It's also unknown if Rush will walk the red carpet on Wednesday.



Former Neighbours star Meyne Wyatt, who starred in the King Lear production with Rush, has taken to social media to confirm he believes his female castmate. And fellow actor Brandon McClelland, who worked alongside the actor who made the complaint against Rush, posted: "It wasn't a misunderstanding."

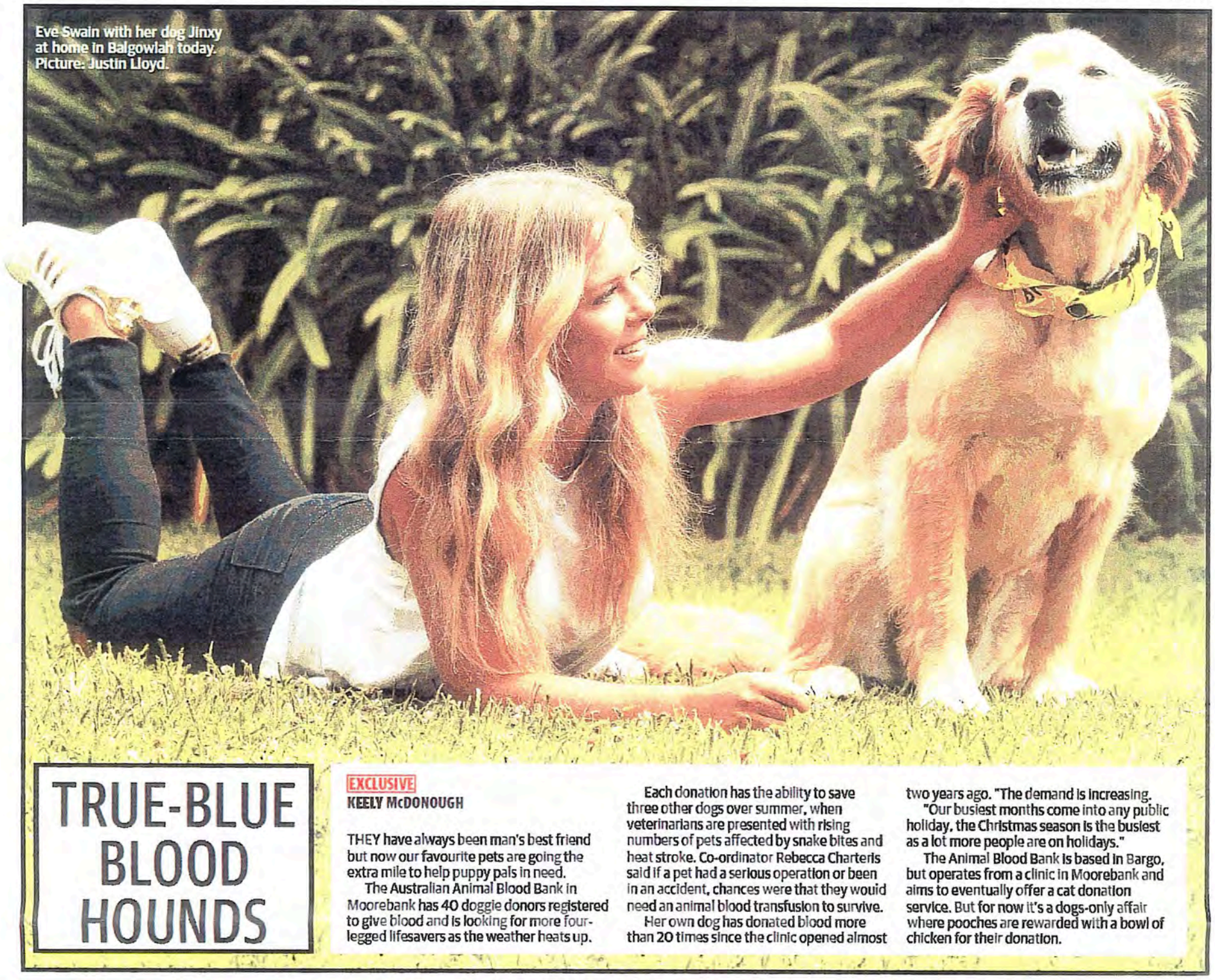
In a statement released exclusively to The Saturday Telegraph, an agent for former STC artistic director Andrew Upton said Upton was unaware of the complaint made against Rush until it was aired in the media this week. Upton is married to Cate Blanchett, an AACTA ambassador who has worked closely with Rush on films such as Elizabeth and Oscar And Lucinda.

The statement read: "Andrew Upton programmed King Lear in 2014 as part of his final season as artistic director of the STC. He and his family moved to the UK shortly after Christmas 2015 so that the children could start school.

"The complaint in regard to Mr Rush, of which Andrew was unaware, was registered after King Lear had closed in 2016."

In November, AACTA issued a statement in the wake of various international scandals:

"AACTA's aim is to recognise, encourage, promote and celebrate film and television excellence in Australia. We also recognise our role in working with our members in upholding standards in our industry that we can all be proud of, including the provision of a safe and respectful workplace."



Eve Swain with her dog Jinxy at home in Balgowlah today. Picture: Justin Lloyd.

TRUE-BLUE BLOOD HOUNDS

EXCLUSIVE

KEELY McDONOUGH

THEY have always been man's best friend but now our favourite pets are going the extra mile to help puppy pals in need.

The Australian Animal Blood Bank in Moorebank has 40 doggie donors registered to give blood and is looking for more four-legged lifesavers as the weather heats up.

Each donation has the ability to save three other dogs over summer, when veterinarians are presented with rising numbers of pets affected by snake bites and heat stroke. Co-ordinator Rebecca Charteris said if a pet had a serious operation or been in an accident, chances were that they would need an animal blood transfusion to survive.

Her own dog has donated blood more than 20 times since the clinic opened almost two years ago. "The demand is increasing.

"Our busiest months come into any public holiday, the Christmas season is the busiest as a lot more people are on holidays."

The Animal Blood Bank is based in Bargo, but operates from a clinic in Moorebank and aims to eventually offer a cat donation service. But for now it's a dogs-only affair where pooches are rewarded with a bowl of chicken for their donation.

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A strike force arrest.

COKE CRACKDOWN A RINGING SUCCESS

MORE than 30 drug arrests have been made after a two-month sting smashed "dial-a-dealer" cocaine operations throughout Sydney — and officers are warning casual coke consumers that if your phone number is in the dealers' contact lists a text from the police may soon be on the way.

Strike Force Northrop was established in September to target cocaine syndicates allegedly using a central phone number to direct customers to convenient drug drop locations — a business model that Detective Chief Inspector Stuart Bell likens to ordering a pizza.

"It shows that the demand for cocaine is high — while the demand is high, we'll continue to run these types of investigations," he said.

So far 36 people have been arrested — 28 men and eight women — and police have seized almost 500g of cocaine, 196g of MDMA, steroids, $120,000 cash, two loaded firearms and multiple vehicles.

"The cocaine seized would have equated to about 500 street deals," Det Bell said.



An arrest in Redfern.

Sex scandals or power trip?

Behind the wave of inappropriate behaviour claims is one fact feminists don't want to face: That this scourge has nothing to do with gender





CORRINE BARRACLOUGH



Well, it certainly looks like TV gardener Don Burke had a shady side. Not everything was out there, basking and blossoming in the radiant sunshine. Rather, a secret offshoot thrived in the shadows.

As the week unfolded, the gardening guru faced an enfilade of sexual harassment claims, which he has strongly denied. Allegations range from using abusive language to forcing a woman onto a bed.

Here we have it; the first wave of Weinstein reckoning has arrived in Australia.

The tidal wave of inappropriate behaviour claims keeps growing around the globe: Matt Lauer, Geoffrey Rush, Garrison Keillor, Richard Branson, Ben Affleck, Brett Ratner, Ed Westwick, Jeremy Piven, Kevin Spacey, Louis C.K. The list has, grimly, become so long it could fill this paper — and then wrap around again.

Here is the problem staring feminism directly in the face. Right now would have been the time to show the agenda was set, guidelines were clear and equality was a shimmering focus.

But, upon closer inspection, the face is gnarled and ugly: the phantom of feminism is here. It is revealing itself to be hatred of men.

Not every man listed above is an "abuser", "monster", "predator" and "evil".

Some may even be completely innocent. However, countless fem-folk are so eagerly plunging the dagger at this point, they keep stabbing even though it's dripping with blood. Who cares whose it is?

No apology will ever be good enough for the witch who bathes in male tears for this is now about "we were right".

Put the knife down and catch your breath. One size label does not fit all.

Trial by media is not a legitimate justice system and neither should it be. Naming and shaming is not progress and your hellbent vicious revenge is a telling reflection of what you always were.

If all of those men are deemed as sinister as Weinstein, the world is in dire trouble. Rape is not the same as a risque joke.

Most men — and a large percentage of women — would be out of a job by that staple. If you disagree with that, I would suggest you are not living in the real world that the majority inhabit. Perhaps you want echoing offices to yourselves?

Secret buttons under desks to close doors without moving from your chair (in Lauer's case) is not, by any stretch of the vengeful imagination, the equivalent of a socially awkward (un)wise crack.

Feminism: if you are determined to continue losing what's left of your wavering support, keep going. It seems you have learnt nothing from the world events of the last year.

All conversations and heated debate have focused on sexism. This is, many say, all about dismantling the power of the patriarchy.

Other key fem-phrases are peppered through discussions: misogyny, objectification, and inequity.

Truth is, it's not, is it?

Burke wasn't protected (allegedly, reportedly, and all that jazz) by Channel 9 because of his gender. He was protected because of the huge revenue he drew into the station.

Therefore, this isn't a conversation about sexism — it's about money and power.

Those two things are the real untouchables, not men. Businesses like money magnets — whatever they look like.

Call it money, or greed, or capitalism, choose a label as you wish, but make no mistake, this is not about sexism.

This week's conversations strike me as incredibly naive. Who honestly believes that if there are more women in positions of power rancid behaviour will be eradicated?

That's a fool's game.

Vile behaviour will merely look different and speak in softer tones. Women are not better than men, they are just different.

If you have no sliding scale or clarity of judgment, offensive behaviour will be just as comfortable in a pants suit. Put as many women in charge as your quotas now demand. The world may shift, but it will still be about money. The new currency will be pussy power.

We may feel momentarily refreshed and pleased with our gleaming new appearance after this tidal wave relents, but it won't last long.

Gender is not the problem. Neither is it the solution. Ultimately the heart of evil is not "toxic masculinity", it is money.

Masculinity is not one of the seven deadly sins, greed is. Perhaps we should pause for thought and ensure we're waging war against the right target.

Coal in stockings for Christmas truck protests



JAMES MORROW

In the Australia of almost 2018, where all our other problems have been solved, our roads are wide and clear, our hospitals overflowing with spare beds, and our schools turning out students who can beat any brainiac from Singapore to Stockholm, it's no wonder that some people have time to be annoyed about a truck.

Or, to be more specific, a Coca-Cola truck all decked out for Christmas with a great big jolly Santa painted on the side.

To the horror of a group calling itself "Parents' Voice", the holiday Coke truck is doing a tour of NSW and Queensland, holding a number of charity events for the Salvos along the way, and will wind up its trip at Sydney's Carols in the Domain.

Having garnered a little over 700 signatures at press time, Parents' Voice says this is no festive fundraiser but rather "a giant mobile billboard marketing unhealthy products to vulnerable communities".

And a merry Christmas to you, too, Parents' Voice.

It is tempting to dismiss this sort of thing out of hand, though as an example of the combination of anti-capitalism and condescension that typically informs the busybody mindset, it's pretty hard to beat.

Of course, "billboards" and "marketing" are nothing more than evil money-making, mind-control devices and techniques.

And "vulnerable communities" is a not-so-secret code for "people who need people like us to do their thinking for them".

It is also easy to mock this sort of killjoy behaviour or hit back with all the usual lines about personal choice and parental responsibility.

Though it is also probably fair to ask whether the conveners of the group have personally pledged to bake dietetic Christmas biscuits this year and serve only the lowest fat, most non-alcoholic eggnog.

But that sort of argument is small thinking and fails to take the arguments of Parents' Voice seriously. If anything, this mob is missing the forest for the Christmas trees.

Think about it: If running a soft-drink truck through towns where there is a high proportion of overweight kids is a problem, why on earth are these communities allowed to celebrate Christmas at all when the pop-culture version of the holiday centres around the myth of a big fat man loading everyone up with consumer goods?

And if marketing and billboards are a problem because, as the petition states, "one in four Australian kids (are) overweight or obese", what about the $56 billion in credit-card debt Australians are expected to rack up over November and December?

Given that no small part of that spend is likely to occur in "vulnerable communities" in response to "pester power" (the catch-all cover used by parents who find it too hard to say no to their kids), why not ban all Christmas-themed advertising?

Really, it just smacks of too much excess and fun when we should be teaching our kids to exercise, eat right, and contribute productively to the GDP.

If they were really serious, the protesters would direct their ire not at Coca-Cola but at the entire edifice of Christmas itself.

It's sometimes said people who get exercised about things such as this are just a new incarnation of the Puritans, whose doctrines writer H.L. Mencken once satirised as the haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be happy.

Though, in their defence, the Puritans who sailed for America are said to have only pulled in at Plymouth Rock because they had run out of beer.

As it turns out, this is more accurate than most breezy historical comparisons.

Back in Puritan times, Christmas was barely marked at all as they thought it all too pagan and fun.

Sadly, records are fuzzier when it comes to obesity rates in 17th-century New England. But making the kids bring in the harvest probably burned more calories than playing X-Box.

Twitter: @pwafork

We hear ya but can't really Sia

KATHY McCABE

IT'S pop but not as you know it when delivered in a stadium by that delightfully bewigged musical eccentric Sia.

The Australian songwriter to the stars has built her own career on anonymity, defiantly swapping fame for a black-and-white wig and a platform in the shadows at her Sydney concert in front of 30,000 fans at Allianz Stadium on a rainy Saturday night.

The performance art meets interpretative dance experience may have polarised her Melbourne audience, but it was clear young fans at her Sydney concert got the memo about this non-conventional pop show. Tween girls wearing her signature bob wig mirrored every move executed by Sia's teen alter ego Maddie Ziegler.

The woman behind so many chart-toppers, from concert opener Alive to Diamonds by Rihanna, sang strongly as dancers interpreted her songs.

The video screens broadcast pre-recorded clips, occasionally starring actors Kristen Wiig, Paul Gano and Ben Mendelson which were mirrored by the live performance on stage.

Close ups appeared designed to assure the audience Sia was definitely in the house. Of course, it would have been better had she reached out to her audience with some thank yous. But that's Sia. She never promised anything more than this. And the deafening cheers show they got what they came for.



Sia and her visual alter ego Maddie Ziegler. Picture: Anthony Smith

Rush quits arts academy

EXCLUSIVE

JONATHON MORAN



Rush.

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 Rebel Wilson last week.

"AACTA acknowledges the decision today of Geoffrey Rush to voluntarily step aside 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.

Foxtel executive director of television Brian Walsh has written to the board to notify it of his resignation.

Others on the board include Noni Hazlehurst, Alan Finney, Margaret Pomeranz and Mark Morrissey.

Foxtel and Channel 7 are the broadcast partners of the event and are understood to have contacted AACTA on Friday with concerns about Rush's position as head of the organisation as well as his participation in the ceremony.

"We were jointly concerned about sending the wrong message to the community and brought everyone back to the table to consider 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 2015 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 after the production came to an end.

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 Meyne Raoul 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 Jane Menelaus, would not comment.



Cruel end as system fails kids

EXCLUSIVE

ANNA CALDWELL
STATE POLITICAL 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, 11 children aged between 13 and 17 and 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 by 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 a previous suicide attempt or had made threats to end their life."

It comes as statewide figures show that of all children across the state identified in the past year as being at risk of significant harm, just one in three were assessed face-to-face by caseworkers. In October, Coroner Harriet Graeme — considering the suicide of a 13-year-old boy known to FACS — warned the government the system was in "ongoing crisis".

That boy had been reported to FACS multiple times, but was not adequately followed up before his 2013 death. Coroner Graeme 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*".



Orange Is The New Black actor Yael Stone and (inset) as Moretto and (above right) Geoffrey Rush. Main Picture: Stephen Cooper

UGLY OPEN SECRET IS CENTRE STAGE

TV and theatre star's warning

JONATHON MORAN



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 Frankenstien, 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 unsavoury or upsetting, because the culture has fostered it," she wrote in a piece yesterday for the Guardian.

"For those on the receiving end, it is so hard for a less experienced person to say 'stop' when the world you're trying to break into keeps saying 'this is normal'.

"We create the normal, and we are responsible for it."

Stone says that some people assume that the "creative arts" is a "space where it's impossible to keep interpersonal and power dynamics healthy".

But she says that is wrong.

"As these issues come to light more publicly, both at home in Australia and abroad, I have great faith that the major storytelling houses — and all workplaces — will take the opportunity to examine their culture, and foster an environment in which everyone can feel safe," she said.

The Daily Telegraph last week revealed the STC had revised its HR policies in the wake of the complaint against Rush.

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

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 "hello, everybody" when addressing Scout troops.

They also say the phrase "hello gentlemen" should be avoided and warns against calling female Scouts "ladies".

The advice has come to light just a week after it was revealed that the Girl Guides in the UK now allows boys who believe they are female to share changing rooms and toilets with girls while camping.



Bridgette van Leuven.

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 Leuven, 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 shows of world renown for them to enjoy."

The Opera House first began programming for children in 1977, four years after it first opened. "Four decades on, our program reaches 650,000 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 Leuven 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.

Menu Rewards

The Daily Telegraph

NEWS SPORT NRL ENTERTAINMENT OPINION BUSINES

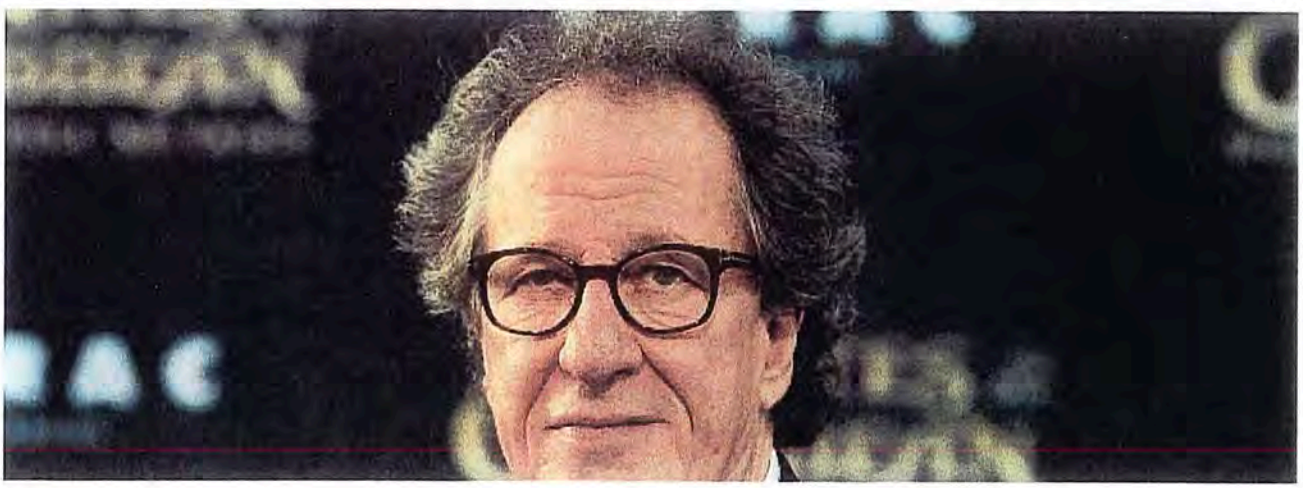
CONFIDENTIAL

AACTA Awards: Stars of stage and screen urge industry to tackle cancer of sexual harassment

Karlie Rutherford & Kris Crane, The Daily Telegraph
December 5, 2017 1:29pm
Subscriber only

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?





Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush has been stood down as AACTA president. Picture: Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP

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.







Josh Lawson said the industry will emerge stronger. Picture: Ben Rushton



Walking Dead star Callan McAuliffe worked with Rush and described him as a gentleman. Picture: Richard Dobson

"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.



Actor Hunter Page-Lochard is supporting people speaking out. Picture: Richard Dobson



800 Words star Melina Vidler is throwing her support to women across the world telling their stories. Picture: Lisa Maree Williams/Getty Images

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."



ABC host Julia Zemiro wouldn't comment on Rush but agreed abuse was rampant in the industry. Picture: Richard Dobson



Emma Booth says she is aware inappropriate behaviour goes on and described the movement as a 'beautiful change'. Picture: Richard Dobson

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."





Actress Susie Porter.

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.

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IT'LL BE UGLY

TV chiefs at centre of Rush departure

SALLY RAWSTHORNE

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 measure 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 met for crisis talks.

Foxtel executive director of television Brian Walsh resigned from his post on the board after that meeting.

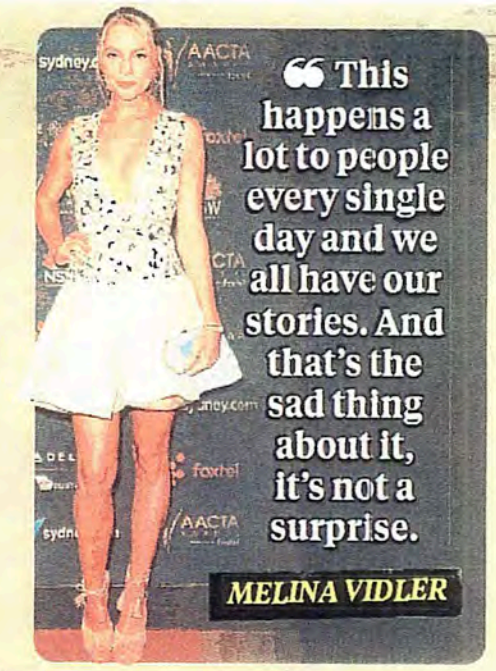
"We are concerned that the current events affecting the industry may impact on the integrity of the awards broadcast next Wednesday night," the Foxtel-Seven letter read.

"Foxtel and Seven seek assurance every effort will be made to ensure that next Wednesday night's event is one of celebration for achievement in film and television. To that end we are concerned to ensure the board expresses AACTA's general condemnation of inappropriate behaviour by anyone associated with the industry."



"I think the one way you can look at this is positive ... it's the only way you can look at it. It's like cutting out a tumour, it's messy, it's bloody and ultimately we will be better for it."

JOSH LAWSON



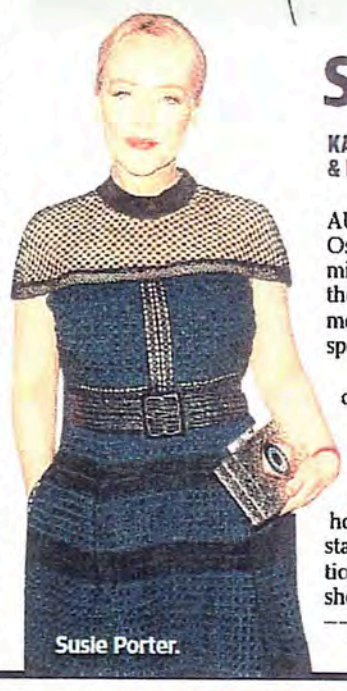
"This happens a lot to people every single day and we all have our stories. And that's the sad thing about it, it's not a surprise."

MELINA VIDLER



"It has happened to me before ... The industry is a very hyper sexual one. It happens to the best and worst of us."

CALLAN MCAULIFFE



Susie Porter.

Stars of stage and screen urge industry

KARLIE RUTHERFORD & KRIS CRANE

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.

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

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BUT WORTH IT



Glitch star Emma Booth on the red carpet yesterday. Pictures: Richard Dobson

to tackle cancer of harassment

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.

"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.

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 the less serious charge of manslaughter and jailed in May 2015 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.

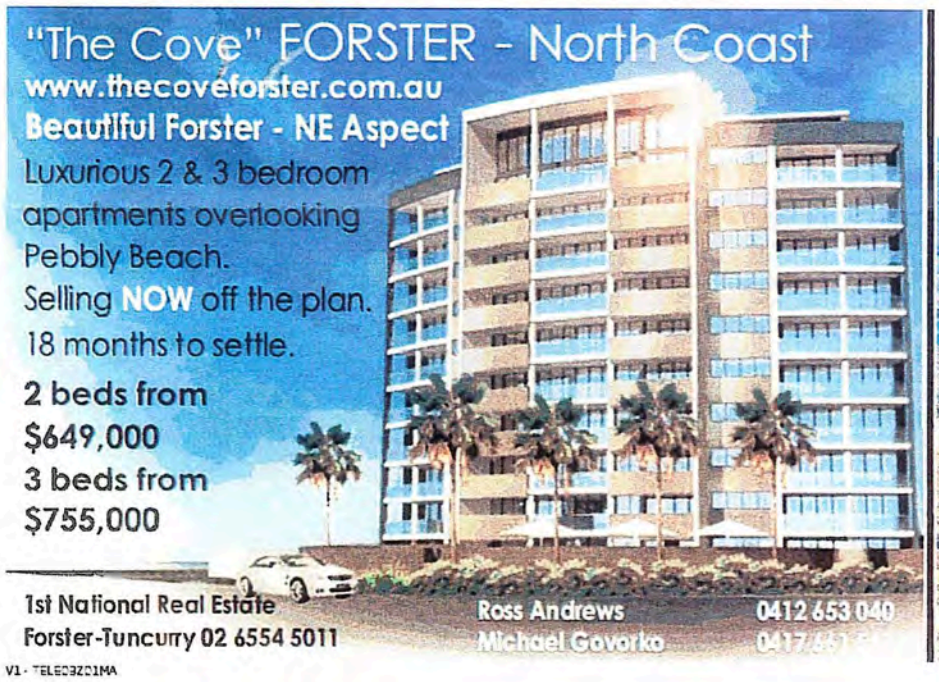


Abdallah.

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 7464 cubic metres per second — more than double what it was only nine hours earlier.





'Brave' women win praise at glam awards



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

ALISON STEPHENSON & KRIS CRANE

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 revelations came as the biggest names on Australia's small and silver screens gathered for the seventh annual Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards at The Star in Pyrmont last night.

The industry is reeling after allegations against former AACTA president Geoffrey Rush, who stood down after being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" towards a female co-star during a production of King Lear — a claim he strongly denies. And TV presenter Don Burke is facing multiple allegations, which he also denies.

"People that are brave enough to come forward are pioneers. (They) pave the way, so I will stand behind them and beside them," Wentworth star Danielle Cormack said.

Film and TV veterans Jacqueline McKenzie and Debra Lawrance both spoke of being victims of past harassment, with Lawrance saying it was from "very famous men". McKenzie said the women speaking out were bringing about "some meaningful change because it is time". "The way I dealt with things growing up is not the ideal way, but it was the only way I knew how to," she said. "I would just say, 'Get off me you perv'. I think it's a clean slate now. We have an opportunity to set a new tone and new playing field."

Star sisters Jessica and Penny McNamee also opened up about finding themselves in uncomfortable situations.

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 "sodomised" Romper Stomper co-star Jacqueline McKenzie during filming.

After first asking the gathering if they were "bored shitless", Crowe (pictured) launched into a story about filming sex scenes.

"I just want to talk about what binds us together, whether we work in film or television or theatre. I think it is two things.

"One is the driving passion for our pursuit and the other is sensitivity. I was sodomising Jacqueline McKenzie on the set of Romper Stomper and I didn't actually intend to do that. I was trying to keep my bits away from her bits.

"She had been given one of those pieces of elastic that the girls get that protects them. All my bits and pieces were in a canvas sack with a drawstring ... It wasn't until 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" by Crowe's remarks.



Rush 'just playful': Director

JACK HOUGHTON

THE director of a Sydney play at the centre of claims actor Geoffrey Rush "inappropriately touched" a co-star yesterday backed the Oscar winner, saying his "playfulness" was part of his "great artistry".

However director Neil Armfield conceded he did not know the full details of the alleged incident. "In my time in all the weeks and months of rehearsal and performance, I saw absolutely nothing other than an artist at the top of his form leading a company with respect and playfulness and great artistry," Neil Armfield told ABC presenter Fran Kelly. "(The allegation) is not (sexual in nature). It is inappropriate behaviour."



Armfield.

A stunned Kelly followed up by asking if he knew details of the allegation. "No. I do not," Armfield replied.

Spacey was sex suspect

PRODUCTION on the 1995 film The Usual Suspects was shut down for two days after actor Kevin Spacey was accused of "inappropriate sexual behaviour," his co-star Gabriel Byrne has revealed.

Byrne said Spacey 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 predations," Byrne said.

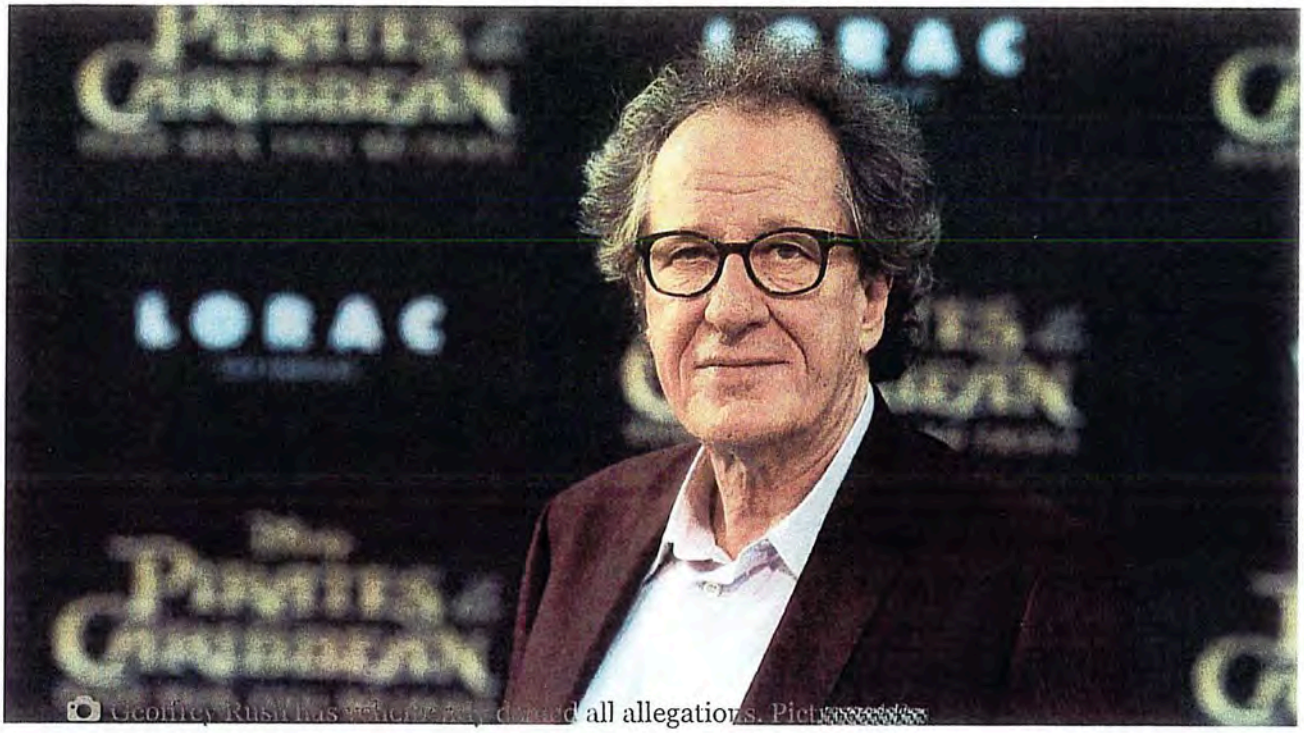
Byrne labelled Spacey a "bully" like movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

All the winners and the glam from the big night in Sydney Confidential PAGES 26-27

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The Daily Telegraph



Geoffrey Rush has vehemently denied all allegations. Picture

NSW

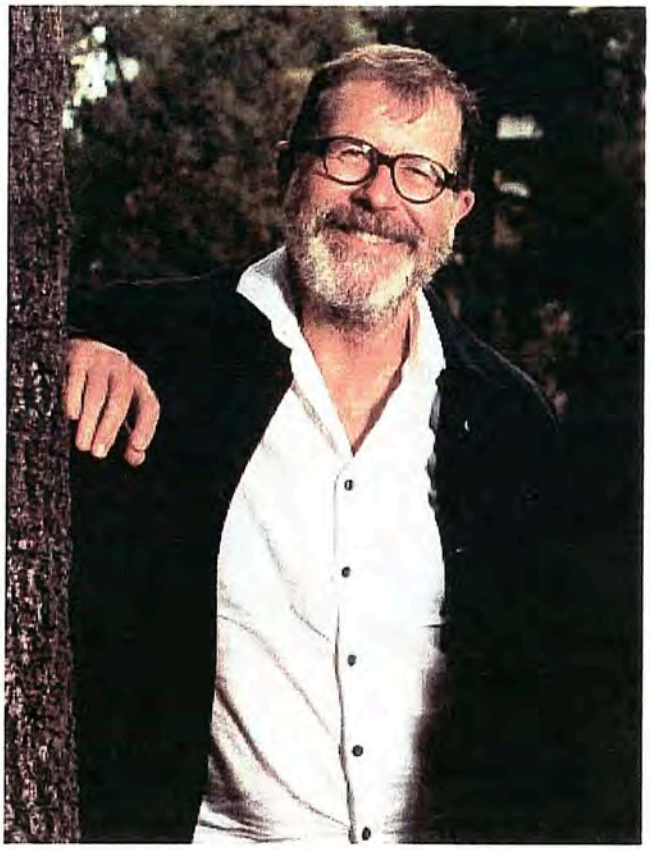
Sydney Theatre Company and King Lear director backs Geoffrey Rush

jack hougton, The Daily Telegraph
December 7, 2017 12:00am
Subscriber only

THE director of a Sydney play at the centre of claims actor Geoffrey Rush "inappropriately touched" a co-star yesterday backed the Oscar-winner, saying his "playfulness" was also part of his "great artistry".

However, he also conceded he did not actually know the full details of the alleged incident. "In my time in all the weeks and months of rehearsal and performance, I saw absolutely nothing other than an artist at the top of his form leading a company with respect and playfulness and great artistry," Neil Armfield told ABC presenter Fran Kelly.

"Even talking about this as a sexual allegation is completely inappropriate. It is not (sexual in nature). It is inappropriate behaviour."



Acclaimed director Neil Armfield. Picture: Matt Loxton



ABC presenter Fran Kelly.

A stunned Kelly followed up by asking if Armfield knew details of the allegations.

"No, I do not know the details. The details have not been revealed," Armfield told the radio presenter.

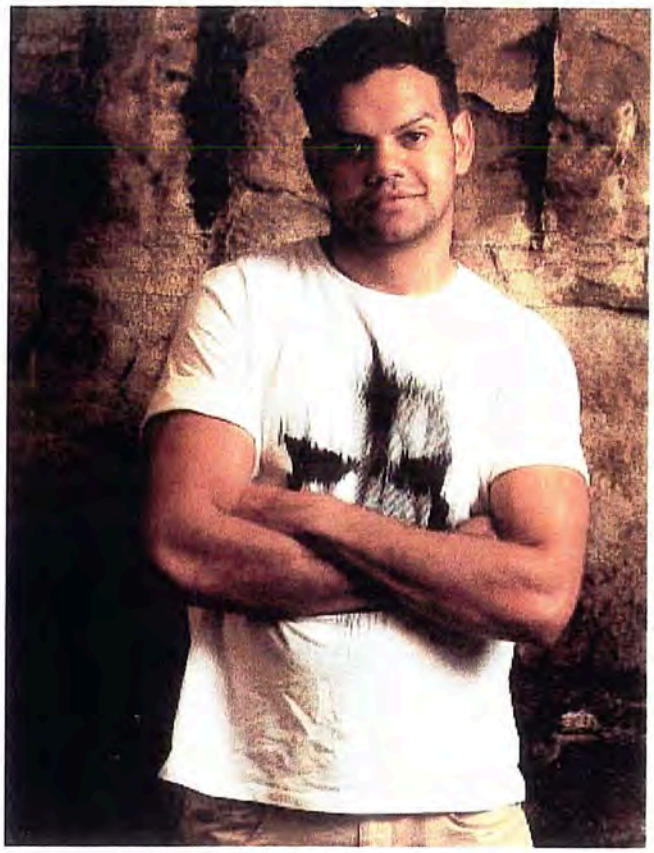
RUSH DENIES 'INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR'

RUSH'S FULL DENIAL OF ACCUSAL

Mr Armfield also took aim at two Sydney Theatre Company actors who came forward in defence of the complainant, including rising young actor Meyne Raoul Wyatt who urged the public to believe the woman.

"The two actors who have come out in support — one of them wasn't in the cast at all," he said.

"There is so much chatter about — as I understand it — it is a matter only between the complainant and the company.



Meyne Wyatt at the Sydney Theatre Company in Walsh Bay.



Geoffrey Rush and Robyn Nevin in the STC production of King Lear. Picture: Heidrun Löhr

"The complainant did not even wish for Geoffrey Rush to know about this. It was between the Sydney Theatre Company and the complainant."

"(I was not told of the allegations) until months after the production had finished."

GUESS THE NEXT LINE IN THE CAROL

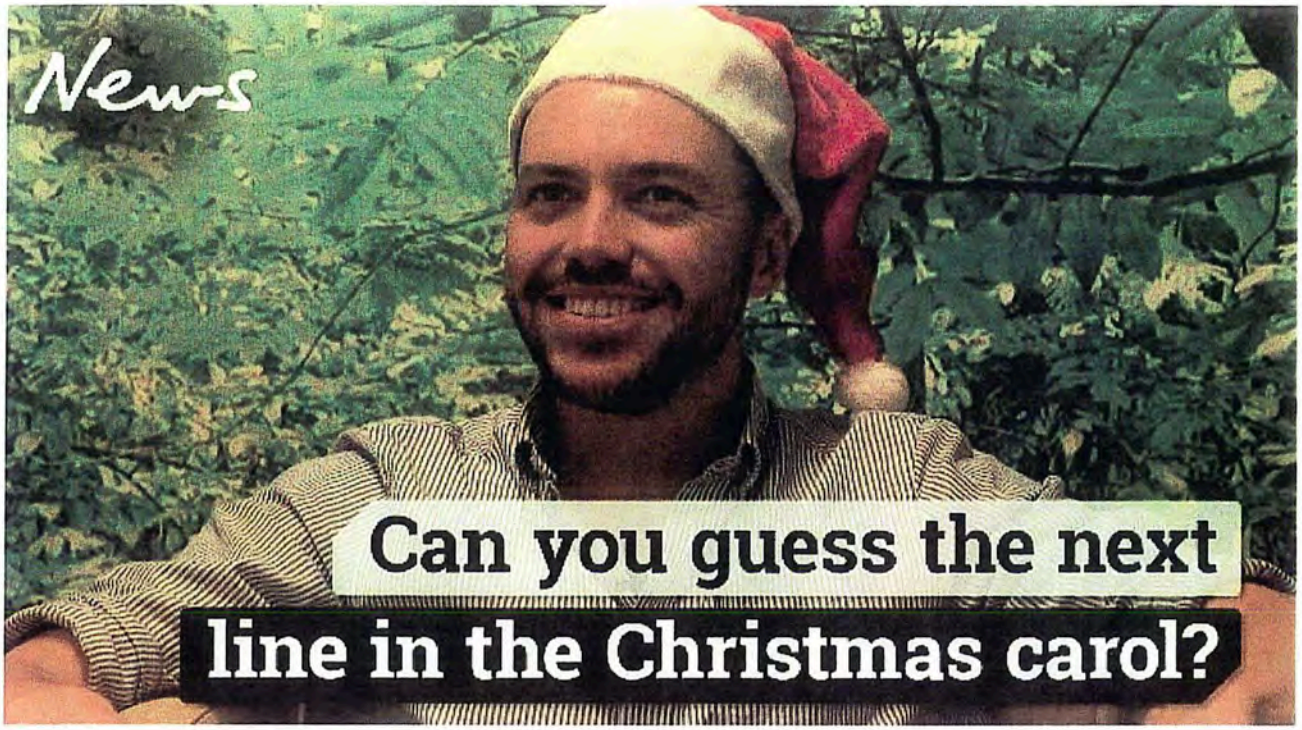
Guess the next line in the carol

Rush was accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of King Lear.

The star vigorously denied the allegations and complained he was never told of any allegations of wrong doing.

The production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran at the Roslyn Packer Theatre between November 2015 to January 2016.




News
Can you guess the next
line in the Christmas carol?



Actor Geoffrey Rush at his press conference in Melbourne. Picture: Jay Town

NSW

Actor Geoffrey Rush launches court action over Sydney Theatre Company claims

Sally Rawsthorne, The Daily Telegraph
December 8, 2017 3:45pm

MELBOURNE actor Geoffrey Rush has fronted for the first time since being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" while starring in a Sydney play, saying coverage of the case was "demeaning" and "hurtful".

The character actor refused to take questions but delivered a solemn statement about the Sydney Theatre Company claims, revealed by The Daily Telegraph.

Rush stood with his lawyer to declare that he would launch legal action over the reports in The Daily Telegraph.

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said. He said The Daily Telegraph had made "false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages".



Rush stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community."

The Daily Telegraph stands by its reporting of the complaint made against Rush during his last stint at the STC for the production of King Lear.

Editor Christopher Dore said the newspaper would defend its accurate reporting in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," Mr Dore said.

"We will defend our position in court."

At the centre of the drama was a complaint revealed by the STC made by one of its actors against Rush.

The STC told The Daily Telegraph that it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" after the 2015 production of the Shakespeare play.

The nation's premier theatre company said it would protect the identity of the complainant and would work to "minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace".

Rush subsequently stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced.

Lawyer Nicholas Pullen yesterday said Rush, 66, would not answer questions.

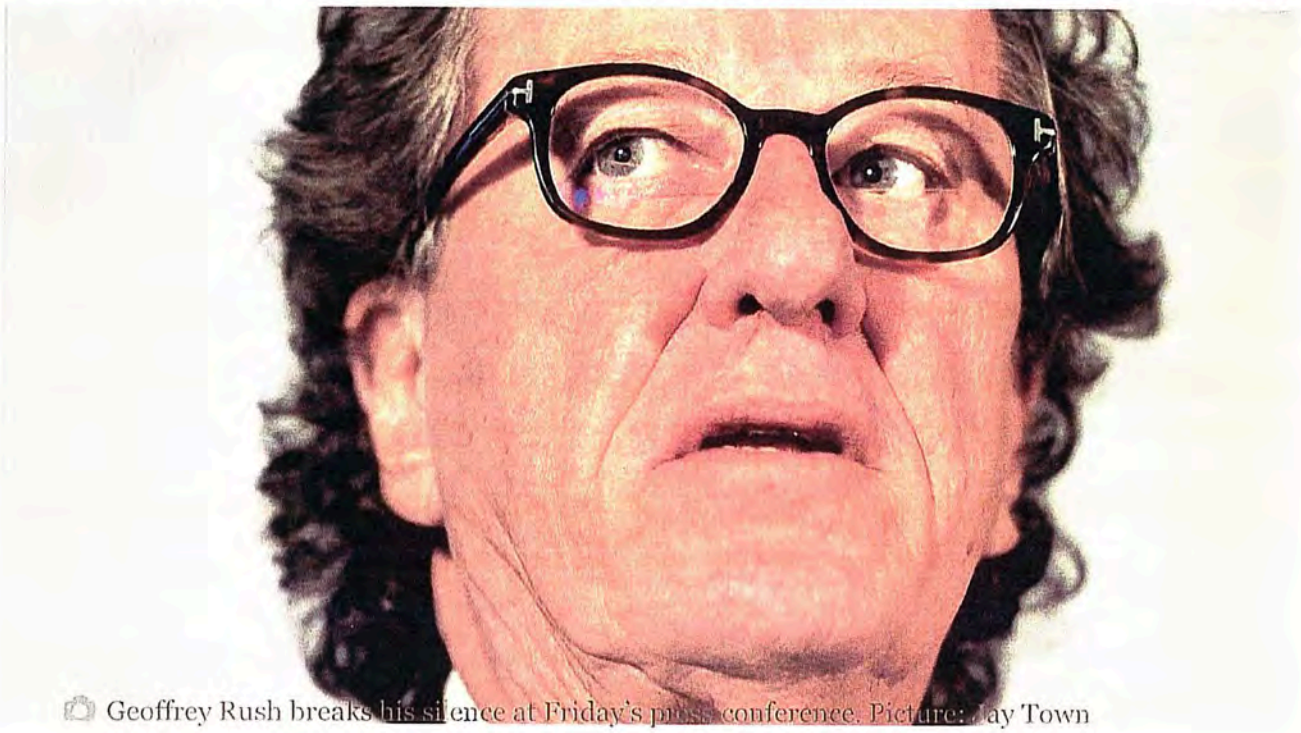
The matter will go before the Federal Court in Sydney on February 8.



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The Daily Telegraph

NEWS SPORT NRL ENTERTAINMENT OPINION BUSINES



Geoffrey Rush breaks his silence at Friday's press conference. Picture: Jay Town

CELEBRITY LIFE

Geoffrey Rush responds to allegations of inappropriate behaviour

James Weir, news.com.au
December 8, 2017 2:22pm

VETERAN Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has broken his silence on the allegations of inappropriate behaviour being made against him, dubbing the claims "intolerable" and announcing he's filed a defamation lawsuit.

Rush, 66, faced media in Melbourne on Friday where he denied the claims that allegedly occurred during his time with the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear in 2015.

The actor said he would be taking legal action against *The Daily Telegraph* for publishing reports about the claims, which he dubbed "false", "demeaning", and "intolerable".

"It is an action I'm taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community," he said.

"This has created irreparable damage to my reputation, has been extremely hurtful to my wife, my daughter and my son and to my extended family as well as to many colleagues in the film, told vision and theatre industry.

"The situation is intolerable and I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts."

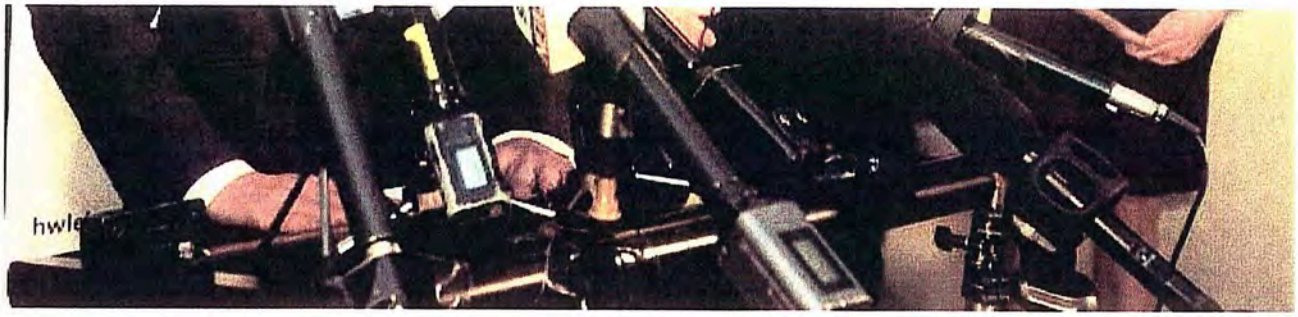
Following the statement, Rush did not take questions from reporters. The matter will go before the Federal Court in Sydney on February 8.

In response to Rush's decision, *The Daily Telegraph's* editor Chris Dore defended the newspaper's decison to publish the story.

"*The Daily Telegraph* accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," Dore said.

"We will defend our position in court."





'Intolerable' ... Geoffrey addresses the claims on Friday.

Today's press conference is Rush's first public appearance since the claims were reported.

Following last week's reports of the incident, The Sydney Theatre Company confirmed it received a complaint but would not disclose details of the allegations.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation," a statement read. The theatre company said it complied "in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."



Geoffrey Rush makes his first media appearance since the claims.

Soon after the allegations were reported, Rush stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards, just days before the organisation's seventh ceremony. He was absent from Wednesday's televised event in Sydney, where stars dodged questions from reporters about the allegations.

When asked about the claims being leveled against Rush, Australian actress Rachel Griffiths said the actor "is not Harvey Weinstein" — referencing the Hollywood mogul who faces multiple allegations of sexual misconduct.

"Geoffrey Rush is not Harvey Weinstein and I have had more than a handful of interactions with Harvey Weinstein," Griffiths told the ABC on the red carpet.

The veteran actor received acclaim for his breakthrough performance in the 1996 film *Shine*, which earnt him an Academy Award, Golden Globe and BAFTA.

Rush is one of Australia's most respected exports, starring in acclaimed films like *Shakespeare in Love , Elizabeth* and *The King's Speech*.

— with AAP

The Daily Telegraph is owned by News Corporation, the publisher of this website.

Originally published as Geoffrey Rush breaks his silence

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The Daily Telegraph

NEWS BREAKING NEWS NEWSLOCAL NSW NATIONAL



Behind-the-scenes at the Pirates of the Caribbean Gold Coast set

NATIONAL

Geoffrey Rush announces he will bring defamation action over allegations of inappropriate behaviour

Danielle McGrane, AAP, Herald Sun
December 8, 2017 4:57pm

GEOFFREY RUSH will bring defamation proceedings over allegations of inappropriate behaviour made against him.

The Oscar winner today announced that he would take action in the Federal Court against the *Daily Telegraph*, which published the story.



Geoffrey Rush at today's press conference in Melbourne. Picture: AAP



Actor Geoffrey Rush before speaking to the media today. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said.

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



Reece Hooker
@ReeceJHooker

Geoffrey Rush: "I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts."

3:02 PM - Dec 8, 2017

1 4 8

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said Rush was unable to answer questions about the case.

He announced the legal proceedings today at the offices of law firm HWL Ebsworth in Melbourne.



Rush won an Oscar for Shine. AP Photo/Reed Saxon





Rush with Johnny Depp in Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides.

The veteran actor's breakthrough performance in the 1996 film *Shine*, earnt him an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA.

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

Rush, 66, lives in Melbourne with his wife.

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

"We will defend our position in court."

READ MORE: OSCAR WINNER DENIES INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Originally published as Rush to take action over allegations

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The Daily Telegraph

NEWS BREAKING NEWS NEWSLOCAL NSW NATIONAL



Actor Geoffrey Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph. Picture: AAP Image/Wayne Taylor

NSW

Geoffrey Rush tries to 'strike out' parts of defamation defence

SARAH CRAWFORD, The Daily Telegraph
February 8, 2018 3:13pm
Subscriber only

ACTOR Geoffrey Rush is attempting to suppress accusations contained in defence documents lodged in court by The Daily Telegraph in his defamation case.

The Oscar winner, who is suing the Telegraph for its reporting of a Sydney Theatre Company investigation into allegations of inappropriate behaviour against him, is seeking to "strike out" parts of the newspaper's defence documents and block their public release.

His barrister Richard McHugh SC argued in the Federal Court today 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.

"This goes vastly beyond what was in the article," Mr McHugh said.

Mr McHugh said the articles alleged "inappropriate behaviour" towards another cast member but never "spelled out" what Mr Rush was alleged to have done.



Geoffrey Rush is attempting to suppress accusations contained in defence documents. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

"They suggest that there has been some form of sexual misconduct that they don't spell out," he said.

Barrister for The Daily Telegraph, Lyndelle Barnett told Justice Michael Wigney that The Daily Telegraph opposed the "strike out " application.

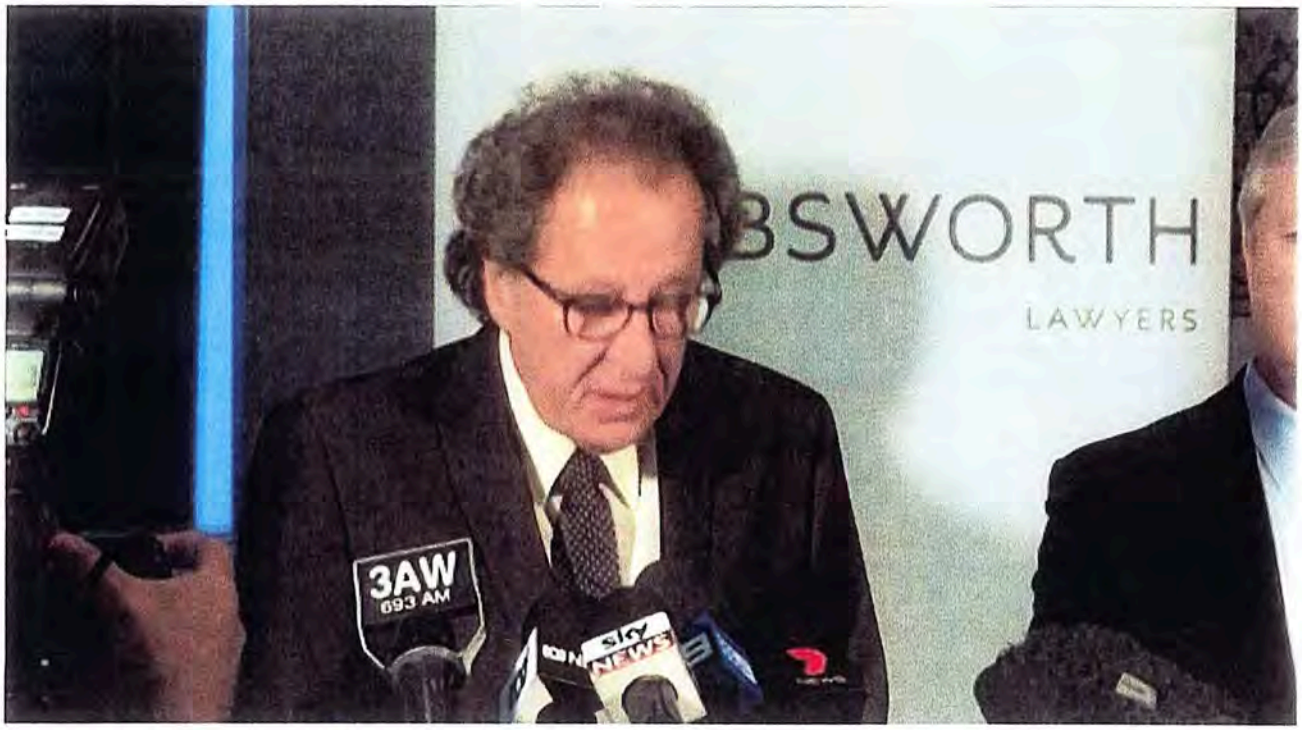
She said that the articles did, "not make any allegation that Mr Rush engaged in inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature."

Ms Barnett said The Daily Telegraph had more information at the time of publication, which was later included in the defence papers, that it chose not to put in the articles.

"It was information we had and we didn't publish it, this shows our level of reasonableness," she said.

Justice Wigney deferred argument on the issue to later this month and issued an interim suppression order, noting the amount of material Mr Rush's legal team wanted struck out.

He found that so much material would have to be redacted to preserve Mr Rush's position that it would nullify the argument that the document should be released in the interests of the fair and open administration of justice.



Actor Geoffrey Rush to sue Daily Telegraph over claims

The Pirates of the Caribbean star, who did not appear at court today, has launched defamation action over articles published last year that he was the subject of a complaint involving "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear which ran from November 2015 until January 2016.

He has denied the allegations and lodged a statement of claim in the Federal Court claiming the articles conveyed "defamatory meanings"

including that he was a "pervert" and "behaved as a sexual predator" while performing in the play.

The Daily Telegraph lodged its defence to the statement of claim last week.

All parties agreed to a proposal by Justice Wigney to keep the Daily Telegraph's defence document confidential until the next hearing on February 19.

Lawyers acting for Channel Nine and Fairfax have told the court they will also make an application on that day for the defence document to be released to the public



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CIRCUS ANIMALS

Court reveals alleged 'child abuse ring' P4-5

EXCLUSIVE

JOBS FOR THE GIRL

Plum promotion for Joyce's lover



SHARRI MARKSON & KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

BARNABY Joyce's mistress was parachuted into a high-paying job specifically created for her with Nationals mate Matt Canavan after the affair started creating turmoil within the Deputy PM's office.

Mr Joyce's highly respected chief of staff Di Hallam ultimately quit her job over his relationship with the more junior adviser Vikki Campion, who was promoted into the new role with the Resources Minister. The Daily Telegraph can reveal the social media job was created for Ms Campion, who is now carrying Mr Joyce's fifth child, and was not filled when she moved to another MP's office months later. Mr Canavan's spokeswoman would not say why the new role had to be created but said Ms Campion was "suitably qualified ... given her long history as a media professional".

↘ FULL REPORTS PAGES 8-9

RUSH SILENCE BID

SARAH CRAWFORD

ACTOR Geoffrey Rush is trying to suppress The Daily Telegraph's defence to a defamation claim he lodged in the Federal Court — even trying to stop a redacted version from being made public.

Rush, who is suing over a report of a Sydney Theatre Company investigation into allegations of inappropriate behaviour, is attempting to "strike out" parts of the defence documents because they go "vastly beyond what was in the article".

Barrister for The Daily Telegraph Lyndelle Barnett said the newspaper had more information at the time of publication, which was later included in the defence papers, that it chose not to put in the articles. "This shows our level of reasonableness," she said.

↘ FULL REPORT PAGE 17

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EXPOSED: Court reveals alleged 'child abuse ring'

CIRCUS ANIMALS

IAN PATERSON

THE four adults who allegedly used a circus troupe as a front to carry out sadistic sex acts on children as young as three can now be revealed.

The grey-haired and eccentric Therese Ann Cook — who founded the "family friendly" Katoomba circus in 2009 — is understood to be the central figure of what one cop labelled the most sickening case he had encountered.

The 58-year-old faces 43 offences, including sexual intercourse with a child under 10 and holding children against their will. Her brother Paul Cook and her daughters Yyani Cook-Williams and Clarissa Meredith have also been charged with multiple offences. One of the most heinous allegations is against 29-year-old burlesque dancer and actor Yyani.

She is accused of "inciting" a boy to rape another little boy on Anzac Day last year.

The four adults are understood to have lived together in two homes on a rundown rural property strewn with rubbish and rusted toys next to a dog pound.

FULL REPORT PAGES 4-5

A JOB FOR THE GIRL

SCOOP

SHARRI MARKSON & KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

A HIGH-paying job was created specifically for Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce's mistress in the office of his close friend, Resources Minister Matt Canavan, after the affair started to create dysfunction in his office.

Vikki Campion was given the newly established role of a senior adviser in Senator Canavan's office on merit focusing on his social media.

The six-figure job was created even as others within the party became increasingly concerned about Mr Joyce betraying his wife and mother of his four kids.

The role was not replaced when Ms Campion left to work for another Nationals MP.

↘ FULL REPORTS PAGES 8-9



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Barrister for The Daily Telegraph, Lyndelle Barnett, said the newspaper had more information at the time of publication, which was later included in the defence papers.

↘ FULL REPORT PAGE 17

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WPP041215 MA

Hurt actor takes action

Telegraph faces defamation suit

MATTHEW BENNS

MELBOURNE actor Geoffrey Rush has fronted for the first time since being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" while starring in a Sydney play, saying coverage of the case was "demeaning" and "hurtful".

The character actor refused to take questions but delivered a solemn statement about the Sydney Theatre Company claims, revealed by The Daily Telegraph.

Rush stood with his lawyer to declare that he would launch legal action over the reports in The Daily Telegraph.

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said. He said The Daily Telegraph had made "false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages".

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community."

The Daily Telegraph stands by its reporting of the complaint made against Rush during his last stint at the STC for the production of King Lear.

Editor Christopher Dore said the newspaper would defend its accurate reporting in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," Mr Dore said. "We will defend our position in court."

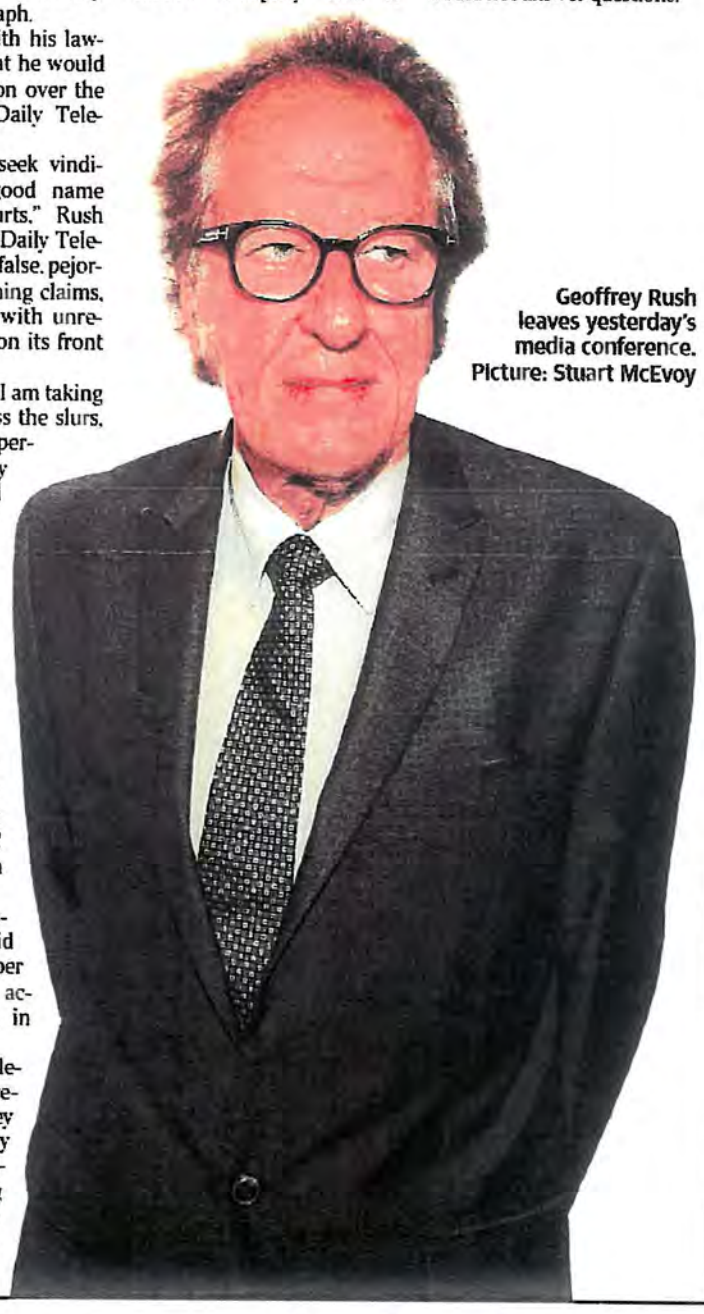
At the centre of the drama was a complaint revealed by the STC made by one of its actors against Rush.

The STC told The Daily Telegraph that it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" after the 2015 production of the Shakespeare play.

The nation's premier theatre company said it would protect the identity of the complainant and would work to "minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace".

Rush subsequently stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced.

Lawyer Nicholas Pullen yesterday said Rush, 66, would not answer questions.



Geoffrey Rush leaves yesterday's media conference. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

Education 'sorry' for funding flub

NATASHA BITA

THE federal Education Department has apologised for a data bungle that blamed Lutheran schools for pocketing the wrong government grants.

The department apologised "unreservedly" for handing the wrong data to the Auditor-General's office, which published a scathing report on schools funding on Wednesday.

The dud data showed that St John's Lutheran Primary School at Jindera had received only $469,000 of its $1.7 million government grant. But the Department yesterday admitted the school received it all.

The audit report also claimed that St Paul's College in Walla Walla had pocketed twice as much money as it was allocated, but the department yesterday said it had received the correct amount.

"The department can assure the Lutheran schools and the broader community that the funding for these schools has been paid in accordance with ... the Act," the department said.

It also apologised for failing to correct data showing Cathedral College in Wangaratta had been overpaid $4.4 million.

Lutheran Education NSW spokesman Julian Denholm said it was "disappointing that such a fundamental error was made by the department".

TELE01Z01MA - V1

The Daily Telegraph
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CIRCUS ANIMALS

Court reveals alleged 'child abuse ring' P4-5

EXCLUSIVE

JOBS FOR THE GIRL

Plum promotion for Joyce's lover



SHARRI MARKSON & KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

BARNABY Joyce's mistress was parachuted into a high-paying job specifically created for her with Nationals mate Matt Canavan after the affair started creating turmoil within the Deputy PM's office.

Mr Joyce's highly respected chief of staff Di Hallam ultimately quit her job over his relationship with the more junior adviser Vikki Campion, who was promoted into the new role with the Resources Minister. The Daily Telegraph can reveal the social media job was created for Ms Campion, who is now carrying Mr Joyce's fifth child, and was not filled when she moved to another MP's office months later. Mr Canavan's spokeswoman would not say why the new role had to be created but said Ms Campion was "suitably qualified ... given her long history as a media professional".

FULL REPORTS PAGES 8-9

RUSH SILENCE BID

SARAH CRAWFORD

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Rush, who is suing over a report of a Sydney Theatre Company investigation into allegations of inappropriate behaviour, is attempting to "strike out" parts of the defence documents because they go "vastly beyond what was in the article".

Barrister for The Daily Telegraph Lyndelle Barnett said the newspaper had more information at the time of publication, which was later included in the defence papers, that it chose not to put in the articles. "This shows our level of reasonableness," she said.

FULL REPORT PAGE 17

NEW Enid Blyton BOOK TODAY P2 JUST $3

V1 - TELE09Z01MA



Melbourne expat and fierce Storm fan Emma Freedman is joining Foxtel's NRL team. Picture: Tim Hunter

Rush in bid to block defence

Actor's attempt to suppress claims

SARAH CRAWFORD

ACTOR Geoffrey Rush is attempting to suppress accusations contained in defence documents lodged in court by The Daily Telegraph in his defamation case.

Mr Rush (pictured), who is suing the Telegraph for its reporting of a Sydney Theatre Company investigation into allegations of inappropriate behaviour against him, is seeking to "strike out" parts of the newspaper's defence documents and block their public release.

His barrister Richard McHugh SC argued in the Federal Court yesterday 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.

"This goes vastly beyond what was in the article," Mr McHugh said.

He said the articles alleged "inappropriate behaviour" towards another cast member but never "spelled out" what Mr Rush was alleged to have done.

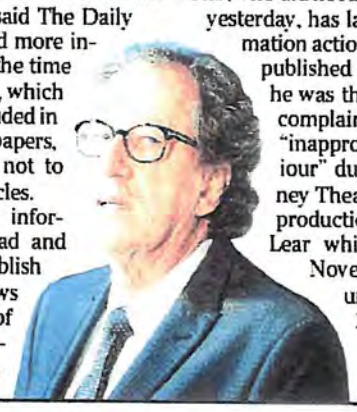
"They suggest that there has been some form of sexual misconduct that they don't spell out," he said.

Barrister for The Daily Telegraph, Lyndelle Barnett told Justice Michael Wigney the newspaper opposed the "strike out" application.

Ms Barnett said the articles "did not make any allegation that Mr Rush engaged in inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature". She said The Daily Telegraph had more information at the time of publication, which was later included in the defence papers, that it chose not to put in the articles.

"It was information we had and we didn't publish it, this shows our level of reasonableness." Ms Barnett said. Justice Wigney deferred argument on the issue to later this month and issued an interim suppression order, noting the amount of material Mr Rush's legal team wanted struck out. He found that so much material would have to be redacted to preserve Mr Rush's position that it would nullify the argument that the document should be released in the interests of the fair and open administration of justice.

The Pirates of the Caribbean star, who did not appear at court yesterday, has launched defamation action over articles published last year that he was the subject of a complaint involving "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear which ran from November 2015 until January 2016. He has denied the allegations.



SCORING IN THE BIG LEAGUE

MATT LOGUE

SHE hails from Melbourne, but Emma Freedman has left aerial ping-pong behind to embrace real football — and Matty Johns can take the credit.

The daughter of horse racing trainer Lee Freedman will join Fox Sports' rugby league coverage this year, after a year learning from Johns as part of Triple M's breakfast show The Grill Team.

"There's no one better to sit next to day to day to get your head around rugby league than Matthew Johns," Freedman, a fierce Storm supporter, said. "He has been a great mentor, in terms of learning the game a little more and talking about the issues that the game is facing."

Freedman will be seen on various shows, including the League Life program.

FULL REPORT: SPORT



'MONA LISA' UNDER HAMMER

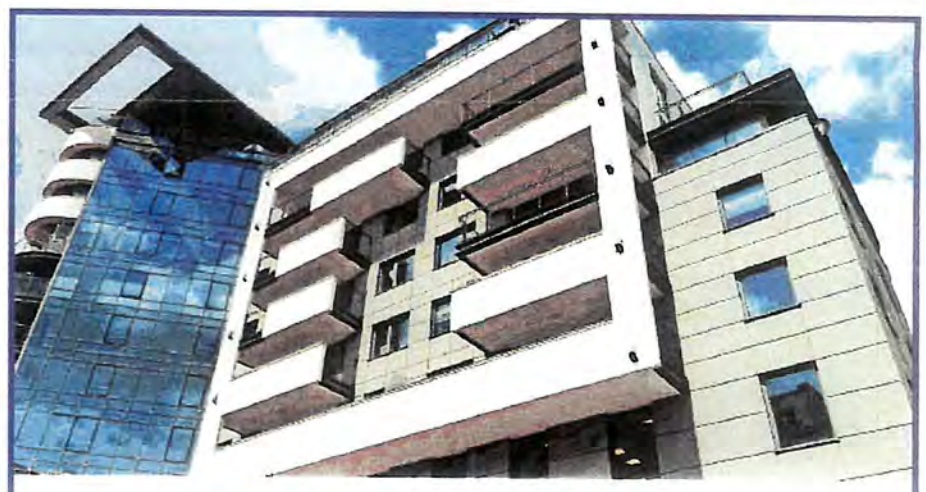
THIS is the painting dubbed the "African Mona Lisa" which was recently uncovered in a London flat.

Ben Enwonwu's 1974 painting of Adetutu "Tutu" Ademiluyi, daughter of a Yoruba king, has taken on almost mythical status in the painter's native Nigeria.

It was last seen in 1975 but is now up for sale after its surprise rediscovery. "It has been a legendary painting for 40 years, everybody keeps talking about Tutu, saying 'where is Tutu?'," award-winning author Ben Okri said.

The work will go under the hammer at auction house Bonhams on February 28.

Enwonwu, who died in 1994, is considered the father of Nigerian modernism. He made three paintings of "Tutu", the locations of all of which had been a mystery until the recent discovery.



Is the cladding on your apartment building fire safe?

The NSW Government is taking action to identify unsafe cladding and ensure buildings are safe. It has also introduced new laws to ban unsafe building products from use in NSW.

Make sure your building is safe:

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- Ensure a fire safety professional has inspected any cladding
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SCOOP

LET JOYCE KEEP HIS JOB: WIFE

SHARRI MARKSON & KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

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 luxury boat birthday party of a major Coalition donor 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 hesitant to agree to a major media interview.

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

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

FULL REPORTS PAGES 10-11



SCOOP

ABBOTT'S BIG DIG AT GLIB MAL

SHARRI MARKSON

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 "insiders versus outsiders" chasm 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 110,000 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 house prices more affordable.

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

"All too often, it seems, the people

CONTINUED PAGE 11

THE TELE ON TRIAL



Geoffrey Rush and Eryn Jean Norvill (right) during a rehearsal for the Sydney Theatre Company's King Lear.

'STOP DOING IT'

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

MATTHEW BENNS

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

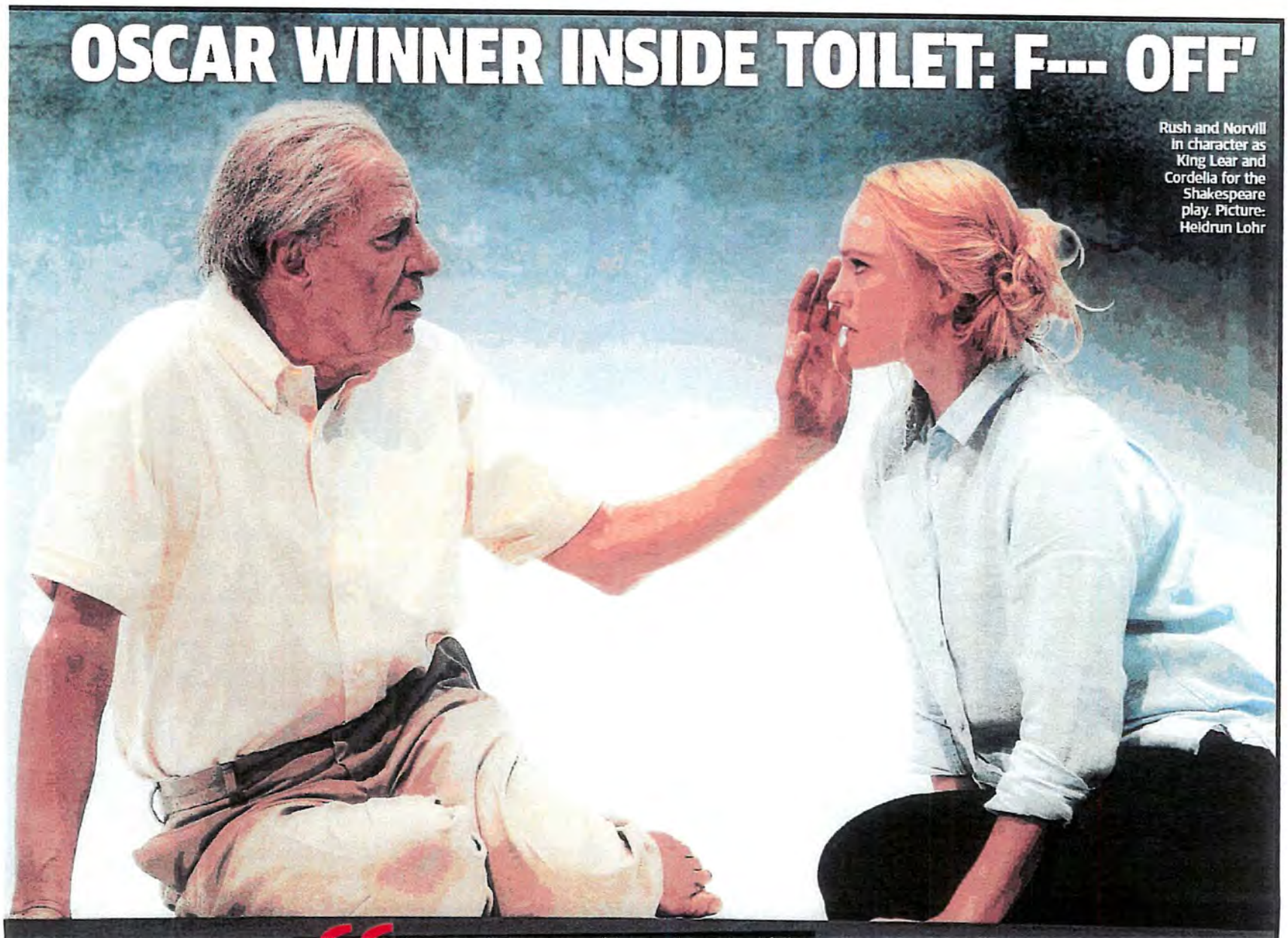
It was also alleged that Rush followed highly regarded stage star Eryn Jean Norvill into the female toilets at the after-party on the final night of King Lear and stood outside her cubicle until she told him to "F... off".

The incident allegedly left her "visibly upset". Norvill complained about the star after he allegedly touched her on five separate nights during the final week of the STC production, the court heard. Rush, 66, is suing The Daily Telegraph for its reporting of 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 rejecting an application by Rush's lawyer to stop details of the defence of truth being made public. Justice Michael Wigney said concerns about releasing details were outweighed by the need for open justice.

FULL REPORTS PAGES 6-7

V1 - TELE03Z01MA

OSCAR WINNER INSIDE TOILET: F--- OFF'



Rush and Norvill in character as King Lear and Cordelia for the Shakespeare play. Picture: Heidrun Lohr

"The allegation is ... she was touched in a way that made her uncomfortable. She said stop and he kept doing it."

Tom Blackburn, SC, counsel for Nationwide News

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 argued the request for a subpoena was 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 claims" in its report of the complaint from the actress to the STC.



Competition is open to Australian residents only. The Competition opens 16/02/2018 at 9:00 am AEDT and concludes 06/03/2018 at 9:00 am AEDT. Winners drawn at 2 Holt Street, Surry Hills, NSW, 2010 and will be notified by telephone or email on 07/03/2018 at 10:00 am. Total prize value is $12,000. This competition is a Game of Skill. For full terms and conditions visit escape.com.au/win

V1 - TELE0920MA

We lived next door to malice

NEIGHBOURS of Australian terrorist Khaled Sharrouf have given a scathing account of the IS recruit's time in Syria.

Sharrouf, 36, who packed up his young family and travelled half way 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 Islamic law," his neighbour Abdel Aziz Bin Khalafa told ABC's Four Corners. Mr Bin Khalafa remembered the way Sharrouf exposed his children to a violent life.



Sharrouf.

"Whenever he would step outside here, as soon as he'd see me, he'd carry his weapons and fire in the air as if he wanted to make a point — I am here, I have weapons," Mr Bin Khalafa said.

His neighbours often complained to IS about his behaviour and the extremists eventually turned on him, one time sending security to reprimand him 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 civil life.

Opening the Supreme Court class action yesterday, the men's barrister, Nick Kidd SC, said their training contracts were binding but were not honoured by the Royal Australian Navy. One man claimed he and other recruits posted to HMAS Kuttabul in 2011 spent a lot of time just playing games on their phones.

REVEALED

'UPSET ACTOR TOLD YOUNG STAR'S BOLD CLAIMS



Actress Eryn Jean Norvill, who made a complaint to the STC after the King Lear production. Picture: Carly Earl

MATTHEW BENNS
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

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 highly regarded 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 on five occasions 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 of the STC's performance of the Shakespeare classic and stood outside her cubicle until she told him to "F... off".

The incident allegedly left her "visibly upset".

Rush, 66, is suing The Daily Telegraph for its reporting of Ms Norvill's complaint about alleged inappropriate behaviour made to the Sydney Theatre Company 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.

Upon application by Dauid Sibtain, representing Fairfax Media and Channel 9, Justice Michael Wigney said fears that releasing details of the defence case could further damage Rush's reputation were outweighed by the need for open justice.

For the first time the extent of the allegations against Rush can now be revealed.

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



One of the stories at the centre of Rush's legal claim.

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 STC production's run 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 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 crush" on the actress was clearly said in jest.

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

According to The Daily Telegraph's defence, Rush engaged in further inappropriate behaviour at the party to celebrate the final night of the production at the Walsh Bay Kitchen, next door to the play's venue.

During the party for cast and crew Rush "entered the female bathroom located in the foyer of the Roslyn Packer Theatre, knowing (Norvill) was in there, and stood outside a cubicle" that she was in.

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



Banging the drum for nukes

ANNA CALDWELL

DEPUTY Premier John Barilaro has taken his pitch to turn NSW into the nuclear power state to the US.

Mr Barilaro has been meeting American companies that will build the world's first small modular reactor.

Speaking in Atlanta overnight he predicted the tide of public opinion against nuclear energy in Australia could change in the next decade.

"Turning public opinion takes time. I believe this can be achieved though in the next five to 10 years — certainly by the time the first small modular reactor is ready for export from the US to down under," he told a nuclear conference.



Mr Barilaro.

Mr Barilaro said that when he first put his support of nuclear energy on the record last year, he came under attack from the "political classes".

However, he says the reception on the ground with voters has been far more supportive.

"Travelling the state, I am continually asked when the nuclear option will be on the table," he said. "And it is no surprise — Australians now pay some of the highest prices for power in the world."

UV risk on nail lamps

IT'S not just tanning salons that can damage skin — using a UV lamp on nails can also increase the risk of skin cancer.

UV lamps are often used to harden gel nails during a professional manicure treatment.

However, experts say sunscreen should be applied to the hands before receiving the beauty treatment.

With treatments required every few weeks and lamps emitting radiation properties similar to traditional UV tanning sunbeds for five minutes per hand, skin doctors believe more research is needed into the carcinogenic potential of nail lamps.

Research published in this week's Australasian Journal of Dermatology highlights that only 3 per cent of people apply sunscreen prior to receiving a manicure and it is rare that a nail salon would advise it.

NURSE IN 'ASSAULT' ON CANCER PATIENT



The 45-year-old nurse (left) is arrested over the alleged assault on pensioner Janice Bennett at the Hospital for Specialist Surgery (inset). Main picture: NSW Police

Hospital staffer faces 'mugging' allegations

SARAH CRAWFORD & REBECCA PARISH

A NURSE at a top private hospital allegedly assaulted and robbed an elderly cancer patient as she lay sleeping in her bed after an operation in a shocking attack the victim likened to a "terrible nightmare".

Janice Bennett, 75, described how, in a drug-induced daze following surgery, she fought back as a shadowy figure held her down in her bed in the middle of the night demanding her PIN numbers for her credit cards.

"I'm 75 but I fought back. It's the normal thing to do ... she kept holding me down and wanting my PIN numbers — it was like a dream ... some sort of terrible nightmare," she said.

Police allege the nurse stole Mrs Bennett's credit cards, forced her to reveal ID numbers and then withdrew $1000 from her account from an ATM at a nearby shopping centre.

The attack is alleged to have happened at the Hospital for Specialist Surgery at Bella Vista on March 16 but Mrs Bennett said she did not raise the alarm until 5am the next day when she rang her son to say she thought "she was being hurt".

When her family arrived and saw the extent of her injuries they alerted hospital staff but it was hours before they realised her credit cards were missing.

Mrs Bennett was left battered and bruised by the alleged attack and needed treatment from a plastic surgeon to repair the fragile skin on her left forearm which had been torn from wrist to elbow.

But it is the psychological impact that has caused the deepest trauma.

"I feel very scared, very frightened, I can't sleep. The hospital was beautiful and the food and everything was lovely, I just can't believe it was not safe," Mrs Bennett said.

She said the hospital had responded to the incident by sending her flowers and a card in which they expressed their shock that anything like that could happen there.

Yesterday, a 45-year-old registered nurse employed at the hospital appeared at Blacktown Court charged with aggravated robbery, knowingly dealing with the proceeds of crime, and dishonestly obtaining financial advantage.

Lawyer Margaret Malak told the court the nurse, a mother of two who has been suspended, denied robbing the patient and said a stranger handed her Mrs Bennett's credit cards and asked her to withdraw the money, adding the case was "circumstantial". "CCTV footage captures my client withdrawing money ... (but) there is no independent witness and this incident isn't captured on CCTV," she said.

Police prosecutor Sergeant Nathan Blatch opposed bail saying the alleged robbery was a "brazen attack," against a woman the defendant was meant to be protecting.

But Magistrate Roger Brown granted bail, saying the case would take a long time to be resolved.

STC could be a party in Rush legal case after King Lear complaints

THE Sydney Theatre Company could be dragged as a defendant into a legal battle involving its former star actor Geoffrey Rush.

Lawyers for The Daily Telegraph yesterday flagged the surprise move to bring the theatre company into its Federal Court showdown with the Oscar-winning actor.

Rush, 66, is suing this newspaper after it reported his co-star in King Lear had lodged a complaint with the STC alleging "inappropriate behaviour".

The Telegraph's lawyer Tom Blackburn SC told a Federal Court judge it was intending to apply a cross claim against the STC for issuing the statements that were the basis for the original story.

"The STC in issuing statements and material to the newspaper was plainly intended for publication," he said.

Mr Blackburn told a case management hearing yesterday the newspaper also intends to appeal against Justice Michael Wigney's decision to remove part of its qualified privilege defence. He said the newspaper took "great care to ensure what was published was true".

The newspaper reported that Rush was the target of a complaint to the STC by an actress who alleged the actor engaged in inappropriate behaviour during a production of King Lear. That actress was later revealed to be Eryn Jean Norvill, who played King Lear's daughter Cordelia.

"We don't think Mr Rush can point to any factual errors in what was published," said Mr Blackburn.

Mr Rush's lawyer Sue Chrysanthou said the actor was seeking the earliest possible date for the case to go ahead.

She said the actor would argue the articles were published maliciously "with the improper intent of harming our client" and that the newspaper needed "to explain to the court how they got it wrong".

However Justice Wigney was quick to correct her. "They say they didn't get it wrong," he said.

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 trying 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 15 per cent, over the next few years. That would defy the cooling market elsewhere in Sydney, where the median home 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 $3.6 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.



WELCOME TO THE CUB

IT was claws fur a super celebration. And Bula and Bontle were happy to make the most of it in their new home at Johannesburg Zoo's large lion enclosure yesterday. The five-month-old siblings are the first lion cubs born at the zoo in 10 years 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 are at least two months old before they join the rest of their pride.

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

Bula and Bontle make the most of their new enclosure at Johannesburg Zoo. Picture: AP/Themba Hadebe

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Rush case to head for trial

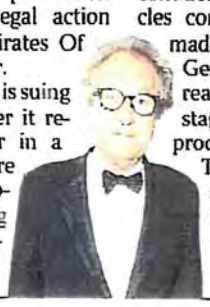
Tele may appeal truth defence ruling

MATTHEW BENNS

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush's defamation claim against The Daily Telegraph will go to trial in August, a court heard yesterday.

In the interim The Daily Telegraph will consider appealing a preliminary judgment in which Justice Michael Wigney struck out parts of its defence to the legal action brought by the Pirates Of The Caribbean star.

Mr Rush (right) is suing the Telegraph after it reported his co-star in a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear lodged a complaint with the 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 articles 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 Eryn Jean Norvill 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 set 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 Chrysanthou 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 $39 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.



Cynthia Nixon.

TELE0ZZ01MA - V1

Anxious actor will not go outside



Rush (left) with Gary Oldman at the Screen Actors Guild Awards in LA in January. Pic: Vince Bucci/AP

Lawyers claim Rush has 'rarely left home' since allegations

MATTHEW BENNS

ACTOR Geoffrey Rush claims he is on medication for anxiety, has lost his appetite and is virtually housebound since an allegation of inappropriate behaviour was levelled against him last year.

Lawyers for the star yesterday said the 66-year-old actor had "rarely left his home" since The Daily Telegraph reported the allegation made by a cast member of the Sydney production of King Lear. Lawyer Nicholas Pullen told the Federal Court Rush "has lost his appetite and barely eats" since it was reported in November that he was the target of a complaint to the Sydney Theatre Company by an actor who alleged he engaged in inappropriate behaviour during the show.

That actor was later revealed to be Eryn Jean Norvill who played King Lear's daughter Cordelia and had to be carried by Rush on stage. Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph for defamation and his lawyers yesterday opposed moves to make one of the sources for the original story another defendant in the case.

At a case management hearing before Justice Michael Wigney, the actor's legal team submitted an affidavit outlining his anxiety since the allegation was published.

"In the first three months after release of the Publications he rarely left home," Mr Pullen said. "When he does he is full of anxiety as he believes people are staring at him in a way that is very challenging, frightening and unnerving".

As a result, Mr Pullen told the court, the actor "suffers lack of sleep and anxiety requiring medication" and "has retreated from and lacks the necessary motivation to conduct his normal activities in the theatre and film industries".

Mr Pullen said Rush was "seriously concerned" about the effect on his wife, children and their social circle.

He "wakes up every morning with a terrible sense of dread about his future career," the lawyer said.

He said Rush now "feels uncomfortable when in public and will rarely attend public events".

Justice Wigney yesterday indicated the case will go to trial later this year — possibly in the middle of Rush's starring role in the Melbourne Theatre Company production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

A cereal offender

A YOUNG woman who was caught on camera eating a bowl of cereal while driving has been fined for her unusual breakfast location.

The 19-year-old woman was photographed eating the cereal while driving along a busy avenue in the Perth suburb of Connolly on April 4.

She was snapped by a passenger in another vehicle after she was spotted weaving all over the road.

Police said yesterday the woman was fined $300 and accrued three demerit points for driving "without due care and attention"

Bridge man faces court

THE man who climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge — bringing much of the city to a standstill last week while emergency services talked him down — has been charged.

The 43-year-old sparked a major police operation early on Wednesday after riding a bike onto the bridge and then climbing up the structure.

The Woolloomooloo man has been charged with assaulting police, trespass, obstructing people/vehicles and illegally climbing the bridge.

His case was mentioned in court yesterday.



Hermit actor 'rarely' out in public

Anxious Rush housebound

MATTHEW BENNS

OSCAR winning actor Geoffrey Rush is on medication for anxiety, has lost his appetite and is virtually housebound.

Lawyers for the Pirates of the Caribbean star said the 66-year-old actor has "rarely left his home" since The Daily Telegraph reported an allegation of inappropriate behaviour against him three months ago.

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Geoffrey Rush. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

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April 10, 2018

Section: News

Anxious actor will not go outside

MATTHEW BENNS

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WESTLAW

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Melbourne Theatre Company; Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Cordelia; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Nicholas Pullen)

Edition: Telegraph3

Word Count: 363

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Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)
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April 10, 2018

Section: News

Anxious Rush housebound

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Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Melbourne Theatre Company; Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Cordelia; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Nicholas Pullen)

Edition: Telegraph

Word Count: 347

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EXCLUSIVE

WHY WE SPLIT

Wedded Wiggles Emma & Lachy on their shock separation

JONATHON MORAN

IT'S a hot potato for fans of The Wiggles, but sadly one half of the children's supergroup has split up.

Emma Watkins and Lachy Gillespie, the Yellow and Purple Wiggles, announced their separation two years after a fairytale wedding. Friends blame health problems and touring, but the couple say they will continue performing together.

STORY PAGES 12 & 13

Exclusive: GST overhaul on feminine products

END TO SEXIST TAX

SHARRI MARKSON NATIONAL POLITICAL EDITOR

TREASURER Scott Morrison will lead a charge to remove the GST from tampons and pads, saying it is time this "source of frustration and angst" for women ended. Mr Morrison said the 10 per cent tax should never have been put on the feminine hygiene products in the first place, describing it as an "anomaly" not a "gender-driven policy" when the GST was first applied to different items.

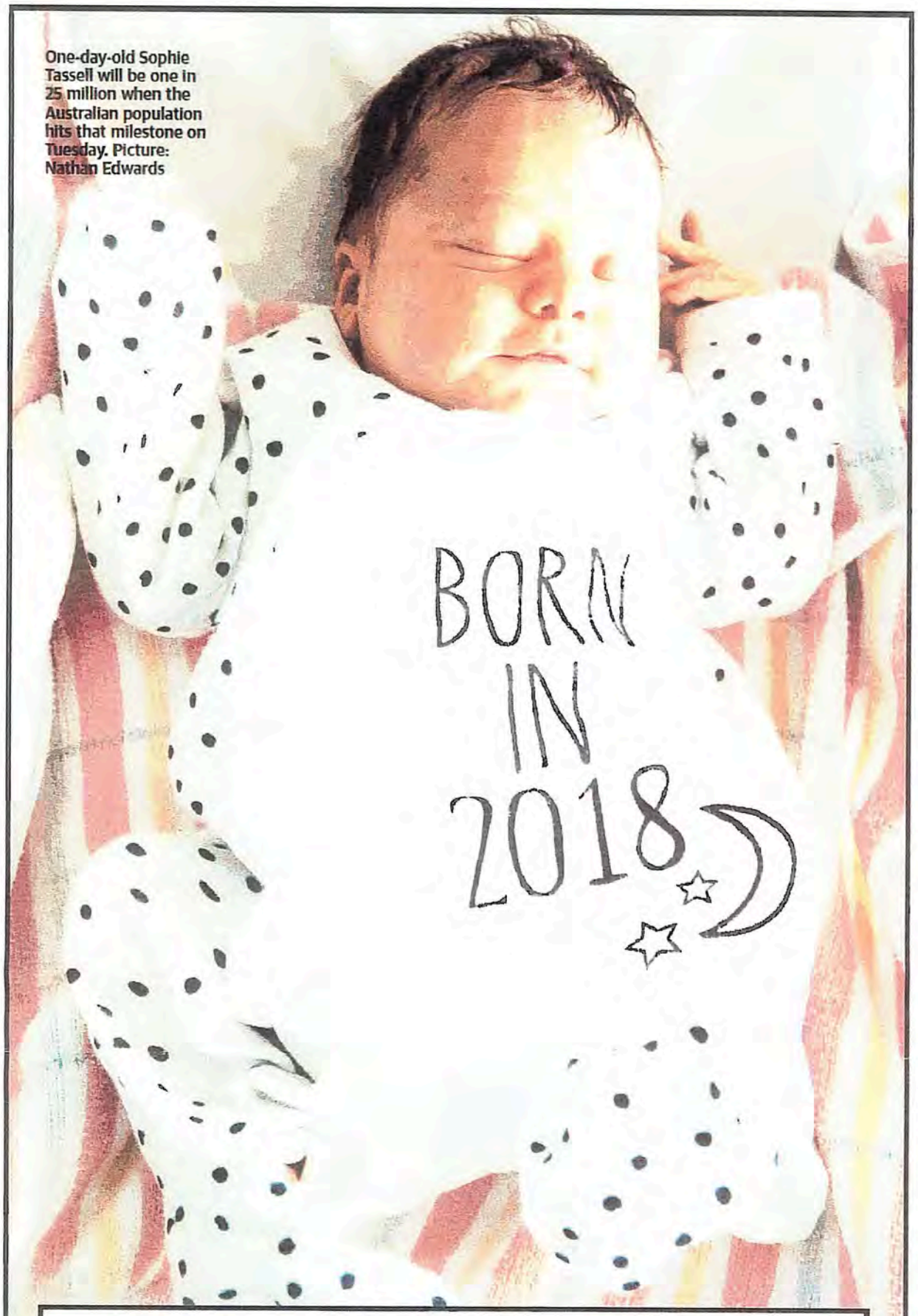
FULL REPORT PAGE 9

Actor to speak up over Rush

FIONA WINGETT

THE female actor at the centre of a sexual harassment complaint against Geoffrey Rush has broken her silence and agreed to testify for The Daily Telegraph in its defence of a defamation lawsuit by the Hollywood star, a court was told yesterday.

FULL STORY PAGE 7



One-day-old Sophie Tassell will be one in 25 million when the Australian population hits that milestone on Tuesday. Picture: Nathan Edwards

BABY YOU'RE ONE IN 25 MILLION

TRICIA HAMILTON

NEWBORN Sophie Louise is just days away from being one in 25 million.

Australia's population is set to reach that milestone on Tuesday — 33 years ahead of schedule.

Original forecasting suggested the nation would be home to 25 million people by 2051 but, due to advances in medical science and immigration, we're hitting that mark sooner than expected.

Sally Tassell, who gave birth to Sophie this week, said the milestone was to be celebrated: "We feel really grateful that we were able to contribute to the country's population."

With one baby born every minute and 42 seconds, our national fertility rate sits at 1.8 babies per woman.

But the majority of the population increase comes from overseas migration.

Social researcher Ashley Fell said the fast-growing population will continue to rise even faster. "By 2020 we are going to reach 26 million and, based on current trends, we'll be at 40 million by 2048," she said. "Every time we reach a new milestone, the rate in which we reach it is decreasing in length."

Ms Fell said our cities will feel the impact the most, with Sydney already home to 5 million residents.

Actress agrees to testify on Rush

FIONA WINGETT

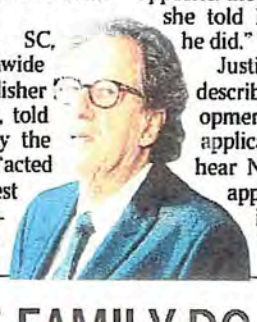
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Eryn Jean Norvill co-starred with Mr Rush in the Sydney Theatre Company's King Lear from November 2015 to January 2016.

Mr Rush, 67, sued the newspaper last December over its coverage of a sexual harassment complaint lodged with the STC by Ms Norvill. Mr Rush (pictured below) said the articles were false and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing. The Federal Court was told yesterday a statement by Ms Norvill forms the basis of an application by the Telegraph to amend its defence document to include the defence of truth.

This is the first time Ms Norvill has spoken publicly about the matter. Justice Michael Wigney threw out the newspaper's original truth defence in March on the basis that it was "plainly deficient" and lacked sufficient detail as to the precise nature of the behaviour that gave rise to Ms Norvill's complaint to the STC.

Alec Leopold, SC, counsel for Nationwide News Pty Ltd (publisher of The Telegraph), told the court yesterday the company had "acted without the slightest delay" in the application to amend its defence as soon as Ms Norvill's statement became available.



He said the allegations contained in Ms Norvill's statement were "the foundation of some very precise amendments" to the newspaper's defence. Sue Chrysanthou, counsel for Mr Rush, said her client would oppose the application and rejected the allegations contained in the statement.

She said the application was "too little too late" and Ms Chrysanthou indicated her client would attack the credibility of Ms Norvill's recollection of the events at the STC.

She said Mr Rush had witnesses who would directly contradict Ms Norvill: "Based on what we have seen from Miss Norvill's statement and based on the witnesses that we have spoken to who were present during the events she describes and who we anticipate will directly contradict what she has said," Ms Chrysanthou said.

She said Ms Norvill's new statement contradicted previous claims made by Tom Blackburn SC, counsel for The Telegraph: "Your Honour heard Mr Blackburn stand up here and say repeatedly she told him to stop and he didn't. And now the case is the exact opposite: the complainant says she told him to stop and he did."

Justice Wigney, who described the new development as a "significant application", said he will hear Nationwide News' application to amend its defence on Thursday.

KANYE'S FAMILY DO



KANYE West and Kim Kardashian's two-year-old son, Saint West, has finally made his magazine cover debut. The couple's second child appears with his dad, 41, and sister North, 5, on one of Harper's Bazaar's six September covers, celebrating famous music families.

SHORTEN REEF GRIEF FOR PM

OPPOSITION Leader Bill Shorten has demanded a full explanation of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's decision to hand almost half a billion dollars to a corporate-backed Great Barrier Reef charity without a tender.

Mr Turnbull insisted no rules were broken in the grant he described as "the single biggest contribution and investment in the health of the Great Barrier Reef, ever". A Senate inquiry has been examining the $444 million grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Mr Shorten described the grant as a "developing scandal", saying: "There are serious questions about this process, questions Mr Turnbull must answer."

Mr Turnbull insisted the deal was "completely transparent".



Meghan Markle.

Meghan totes key to Oroton revival

FIONA WINGETT

WHEN Meghan Markle stepped out with an Oroton bag in April, just as wedding fever reached a crescendo, the bag sold out within hours, giving the embattled brand an endorsement money can't buy.

It was exactly what was needed for the company, which looked to have a bleak future after it went into voluntary administration last November. This week Caledonia Funds Management chief investment officer Will Vicars completed his $30 million purchase of the company.

Ross Lane will continue as chief executive, while consultant Sophie Holt will become creative director.

Mr Lane said yesterday the Meghan bag was still in demand after she wore it to the Commonwealth Youth Forum in London.

Although he stops short of calling it the bag that saved Oroton from bankruptcy, he said: "We were obviously very chuffed when Meghan wore the bag — and we were surprised. It's a great endorsement of our strategic direction. It was amazing. By midday that day it had sold out."

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Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)
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August 4, 2018

Section: News

Actor to speak up over Rush

Fiona Wingett

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— Index References ----

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Geoffrey Rush)

Edition: Telegraph

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August 4, 2018

Section: News

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---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Business Management (1BU42); Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Employment Law (1EM67); HR & Labor Management (1HR87); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Workplace Harassment (1WO08))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Michael Wigney; Sue Chrysanthou; Alec Leopold; Norvill; Tom Blackburn)

Edition: Telegraph

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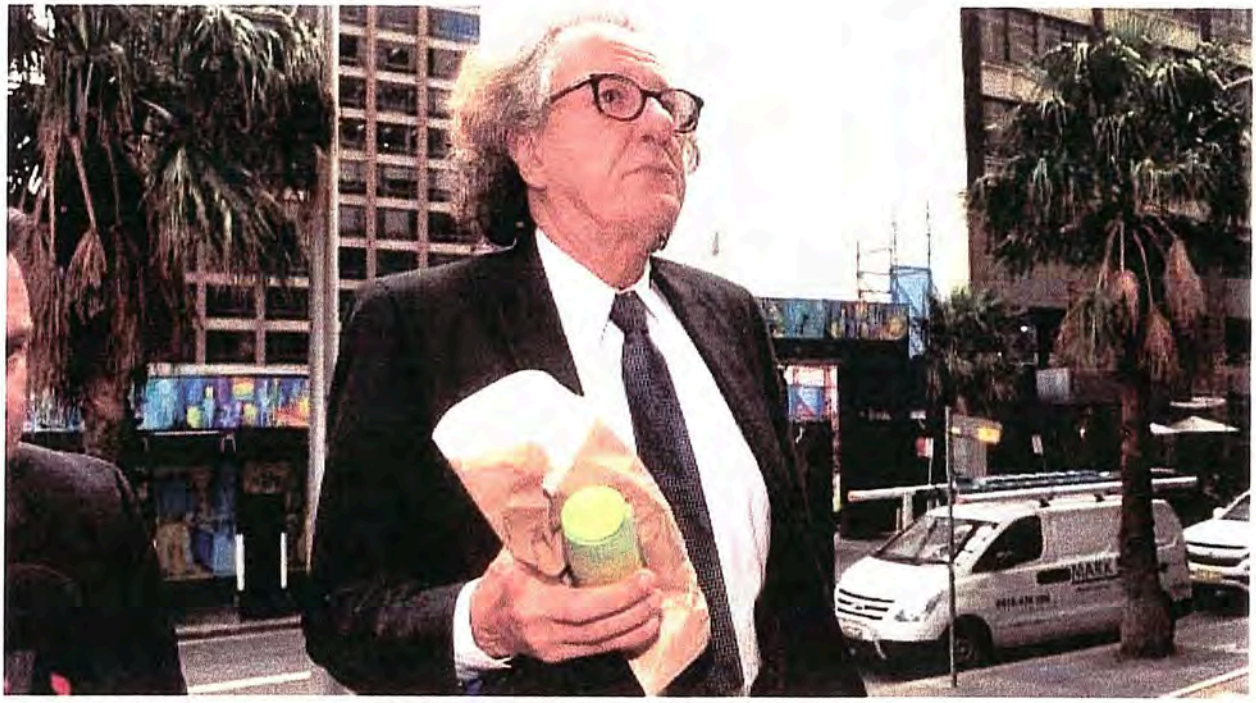
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NewsRoom

National Nsw Act

The Daily Telegraph allowed to use truth defence in Geoffrey Rush defamation lawsuit

AUGUST 9, 2018 1:33PM



The Daily Telegraph will now rely solely on the defence of truth or "justification" in its defamation case lawsuit brought against the actor by Geoffrey Rush. Picture: AAP Image/Brendan Esposito

The Daily Telegraph

THE Daily Telegraph has succeeded in amending its defence in a defamation lawsuit brought against the newspaper by actor Geoffrey Rush over a series of articles last year about a sexual harassment complaint.

During a hearing at the Federal Court in Sydney today, Justice Michael Wigney heard that both sides had agreed that the newspaper should be allowed to reinstate its truth defence.

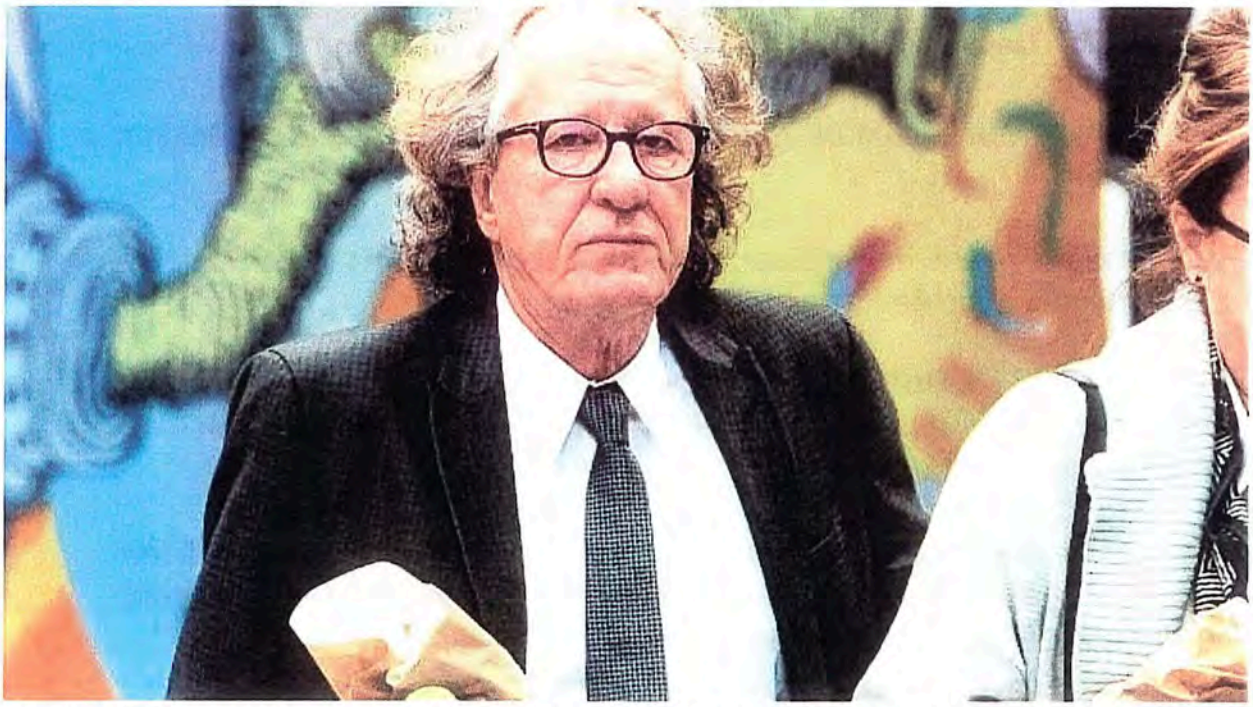
The testimony of Eryn Jean Norvill, the actress at the centre of the complaint against Mr Rush, will now be admitted as evidence.



The newspaper has agreed to drop its defence of qualified privilege. It will now rely solely on the defence of truth or "justification" as it defends the libel action.

Justice Wigney said the trial — where both Mr Rush and Ms Norvill will give evidence — will now take place over 13 days beginning on October 22.

Ms Norvill co-starred with Mr Rush in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear from November 2015 to January 2016.



The testimony of actress Eryn Jean Norvill will now be admitted as evidence. Picture: AAP Image/Brendan Esposito

Mr Rush sued the newspaper last December over its coverage of the complaint lodged with the STC by Ms Norvill. Mr Rush said the articles were false and defamatory.

A statement by Ms Norvill, lodged with the court last week, which detail the harassment allegations formed the basis of the application by The Daily

Telegraph to amend its defence document to include the defence of truth.

Justice Wigney threw out the newspaper's original truth defence in March on the basis that it was "plainly deficient" and lacked sufficient detail as to the precise nature of the behaviour that gave rise to Ms Norvill's complaint to the STC. That truth defence has now been reinstated.

Alec Leopold, SC, counsel for Nationwide News Pty Ltd (publisher of The Daily Telegraph) told the court that the newspaper will show Mr Rush engaged in a number of incidents of sexual harassment including "touching on her breast and lower back."

He said there will be corroborating evidence to back up Ms Norvill's claims.

Sue Chrysanthou, counsel for Geoffrey Rush, said her client's decision not to oppose the newspaper's application to include the truth defence should not be seen as any concession by Mr Rush.

It was "not a concession by Mr Rush that the pleading is any good," she said.

Ms Chrysanthou said Mr Rush is suffering "continuing trauma because of these proceedings."

She said any delay is "intolerable" to the actor.

"He is ready to come to court .... and that is the reason why the application is not opposed."

Ms Chrysanthou said the newspaper had yet to explain why it took Ms Norvill several months to come forward with her evidence.

Mr Leopold said Ms Norvill's initial reluctance to come forward was understandable given the disparity between her position and Mr Rush's position among actors.

He said it is understandable that someone in the acting world who is at the centre of allegations concerning an "icon" of the Australian theatre industry was "reluctant to come out to speak."

read next





Philippines bans elderly Aussie, 84

AN 84-year-old Australian professor has been barred from entering the Philippines and ordered on another flight out of the country despite concerns for his health.

Jupiter is the perfect storm

AUSTRALIAN scientists have just taken a peek beneath Jupiter's many-coloured coat. And now they think they know what's driving its spectacular and powerful

Unusually severe weather on way

A COLD front so fierce its effects could last more than 12 hours is expected to bring "miserable" weather to three states.

Is this the answer to sky-high power prices?

A CRUCIAL meeting tomorrow could decide whether Australians get lower power prices, but its supporters are facing an uphill battle to get everyone to agree.



Woman charged with mother's murder

A WOMAN has been charged with murdering her 92-year-old mother in a New South Wales aged care facility over the weekend.

Coles' plea to its customers

THE supermarket chain, along with Westpac bank, has said it will chip in millions to help drought stricken farmers. But they want customers to do something too.

Twin 'not guilty' of brother's murder

LUCAS Cawte has been found not guilty of his twin brother Jake's murder in South Australia last year.

Chilling footage of armed brothel robbery

THE moment armed men stormed a brothel before pointing a paintball gun at a man's head has been caught on CCTV.

'How is this not a racist attack?'

ABDULLAH Qaiser was smashed with a knuckleduster and called a "terrorist". Now he wants to know why it is not being treated as a hate crime.



Massive traffic backup on M4

COMMUTERS from Sydney's west are in for a chaotic morning after an overheight truck damaged an overpass, forcing the closure of two M4 lanes.



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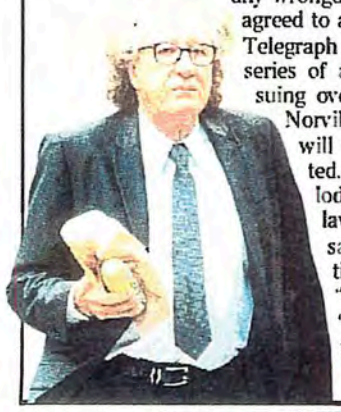
REVEALED

Actress to take stand against Rush

FIONA WINGETT ASSOCIATE EDITOR

THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star touched her breast and lower back, made "groping" gestures toward her and texted how he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate", a court has been told.

The details of actress Eryn Jean Norvill's allegations against Rush during the production of King Lear are contained in a document filed with the Federal Court yesterday. Rush denies any wrongdoing. The court agreed to allow The Daily Telegraph to plead that a series of articles Rush is suing over are true. Ms Norvill's testimony will now be admitted. A document lodged by Rush's lawyers yesterday said the allegations included "lewd gestures", "innuendo" and touching.



FULL REPORT P7

SCOOP

DNA twist in rape horror

MARK MORRI CRIME EDITOR

A RAPIST'S 30-year reign of terror across Sydney has allegedly been stopped by tracking him down via the DNA of his brother — who is also a sex attacker and rotting in jail.

A cold-case team was trying to catch the person behind 20 attacks on 12 females over three decades when the DNA match was found.

FULL REPORT P18

TIME TO END THE ECO-RORT

THE $3B GREEN ENERGY RIP-OFF

SCOOP: For a decade you have paid this much into a climate tax that has achieved nothing

CLARRISA BYE POLITICAL REPORTER

A CLIMATE change tax has collected $3 billion from Sydney households in the past decade yet has done virtually nothing to cut emissions.

The Daily Telegraph can today reveal the scheme has become so useless the government has even stopped publishing its impact.

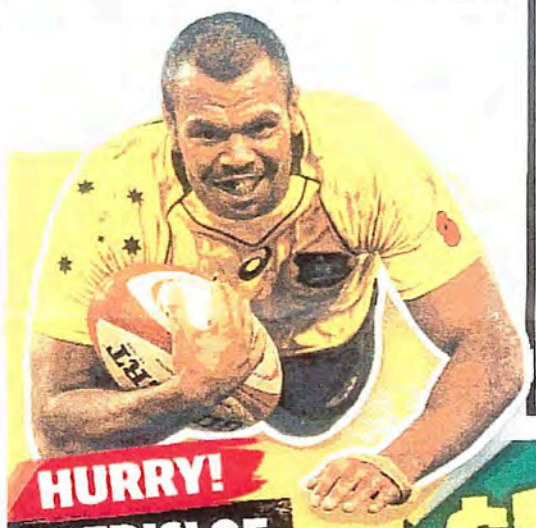
And its goal has also been broadened — dubbed by bureaucrats as becoming more "holistic" — so the money can be used as a "green slush fund" for other things. The fanciful mission of the NSW Climate Change Fund is to help the state achieve "net-zero emissions" by 2050. It has used this remit to fund bizarre programs such as a Parramatta seawall audit, extra shade in Dubbo and a $333,000 audit of the program itself.

Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton confirmed the fund collected $289 million from NSW's 2.7 million households this year alone. But the last year the government reported how much emissions were cut was back in 2013-14 and it was just 906,369 tonnes. NSW is responsible for about 130 megatonnes annually.

Australia emits just 1.5 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases anyway.

There are now calls for the "disgraceful tax" — paid by power and water companies by passing the cost on to consumers — to be axed immediately.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION PAGES 4-5



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Use password: 'TELEGRAPH' to redeem

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GET THE PARTY STARTED! »P3

Pink is finally on the mend

Fur flies as owners bark mad

THE claws are out in one of Australia's richest pet competitions, with allegations of vote-rigging made by some contestants.

Competitors in Queensland's RACQ Pet Search, which carries a $5000 prize purse, are barking mad as a cat named Miss Coconut racked up a substantial number of votes.

Rival pet owners have questioned how the fine feline has accumulated sudden surges in online voting, which has the cat well ahead of the pack in the quest for competition glory.

In the preliminary rounds, Miss Coconut registered almost 30,000 votes — thousands ahead of her rivals — and she also skipped well clear of second-placed Biggie, a British bulldog, in the finals.



Miss Coconut.

People can vote multiple times, but must wait at least an hour between voting.

Eagle-eyed pet owners reported sudden voting surges, often in the dead of night, with complaints made to RACQ and police. But police are not investigating and the RACQ said they had launched their own inquiry and found nothing untoward.

Ora-inspiring Dream Team

UK singer Rita Ora has signed with model Kate Moss's talent agency — and believes they are a "dream team".

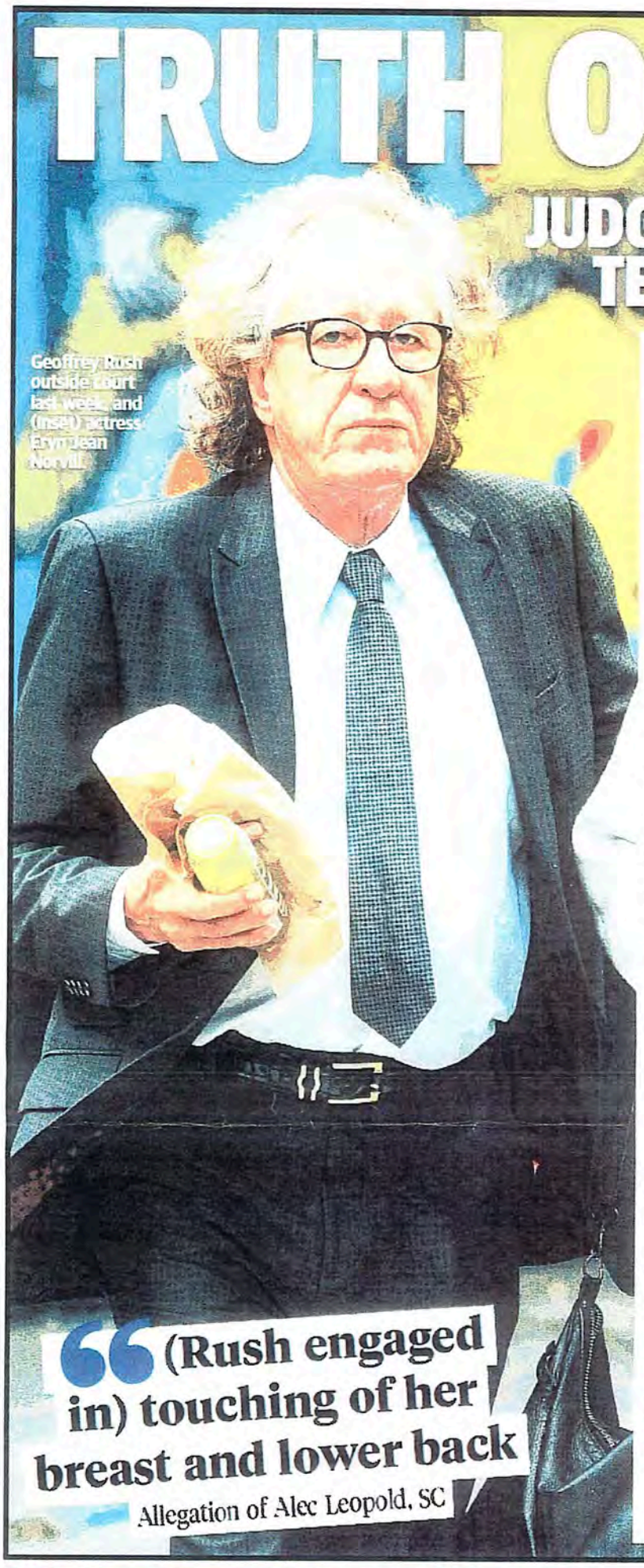
The Anywhere singer posted a picture on Instagram of herself and the supermodel, apparently on an evening out.

"Dream Team," she captioned the image.

"Excited to announce that I am now at @katemossagency." Moss launched the Kate Moss Agency in 2016, saying she wanted to focus on managing people's careers. She and Ora have long been friends.

TRUTH ON TRIAL

JUDGE SAYS ACTRESS CAN TESTIFY AGAINST RUSH



Geoffrey Rush outside court last week, and (inset) actress Eryn Jean Norvill.

FIONA WINGETT

THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star touched her breast and lower back, made "groping" gestures toward her and texted how he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate," a court has been told.

The details of actress Eryn Jean Norvill's allegations against Rush are contained in a document filed with the Federal Court late yesterday. The court agreed to allow The Daily Telegraph to plead that a series of articles the actor is suing over are true.

The Telegraph articles reported on a complaint of inappropriate behaviour by Rush that Ms Norvill made to the Sydney Theatre Company relating to the time they appeared together in the STC's production of King Lear from November 2015 to January 2016. Rush sued the newspaper last December over its coverage and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In the Federal Court yesterday, the Telegraph succeeded in amending its defence in the lawsuit to allow it to plead truth in the matter, instead of qualified privilege. Ms Norvill's statement, tendered last week, is the basis of the change. Her testimony will now be admitted as evidence.

A document lodged in court by Rush's lawyers also summarised Ms Norvill's allegations.

They include that Rush "made groping gestures in the air about (Ms Norvill's) torso, mocking her and causing other cast members to laugh".

Rush also allegedly "made comments or jokes about (Ms Norvill) or her body which contained sexual innuendo" and at other times "made lewd gestures" in her direction, it says.

It says the allegations include that Rush's hand "traced across" the side of Ms Norvill's right breast and that he touched her "lower back under her shirt to her waistline".

Six months after the production had finished, Rush allegedly sent Ms Norvill a text message that "he thought of her 'more than is socially appropriate'," the document says.

"None of this material, at its highest, could be regarded as 'scandalously inappropriate', or amount to 'sexual assault'," the document says. "It also could not result in a finding that (Rush) is a 'pervert' or a 'sexual predator'."

Alec Leopold, SC, for Nationwide News Pty Ltd (The Daily Telegraph's publisher) told the court there would be corroborating evidence "from persons who were present at the time" to back Ms Norvill's claims.

Justice Michael Wigney questioned why Ms Norvill came forward at such a late stage.

Mr Leopold argued it was understandable someone who was "a relatively junior actor ... was reluctant to come out and speak" about allegations concerning a "very senior, indeed, iconic figure in acting".

Rush's lawyers did not oppose the newspaper's application to amend its defence, but barrister Sue Chrysanthou said "that's not to be taken in any way to be any concession ... that the pleading is any good".

She said Rush is suffering "continuing trauma" because of the proceedings. "He is ready to come to court ... and that is the reason why the application is not opposed."

The trial is due to start on October 22.

"(Rush engaged in) touching of her breast and lower back

Allegation of Alec Leopold, SC





NewsRoom

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2018 WLNR 24229926

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August 10, 2018

Section: News

Actress to take stand against Rush

FIONA WINGETT ASSOCIATE EDITOR

REVEALED THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the Oscar-winner touched her "breast" and "lower back" as part of a number of sexual harassment incidents, a court yesterday heard.

Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph over articles published about a complaint of inappropriate behaviour made by his co-star Eryn Jean Norvill when they were appearing in a production of King Lear. Rush has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In Federal Court, The Daily Telegraph succeeded in amending its defence. The court heard the newspaper will show Mr Rush engaged in a number of incidents, which include "touching of her breast and ... tracing his finger across the lower back".Full report P7

--- Index References ---

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

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August 10, 2018

Section: News

TRUTH ON TRIAL

Fiona Wingett

Judge says actress can testify against rush

THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star touched her breast and back, a court has heard.

Mr Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph over articles published about a complaint of inappropriate behaviour made by his co-star, Eryn Jean Norvill (pictured below), relating to the time they were appearing in King Lear at the Sydney Theatre Company.

Mr Rush sued the newspaper last December over its coverage and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In proceedings at the Federal Court yesterday, The Daily Telegraph succeeded in amending its defence in the lawsuit to allow it to plead truth in the matter, instead of qualified privilege. Ms Norvill's testimony will now be admitted as evidence. Alec Leopold, SC, counsel for Nationwide News Pty Ltd (publisher of The Daily Telegraph) told the court that the newspaper will show Mr Rush engaged in a number of incidents of sexual harassment "about touching of her breast and touching of the lower back and tracing his finger across the lower back." He said there will be corroborating evidence "from persons who were present at the time" to back up Ms Norvill's claims.

The newspaper has agreed to drop its defence of qualified privilege and will rely solely on the defence of truth or "justification" as it defends the libel action.

Justice Michael Wigney questioned Ms Norvill's decision to come forward at such a late stage "after indicating for some months she didn't want to co-operate". However, Mr Leopold argued that it was "understandable that somebody in the acting world who's a relatively junior actor, such as Ms Norvill, who ... is the centre of allegations about a very senior, indeed, iconic, figure in the acting world, would be reluctant to come out and speak".

A statement by Ms Norvill, lodged with the court last week, which detail the harassment allegations formed the basis of the application by The Daily Telegraph to amend its defence document to include the defence of truth.

Justice Wigney threw out the newspaper's original truth defence in March on the basis that it was "plainly deficient" and lacked sufficient detail as to the precise nature of the behaviour that gave rise to Ms Norvill's complaint to the STC. That truth defence has now been reinstated with additional detail.

Sue Chrysanthou, counsel for Geoffrey Rush, said her client's decision not to oppose the newspaper's application to include the truth defence should not be seen as acceptance of it by Mr Rush.

"That's not to be taken in any way to be any concession on Mr Rush's part that the pleading is any good," she said.

Mr Chrysanthou said Mr Rush is suffering "continuing trauma because of these proceedings" and that any delay is "intolerable" to the actor. "Frankly, it is in his interest for this to be dealt with as a matter of finality and in full," she said. "He is ready to come to court .... and that is the reason why the application is not opposed." Justice Wigney said the trial, where both Mr Rush and Ms Norvill will give evidence, will now take place over 14 days beginning on October 22.Ms Norvill played Cordelia to Mr Rush's King Lear in the production.

--- Index References ---

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Sue Chrysanthou; Alec Leopold; Jean Norvill)

Edition: Telegraph

Word Count: 550

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NewsRoom

» WOMAN'S SCREAMS AT SCENE » COPS' MANHUNT

THE SWORD



Police prepare to enter a home with a battering ram.

Officers take evidence from the scene last night.

BLANKETED BODY
Police stand guard over the victim's bloody body in the middle of the road.

TRUECRIME AUSTRALIA
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truecrimeaustralia.com.au

for students from the local school to be taken to nearby Glebe Public School to be picked up. A sign posted on the school's gate said simply told parents there had been an "incident" but families soon learnt what had occurred. Shocked neighbours popped their heads out of expensive terrace houses as the police operation unfolded.

Acting Superintendent Sam Crisafulli said the victim's injuries were too serious for him to have stood a chance and he was pronounced dead at the scene as soon as paramedics arrived.

"It's not pleasant; it's not what we want to happen. It was a violent attack with very, very serious consequences." Acting Superintendent Crisafulli said.

"I'm not in a position to talk about exactly what weapons were involved. I'm satisfied after a search of the area by police: the people we're looking for are not around at the moment."

The man's body was removed from the scene by 6pm.

Resident Christine Asmar, who lives directly opposite where the shooting took place, said she was shaken by the violence, right outside her door.

"It's a family area — I was home with my three-year-old granddaughter when it happened," she said. "There's lots of young families around here — it's concerning."

Resident Will McGrane said it was good area with little crime.

"It's the opposite — it's a family area," he said.

Joel Bonning was working nearby when one of his colleagues rushed to help the man as he lay dying.

"One of the boys ran down to see if he was okay, and just seen a man lying on the ground with a lot of blood coming out of his head," he told Channel 9.

Sam Langham said there was nothing they could do to help the man.

Police escorted frightened residents returning home from work to their homes.

Some were told their home was "too close" to police activity to be let home.

Actress says Rush simulated 'groping'

FIONA WINGETT

THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star actor simulated groping her breasts in front of colleagues and made lewd gestures towards her, according to new court documents.

Mr Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph over articles about a complaint of inappropriate behaviour Eryn Jean Norvill (pictured) made relating to the time they appeared in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear between 2015 and 2016. He has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In a defence document lodged with the Federal Court this week, the newspaper provided details of the truth case it will run at trial which is based on allegations made by Ms Norvill, who will now give evidence for The Daily Telegraph at the trial.



In the document, The Telegraph claims Ms Norvill's evidence will show Mr Rush "engaged in conduct of a kind in which only a pervert would engage". The newspaper has alleged that during a rehearsal in October 2015 Mr Rush made "groping gestures in the air with two cupped hands" that simulated "fondling" Ms Norvill's breasts. The newspaper alleged Mr Rush would regularly make inappropriate comments about Ms Norvill and would make lewd gestures in her direction.

The defence also describes how between 24 and 27 November, 2015, Mr Rush allegedly touched Ms Norvill's breast during preview performances in front of an audience.

The newspaper has alleged that in the second half of December 2015, Mr Rush had moved his hand under Ms Norvill's shirt and along the waistline of her jeans to touch the skin of her lower back in a "deliberate" way when they were about to go onstage.

On Thursday, The Telegraph succeeded in amending its defence to plead truth.

Mr Rush's barrister Sue Chrysanthou did not to oppose the newspaper's application to include the truth defence but said it should not be seen as acceptance of the claim by him. The trial is set for October 22.

DEAD TODDLER CHARGES

THE mother of a toddler who died in a Maitland home has been arrested over the death a week after her ex-partner was charged with murdering the 20-month-old.

Hayley Rose died from a heart attack on June 19, with police finding she had suffered injuries including broken ribs and a collapsed lung.

She also had cuts and bruising to her face, head and torso and was bleeding internally.

Timothy Andrew Whiteley, 26, was charged with murder last week and Hayley's mother Jessica Greatorex, 22, was arrested yesterday morning at the home where Hayley died.

She was charged with manslaughter.



Oil on a wall.

Ghost house weeps 'miracle' oil

MATTHEW DUNN

A CATHOLIC priest believes a Western Sydney home is seeping miraculous oil with divine healing powers from its walls.

The Guildford "Miracle House" first started to "weep" more than a decade ago and if you believe a recent string of Facebook posts, the bizarre spectacle has since grown to include remarkable formations of ash, incense, religious symbols and even engraved dates.

Father Michael Haykal said scores flock to witness what they believe are messages from God.

He said the phenomenon was "beyond science".

Property owners George and Lina Tannous claim the miracle is the work of the spirit of their deceased son Mike, who was killed in a car crash in 2006. Fr Haykal said the oil had helped women fall pregnant, after doctors told them they could not conceive.

Australian Skeptics executive officer Tim Mendham observed that most of the oil appeared at shoulder height and there was "nothing particularly intriguing" about its "messages".

NewsRoom

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August 11, 2018

Section: News

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News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85))

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NewsRoom

Kids are all right apes

CHILDREN aged one to two years old use many of the same gestures as great apes.

New research has showed the children used 52 gestures to communicate — more than 95 per cent of which are shared with chimpanzees and gorillas.

Scientists observed children at home and in nurseries, as well as chimpanzees in the Budongo Forest in Uganda.

Researcher Dr Catherine Hobaiter said: "Chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos and orangutans all use gestures to communicate day-to-day requests ... we were amazed to see so many of the 'ape' gestures used by the children."

But scientists found waving a hand to say hello or goodbye was uniquely human.

Hadley son quits cops

VETERAN broadcaster Ray Hadley's son has resigned from the NSW Police since he was allegedly caught buying cocaine in a pub carpark.

Daniel Hadley, 28, had his matter briefly heard for the first time at Parramatta Local Court yesterday morning but did not attend.

The former senior constable was allegedly caught in possession of 0.79g of cocaine inside a "white resealable bag" at a pub in Rouse Hill last month.

The court heard a plea may be entered when the matter returns to court on October 3.

A police officer for seven years, Daniel Hadley's future with the force was placed under review following the charge.

A leg up for robot pants

"SMART" trousers may soon allow people who cannot walk alone to abandon wheelchairs.

A UK research project is working on robotic trousers that can help people stand up, sit down and move around.

Within 10 years scientists hope to produce a pair of lightweight slacks for the immobile that can boost muscle and joint strength by 5 to 10 per cent.

"In six or seven years' time you could go into (a pharmacy), select your trousers, try them on and take them home," researcher Jonathan Rossiter said.

He said the trousers would give immobile people more independence, adding that wheelchair users often "feel like second-class citizens'

DIG FOR TRUTH

Backyard excavated in search for Lyn Dawson's body



Police searching yesterday at a Bayview property for the remains of Lyn Dawson, who lived there with her husband Chris until she disappeared in 1982. Picture: NSW Police

JACK HOUGHTON

POLICE will spend in excess of $500,000 on a new forensic dig at a Bayview house in the hope of unearthing a clue that can shed light on Lynette Dawson's disappearance.

Concrete cutting power tools and digging machines were carefully wheeled into the back of the property on Gilwinga Drive as officers kicked off the six-day search.

The house was owned by Chris and Lynette Dawson when Mrs Dawson went missing in 1982.

Two coroners have declared that Mr Dawson, a teacher at Cromer High, murdered Lynette but he has always maintained his innocence and he has never faced charges.

As police carried buckets of soil from the four key digging sites in the backyard, Detective Superintendent Scott Cook said the operation was aimed at strengthening the evidence brief submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions in April.

"The director is considering (whether to charge Mr Dawson) but where there are better options in terms of better technology being available in terms of improving our evidence we will take that.

"We are going to continue to pursue this no matter the outcome with the director.

Det Supt Cook said laser mapping had identified "anomalies" in rock formations which suggested the site had been disturbed in an unnatural manner. The searchers are looking at areas behind the house, including near the clothesline and around the pool area.

He said police had been on site several times since a fresh investigation was opened in 2015.

Police wanted to do the "best job we can" and that it was all about "doing justice for Lyn". Officers would dig as far as they had to and "will go down until we hit rock" using machines as well as hand tools," Det Supt Cook said.

Some of the targeted areas have not been searched before and others were searched during the original investigation. The entire backyard will be mapped and plotted digitally and submitted to the DPP. The family who now lives in the home have agreed to let police conduct the search.

When Mrs Dawson went missing aged 33, Mr Dawson was having an affair with Cromer High student Joanne Curtis, that began when she was 16.

Mrs Dawson's sister Pat Jenkins, of Seaforth, said the family were hopeful that the search would bring results. "We hope it will resolve the question of what happened to Lyn," Mrs Jenkins said.

Former Cromer student Robyn Wheeler said she was "relieved" at the search. "It has been a long time coming.'



Lynette Dawson (top) & at her wedding to Chris.

YES WEE CAN BEAT CANCER

A SIMPLE urine test could prevent thousands of deaths from ovarian cancer, known as the "silent killer' as it is often detected once it has spread.

British researchers have identified a protein that is produced when the cancer is in its early stages. They hope to find a way of detecting it in a urine test similar to the one used to confirm pregnancy.

Each year more than 1500 women in Australia are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and more than 1000 die ever year from the disease.

If the cancer can be detected at stage one, survival rates are much improved. Most ovarian cancer is detected at stage three when the disease has begun to spread and by then just one in five survive.



Geoffrey Rush.

Rush team to pore over actor emails

GEOFFREY Rush's lawyers have been granted access to the private emails of Eryn Jean Norvill, the actor who alleges she was sexually harassed during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear.

A lawyer for the actor indicated to the Federal Court yesterday Rush will argue Ms Norvill's stress was caused by a relationship breakup and not his alleged behaviour. Rush is suing the Telegraph over articles which reported on a complaint of inappropriate behaviour by Rush that Ms Norvill made to the STC relating to the time they appeared in the production from November 2015 to January 2016.

Rush sued the newspaper last December over its coverage and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing. While allowing for the release of the private emails Justice Michael Wigney denied Rush's application to access all of her records for the past three years.

The move by Rush's legal team was branded "oppressive" by Lyndelle Barnett, counsel representing both Ms Norvill and the newspaper. Justice Michael Wigney granted leave for Rush's legal team to see the relevant emails.

Star in bad behaviour claims

JONATHON MORAN

OSCAR-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of *King Lear*.

But the star vigorously denies the allegations and says the company has never told him of any allegations of wrongdoing.

As reported in Sydney's *Daily Telegraph*, one of the country's most successful actors was the subject of a complaint during the production of *King Lear*.

It is understood the allegations of inappropriate behaviour occurred over several months. The local production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at the Roslyn Packer Theatre.

There were also several months of rehearsals.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman confirmed.

"The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended. The company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace.



ACCUSED: Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush as King Lear.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld.

"STC respects that request and, for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."

In a strongly worded legal letter, lawyers for Rush at HWL Ebsworth last night said he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" and that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

"Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant, nor any representative of either of them, concerning the matter you have raised," the letter says.

"Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves."

The letter from the legal firm's partner Nicholas Pullen goes on to say that Rush has not been involved with the Sydney Theatre Company or its representatives for more than 22 months.

"In the circumstances, if such a statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least," it says.

"Your 'understanding' of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded.

"It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue."

Rush won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1996 for his role as David Helfgott in the movie *Shine* and was nominated for the best supporting actor role two years later for his touted performance in *Shakespeare in Love*.

The 66-year-old married father is the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema Television. He lives in Melbourne.

Opera is barrelling along at winery

ROXANNE WILSON

A FAMOUS opera by one of Italy's most beloved composers will be right at home among the barrels of a South Australian winery with a proud Italian heritage.

Co-Opera will perform a production of Puccini's *La Boheme* at Serafino in McLaren Vale tomorrow evening.

The opera is about the life of young bohemians in Paris.

Singer Norbert Hohl, who shares the role of poet Rodolfo with Branko Lovrinov, said Co-Opera regularly performed in "unusual places".

"It (the company) aims to really bring the art form to people who would not normally have the privilege of being near the art form," Mr Hohl said. "Opera is not for an elitist audience. It is for everyone to enjoy."

Serafino chief executive officer Maria Maglieri said the opera had "a nice connection with our family heritage".

La Boheme will also be performed at venues in Payneham and Port Adelaide. To book, visit: serafinowines.com.au



WE'LL DRINK TO THAT: Opera singers Branko Lovrinov, Grace Banden and Norbert Hohl at Serafino at McLaren Vale. Picture: MATT TURNER

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Star in bad behaviour claims

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But the star vigorously denies the allegations and says the company has never told him of any allegations of wrongdoing.

As reported in Sydney's Daily Telegraph, one of the country's most successful actors was the subject of a complaint during the production of King Lear.

It is understood the allegations of inappropriate behaviour occurred over several months. The local production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at the Roslyn Packer Theatre.

There were also several months of rehearsals.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman confirmed.

"The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended. The company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace.



ACCUSED: Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush as King Lear.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld.

"STC respects that request and for privacy reasons will not be making any further comments."

In a strongly worded legal letter, lawyers for Rush at HWL Ebsworth last night said he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" and that his "respect, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

"Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant, nor any representatives of either of them, concerning the matter you have raised," the letter says.

"Further he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint or what it involves."

The letter from the legal firm's partner Nicholas Pullen goes on to say that Rush has not been involved with the Sydney Theatre Company or its representatives for more than 22 months.

"In the circumstances, if such a statement has been is said by the STC it is both incorrect and highly damaging to say the least," it says.

Your "understanding" of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply flawed and unfounded.

"It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue."

Rush won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1996 for his role as David Helfgott in the movie Shine and was nominated for the best supporting actor role just years later for his storied performance in Shakespeare in Love.

The 66-year-old married father is the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema Television. He lives in Melbourne.

Opera is ...arrelling ...ong at winery

ROXANNE WILSON

A FAMOUS opera by one of Italy's most beloved composers will be right at home among the barrels of a South Australian winery with a proud Italian heritage.

Co-Opera will perform a production of Puccini's La Bohème at Serafino in McLaren Vale later next month.

The opera is about the life of young bohemians in Paris.

Singer Norbert Hohl, who shares the role of poet Rodolfo with Branko Lovrinov, said Co-Opera regularly performed in "unusual places".

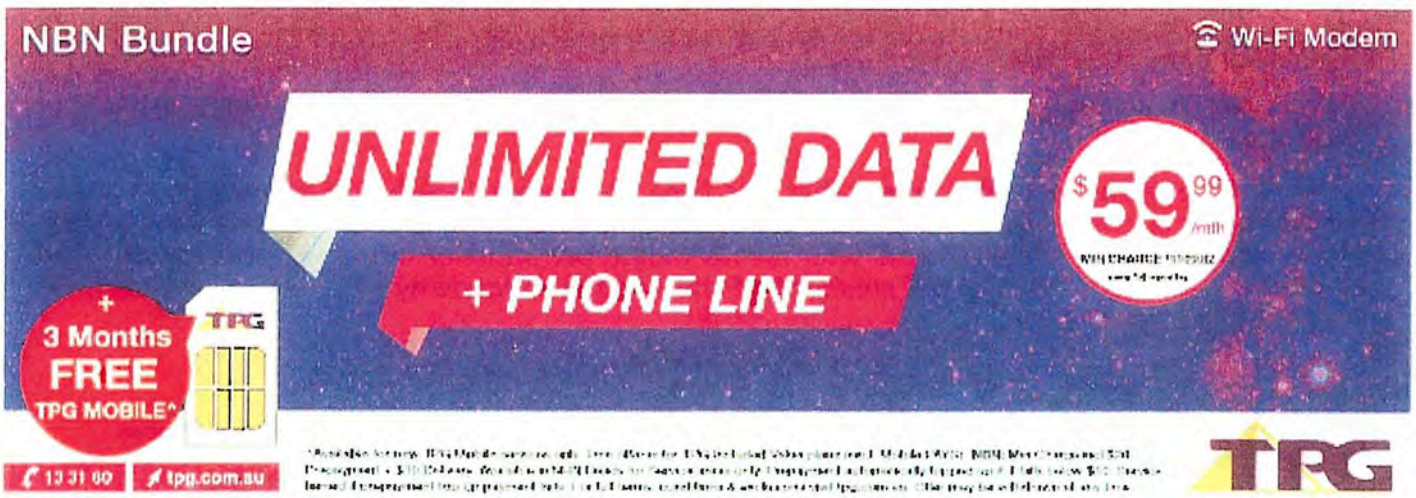
"It [the company] aims to really bring the art form to people who would not normally have the privilege of being near the art form," Mr Hohl said. "Opera is not for an elite audience. It is for everybody."

Serafino chief executive officer Maria Maglieri said the opera had a nice connection with our family heritage.

La Bohème will also be performed at venues in Payneham and Port Adelaide. To book visit seafoxwines.com.au



WE'LL DRINK TO THAT: Opera singers Branko Lovrinov, Grace Bandon and Norbert Hohl at Serafino at McLaren Vale. Picture: MATT TURNER



THOMSON REUTERS

Star in bad behaviour claims

Source: Advertiser (Australia)
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News

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Section: News

JONATHON MORAN

OSCAR-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of King Lear.

But the star vigorously denies the allegations and says the company has never told him of any allegations of wrongdoing.

As reported in Sydney's Daily Telegraph, one of the country's most successful actors was the subject of a complaint during the production of King Lear.

It is understood the allegations of inappropriate behaviour occurred over several months. The local production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at the Roslyn Packer Theatre.

There were also several months of rehearsals.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman confirmed.

"The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended. The company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld. "STC respects that request and, for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments." In a strongly worded legal letter, lawyers for Rush at HWL Ebsworth last night said he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" and that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

"Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant, nor any representative of either of them, concerning the matter you have raised," the letter says.

"Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves." The letter from the legal firm's partner Nicholas Pullen goes on to say that Rush has not been involved with the Sydney Theatre Company or its representatives for more than 22 months.

"In the circumstances, if such a statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least," it says.

"Your 'understanding' of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded.

"It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue." Rush won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1996 for his role as David Helfgott in the movie Shine and was nominated for the best supporting actor role two years later for his touted performance in Shakespeare in Love.The 66-year-old married father is the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema Television. He lives in Melbourne.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: Sydney Theatre C
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Motion Pictures (1MO51); Theater (1TH47)
REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)

LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush; William Shakespeare; David Helfgott; Nicholas Pullen)
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Section: News

EXCLUSIVE JONATHON MORAN

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Actors back claims against Rush

JONATHON MORAN

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

It comes as Rush – one of the country's most successful actors – continued to vehemently deny claims that he had behaved inappropriately during a production of the classic Shakespeare play.

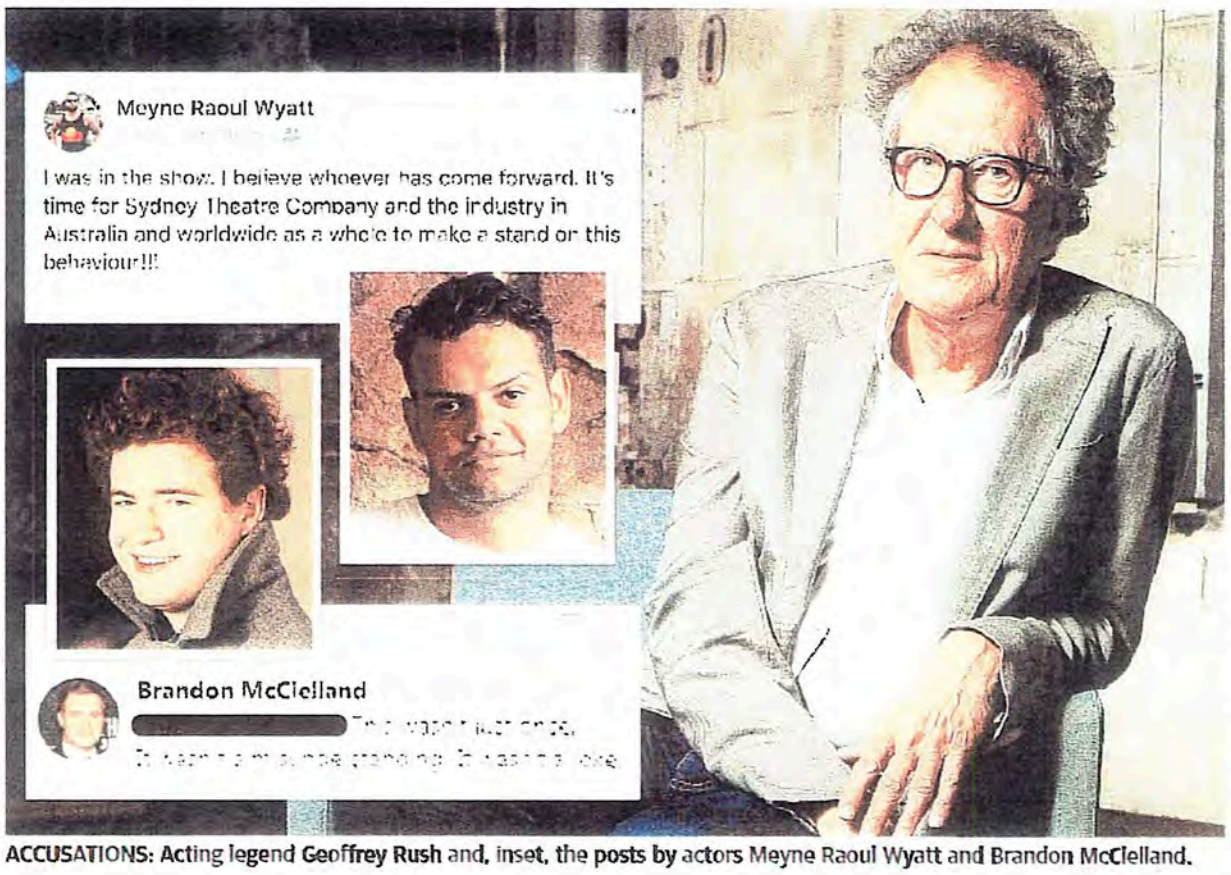
Rising young actor Meyne Raoul Wyatt, who appeared in *King Lear*, said he believed his castmate's version of events.

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

"I believe (the person who) has come forward. It's time for Sydney Theatre Company and the industry in Australia and worldwide as a whole to make a stand on this behaviour!!!!"

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

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



ACCUSATIONS: Acting legend Geoffrey Rush and, inset, the posts by actors Meyne Raoul Wyatt and Brandon McClelland.

McClelland's tweet was also reposted by other Sydney actors as the story dominated social media yesterday.

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

The 66-year-old acting legend yesterday said he "immediately phoned and spoke to senior management" at the STC when he became aware of rumours there was a complaint. But he said the STC refused to give him any details. "They refused to illuminate me," he said through a statement.

"I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

In a comprehensive statement issued by Rush's management yesterday, allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" were refuted.

The STC has failed to disclose any findings of an investigation into alleged "inappropriate behaviour" by Mr Rush.

The company yesterday afternoon issued a second statement saying: "At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

"STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare.

"As already stated, the company received the complaint after Mr Rush's engagement had ended.

"STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

But the company did not expand on the nature of its investigation, nor its conclusion.

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen, said the Melbourne-based actor had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour".

"It (the allegation) is a great disappointment to Mr Rush," he said.

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Actors back claims against Rush

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Section: News

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"I believe (the person who) has come forward. It's time for Sydney Theatre Company and the industry in Australia and worldwide as a whole to make a stand on this behaviour!!!!" Brandon McClelland, who has worked alongside the woman at the centre of the alleged complaint and who is in the company's current production of Three Sisters, urged others on Twitter to believe the actress.

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OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush; Brandon McClelland; Raoul Wyatt; Meyne Raoul Wyatt; Nicholas Pullen)
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Smart move on old RAH site

MATT SMITH

AN Australian-first institute focused on artificial intelligence will be the first tenant at the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site.

Adelaide University and the State Government will today announce a $7.1 million deal to establish the Institute for Machine Learning.

Building on current research at the university, the new facility will be home to more than 200 creative thinkers, researchers and start-ups.

It will help deliver what is known as the "fourth industrial revolution" — the transformation of the global economy through AI.

Interim Vice-Chancellor Mike Brooks said AI would add 40 per cent to global GDP by 2030.

"The United States, Canada and the UK have all adopted a national strategy to fast-track the development of an artificial intelligence-enabled economy," he said.

"China's president has declared artificial intelligence and machine learning to be a top priority in the years ahead,



and the eminent Shanghai Jiao Tong University is very keen to partner with us in this domain. Through the institute, South Australia has the opportunity to lead the nation in the development and implementation of a strategy to create a vibrant ecosystem of hi-tech businesses and highly productive workers."

Science and Information Economy Minister Kyam Maher said the Government's investment would help establish the centre and attract world-class researchers.

It will be housed in the Women's Health Centre, one of the four heritage buildings that will remain on the 7ha site that is widely considered one of the best CBD development opportunities in Australia.

Infrastructure Minister Stephen Mullighan said the deal showed the potential for research and innovation on the old RAH site.

"It's an important demonstration of confidence in the development potential of the cherished heritage buildings at the front of the site, as well as a welcome boost for the East End of the city," he said.

The institute will build on the work of the uni's Australian Centre for Visual Technologies, known for research in a broad range of fields. These include pedestrian detection technology for driverless cars, transforming 2D images to 3D in virtual reality, video surveillance, and aerial imaging for defence and agriculture.

The State Government will tip $7.1 million into the institute, including $1.5 million for defence capability projects.

In return, the institute will dedicate at least 18,000 research hours over a five-year agreement for projects which help the Government to improve productivity, efficiency and service delivery for South Australians.

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Rush to take action over claims

GEOFFREY RUSH will bring defamation proceedings over allegations of inappropriate behaviour made against him.



The Oscar winner, pictured, announced he would take action in the Federal Court against the *The Daily Telegraph*. "I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said.

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

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said Rush was unable to answer questions about the case.

He announced the legal proceedings at the offices of law firm HWL Ebsworth in Melbourne

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

"We will defend our position in court."

Revheads delight as cars on parade



IMPRESSIVE: High-performance cars make their way down Grote Street on their way to the Gouger Street Party. Picture: MORGAN SETTE

MITCH MOTT

HUNDREDS of eager motorsport fans lined the streets of Adelaide's CBD yesterday for what was potentially the fastest parade the city has seen.

Thousands of horsepower and millions of dollars worth of vintage and high-performance cars made their way from Victoria Park along Wakefield St, through Victoria Square and onto Morphett St before coming to a rest on Gouger St.

The parade was part of the Adelaide Motorsport Festival which has taken over Victoria Park and will weave a rally course through the Adelaide Hills for the four-day event.

Behind the wheel of the cars were some of Australia's most renowned motoring identities including Craig Lowndes, Nick Percat, Tim Slade and Garth Tander.

Nick Wright, from the Dandenong Ranges in Victoria, made the trip alongside his brother-in-law to compete.

"It was good fun being part of the parade. In fact I would say it was awesome," Mr Wright said.

The duo's Peugeot 309-GTI-16 has been competing in the rally challenge in the Hills.



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December 16, 2017

Section: Lifestyle

The year of LIVING ODDLY

WORDS MICHAEL MCGUIRE

2017 was a strange year. From Donald Trump becoming US president to Nick Xenophon returning to state politics and Richmond winning the AFL grand final

That was odd. That whole year. A delusional president in the White House. A nuclear nutter in North Korea. For the first time in a few decades there was a reasonable concern that the world might not make it to Christmas.

There is probably not a great deal of hope that next year will be any better. After all Donald Trump will still be president. Kim Jong-un, a nice fella who had his half-brother assassinated this year, will still be firing rockets skywards.

There is so much noise surrounding the Trump presidency. Russia, arguments with the FBI, fake news, advisers being indicted, neo-Nazis being "very fine people", the relentless lies. And that's even before we arrive at Twitter.

In the background, under the cover of the Trump distraction, China is expanding its global influence at a time when Europe is also weakening. United Kingdom Prime Minister Theresa May and German Chancellor Angela Merkel were both undermined by poor election results that left them scrabbling to form a government. Spain was tearing itself apart internally after Catalonia declared independence.

But perhaps Trump is just a president of the times. A bloke who has been accused of multiple counts of sexual abuse and harassment. A bloke who as admitted his own sexual assaults – "grab them by the pussy".

A defining feature of the latter half of the year were the revelations of a long line of remarkably disgusting behaviour from so, so many men. Look, in some ways it's not tremendously surprising. There has been plenty of evidence over the years of some people's depravity, see the likes of Rolf Harris and Jimmy Savile in England.

But the deluge this time was overwhelming and it still feels like the flood is a long way from high tide as victims, many of whom have suffered for decades, gather the courage needed to tell their stories.

The first loose brick in the dam wall was the demise of Harvey Weinstein, one of the most powerful and feared men in Hollywood. The allegations against Weinstein were as multitudinous as they were depraved. He was kicked out of his company, removed from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The exposure of Weinstein was followed by actors Kevin Spacey, who was dumped from his House of Cards TV show, and Dustin Hoffman, director Bret Ratner,

comedian Louis CK, and TV host Matt Lauer. Closer to home, TV gardener Don Burke was accused by multiple women of vile sexual conduct, while Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush was accused of – and strongly denied – inappropriate behaviour.

Some folk found cheer in the engagement of a taxpayer-dependent Englishman to an American actress. Yes, the impending nuptials of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle will keep the English-souvenir industry working overtime in 2018.

There were more familiar themes strung through the year. Islamic terrorists continue to target the softest of targets. The most shocking was at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, where a suicide bomber killed 22, the youngest victim being eight years old.

South Australian nurse Kirsty Boden was murdered in London when she went to help others during another attack where terrorists killed eight people by driving at pedestrians on London Bridge before stabbing others. Manchester and London were the highest profile incidents but other much more deadly carnage was committed elsewhere. A truck bomb in Mogadishu killed more than 500 people, an attack on a mosque in Egypt left more than 300 dead.

It's seems the world is becoming ever shriller. Everyone has a soap box and a desire to be heard. Discussion has been replaced by shouting. Common sense by certainty.

In Australia. the shrillest voices this year were heard from both sides of the same-sex marriage plebiscite. In the end the pro-side won easily and gave Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull a little lift after a difficult 2017. Turnbull floundered in the polls all year, not helped by constant sniping from ex-PM Tony Abbott, various other conservative reactionaries and their cheerleaders in the media. The constant questioning of who was actually eligible to sit in the Australian parliament added another layer to the feeling of general instability in public life.

Locally, Premier Jay Weatherill spent the year campaigning for next year's election. He emerged from the disaster that is the state's electricity system with a new best friend in tech billionaire Elon Musk, who came with batteries included. While there is a widespread feeling that after 16 years this is a Labor government which specialises in cynicism and shamelessness, mixed with a good measure of incompetence (see TAFE), the Liberals haven't done much to convince either. With Nick Xenophon returning to state politics, it's possible neither will win.

Footy helped distract many. The inaugural women's league was a roaring success, capped off by an Adelaide Crows team, featuring the league's best player Erin Phillips, winning the premiership. The men's teams also performed well. Port Adelaide found form after a couple of mediocre years and the Crows performed brilliantly right up until the Grand Final when it all fell apart.How odd was 2017? Richmond won the premiership. ●

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NewsRoom

We surrender turf war is over

Hills bowls club to give up last grass



PROUD HISTORY: Kathy Probert, Geoff Deeble, Malcolm and Ros Story at the Uraidla Bowls Club, before the green is dug up and replaced with a synthetic surface next month. Picture: MATT TURNER

REECE HOMFRAY

URAIDLA 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 drain on volunteers to maintain the pristine surface and a move towards year-round, low-maintenance use will see the tiny Hills town join Gumeracha, Hahndorf, Lenswood, Lobethal, Meadows, Mount Barker, Mount Pleasant, Oakbank and Woodside with an artificial surface.

It costs about $10,000 a year to maintain a grass green and about $220,000 to install a synthetic one. The club's decision to make the switch has been four years in the making and will be funded by a State Government grant and member donations and loans.

Geoff Deeble, 60, is the club's volunteer greenkeeper. He spends three half-days a week mowing, spraying, watering and rolling the green with the help of four others.

But he says the time is right to join the growing movement among bowls clubs towards a synthetic surface.

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 Deeble 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 practising.

"Every time you'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."

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 Deeble 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."

Uraidla Bowls Club was formed in 1948 and the green – which was returfed in the 1980s – 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.

A concert to farewell the green is planned for March 3 with singer Dave Gleeson.

Bowls SA chief executive Mark Easton said synthetic surfaces were popular among hills and country clubs but he hoped they would never take over completely. "I certainly think it has an appeal having a synthetic, it's not too dissimilar to having tennis played on grass and hard court, but I'm not sure that we want to lose the whole box and dice, it's nice to have a mixture," he said.

Court hears 'touching' allegations against star

MATTHEW BENNS

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 2015-2016 production of *King Lear*, Eryn Jean Norvill, complained about the *Pirates Of The Caribbean* star after he allegedly touched her on five occasions during the final week of the play.



The court heard the actor, pictured, followed her into the female toilets at the after-party on the final night of the STC's performance of the Shakespeare classic and stood outside her cubicle until she told him to "f... off". The incident allegedly left her "visibly upset".

Rush, 66, is suing *The Daily Telegraph* for its reporting of Ms Norvill's complaint about alleged inappropriate behaviour made to the Sydney Theatre Company 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.

Upon application by Dauid Sibtain, representing Fairfax Media and Channel 9, Justice Michael Wigney said fears that releasing details of the defence case could further damage Rush's reputation were outweighed by the need for open justice. 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 her character. Norvill asked Rush to "stop doing it" but it is alleged he repeated the touching on another four occasions.



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February 20, 2018

Section: News

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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 on five occasions during the final week of the play.

The court heard the actor, pictured, followed her into the female toilets at the after-party on the final night of the STC's performance of the Shakespeare classic and stood outside her cubicle until she told him to "f... off". The incident allegedly left her "visibly upset".

Rush, 66, is suing The Daily Telegraph for its reporting of Ms Norvill's complaint about alleged inappropriate behaviour made to the Sydney Theatre Company 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.

Upon application by Dauid Sibtain, representing Fairfax Media and Channel 9, Justice Michael Wigney said fears that releasing details of the defence case could further damage Rush's reputation were outweighed by the need for open justice. 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 her character. Norvill asked Rush to "stop doing it" but it is alleged he repeated the touching on another four occasions.

—— Index References ——

Company: FAIRFAX MEDIA LTD; Sydney Theatre C

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Geoffrey Rush; Richard McHugh; Jean Norvill; Michael Wigney)

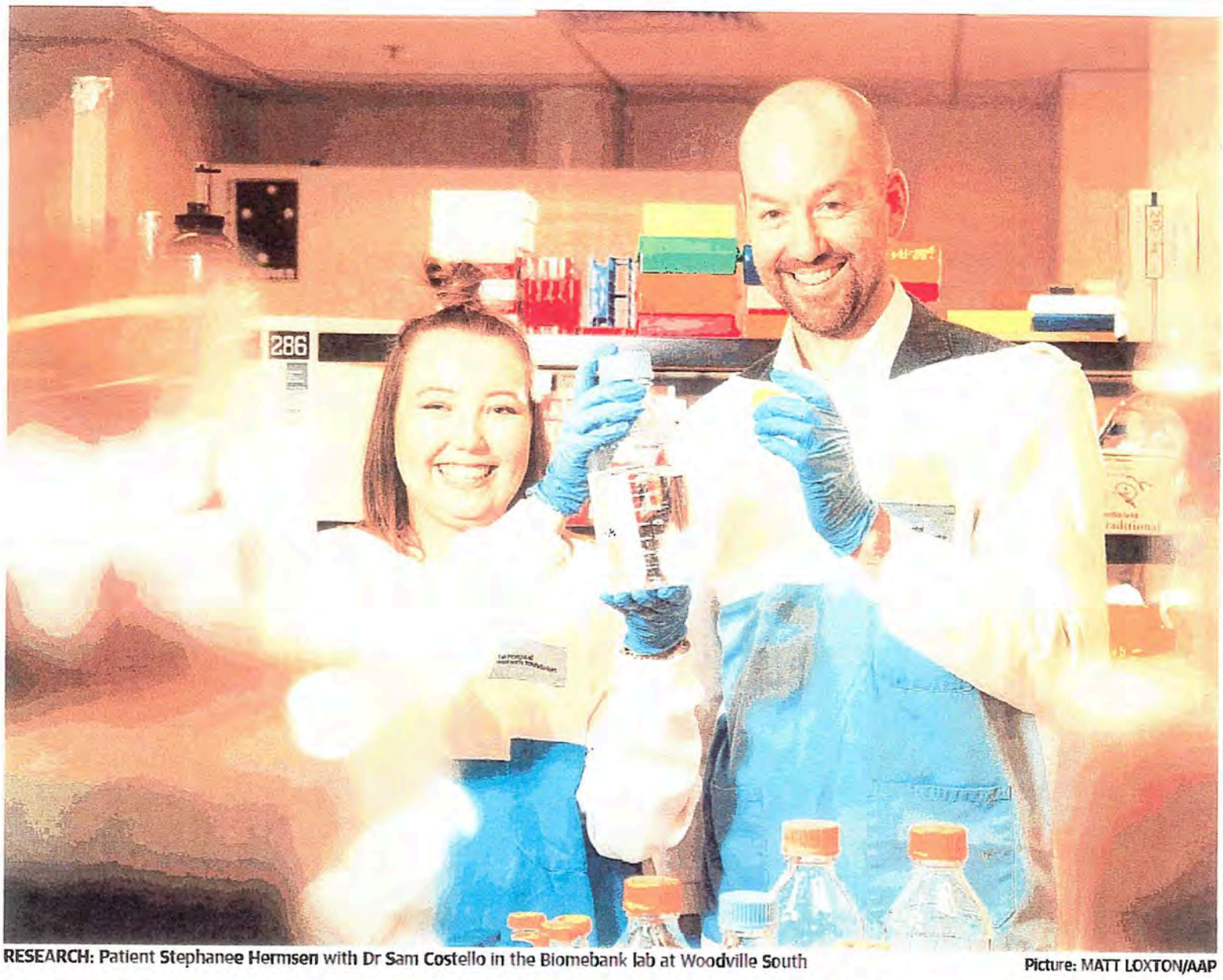
Edition: Advertiser2

Word Count: 270

End of Document

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NewsRoom



RESEARCH: Patient Stephanee Hermsen with Dr Sam Costello in the Biomebank lab at Woodville South Picture: MATT LOXTON/AAP

Court limits defence in star's case

MATTHEW BENNS

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush's defamation case will go to trial in August, a court has heard.

In the interim Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* will consider appealing a preliminary judgment in which a Federal Court judge struck out parts of its defence to the legal action brought by the star.



Mr Rush, pictured, is suing the *Telegraph* after it reported his co-star in *King Lear* lodged a complaint with the Sydney Theatre Company over his "inappropriate behaviour".

Justice Michael Wigney yesterday agreed with an application by Mr Rush's lawyers to remove "truth" from the *Telegraph*'s defence.

The newspaper is considering "whether it will make an application for leave to appeal", editor Chris Dore said.

Centrelink 'rant' spurs crackdown

THE Human Services Minister has asked for "options" to penalise people who abuse government staff after video footage of a man hurling abuse at Salisbury Centrelink went viral.

The footage attracted more than 680,000 views on social media in a little over 24 hours.

Human Services Minister Michael Keenan described the incident as "disgusting".

"Like most Australians, I was disgusted to see video of somebody abusing my staff and women and children in one of our service centres in Adelaide," Mr Keenan said.

"Unfortunately, this is one of thousands of incidents ... I've asked my department to urgently give me options for what we might be able to further do to penalise people involved in this sort of behaviour."

The video shows a man hurling racial profanities and threatening to "smash" staff.

lites, viruses, fungi — that may play a role. Once this is better understood we may be able to select a 'super donor'."

And the potential applications of FMT reach further.

In addition to treating patients with Clostridium difficile infection, the research team – led by Dr Costello and Dr Rob Bryant – is collaborating with the University of Adelaide's Dr Hannah Wardill and colleagues across SA hospitals on a study where chemotherapy patients save their own stool for readministration into the bowel after their treatment.

They are also collaborating with SAHMRI and Flinders University on a study of faecal transplant as a treatment for patients with multi-drug resistant infections. They will also work on a study culturing bacteria from the bowels of people from the general population to get a deeper understanding of what bacteria occur in the gut of Australians.

"The aim of our research is to discover links between the gut microbiome (flora) and disease and also to determine whether we can improve disease by modifying the gut microbial environment," he says.

"We have done this through faecal microbiota transplantation. We have shown along with a couple of other groups that FMT can induce remission of ulcerative colitis in about 30 per cent of cases and this opens up a potential new therapy for patients.

"However, we do not know whether this therapy will be effective in the longer term and so more research needs to be done before it can be recommended. We have used anaerobic processing methods that have not been used in other trials in the past and our anaerobic facilities have been provided by the Hospital Research Foundation, which is very important. Our long-term aim is to accelerate the development of rationally designed microbial therapeutic products that can do the job of FMT in a more standardised way."

This means studying stool, and this means more donations are needed.

"Prior to becoming a stool donor, a person undergoes thorough screening," Dr Costello says.

"This involves a medical questionnaire and examination to ensure that they do not have any active medical problems.

"They then have a blood test and stool test to screen for disease. We test for and exclude many infections as you would expect but we also exclude a range of other medical problems, for example diabetes or obesity are exclusions. The stool itself is tested for infections. At this stage, we do not analyse for the composition of beneficial bacteria, although this is something that may happen in future.

"There are very few well-documented side effects from FMT. It is important to note that FMT has been performed in large numbers only in the last five years or so and so we therefore don't have good long term safety data.

So there is the risk of the unknown any time a new therapy becomes available. There is a risk of transmission of infection which is low when donors are screened.

"There is also a theoretical risk of weight gain or obesity if an overweight individual donated stool. In animal studies, it is possible to cause animals to gain weight through transplant and so we ensure that donors are a healthy weight."

THE INSIDES STORY

THE knowledge gained from studying what comes out of us can also inform what we should be putting in.

"A diverse gut flora is associated with health and conversely lower diversity of gut organisms has been correlated with many diseases, Dr Sam Costello said. And he said the difference can come down to breastfeeding in infancy, and diet.

"Many beneficial gut bacteria require fibre and so eating diet high in fruit and vegetables and other sources of fibre helps keep a healthy gut population."





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March 21, 2018

Section: News

Court limits defence in star's case

MATTHEW BENNS

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush's defamation case will go to trial in August, a court has heard.

In the interim Sydney's Daily Telegraphwill consider appealing a preliminary judgment in which a Federal Court judge struck out parts of its defence to the legal action brought by the star.

Mr Rush, pictured, is suing the Telegraph after it reported his co-star in King Lear lodged a complaint with the Sydney Theatre Company over his "inappropriate behaviour".

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---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Dividends (1DI76); Equity Instruments (1EQ90); Funding Instruments (1FU41); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Financial Services (1FI37); Investment Management (1IN34); Securities Investment (1SE57))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Michael Wigney; Chris Dore)

Edition: Advertiser

Word Count: 112

End of Document

Newspaper able to use 'truth' defence

Rush case to air co-star's claims

FIONA WINGETT



THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star touched her breast and lower back, made "groping" gestures toward her and texted how he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate", a court has been told.

The details of Eryn Jean Norvill's allegations against Rush are contained in a document filed with the Federal Court late yesterday.

The court agreed to allow Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper to plead that a series of articles the actor is suing over are true.

The Daily Telegraph articles reported on a complaint of inappropriate behaviour by Rush that Norvill made to the Sydney Theatre Company relating to the time they appeared together in the STC's production of *King Lear* from November 2015 to January 2016.

Rush, left, launched the action against the newspaper last December and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In the Federal Court yesterday, *The Daily Telegraph* succeeded in amending its defence in the lawsuit to allow it to plead truth in the matter, instead of qualified privilege.

Norvill's statement, tendered last week, is the basis of the change. Her testimony will now be admitted as evidence.

A document lodged in court by Rush's lawyers summarised Norvill's allegations.

They include that Rush "made groping gestures in the air about (Norvill's) torso, mocking her and causing other cast members to laugh".

Rush also allegedly "made comments or jokes about (Norvill) or her body which contained sexual innuendo" and at other times "made lewd gestures" in her direction, it says.

It says the allegations include that Rush's hand "traced across" the side of Norvill's right breast and that he touched her "lower back under her shirt to her waistline".

Six months after the production had finished, Rush allegedly sent Norvill a text message that "he thought of her 'more than is socially appropriate'," the document says.

The defamation trial is due to start in October.



SUBS AWAY: Matthew Burrows, John Habis, Jagruti Rayar, Chetan Kumar and Angus De Wit will continue their studies in France. Picture: MATT LOXTON

Students engineer opportunity

TORY SHEPHERD
STATE EDITOR

FIVE University of Adelaide students will bid bon voyage to winter next week as they jet to France as part of a new dual-Masters engineering degree.

Professor Anton Middelberg - Executive Dean of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences - said the billions in defence spending on warships and submarines would generate a range of "future-facing" jobs that will last decades.

Australia picked France for its partner in the $50 billion Future Submarines project.

Prof Middelberg said the entire engineering curriculum would "leapfrog" with huge advances in technology.

Jagruti Rayar, 22, will extend her existing engineering qualifications in the course, which comprises semesters in France and Adelaide followed by an internship.

"The internship, the last semester, will be really exciting because it can be in Adelaide or in France, or we might get to go to the UK as well," Ms Rayar said.

Man arrested over historic sex attacks

AN alleged sexual predator who attacked numerous girls and women in Sydney in the two decades to 2010 has been arrested.

NSW Police said the 51-year-old man was arrested yesterday after tests revealed "forensic links" between four incidents in the Ryde area between 1989 and 2007.

The man was expected to be charged with up to 20 offences relating to 12 victims targeted in "predator style attacks". The youngest victim was 14.

The man was arrested at an Epping home yesterday morning after detectives from the child abuse and sex crimes squad in June established Strikeforce Petit to re-investigate the historic assaults. Victims were told of the arrest.

V1 - ADVE03201MA

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173cc. 20" Easy start.
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Powdercoated steel. Heats 17 sqm.
3171024
$147

Marquee
Cafe Outdoor Blind
300 x 240cm. Heavy duty PVC. Fittings included.
1281605
$88.90

Heavy Duty Tool Box
1050 x 365 x 392mm. Galvanised steel. 5810158
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$9.98 EACH

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August 10, 2018

Section: News

Rush case to air co-star's claims

FIONA WINGETT

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Rush, left, launched the action against the newspaper last December and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

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--- Index References ---

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Jean Norvill)

Edition: Advertiser3

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August 10, 2018

Section: News

Rush case to air co-star's claims

Fiona Wingett

Newspaper able to use truth defence THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star touched her breast and back, a court has heard.

Mr Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph over articles published about a complaint of inappropriate behaviour made by his co-star, Eryn Jean Norvill, relating to the time they were appearing in King Lear at the Sydney Theatre Company.

Mr Rush, pictured, sued the newspaper last December over its coverage and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In proceedings at the Federal Court yesterday, The Daily Telegraph succeeded in amending its defence in the lawsuit to allow it to plead truth in the matter, instead of qualified privilege.

Ms Norvill's testimony will now be admitted as evidence. Alec Leopold, SC, counsel for Nationwide News Pty Ltd (publisher of The Daily Telegraph) told the court that the newspaper will show Mr Rush engaged in a number of incidents of sexual harassment including "touching on her breast and lower back and tracing his finger across her lower back".

He said there would be evidence "from persons who were present at the time" to back up Ms Norvill's claims.

Justice Michael Wigney questioned Ms Norvill's decision to come forward at such a late stage "after indicating for some months she didn't want to co-operate". However, Mr Leopold argued that it was "understandable that somebody in the acting world who is a relatively junior actor, such as Ms Norvill, who is at the centre of allegations about a very senior, indeed, iconic figure in the acting world was reluctant to come out and speak".Sue Chrysanthou, counsel for Mr Rush, said her client's decision not to oppose the newspaper's application to include the truth defence should not be seen as acceptance of it by Mr Rush. Mr Chrysanthou said Mr Rush was suffering "continuing trauma because of these proceedings" and that any delay was "intolerable" to the actor. Justice Wigney said the trial – where both Mr Rush and Ms Norvill will give evidence – will now take place over 13 days, beginning on October 22.

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Sue Chrysanthou; Alec Leopold; Jean Norvill)

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Word Count: 352

End of Document

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WESTLAW

STC has smeared my name, says Rush

Source: Australian
Publication Date: December 1, 2017
Country: Australia
Source Type: Newspaper

12/1/17 Australian (Newspaper) 3

News

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Section: TheNation

Rosemary Neill

Oscar-winning actor **Geoffrey Rush** yesterday accused the -nation's largest theatre company of smearing his name after The Daily Telegraph reported an -accusation he had engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" during a recent Sydney Theatre Company production.

The allegation relates to **Rush's** portrayal of King Lear in a high-profile, 2015-16 production for the STC.

Rush, one of few actors to have garnered Academy, Emmy and Tony awards, firmly rejected the allegation, saying in a statement drafted by his lawyers that he "abhors any form of maltreatment of any person".

The statement, issued by **Rush's** lawyers HWL Ebsworth, also said: "It is a great disappointment to Mr **Rush** the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way." The Australian can reveal that the actor, who won a Best Actor Oscar for his role in the 1996 film Shine, was targeted in defamatory posters in inner Melbourne recently. The posters, which featured the actor promoting the Melbourne Theatre Company's 2018 season, were scrawled with graffiti claiming: "**Geoffrey Rush** is a sexual predator".

An MTC spokeswoman said the company "was made aware of one poster that had graffiti on an image of **Geoffrey Rush** advertising MTC's 2018 season, so we contacted the distribution company to have it removed, as is our standard practice".

"This is the only instance of graffiti on MTC posters featuring **Geoffrey Rush** that we are aware of and don't know who was responsible," she said.

Last month **Rush** told The Australian: "I am unaware of any deliberate smear campaign regarding a defaced poster which I have not seen. I assume it to be a case of random vandalism." One source, who did not want to be named, told The Australian she had seen multiple defamatory posters in inner Melbourne.

As for the King Lear complaint, the actor's lawyers revealed that "to date, Mr **Rush** or any of his representatives have not received any representations from the STC or the complainant". The actor said he had phoned senior STC management "the moment I became aware of rumours of a complaint ... They refused to illuminate me with the details." The statement said this refusal, combined with the STC's release of such information to the public, was "a denial of natural justice". Yesterday, the STC confirmed it had been asked by a News Corp journalist "whether it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by Mr **Rush** while employed by the company. STC responded truthfully that it had received such a complaint ... STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC, and not a conclusion of impropriety."

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: NEWS CORP; Sydney Theatre C
NEWS SUBJECT: Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05)
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Motion Pictures (1MO51); Theater (1TH47)

THE AUSTRALIAN

Geoffrey Rush steps down from AACTAs role

Oscar winning actor Geoffrey Rush.

AAP 4:52PM December 2, 2017

Geoffrey Rush has stepped down as AACTA's president, following recent allegations against him of inappropriate behaviour.

The Oscar-winning actor denies the allegations, which have been reported by the *Daily Telegraph* to have allegedly happened during a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear* in 2015.

Rush has been the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards from its beginnings in 2011, when it replaced the AFIA Awards, and was expected to appear at the annual ceremony in Sydney on Wednesday. He has also hosted the awards on several occasions.

Rush said in a statement to The Associated Press on Saturday that he would be stepping down as president "effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved".

AACTA said it accepted and respected Rush's decision to voluntarily step aside.

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," AACTA said in a statement.

"We will not be making any further comment at this time."



AUSTRALIA DAY

'I'm a half-white Australian'

Jacinta Price asserts she and other mixed heritage indigenous Australians wouldn't be here were it not for the First Fleet.



CUT AND PASTE

Vic Labor loses grip on gangs

And Kristina Keneally's elevation to the Senate speaks volumes about the state of democracy.



'Lunacy, thy name is Green'

What our readers had to say this week on the Greens' Australia Day fatwa, Cory Bernardi's Hot 100, PC 'true lies' and tennis scream queens.

SUPPORT

Film star Jacqueline McKenzie tells of being groped and bullied

Actress Jacqueline McKenzie in Sydney. Picture: Richard Dobson

JUSTIN BURKE,ROSEMARY NEILL THE AUSTRALIAN 12:00AM December 2, 2017

Distinguished Australian actress Jacqueline McKenzie has revealed she endured "sexual harassment, bullying, groping, lascivious comments and unwanted advances" during her long stage and screen career here and overseas.

An emerging actress in her 20s when the harassment began, McKenzie says she reported it on two occasions and the "behaviour was ignored".

As dozens of women worldwide have come forward to expose sleaze in the entertainment industry, McKenzie has called for an independent body to investigate cases of sexual harassment because production companies were incapable of dealing with it.

Separate and unrelated claims of "inappropriate behaviour" have also been reported this week against Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush, when he was starring in a production of *King Lear* for the Sydney Theatre Company. The STC yesterday refused to clarify whether it would continue to work with Rush, who has vehemently denied the allegation, - accusing the theatre company of smearing his name.

McKenzie, 50, said she had endured various forms of sexual harassment during her work in film, television and theatre. She remains too afraid to name offenders but said they were predominantly "actors/directors".

"The people involved were protected, the behaviour was ignored or swept under the rug," she said. "One response to a legal letter I did send — demanding an assurance I would be safe on set — was met by the producer saying: 'I can't give this letter to him (an actor), he'll go crazy'."

McKenzie said she was afraid of "naming names" because she felt she dealt with the unwelcome situations at the time, "with the limited tools I had, even if they were not apparently brave".

"But there is also something to be said for having to front up every day and work with these people after that; that actually takes quite a lot of bravery," she said.

McKenzie's work includes the film *The Water Diviner* and television series such as *Rake* and a forthcoming remake of *Romper Stomper*. She said in an interview with *The Weekend Australian* and via a lengthy Facebook post that entertainment executives were incapable of being objective about harassment because of fears of productions being shut down. "Management is inclined to call in both parties and say, 'C'mon, sort it out, you two', as if in some way you are equally culpable when your colleague can't keep their hands to themselves," she said.

"So often, they (management) 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 working to pay mortgages and feed their kids

"And of course predators don't just pick on anyone — they pick on people who will not tell, they pick on people who worry about film sets shutting down and hundreds of workers losing their jobs."

Following reports about a complaint made against Rush, STC board chairman Ian Narev declined to comment yesterday on claims the company would not work with the actor again. It is unclear whether Rush, president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards, will attend the AACTAs, on Wednesday night.

When asked whether Rush would attend, a spokeswoman said: "No comment."

Actress tells of 'bullying and groping' on set

Source: Australian
Publication Date: December 2, 2017
Country: Australia
Source Type: Newspaper

12/2/17 Australian (Newspaper) 3

News

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Section: TheNation

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CAROLINE OVERINGTON P19JANET ALBRECHTSEN P19

— INDEX REFERENCES —

COMPANY: **RUSH** ENTERPRISES INC; Sydney Theatre C
NEWS SUBJECT: Business Management (1BU42); Employment Law (1EM67); HR & Labor Management (1HR87); Workplace Harassment (1WO08)
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Film Festivals (1FI62); Motion Pictures (1MO51)
REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); Oceania (1OC40)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush; CAROLINE OVERINGTON; Ian Narev; Jacqueline McKenzie)
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WORD COUNT: 536

The reckoning's overdue, but there can be grey areas

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News

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Section: Inquirer

Caroline Overington, Associate Editor

Sexual predators had it coming, but some accusations can be a bit tricky

It has been dubbed the reckoning — after years, and in most cases decades, of getting away with the most egregious behaviour, powerful men across the globe are being brought to their knees by allegations of sexual harassment.

It started in the US with Roger Ailes, chief executive of Fox News (owned by 21st Century Fox, the company that emerged from the spin-off of News Corp's journalism and publishing assets). Ailes was followed by Fox News presenter Bill O'Reilly, forced out after too many complaints. Then, in a truly seismic moment, Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, a man of immense popularity and influence, was publicly accused of forcing himself on women.

He's now gone from The Weinstein Company, the production company he co-founded. And we are still only at the beginning, for next came Oscar winner Kevin Spacey and, just this week, Matt Lauer, the host of America's most watched, best-loved morning television show, Today, came tumbling down.

Before that, on Monday in Australia, celebrity gardener Don Burke was accused of being a man who harassed and bullied people, including Australia's golden girl, Susie O'Neill, who says Burke asked her about the size of her vagina while filming a segment for the Nine Network's Burke's Backyard. Although she complained, and Burke allegedly got ticked off by Kerry Packer, he essentially got away with it.

So many men, for so long, have been getting away with it. What has changed? What has brought on the reckoning?

The Weinstein story obviously changed everything. Like the stories about Burke, his behaviour had been whispered about for years. Not even whispered: there are clips showing comedians making jokes about Weinstein's behaviour on stage, and everyone laughed because everyone knew.

Actresses warned each other about him, but he was rich and powerful and well-connected, hobnobbing with Hillary Clinton and every star in Hollywood, and the lawyers were always there with their letters, ready to scare off anyone who wanted to speak.

But then some of his victims decided they didn't give a damn any more and spoke up on the record. Their courage emboldened others. A crack appeared in the dam wall. Women began posting on social media about their experiences using the hashtag #metoo. One tweet, asking women to -re-tweet if they had "ever seen a dick they didn't want or expect to see", got retweeted more than 200,000 times in five days.

In Australia, the woman who deserves the most credit for getting a local conversation about sexual harassment under way is journalist Tracey Spicer.

Earlier this year she published The Good Girl Stripped Bare, a book about her experiences in TV. She was harassed and abused. Her appearance was mocked. She was told to lose weight. She

bore witness to the harassment of other women in the industry.

Ultim-ately she was fired after she went on maternity leave. She fought back, hiring a lawyer to fight for her rights. She settled her case, but she wanted to do more for other women, so she told her story, and her book struck a nerve. You could feel it, even at the launch, where women from across the political spectrum — NSW's Liberal Premier Gladys Berejiklian was there, as was Labor's Tanya Plibersek — cheered her stirring speech. Then it started: women began calling Spicer and emailing her, saying: "Me too." At first Spicer was uncertain how to proceed. The stories she was gathering were horrendous, but what could be done? Australia's defamation laws are some of the world's toughest. You can tell the truth and still go down in court if the jury does not believe you.

Then the Weinstein story broke and Spicer decided the time had come: she posted a tweet asking women who had suffered similar instances of harassment to come forward.

She expected quite a few responses. She didn't expect 900.

"Frankly, I feel overwhelmed and humbled by the sheer number of courageous women who have come forward to share their stories, many of which are heartbreaking," Spicer tells Inquirer. "At this stage, it's almost 1000. Really, it's a stain on this country that so many women have been exposed to unsafe workplaces for decades." With the wave of claims now rolling across Australian shores, Spicer was determined to do something about it, and the place to start was with the one name that kept coming up in emails: Don Burke. In some ways, the fact he could be vile was the oldest story in Australian showbiz, yet it had never been fully told.

Several journalists had a go at saying so through the years, including ABC broadcaster Richard Glover, who wrote a piece for Fairfax's Good Weekend magazine in 1991 with the spot-on title: "They love him, they love him not".

Elisabeth Wynhausen, with Vanessa Walker, spent months investigating what they described as "some of the colourful claims, rumours and innuendos" about Burke for The Australian in 2004, but there was no backlash.

Burke's show was a ratings juggernaut. He was protected. But no longer. Burke was the first to fall in Australia but he will not be the last.

About to burst into the open, surely, is the story about the high-profile comedian who assaulted and harassed his girlfriend. Sydney writer Kara Eva Schlegl wrote about that incident more than two years ago, explaining to readers of The Saturday Paper how she had been encouraged by others in the comedy scene to protect the man's privacy, despite being outraged by what he had done.

" 'I don't think he needs accusations or judgments right now. I think he needs our support,' one tells me," she wrote. " 'The thing is, he's very mentally unwell at the moment, Kara,' another says, 'and this happened a long time ago. I don't think it matters — I mean, it matters, don't get me wrong, but this was a one-time thing.' " Other names are doing the rounds. Many people are feeling nervous. " Of course it's not just the media and entertainment industry," says Spicer. "It's time for a full and thorough investigation into all workplaces. But the Don Burke story has prompted all sorts of conversations about what we can do to make all workplaces safe." This new reckoning is not being welcomed everywhere. INXS guitarist Kirk Pengilly, attending a Movember charity event in Melbourne on Thursday, said men were starting to feel that they couldn't even compliment a woman as it could be viewed as sexual harassment.

"I really loved the 60s and 70s when life was so simple and you could slap a woman on the butt," Pengilly said. You actually can't go around slapping women on the butt. But Pengilly probably meant that men and women have flirted forever and it would be a shame for that to stop.

Spicer says the reckoning isn't about flirting. Nobody is trying to put an end to the office romance. It's also not women v men. It's about awful behaviour, abuse and harassment, and people should knows the difference. The detail from the Lauer case opens a window on exactly what women have had to endure. Entertainment trade journal Variety says he gave a colleague a sex toy as a present, with a note saying how he wanted to use it on her. He is accused of asking a female employee to come to his office, then dropping his pants and showing her his penis.

It's not just vile. It's the stuff of lawsuits. Roger Singh, abuse law special counsel with Shine

Lawyers, tells Inquirer: "These events are a wretched reminder that Australian workplaces, like in other parts of the globe, are not immune from the scourge of sexual harassment. It is a serious wake-up call. Workplaces need to change to ensure that employees are protected from sexual misconduct." Singh says what should be obvious: "Every individual has a right to go to work without fear of being assaulted in their place of employment." Moreover, all employers have a duty of care to staff "which extends to providing a safe and secure workplace". That means giving employees the opportunity to make complaints "without fear or trepidation, including against perpetrators who might be persons in positions of prominence or authority".

And if an employer should breach its duty of care, "it is open for workers to escalate the matter to the Australian Human Rights Commission or to their state anti-discrimination commission, and there is scope to pursue legal -action." The AHRC's Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Kate Jenkins, says the allegations of workplace sexual harassment and assault that have come to light in recent months "highlight the magnitude of this issue and the urgent need for change".

"Employers have a legal obligation to take steps to prevent sexual harassment from occurring," she says. "Businesses must also ensure that employees are able to come forward with complaints of sexual harassment, and that these complaints are acted upon. Too many people have had their experiences minimised or dismissed by an -employer, which is not only harmful to individuals but also costly to businesses, who miss out on skills and talent when employees who are sexually harassed are -prevented from reaching their full potential." There is, of course, danger here. Yesterday's "pants man" — the office playboy, usually married, who hits on all the junior staff — is today's sexual predator. And in some cases, so he should be. But there may well be a temptation for some who engaged in consensual acts to change the story. To recast it as abuse when it was a fling.

Overnight, American author and radio personality Garrison Keillor lost his gigs on Minnesota Public Radio and The Washington Post. He told The New York Times: "I've been fired over a story that I think is more interesting and more complicated than the version (his employers) heard. Most stories are." We have not yet heard from the alleged victim, but those comments will ring true to many people, if not in his case, then in others.

Trickier still are those "he said, she said" cases. On Thursday, Sydney's The Daily Telegraph reported that a complaint of sexual harassment had been made about Oscar winner **Geoffrey Rush** during the Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear.

The report is correct: **Rush** was the subject of a complaint. But now it gets tricky because he was apparently never told about it, with the STC saying the complainant "requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially".

Rush has reacted furiously. "Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them, let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public, is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates," he says in a statement issued through his lawyers.

Two actors who worked on the same production have backed the victim's version of events, taking to Twitter to urge the public to believe her and not him.

Yes, there is danger here, which perhaps explains why it has taken so long for the reckoning to arrive. Remember, Roman Polanski was convicted of a sex crime against a child. Hollywood gave him an Oscar, and his victims could barely believe it. They still can't.

But the women who took the first tentative steps against harassment — complaining and seeing their complaint go nowhere — are buoyed to see the movement become one of great strides, and there may not be any going back.Spicer hopes that turns out to be the case, saying "senior federal politicians, board members and executives are calling with ideas about how we change the culture. This investigation — and its consequences — will continue for many years to come."

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COMPANY: TWENTY FIRST CENTURY FOX INC; FOX NEWS NETWORK LLC; MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO; NEWS CORP; SHINE LAWYERS; Sydney Theatre C; WEINSTEIN COMPANY HOLDINGS LLC (THE); CROWN RESORTS LTD; NINE DIGITAL PTY LTD

NEWS SUBJECT: Business Management (1BU42); Crime (1CR87); Employment Law (1EM67); Gender Relations (1GE36); HR & Labor Management (1HR87); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Workplace Harassment (1WO08)
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08)
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OTHER INDEXING: (NINE NETWORK) (Vanessa Walker; Kate Jenkins; Tracey Spicer; Kara Eva; Roger Singh; Elisabeth Wynhausen; Tanya Plibersek; Gladys Berejiklian; Kevin Spacey; Bill O'Reilly; Roger E Ailes; Roger Ailes; Kara Eva Schlegl; Geoffrey Rush; Richard Glover; Hillary Clinton; Roman Polanski; Don Burke; Shine Lawyers; Kirk Pengilly; Overnight; Harvey Weinstein; Matt Lauer)
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Young Sunny shines in Lion's share of gongs

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News

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Section: TheNation

PHILIPPA HAWKER, OLIVIA CAISLEY

The Lion roared and all the -creatures of the film and television jungle came out in their finery for Australian screen's speech night, the AACTA Awards.

Garth Davis's film Lion took 12 AACTAs from all 12 nominations, including best film, best director and best actor for nine-year-old star Sunny Pawar — the youngest ever winner of the acting award.

Nicole Kidman, who did not -attend the ceremony at Sydney's The Star, won awards for best -supporting actress in film and TV for her roles in Lion and Top of the Lake: China Girl, -respectively.

Sequins dominated the red carpet, with actresses Emma Booth, Melina Vidler, Brook Lee and Jessica McNamee favouring floor-length numbers. Rising star Angourie Rice wore a structured black KITX dress and pale-blue Miu Miu shoes with a glittery heel.

The elephant in the room was multiple award-winning actor **Geoffrey Rush**, who was accused last week of unspecified "inappropriate behaviour" at Sydney Theatre Company. He denies any wrongdoing, and at the weekend stood aside as AACTA president until the issue is resolved.

Outside the event, actress Debra Lawrence said **Rush** "did the right thing" by stepping aside, and warned it was "too easy to smear someone's name" with misconduct claims. Rove McManus refused to answer questions about sexual harassment in the industry.

Lion's dominance meant that although a record 17 feature films were in contention, only three took home awards. Emma Booth won best actress for her role in the low-budget thriller Hounds of Love, while Ali's Wedding on Monday won best original screenplay for co-writers Andrew Knight and Osamah Sami.

In the TV categories, the big winners were Top of the Lake: China Girl (four awards, including best drama series) and Seven Types of Ambiguity (five awards).

Sunshine won for best telefeature or miniseries, Australian Ninja Warrior won best light entertainment TV series, and MasterChef Australia won its third straight AACTA for best reality series. Celia Pacquola, best performance in a TV comedy for Rosehaven, is now a three-time winner. Actor-director Simon Baker won the AACTA Trailblazer award, and praised wife Rebecca Rigg in his speech. "I'm the front man, babe, but you're the rocking rhythm section," he said.

ARTS P15

-- INDEX REFERENCES --

COMPANY: LION CORP; STAR GROUP LP; Sydney Theatre C
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Film Festivals (1FI62); Motion Pictures (1MO51); Music (1MU57)
REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush; Melina Vidler; Celia Pacquola; Rebecca Rigg; Rove McManus; Brook

Lee; Simon Baker; Osamah Sami; Debra Lawrence; Garth Davis; Sunny Pawar; Nicole Kidman; Miu Miu; Emma Booth; Jessica McNamee; Andrew Knight)
EDITION: Australian
WORD COUNT: 370

THE AUSTRALIAN

Geoffrey Rush to sue The Daily Telegraph over reports of 'inappropriate behaviour'

Acclaimed actor Geoffrey Rush. Picture: AP

REBECCA URBAN THE AUSTRALIAN 4:23PM December 8, 2017

Actor Geoffrey Rush has announced that he will take legal action to seek "vindication" of his "good name", after allegations were made about his conduct while involved in a Sydney play.

Rush revealed today that he had filed a defamation case against The Daily Telegraph following its publication last week on an article that claimed the Sydney Theatre Company had received a complaint about "inappropriate behaviour" following the production of King Lear two years ago.

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry," he said at a press conference held at his lawyer's office in Melbourne.

"The Daily Telegraph has made false, pejorative and demeaning claims — splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages."

He said the claims had created irreparable damage and been extremely hurtful to his family and colleagues.

.s Dore, editor of The Daily Telegraph issued a statement this afternoon: "The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour. We will defend our position in court."

The allegations against Rush, 66, one of the country's most acclaimed performers, emerged a week ago and prompted his resignation as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television.

Numerous show business identities have come to his defence, including actor Rachel Griffiths who said on Tuesday that Rush was "not Harvey Weinstein", referencing the disgraced Hollywood producer.

Rush's film credits include Shine, The King's Speech, Minions and Pirates of the Caribbean.



AUSTRALIA DAY

'I'm a half-white Australian'

Jacinta Price asserts she and other mixed heritage indigenous Australians wouldn't be here were it not for the First Fleet.



CUT AND PASTE

Vic Labor loses grip on gangs

And Kristina Keneally's elevation to the Senate speaks volumes about the state of democracy.



Grocon wins Central Barangaroo

NSW has confirmed that Scentre Group, Grocon and Aqualand will work on the $2bn final stage of the Barangaroo development.

CELLULOID CEILING

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News

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Section: Review

Rosemary Neill

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 figur-e 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 pred-ation, 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 "inapprop-riate 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 -behaviour" 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 allege-d "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 harassmen-t in the arts, media and screen industries — and an attendant code of silence — to persist for decades, even as other male-domin-ated 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, recentl-y wrote of surviving life as a war corresponde-nt — and of having someone expos-e 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 directo-r — 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 loo 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, publishe-d 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 injusti-ce 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 investigatio-n. 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 sur-roundin-g the case, the sense that a turning point has been reached has come from an un-expected quarter. Conservative columnist Andre-w Bolt confessed this week he has had an epiph-any 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 hate admitted: "I wish 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 (1AU56); 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 Verhoeven; Kerri-Anne Kennerley; Neil Armfield; Olivia Munn; Kevin Spacey; Roger Ailes; Geoffrey Rush; Jane Hansen; Brett Ratner; Rosemary NeillA; Roman Polanski; Don Burke; Jacqueline McKenzie; Harvey Weinstein; Matt Lauer; Megan Riakos)
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Rush sues newspaper over STC allegation

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Section: TheNation

Rosemary Neill

Actor **Geoffrey Rush** has launched defamation proceedings against The Daily Telegraph after the newspaper published an allegation he had engaged in -"inappropriate behaviour" during a recent, high-profile Sydney Theatre Company production.

The allegation, first published on November 30, related to a production of King Lear staged by the STC, the nation's largest theatre company, in 2015-16.

In a statement made yesterday at his lawyer's Melbourne -offices, **Rush**, 66, revealed he had filed a defamation claim with the Federal Court. He said the allegation published in The Daily Telegraph had "created irreparable damage to my reputation" and that he "must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts". He also said: "It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community.

"The Daily Telegraph has made false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages." He added that the situation was "intolerable" and had been "extremely hurtful to my wife, my daughter, and my son, to my extended family and to many colleagues".

In his statement of claim lodged with the court, **Rush** alleges The Daily Telegraph's coverage carried "defamatory meanings" that he was a "pervert", "had committed sexual assault" and -"behaved as a sexual predator" while working on King Lear.

The statement of claim also -indicates **Rush** is seeking aggravated and special damages due to the economic losses, "hatred" and "ridicule" he suffered as a result of the newspaper's reports.

Late yesterday, The Daily Telegraph's editor, Chris Dore, confirmed the newspaper would "defend our position in court". He said: "The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr **Geoffrey Rush** had engaged in inappropriate behaviour." Last week, the STC confirmed it had been asked by a News Corp journalist "whether it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by Mr **Rush** while he was employed by the company. STC responded truthfully that it had received such a complaint." The theatre company has not revealed the nature of the alleged behaviour, nor the complainant's identity, in order to protect her "health and welfare".

Through his lawyers HWL Ebsworth, **Rush** previously -accused the STC of "smearing his name" by confirming the "inappropriate behaviour" claim to the public (via journalists) while withholding details from him.Asked whether **Rush** would also be taking legal action against the STC, HWL Ebsworth partner Nicholas Pullen said last night: "No comment." For its part, the theatre company has said that "STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety".

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: NEWS CORP; **RUSH** ENTERPRISES INC; Sydney Theatre C
NEWS SUBJECT: Assault & Battery (1AS33); Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex

Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Violent Crime (1VI27)
INDUSTRY: Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47)
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LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush; Chris Dore; Nicholas Pullen)
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February 3, 2018

Section: TheNation

Rush tries to censor paper's defence

Rosemary Neill

Geoffrey Rush's lawyers have moved to suppress publication of The Daily Telegraph's defence document in a high-profile defamation case the Oscar-winning actor has brought against the newspaper.

Rush launched defamation proceedings against The Daily Telegraph in December after the paper published an allegation he had been the subject of a complaint involving "inappropriate behaviour" during a 2015-16 Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear.

Rush strongly denied the allegation, and in his statement of claim lodged with the Federal Court alleged the newspaper's coverage carried "defamatory meanings" that he was a "pervert" and "behaved as a sexual predator" while working on the Shakespearean tragedy.

On Thursday night, Nationwide News, publisher of the Telegraph, filed its defence document with the court.

However, yesterday Rush's lawyers, HWL Ebsworth, applied to have key elements of the defence document struck out. If this request is granted, those elements could not be relied on in court.

HWL Ebsworth also requested that "until further order of the court, the defence (document) is to be treated as confidential and is not to be distributed to any third party outside of the proceedings". If granted, this would prevent any media coverage of The Daily Telegraph's defence.

Such a request is considered rare in defamation cases before the Federal Court.The actor's lawyers are asking for the application to be heard on Thursday, when a hearing, to be presided over by judge Michael Wigney, has been scheduled.

— Index References —

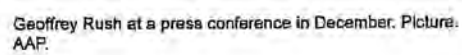
Company: NATIONWIDE NEWS PTY LTD; RUSH ENTERPRISES INC; Sydney Theatre C

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Social Issues (1SO05))

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THE AUSTRALIAN

Geoffrey Rush secures interim order to gag The Daily Telegraph's evidence



Geoffrey Rush at a press conference in December. Picture: AAP.

DANA MCCAULEY THE AUSTRALIAN 1:34PM February 8, 2018

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, a. 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 Dauid 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 Leer" in capital letters.

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

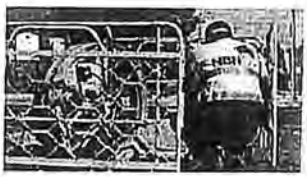
The forum will focus on beyond China – Australia's food opportunity in Southeast Asia, the rise of the home delivery business and Amazon Fresh, animal welfare and the growing importance of social licence to operate in agriculture and the science of food and GMO versus organic food.

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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.

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Interim gag order for Rush defamation case

Source: Australian
Publication Date: February 9, 2018
Country: Australia
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News

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Section: TheNation

Rosemary Neill

Geoffrey **Rush's** barrister said yesterday there was "a huge amount of interest" in a defamation case the actor had launched against The Daily Telegraph as the Oscar winner won an interim order temporarily suppressing the newspaper's defence.

"My client has an international reputation," said his barrister, Richard McHugh SC.

Rush launched defamation action against The Daily Telegraph in December after the paper published an allegation he was the subject of a complaint involving "inappropriate behaviour" during a 2015 Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear.

Rush strongly denied the allegation, and in his statement of claim lodged with the Federal Court alleged the coverage carried "defamatory meanings" he "behaved as a sexual predator" while working on the play.

The actor was not in court yesterday as Mr McHugh described the alleged damage to his client's reputation as "ongoing".

The interim order, granted by Federal Court judge Michael Wig-ney, means the newspaper's defence will remain confidential until a further hearing later this month. **Rush's** lawyers will then continue their bid to have central elements of the defence documents struck out, on the grounds its details are insufficient to sustain a truth defence.

While Mr McHugh described some defence details as "scanty", a barrister for the newspaper, Lyndelle Barnett, said as-yet unpublished information would be added to their truth defence. Also appearing was Dauid Sibtain, a barrister for Fairfax Media and the Nine Network, who -argued that the newspaper's defence should not be suppressed.The judge will hear **Rush's** strike out application on February 19. If successful, it would mean a key part of the defence could not be used in court.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: FAIRFAX MEDIA LTD; **RUSH** ENTERPRISES INC; Sydney Theatre C; CROWN RESORTS LTD; NINE DIGITAL PTY LTD
NEWS SUBJECT: Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Social Issues (1SO05)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (NINE NETWORK; The Daily Telegraph) (Geoffrey Rush; Richard McHugh; Michael Wig)
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EMMA-NOMICS

ABC's Media Watch joins Emma Alberici's critics {P2}

• John McGrath calls in Paul Hogan's lawyer {P17}



THE BAFTAS

#exceptyou

Sisterhood turns on duchess for wearing green {P3}

Margot robbed

JUDITH SLOAN Busting the gender pay gap myths {P12}

$4 billion merger

HCF and HBF bid to combine 2.5 million customers

+JOHN DURIE {BUSINESS P17}



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DETAILS P6

ALP TO PUT FAIR WORK FOCUS ON LOW-PAID

Backdown on radical wage plan

EWIN HANNAN
WORKPLACE EDITOR

Bill Shorten's Labor Party is backing away from a controversial proposal to legislate significant minimum wage rises, instead considering a plan to force the Fair Work Commission to give greater weight to the needs of low-paid workers when awarding minimum wage increases.

Employers warned the new approach, flagged yesterday by opposition workplace relations spokesman Brendan O'Connor, would still cost thousands of jobs.

A Shorten government would consider amending the Fair Work Act to change the factors the commission must take into account when determining annual increases under the new approach.

The commission currently takes into account the performance and competitiveness of the national economy, including productivity, business competitiveness and viability, inflation and employment growth. It also considers the promotion of social inclusion through increased workforce participation, relative living standards and needs of the low-paid, and the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal or comparable value.

Mr O'Connor told *The Australian* Labor still considers the commission to be essential in setting wages in this country, but given the persistent low wage growth we are considering whether the independent umpire has sufficient guidance from the parliament to ensure workers get their fair share.

The Australian Industry Group's head of national workplace relations policy, Stephen Smith, warned last night against changing the minimum wage objective in the Fair Work Act.

"It requires that the Fair Work Commission [r]ise a careful balance between a number of specific factors," Mr Smith said.

"The commission must take into account the needs of low-paid workers as well as economic factors such as employment growth, business viability, competitiveness and inflation.

"It would not be in anyone's interests for the criteria in the act to be skewed in favour of any one factor. If an unsustainable wage increase is awarded to low-paid workers because the criteria gives inadequate weight to business viability and competitiveness, thousands of low-paid workers could lose their jobs as a result.

"It is essential that the commission is not hamstrung when carefully weighing up all of the relevant factors and determining what minimum-wage increase is appropriate."

On January 30, Mr O'Connor said a Labor government would consider changing the law to peg the minimum wage to a certain proportion of the median wage.

The ACTU has proposed a long-term "living wage" target of 60 per cent of the median wage, up from 54 per cent. The current minimum weekly wage is $695.

In a claim rejected by the Fair Work Commission last year,

Continued on Page 6

MORE REPORTS P6

Labor finds some coal comfort — but not for Adani

JEN PACKHAM
CHIEF CHAMPION

Labor has moved to reassure miners and unions that a Shorten government would continue to support existing coalmines, while declaring Adani's proposed Galilee Basin mine was financially unviable.

Opposition energy spokesman Mark Butler, in a speech to the Sydney Institute last night, emphasised that Labor remained sceptical about thermal coal, but would continue to support the booming coking-coal export industry. The left-wing energy spokesman said the outlook for coking coal remained "relatively robust as industry still searches for clearer ways to make steel" and Labor supported the viability of thermal coal production in established basins, including the Hunter Valley.

This month Labor frontbenchers warned Bill Shorten that the opposition could not be seen as "anti-coal", urging him to shift the Adani debate away from "green" issues. *The Australian* reported that Labor right-wing MPs had pushed back against the Opposition Leader's lurch to the left on Adani, amid the political fight with the Greens in the Batman by-election.

In the past week, Mr Shorten has travelled to Queensland,

Continued on Page 6

INSIDE

Brendan O'Connor is one of the most unimpressive members of the Labor frontbench. At least he has seen the light on this particularly reckless idea.



JUDITH SLOAN P[illegible]

Actress at heart of case against Rush revealed



HEIDRUN LOHR

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

ROSEMARY NEILL

Emerging stage actress Eryn Jean Norvill has been revealed as the woman at the centre of allegations levelled against Geoffrey Rush after the Oscar-winning actor yesterday lost his bid to censor *The Daily Telegraph*'s defence in his defamation case against the Sydney newspaper.

The Daily Telegraph's amended defence documents, which had previously been suppressed, include allegations Rush inappropriately touched 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. The actor said it had not been raised with him by the complainant or the STC.



Norvill, the actress who starred in *King Lear*



Rush, who has vehemently denied the claims

The qualified-privilege particulars also claim Rush harassed Norvill throughout the production and that another board member confirmed the above incident had occurred. In its "particulars of truth" defence — which Rush's lawyers have described as "scanty" and vague — the newspaper alleges that the actor touched Norvill "in a manner that made the complainant feel uncomfortable" five times during the production's closing week at Sydney's Roslyn Packer Theatre in early 2016.

Rush was playing King Lear and Norvill was portraying Cordelia, Lear's youngest daughter. In one of the play's most famous scenes, the ageing monarch carries his lifeless daughter across the stage. After the first "uncomfortable" touch, "the complainant said to the applicant, words to the effect 'stop doing it' ... however, the applicant repeated the conduct ... on four occasions", according to the amended defence.

Rush denies that the conversation with Norvill took place.

The particulars of truth further allege that at a closing-night party for the STC cast and crew at the upmarket Walsh Bay Kitchen Restaurant, Rush allegedly went into the female toilets and "stood outside a cubicle that was occupied by the complainant. The complainant told the applicant to [t]ak off, and he then left the bathroom". After this alleged incident, the complainant was "visibly upset" the defence documents state.

Rush, who vehemently denies any allegations of inappropriate behaviour, launched defamation proceedings against *The Daily Telegraph* late last year, after the newspaper published allegations he had been the subject of an "inappropriate behaviour" complaint towards a female colleague

Continued on Page 2

Nationals phone a friend on Joyce crisis

JOE KELLY

Nationals president Larry Anthony has convened an emergency meeting of senior party officials to discuss the widening Barnaby Joyce crisis, following pleas by former deputy prime minister John Anderson for MPs to "exercise their responsibility" and resolve the stand-off by next week.

The phone hook-up included Nationals party officials from NSW, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia and canvassed the political fallout over Mr Joyce's affair with former staffer and mother of his unborn child Vikki Campion, which has imperilled his leadership and escalated calls for his resignation.

The Australian understands the meeting was brief and there was no final decision made about Mr Joyce's future. The talks specifically discussed yesterday's Newspoll, which showed that 65 per cent of Australians wanted the Nationals leader to resign to the backbench or leave parliament altogether.

Michael McCormack — the Veterans' Affairs Minister touted as most likely to succeed Mr Joyce — fuelled leadership speculation further after repeatedly refusing to support the Deputy Prime Minister. He also refused to rule out a challenge at next Monday's partyroom meeting before reluctantly signalling his personal support.

"There is no challenge at the moment," Mr McCormack told Sky News.

"Of course, there's been talk about what may or may not happen ... but at the moment Barnaby Joyce is the leader of the National party. If I knew what was going to happen this week, I'd be down at the local racetrack betting on the horses I knew were going to come home."

Senior Nationals sources said Mr Joyce commanded the support of a key bloc of MPs, including Matthew Canavan, David Littleproud, Nigel Scullion, Bridget McKenzie, George Christensen, Damian Drum and Llew O'Brien.

Speaking in PyeongChang at the Winter Olympics yesterday, Ms McKenzie lent her support to Mr Joyce, saying he "delivers for regional and rural Australia like nobody else"

"I support our leader," Ms McKenzie, the Sport Minister, said. "This is a party that's been delivering for the regions for 100 years.



McCormack



Joyce



Anderson

Barnaby's pet project off track

The Australian Rail Track Corporation has conceded that Barnaby Joyce's 1700km inland rail project is unlikely to generate a commercial return, despite its off-budget treatment as an equity investment.

FULL REPORT P4

"I have been unequivocal in my comments around Barnaby and his leadership and the National party's role in Australian politics, so that's where it stands."

MPs understood to be testing the moods in their electorates about the Joyce affair include Darren Chester, Keith Pitt, Andrew Broad, Michael McCormack, Ken O'Dowd, Barry O'Sullivan and Luke Hartsuyker. Other MPs who have provided qualified support for Mr Joyce include John Williams and Michelle Landry.

Continued on Page 4

MORE REPORTS P4
TROY BRAMSTON P12

Space next frontier for hi-tech crims

Criminals in Mexico have built a nationwide encrypted mobile phone network to shield their phone conversations from authorities — and they are odds-on to harness satellite technology to spy on law-enforcement agencies.

US futurist and author Marc Goodman highlighted these and other examples of criminals operating at the cutting edge of technology at a summit in Sydney yesterday.

Mr Goodman is a speaker at the three-day SingularityU Australia Summit that looks at how massive technological change is shaping the world, including crime. "There is a great quote by GK Chesterton, who says: 'The criminal is the true artist, and the detective is only the critic,'" Mr Goodman said yesterday.

FULL REPORT P3

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Abbott's call to cut migrant intake

[illegible]
NATIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

Tony Abbott has called on Malcolm Turnbull to halve Australia's immigration program in a return to the Howard-era targets and accused frontbench colleagues of lacking the courage to take the issue on as a key part of tackling the rising cost of living.

The former prime minister has also savaged the government's National Energy Guarantee, claiming it is an example of the "low ebb" of politics because it sounds "wonderful" but lacks any explanation as to how it would bring down prices.

Calling on his own government to adopt principled practical and popular policies, Mr Abbott argues that cutting the migration rate could be enacted swiftly as it would not require state and territory approval or Senate negotiation.

In extracts of a speech to be delivered to the Sydney Institute tonight and supplied to *The Australian*, Mr Abbott says the immigration rate should be returned to what he claims was the long-term average under the 11 years of the Howard government, at least until infrastructure and housing stock could catch up.

Having first raised the issue a year ago, Mr Abbott has put firm figures around his proposal, suggesting the Turnbull government should scale back the annual intake to 110,000 a year to address low wage growth, housing prices and social integration that he claims have become critical issues due to historically high immigration levels.

"It's a basic law of economics that increasing the supply of labour depresses wages; and that

Continued on Page 2



KYM SMITH

Tony Abbott

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LAND ROVER
ABOVE & BEYOND

African street gangs taskforce 'a front for ALP'

STATE OF DISORDER

EXCLUSIVE

SAMANTHA HUTCHINSON
VICTORIAN POLITICAL REPORTER



Richard Deng with Bill Shorten at a Labor Christmas party



Kot Manoah

Victoria Police's African-Australian Community Taskforce has come under scrutiny for being too politically partisan, with members of the taskforce caught up in Facebook posts pledging allegiance to Labor and making disparaging comments about Liberal MPs.

A month after South Sudanese community leader Richard Deng called for Malcolm Turnbull and Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton to be deported, Facebook posts have emerged showing him pledging his support to Labor.

Both Mr Deng and fellow South Sudanese community leader Kot Manoah have become two of Victoria's most prominent spokesmen in the wake of gang-related events over summer.

The two have been appointed to Victoria Police's African-Australian Community Taskforce to help tackle youth street gangs, but concerns have cropped up as evidence emerges of the men's allegedly partisan links.

In comments on a Facebook event apparently organised with Wyndham ALP organiser Emily Yuille and in other conversations, Mr Deng and Mr Manoah speak of their allegiance to Labor and its leader, Bill Shorten, while laughing at disparaging comments made about state Liberal Opposition Leader Matthew Guy.

In response to a comment on the Facebook page that said "Invite Matthew Guy ... we can cook him on the BBQ," Mr Deng said: "Please don't blow up your cover. We will show him how to talk and how to cook a BBQ."

Another post in the thread, by other respondents, requested that Liberal MP Bernie Finn wasn't invited to the event because the guest "can't promise I won't take to him with a pair of tongs ... sharp ones (if you know what I mean)."

In another thread, Mr Manoah writes to Mr Deng: "Richard Deng. Labour values are traditionally focus on improving access for services and bridging the class difference. You as a son of a chief should always rally the farmers and farmers' children to go Labour."

Mr Deng responded: "I intend to always be there for people's party."

In other posts, Mr Deng speaks of Mr Shorten as the "potential PM of Australia. He's doing very well", while also mentioning the "Liberal Party's war with migrants is getting deadly."

Opposition police spokesman Ed O'Donohue said partisan links could undermine the work and status of the community taskforce. "It's important any committee directly associated with the Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton is not only independent but perceived to be politically independent," he said.

Victoria Police unveiled the taskforce in a high-profile media event as it fought to address gang violence over summer. Opposition spokesman for scrutiny of government Tim Smith slammed the taskforce as a "sham".

"Daniel Andrews's sham African community taskforce is nothing but a political front for the Labor Party," he said.

Mr Deng rejected that he had a bias to either political party, but said he would strongly oppose any political party that used the issue of youth crime for political gain.

"I support bipartisan politics, but I don't want politicians using crime for political gain," he told *The Australian*. "My position as a community leader is to represent the people. And I'm not a Labor member in any form."

He also said the comments did not reflect on his work on the taskforce in any way.

"There's no correlation between those messages and the taskforce; those messages are from December and the taskforce was announced in January. There's no connection," he said.

Mr Manoah, a lawyer at Slater & Gordon's Sunshine office, did not respond to requests for comment regarding the posts.

Victorian Labor assistant state secretary Kosmos Samaras said neither men had ever been members of the party.

"The Victorian Labor Party has had no contact and will continue to have no contact with any individual who is active within any government or government related body/taskforce. Our only interest is to see these bodies succeed," he said.

ABC's opinion guidelines under fire



ABC chief economics correspondent Emma Alberici has been criticised by management

STEPHEN BROOK

The ABC's *Media Watch* last night added its voice to criticism of Emma Alberici, saying the ABC chief economics correspondent overstepped the mark in online articles she wrote about corporate tax payments.

The senior ABC journalist has already been criticised by ABC management that said there were issues with accuracy in her news report and issues with impartiality in her analysis report about how one in five major Australian companies were not paying company tax, both published last Wednesday.

The ABC last week removed the analysis for rewriting and editing and republished the news report with additional information.

The host of *Media Watch* Paul Barry said Alberici's analysis was "well-argued but one-sided". "You can still see Alberici's news story online, but it has now been drastically rewritten, and we believe it needed to be — to clear up the confusion between income and profit, to moderate the tone, and to get rid of gratuitous swipes," he said.

Media Watch criticised the ABC for its editorial staff guidelines about writing opinion and analysis pieces and called for them to be revised.

Barry said the analysis was initially removed because it overstepped the ABC's "rigid" guidelines on analysis and opinion, and argued these guidelines need to be relaxed.

"The analysis report was withdrawn from publication on the advice from Editorial Policies that it did not comply with opinion guidelines for ABC journalists," an ABC spokesman told *The Australian*.

Alberici told *Media Watch* she contested the ABC claim about inaccuracies. "I set about testing the claim that tax cuts for big companies are necessarily linked to wages growth. As the ABC's chief economics correspondent with 25 years' experience in the fields of business and finance reporting I would be expected to do that," she said.

Despite ABC news director Gaven Morris flagging problems via email with managers about two hours after the pieces were published, the ABC did not remove the analysis from its website until the following day and did not update and republish the news report until Friday.

It is understood consultations between editors and with Alberici contributed to the delay. By that time the Prime Minister's office, the Treasurer's office and Communications Minister Mitch Fifield had written to ABC managing director Michelle Guthrie urging her to investigate the articles, which Senator Fifield said "fell well short of the standards set by the ABC's editorial policies".

One section in the 1000-word complaint from the Prime Minister's office said the coverage had confused income with profit. "Alberici repeatedly compares the 'income' several companies have earned, with the taxes they pay. Corporate income tax is payable on profits, not gross income," the complaint said.

NICK CATER P12
EDITORIAL P13

FACT CHECK ON ALBERICI

CLAIM: Since the peak of the commodities boom in 2011-12, profit margins have risen to levels not seen since the early 2000s but wages growth has been slower than at any time since the 1960s.

FACT: Profit margins for top 100 ASX companies have risen over past year, but were lower in 2015-16 – the year of the ATO records cited by the ABC – than at any time since the 2007-08 financial crisis and before that the 2000-01 downturn. They are still below the historic average.

CLAIM: It's disingenuous to talk about a 30 per cent rate when so few companies pay anything like that thanks to tax legislation that allows them to avoid paying corporate tax.

FACT: ATO shows half the top-earning 100 companies paid between 27 and 30 per cent of their profits in tax, while 80 per cent paid more than 20 per cent. The 10 with small or zero tax had either losses carried forward or were investment companies receiving franked dividends from taxed profits.

CLAIM: Business investment in Australia has been at historically high levels over much of the past decade despite our comparatively high headline corporate tax rate.

FACT: Business investment soared with the resources boom. Non-mining business investment has averaged less than 10 per cent of GDP for past three years, the lowest level in at least 30 years.

CLAIM: Despite generating income of $106.4 billion, the flying kangaroo has avoided paying tax on that bounty since 2009".

FACT: Tax is paid on profit, not revenue. The $106.4 billion is revenue. Qantas has made losses.

CLAIM: Others who have escaped paying any corporate tax for three years because of large accumulated losses or high debt are Bluescope Steel, Amcor, Billabong International and Transurban Holdings.

FACT: Tax law says companies may claim losses as tax deductions when they return to profit.

CLAIM: The principal beneficiaries of a cut in Australia's corporate tax rate are overwhelmingly foreign companies and foreign shareholders in Australian companies. There is no guarantee at all that cutting the tax they pay in Australia will lead them to increase the level of business investment in Australia.

FACT: Yes, dividend imputation means foreign companies and shareholders are the biggest beneficiaries. If you cut the tax cost of investment, you will increase the volume.

CLAIM: The BCA and its high-profile members like Alan Joyce are insisting on a company tax cut that would blow a massive hole in the government's revenues and push the budget and national debt further into the red.

FACT: The tax cuts are already in the budget, which Treasury shows returning to surplus in 2020-21.

Abbott's call to cut migrant intake

Continued from Page 1

increasing demand for housing boosts price," Mr Abbott said.

"Such is the unreality of our political discourse, though, that amidst great concern about unaffordable housing and stagnant wages, no one on the frontbench of government or opposition had been prepared to raise the one big contributing factor that is wholly and solely within the federal government's control — until Peter Dutton finally said last week that immigration could be cut "if it's in our national interest"."

Mr Abbott's call has support from several conservative colleagues, with Mr Dutton, the Home Affairs Minister, recently agreeing the migrant intake should be reviewed. Critics of the high intake argue that companies abuse the 457 visa program that helps subdue wage costs.

The Department of Home Affairs statistics for last year revealed a net migration intake of 183,608, which was below the government's "planning level" of 190,000. More than two-thirds of migrants arrive as skilled migrants and one-third from the family visa stream.

The major source countries include India, China and Britain. More than a third of all new migrants settle in NSW.

Mr Abbott, who as prime minister in 2014 approved a rise in the humanitarian refugee intake from 13,750 to 18,750 by this year, admitted that some businesses would be "inconvenienced" by a cut to the skilled and family migration intake.

"But that's hardly unreasonable if it helps wages to grow more strongly and makes homes more affordable. At least until infrastructure, housing stock, and integration has better caught up, we simply have to move the overall numbers substantially down," he says.

"A strong migration program in the long term doesn't preclude a smaller one in the short term especially when there's acute pressure on living standards and quality of life."

Mr Abbott also claims there is a political imperative for the Turnbull government in targeting immigration.

"In order to win the next election, the government needs policy positions which are principled, practical and popular," he says.

"And if they also outrage the Labor Party, so much the better. Scaling back immigration acknowledges that government's first duty is to its own citizens."

In a continuation of a theme he has pursued since losing the leadership in 2015, Mr Abbott argues that politics is at a "low ebb". He cites the Queensland government's demands for a national approach for bullying despite having no ideas on how to tackle it and knowing the federal government does not run schools.

"Another instance is the federal government's National Energy Guarantee," Mr Abbott says. "It sounds wonderful. Both prices and emissions will fall and the lights will stay on. "We just have to rely on the experts at the Australian Energy Market Operator and at the Energy Security Board to tell us how it's done."

Warnings as cyclone surf hits

Heavy surf along Australia's east coast has led to hundreds of rescues and at least one death as lifeguards in Queensland and NSW urged swimmers to stay out of the water.

Swells of up to 4m were predicted as big surf generated by Tropical Cyclone Gita saw dozens of beaches closed.

All beaches in the Gold Coast as well as Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast, were closed yesterday, as well as more than 10 Sydney beaches and Newcastle's Merewether beach.

Surf Lifesaving NSW said it was one of the busiest weekends of the season as conditions caused "chaos" along the coast.

More than 150 people were rescued at the weekend with 42 ambulances called to treat swimmers dumped by the surf.

A search continued yesterday for a 22-year-old man who disappeared while swimming at Valla Beach on the state's north coast on Saturday. Another man in his 20s was found dead at Hat Head near Kempsey on Sunday.

A hazardous surf warning in NSW will most likely remain in place until today.

Yorkeys Knob beach near Cairns was also closed yesterday after a lifeguard spotted a 2m crocodile swimming just 15m from the shore.

SIMONE FOX KOOB

'Enslaved on bread, pickles'

An Indian woman was allegedly forced to live on bread and pickles and made into a slave by her husband after moving to Australia to be with him, a court has heard.

The man who cannot be identified, is charged with reducing his wife to slavery in August-October 2015.

Melbourne Magistrates Court documents allege the woman was forced into domestic chores for her husband and his brother immediately upon her arrival in Melbourne.

The brother was initially charged with a slavery offence but the charge was withdrawn.

TESSA AKERMAN

Rush case actress revealed

Continued from Page 1

during a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear*.

In his statement of claim lodged with the Federal Court, Rush alleged the newspaper articles carried "defamatory meanings" that he "behaved as a sexual predator" while working on the production.

Federal Court judge Michael Wigney yesterday decided he would not extend a confidentiality order he placed on *The Daily Telegraph*'s amended defence.

"The central reason is that I think the interests of open justice outweigh the ... potential damage to your client's (Rush's) reputation," he said, addressing Rush's barrister Richard McHugh SC.

However, the judge has reserved his decision on Rush's application to strike out key elements of *The Daily Telegraph*'s defence. If successful, this would mean these elements could not be used in court.

The newspaper says it is true that allegations were made against Rush but denies the more serious meaning — that Rush actually committed the conduct in question — is conveyed by the article.

It also pleads qualified privilege over the entire article, arguing publication of the allegations was in the public interest.

Mr McHugh argued that *The Daily Telegraph*'s "whole truth defence should be struck" because it lacked "specificity".

He described a move by *The Daily Telegraph*'s defence team to subpoena documents from the STC as "a fishing expedition of the highest order".

He also said the newspaper cited 36 sources for the articles that sparked the defamation proceedings, but had not spoken directly to Norvill. Among the paper's sources was Patrick McIntyre, the Sydney Theatre Company's general manager.

Tom Blackburn SC, barrister for Nationwide News, owners of *The Daily Telegraph* as well as *The Australian*, told the court yesterday Rush's strike-out bid was "a drastic remedy ... sought at a very early stage of proceedings".

The *Pirates of the Caribbean* star was not in court yesterday, when details of the defence started to emerge as the suppression application was debated. Mr Blackburn claimed that when Norvill asked Rush to stop touching her in a way that made her feel uncomfortable, "he didn't, he kept on doing it".

However, Mr McHugh said the actor and the complainant were "necessarily touching" as the production required. He said the respondents' details about the nature of the touching were so vague they left a "gaping hole" in the defence case.

Justice Wigney agreed the lack of detail around the touching allegation was "bizarre".

In court, *The Daily Telegraph*'s lawyers admitted Rush's alleged "inappropriate behaviour" had occurred during the last week of the production, not over months, as the newspaper had reported.

Labor finds some coal comfort

Continued from Page 1

talking up jobs creation and the importance of mining. "There is a role for mining in Australia; there is a role for coal in Australia," he said in Townsville yesterday.

In his speech, Mr Butler said Australia's coking coal industry had a bright future, while the economic case for thermal coal was becoming more marginal.

"If anything, Australia is likely to increase its already dominant share of the seaborne trade in coking coal from Queensland, but the outlook for thermal coal is a different matter," he said.

The case made a decade ago for opening up Queensland's Galilee Basin "rested on demand projections that are fundamentally inconsistent with current market trends and the more probable scenarios for future global demand".

"In all of the many discussions I've had over recent years with different interests about the Galilee Basin projects, a consensus view has been put that they are simply not financially viable — that the cost of developing the new mines cannot be recouped from a declining market with a thermal coal price projected to be in the doldrums for years," Mr Butler said.

"Adani continues to struggle to get financial backing for the Carmichael mine, most recently seen in the decision of the large Chinese banks to walk away from the project. And in light of what's happening in the Indian energy market — including to Adani's massive power station in the state of Gujarat, the Mundra station — it's increasingly difficult to see how Adani would get off-take agreements for Carmichael coal."

Mr Butler said he could be proven wrong if the Adani project secured taxpayer funds to help make the mine viable, and that Labor conceded there would continue to be "substantial demand overseas for thermal coal exported" from the Hunter Valley.

"That coal is high-quality, close to port and seen as a stable source for importers," he said.

"Even on the International Energy Agency's two-degree scenario, those operations will continue to have a market for quite some time to come, but the growth projections that underpinned plans for a brand new basin have disappeared."

Mr Butler said governments in Australia, through their resources agencies, had been "bullish about the outlook for thermal coal exports". He pointed to Labor's 2012 energy white paper, which forecast thermal coal exports increasing production by an average of 2.8 per cent a year over 20 years.

"Coal exports (of coking and thermal coal) were 'expected to grow strongly' to between 530 (million) and 690 million tonnes by 2025," he said. "And the paper said pointedly that 'increasing demand has meant that an entirely new coal precinct has opened up in Queensland's Galilee Basin'."

A decade on, those projections were "fundamentally inconsistent with current market trends".

Resources Minister Matt Canavan recently called coal a "beautiful industry" but said exports were under threat from the US.

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March 16, 2018

Section: TheNation

Theatre bosses put sex rules on centre stage

ROSEMARY NEILL; EXCLUSIVE

Major subsidised theatre companies have signed up for a high-level forum on sexual harassment following research that reveals the sector has a "notable" problem with the issue.

The forum will also consider new industry protocols for sex, nudity and other intimate scenes.

Chief organiser Zoe Angus, from the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance's equity division, said the event, covering sexual harassment in theatre, was without precedent globally.

Senior artistic and managerial staff from the five state theatre troupes, including the Sydney, Melbourne and Queensland theatre companies, as well as Bell Shakespeare, Belvoir, Griffin, Malthouse and La Boite theatres, will join for the two-day meeting in Melbourne from tomorrow.

The meeting follows last year's MEAA survey on sexual harassment and bullying in live performance, which found 40 per cent of respondents had experienced sexual harassment. Significantly, 27 per cent of respondents had experienced or witnessed "the most notable" harassment and bullying occur in subsidised theatre — more than for opera, independent theatre or musical theatre.

"It was a sufficiently notable trend ... that it became clear to us that (subsidised theatre) was a sensible first starting point (for reform)," Ms Angus said.

The union leader said the need for a new approach to intimate scenes would be a key agenda item at the meeting.

Such scenes — including simulated sex, nudity and scenes depicting parent-child relationships or close friendships — could "give rise to certain vulnerabilities and risks where they are repeated", so the forum would discuss safety issues for artists. Despite the risks of such scenes, Ms Angus said "the cultural practice not only in Australia, but globally really, is that everyone just gets on with it, and our evidence pretty clearly says that people are crumbling sometimes".

The Melbourne meeting comes as defamation cases brought by stars Craig McLachlan and Geoffrey Rush — who strenuously deny allegations of sexual harassment or inappropriate behaviour levelled against them by theatre co-workers — play out in court.

While the forum will not include commercial theatre, opera or dance companies, Ms Angus said: "This is chapter one. The reason we started with theatre is that our evidence was telling us there was a particular problem with that sector."We are done with talking. We're now ready to come up with some concrete solutions."

---- Index References ----

Company: BELVOIR LETTINGS PLC

News Subject: (Business Management (1BU42); Crime (1CR87); Employment Law (1EM67); HR & Labor Management (1HR87); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Workplace Harassment (1WO08))

Industry: (Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47))

Region: (Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); Oceania (1OC40); Victoria (1VI05))

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Other Indexing: (Bell Shakespeare; La Boite; Malthouse) (Geoffrey Rush; Zoe Angus; Craig McLachlan)

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WESTLAW

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March 19, 2018

Section: Media

THE DIARY

STEPHEN BROOK

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."

Newsman departs 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 journos "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 Bulent Hass

Dellal 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

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 (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Radio (1RA81); TV (1TV19); TV Programming (1TV26); TV Stations (1TV23); Traditional Media (1TR30))

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)

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March 21, 2018

Section: TheNation

Rush defamation case: truth defence rejected

Rosemary Neill

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

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 (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85))

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

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

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March 28, 2018

Section: TheNation

Tele's bid to appeal ruling in Rush case

Rosemary Neill

The Daily Telegraph yesterday sought leave to appeal against a Federal Court ruling that threw out parts of its qualified privilege defence in the defamation case brought by Oscar-winning actor **Geoffrey Rush**.

The newspaper is also seeking a cross-claim that would enjoin the Sydney Theatre Company as a co-defendant in the high-profile case, on the ground the company issued statements — "plainly intended for publication" — that Rush was the subject of a complaint alleging "inappropriate behaviour".

Rush vehemently denies that claim. He is suing The Daily Telegraph and journalist Jonathon Moran for defamation after the paper published allegations the actor had been the subject of a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" made by a younger performer during a 2015-16 STC production of King Lear.

Rush claims the newspaper articles carried "defamatory meanings" that he "behaved as a sexual predator" while working on the production.

At a pre-trial Federal Court hearing in Sydney yesterday, barrister for The Daily Telegraph, Tom Blackburn SC, said Moran and The Daily Telegraph took "great care" to ensure the relevant articles were true.

"Mr Rush cannot point to any factual errors," he said, arguing this made Moran's and the Telegraph's conduct in publishing reasonable.

Last week, Justice Wigney struck out The Daily Telegraph's truth defence, on the grounds its details about the inappropriate behaviour allegation were "plainly deficient" and "vague". In addition, he struck out some of the newspaper's qualified privilege defence, which the paper is now trying to reinstate.

Justice Wigney rejected the paper's application to subpoena documents relating to the inappropriate behaviour claim from the STC, criticising that as a "fishing expedition". Yesterday, he said that if granted, the cross-claim against the STC "would obviously complicate the trial".

Sue Chrysanthou, a barrister for Rush, argued the appeal application was a "delaying tactic" and "questionable". "The appeal is a very narrow one indeed. The (struck out) truth defence is not subject to the appeal," she said.

Justice Wigney noted that, if allowed, the appeal would consider whether the objective truth of what was published could be a factor in a qualified privileged defence. "It's crying out for resolution by a full court," Mr Blackburn said. Ms Chrysanthou said the actor "should be entitled to the earliest available date to get into the witness box ... to vindicate his reputation". The case resumes on April 9.

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

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

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Other Indexing: (Geoffrey Rush; Wigney; Jonathon Moran; Sue Chrysanthou; Tom Blackburn)

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April 10, 2018

Section: TheNation

'Report led Rush to retreat from film'

Rosemary Neill

Actor Geoffrey Rush has been "virtually housebound", "barely eats" and has "retreated from" his theatre and film work since The Daily Telegraph published an allegation he was the subject of an "inappropriate behaviour" complaint at the Sydney Theatre Company, his lawyer claims.

In a Federal Court affidavit filed yesterday as part of the defamation case Rush has brought against the Telegraph, lawyer Nicholas Pullen said his client "has continued to suffer tremendous emotional and social hardship" since the allegation was published in November that he behaved inappropriately towards a female co-star — later revealed to be Eryn Jean Norvill — during a 2015-16 production of King Lear.

Rush has vehemently denied the allegation.

The affidavit also claims Rush "has retreated from and lacks the necessary motivation to conduct his normal activities in the theatre and film industries".

The actor is due to play a leading role in a widely promoted Melbourne Theatre Company production of Twelfth Night in November and December. An MTC spokeswoman told The Australian yesterday: "There have been no changes to casting in Twelfth Night." The affidavit also claims that in the three months after the allegation was published, the Academy Award winner "rarely left his home"; that he "feels uncomfortable when in public and will rarely attend public events" and that he is suffering from "lack of sleep and anxiety requiring medication".

In early March, Rush attended a performance of Memorial, a centrepiece of this year's Adelaide Festival.

The affidavit further states that as a result of the allegations being published, Rush has been constantly associated with the #MeToo movement that involves allegations of sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry. It lists articles published in a wide range of outlets — including The Guardian,The Hollywood Reporter, The Times and this newspaper — that have reported the inappropriate behaviour allegation.

In a further development in the Rush case, Federal Court judge Michael Wigney has signalled he will not be available for a trial until early December. If that trial date were to proceed, it would clash with Rush's Twelfth Night commitment.The hearing continues tomorrow.

---- Index References ----

Company: E GUARDIAN INC; NEW YORK TIMES CO (THE); RUSH ENTERPRISES INC

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Motion Pictures (1MO51))

Region: (Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); Oceania (1OC40))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Melbourne Theatre Company; Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Jean Norvill; Michael Wigney; Nicholas Pullen)

Edition: Australian

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April 17, 2018

Section: TheNation

Rush's lawyer ridicules cross-claim against STC

ROSEMARY NEILL

The Daily Telegraph's bid to make the Sydney Theatre Company a co-defendant in a high-profile defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush was "utterly hopeless" and "absurd", a lawyer for the actor said yesterday.

However, barrister for the Telegraph Alec Leopold SC responded that such claims were "unfounded" and were being made in court by Rush's lawyers "for the benefit of journalists" who would reprint them in order to "bag their competitors".

Sue Chrysanthou, a barrister for Rush, said that if successful, the Telegraph's cross-claim application would hold the STC liable for the articles, headlines and photographs the newspaper used when it reported that the actor was the subject of an "inappropriate behaviour" complaint made to STC during a production of King Lear.

She asked: "Is News Limited going broke? ... Why would they sue a source for contribution (to any damages that may arise)? They don't need the money." She suggested the "ultimate purpose" of the cross-claim bid was to re-open the way for the Telegraph to issue the STC with a subpoena to gain access to documents related to the complaint made against Rush. Mr Leopold denied this.

Rush, an Oscar winner and former Australian of the Year, launched defamation proceedings against The Daily Telegraph and journalist Jonathon Moran after the newspaper published allegations the actor had been the subject of an "inappropriate behaviour" complaint made by a younger co-star during a 2015-16 STC production of King Lear.

That co-star was later revealed to be Eryn Jean Norvill, who played Rush's daughter, Cordelia, in the production.

Rush, 66, vehemently denies the allegation and claimed the newspaper articles carried -"defamatory meanings" he -"behaved as a sexual predator" and "pervert" while working on the production.

The Telegraph launched a cross-claim against the STC on the ground the company issued statements about the "inappropriate behaviour" claim that were "plainly intended" for publication.

Ms Chrysanthou said the STC published its statement to one person, Moran, while the Telegraph republished the allegation to "one million people".

But Mr Leopold argued the theatre company was the original publisher of the "inappropriate behaviour" allegation.

He said "the sting" of the STC's statement, that Rush had been the subject of an inappropriate behaviour complaint, was found in the relevant articles the Telegraph published late last year.

Mr Leopold also said the story, including its headline "King Leer" was read out to an STC staff member at her request.

"He (Moran) did so, including the headline ... She made no correction to anything he said," Mr Leopold said, adding that "at this level ... it does comfortably surpass the threshold (for publication by the STC)".

The Federal Court's Justice Michael Wigney said yesterday he would make orders about the cross-claim on Friday.A bid by the Telegraph to launch an appeal against Justice Wigney striking out key parts of its qualified privilege defence — which holds that the newspaper was reasonable to publish the Rush articles — was stood over yesterday until the cross-claim is resolved.

---- Index References ----

Company: TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP LTD; WESTERN UNION CO (THE)

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Cordelia; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Leopold; Jonathon Moran; Sue Chrysanthou)

Edition: Australian

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April 21, 2018

Section: TheNation

Tele sole defendant in Rush case

ROSEMARY NEILL

A Federal Court judge has rejected The Daily Telegraph's bid to make the Sydney Theatre Company a co-defendant in the defamation case brought by actor Geoffrey Rush, calling the move "very weak and tenuous".

Judge Michael Wigney said the Telegraph's cross-claim would result in "further delay and prejudice to Mr Rush", who was entitled to have his defamation case dealt with "quickly, inexpensively and efficiently".

He accused Nationwide News, owner of the Telegraph, of taking an approach to its defence that "threatens to stymie or frustrate ... the court's civil practice and procedure".

"It would not be unfair to say, in all the circumstances, that while Nationwide and (journalist and respondent) Mr Moran were quick to publish, they have been slow to defend," Justice Wigney said, setting a trial date for September 3, at which Rush, who has not appeared in court so far, will testify and be cross-examined.

Rush, an Oscar winner and former Australian of the Year, launched defamation proceedings against the Telegraph and journalist Jonathon Moran after the paper published allegations he had been the subject of an "inappropriate behaviour" complaint made by a younger co-star during a 2015-16 Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear. That co-star was later revealed to be Eryn Jean Norvill, who played Lear's daughter, Cordelia, in the production.

Rush, 66, strenuously denies the allegation and claims the newspaper articles carried -"defamatory meanings" that he "behaved as a sexual predator" and "pervert" while working on the production.If the cross-claim bid had been successful, it would have made the theatre company jointly liable for any damages that may arise from the case.

--- Index References ---

Company: WESTERN UNION CO (THE)

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47))

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

Language: EN

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

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April 28, 2018

Section: TheNation

Tele plea rejected on Rush defence

OLIVIA CAISLEY

Geoffrey Rush's defamation lawsuit against The Daily Telegraph will proceed as planned after the Sydney newspaper failed in its bid to appeal a judgment striking out part of its defence.

The newspaper's publisher, Nationwide News (publisher of The Weekend Australian) applied for leave to appeal an interim judgment by Federal Court judge Michael Wigney that removed parts of The Telegraph's qualified privilege defence and dismissed a further subpoena to the Sydney Theatre Company.

But three Federal Court judges found there was not sufficient doubt over Justice Wigney's original decision and there would be no "substantial injustice" if leave were not granted.

The newspaper's barrister, Tom Blackburn SC, argued for leave, saying the allegations published were true.

However, judge Steven Rares questioned the newspaper's journalistic approach, saying "how can you possibly say you took care? You've either got a defence because you took proper care, because you acted fair and reasonably or you didn't".

"They didn't speak to the complainant, they didn't get a copy of the complaint, they didn't speak to any witnesses," he said.

"It's not for want of trying," Mr Blackburn said. "It's not a piece of carelessness or oversight or slackness in the article." The 66-year-old Oscar winner is suing the The Daily Telegraph and its journalist, Jonathon Moran, over stories published late last year alleging Rush had been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" with a colleague during a Sydney Theatre Company 2015 production of King Lear. Rush has vehemently denied the allegations.

The defamation hearing is listed for September 3.ADDITIONAL REPORTING: AAP

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Social Issues (1SO05))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Jonathon Moran; Steven Rares; Michael Wigney; Tom Blackburn)

Edition: Australian

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July 16, 2018

Section: TheNation

Maggie's star on the rise thanks to Muriel

MATTHEW WESTWOOD ARTS CORRESPONDENT

Newcomer Maggie McKenna was an unknown this time last year and tonight she is attending her first Helpmann Awards, nominated for best actress in a musical for her charismatic performance in Muriel's Wedding the Musical.

Adapted from PJ Hogan's popular film, Muriel's Wedding was a hit with Sydney audiences last November and was nominated for 11 Helpmanns, the nation's top honours for the performing arts.

McKenna, 21, said being cast as the socially awkward Muriel "completely changed my life".

"I grew up thinking that maybe I wouldn't be playing leading-lady roles," she said.

"I like doing funny things, I like singing, but I didn't really know where my place was in the industry. This role came along and ticked all the perfect boxes for me." The Helpmanns were formerly held on one evening but this year are split across two nights, with the honours for best performance to be handed out tonight at Sydney's Capitol Theatre.

It is the first Helpmanns since the industry was rocked by misconduct allegations against entertainers **Geoffrey Rush** and Craig McLachlan. Both men deny the accusations and have sued for defamation.

Live Performance Australia, which hosts the awards, is about to introduce a mandatory code of conduct for the industry that employs 35,000 people. LPA president Andrew Kay will tonight address the audience and affirm the industry's commitment to safe and respectful workplaces.

Rush and McLachlan were not nominated for Helpmanns this year and are not expected to attend.

Muriel's Wedding and Bangarra Dance Theatre were the major winners at last night's Act I awards at Sydney Town Hall, each picking up four awards.

Kate Miller-Heidke and Keir Nuttall triumphed with their original score for Muriel's Wedding, as did music director Isaac Hayward, choreographer Andrew Hallsworth and costume designer Gabriela Tylesova.

Bangarra won four awards including best choreography for Stephen Page's work on Bennelong, beating British dance stars Christopher Wheeldon and Wayne McGregor, as well as awards for set designer Jacob Nash, lighting designer Nick Schlieper and best regional tour for Our Land People Stories.

Tonight's event will recognise best performances in musicals, drama, opera and classical music, contemporary music, dance, cabaret and comedy.

McKenna is up for best actress in a musical alongside Esther Hannaford (for Beautiful), Marina Prior (Dream Lover) and Natalie O'Donnell (Mamma Mia! The Musical).

"I highly doubt I'm going to win," she said. "The women I'm up against are legends, people I have looked up to my whole life."ARTS P14

— Index References —

Industry: (Dance (1DA68); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Music (1MU57); Theater (1TH47))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Geoffrey Rush; Isaac Hayward; Stephen Page; Wayne McGregor; Natalie O'Donnell; Nick Schlieper; Marina Prior; Esther Hannaford; Kate Miller-Heidke; Maggie McKenna; Andrew Hallsworth; Keir Nuttall; Christopher Wheeldon; Jacob Nash; Andrew Kay; Craig McLachlan; Gabriela Tylesova)

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NewsRoom

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED

DPP tells of school link with Dawson



No body.
No charges.
No closure.
Episode 12 of
The Australian's
new podcast series
available now
Listen at theteacherspet.com.au

EXCLUSIVE

HEDLEY THOMAS
DAVID MURRAY

The NSW Director of Public Prosecutions was captain of Sydney's Asquith Boys High School when murder suspect Chris Dawson taught there in 1984, and they knew each other through rugby league at the school.

Lloyd Babb SC says he previously alerted senior colleagues to his connection to both Mr Dawson and his twin brother, Paul, who also taught at Asquith.

In response to a list of questions from *The Weekend Australian* yesterday, Mr Babb also said he had distanced himself from all decision-making on the fate of Chris Dawson, a former star footballer with the Newtown Jets.

The connections will be examined more thoroughly in the next episode of *The Teacher's Pet* podcast series, which is investigating Lyn Dawson's probable murder in 1982.

Police have wanted to charge Mr Dawson with murder since coroners in separate inquests in 2001 and 2003 found he killed his wife Lyn and should be prosecuted. But the office of the DPP has repeatedly refused to prosecute.

Mr Babb said he had never provided any advice within the office about the case or to police before his appointment as the state's top prosecutor in 2011.

"I played rugby league and had contact with both men in that limited context," he said. "I had no involvement with either man in activities outside of school."

Lyn's sister Pat Jenkins and brother Greg Simms said they were stunned at the 1984 connection between the DPP and their former brother-in-law, Chris, who they accuse of Lyn's murder.

"I'm dumbfounded and I would have expected to have been advised of it by the office of the DPP instead of finding out like this," said Mr Simms.

Mr Babb said he had already made an internal office declaration of a conflict of interest in the case due to his past association with the brothers.

"I have had no input with any aspect of the police request for advice regarding this brief," he said.

In 1984 — two years after Lyn vanished leaving behind two young daughters — Mr Dawson was a teacher and football coach at Asquith Boys High, a NSW government-run school, having taught over the previous five years at Cromer High and Beacon Hill on the northern beaches.

His twin Paul was a teacher at Asquith at the same time and shared coaching duties, having gone there from Forest High. They have been accused of being part of a sex ring with other teachers who preyed on schoolgirls.

Mr Babb was in his final year at the school in 1984 and held a leadership position as school captain.

He said he was not taught by either of the Dawson brothers and had no contact with the men or their solicitor brother Peter Dawson since 1984.

"The matter is presently being reviewed by my office at the request of the NSW Police Force and the review is being conducted by senior legal staff including a deputy director.

"Conflicts of interest arise in this office, and in every legal office, from time to time. The ODPP has procedures in place when this occurs and those procedures were followed in this case.

"Upon my becoming aware of this matter, I immediately indicated my conflict of interest to the deputy directors."

The conflict prevented him from any involvement, "including contact with the family".

NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller said police had formally asked prosecutors in April to again consider if there was enough evidence to prosecute.

The deputy director independently reviewing the case would respond to police "when a determination is made", Mr Babb said.

Chris Dawson denies killing his wife. Paul Dawson denies any wrongdoing.



Dawson

Babb

Five million downloads for The Teacher's Pet

The Weekend Australian's investigative podcast series *The Teacher's Pet* has passed five million downloads, with one in every four now in the US.

Probing the probable murder of Sydney mother Lyn Dawson, who disappeared in 1982, the series has led to the discovery of new evidence and witnesses and to the establishment of a police strike force to investigate historical sexual assaults and student-teacher relationships on the northern beaches.

Episode 12, Momentum, released this week, was evenly split between listeners in Australia and overseas, with international downloads led by the US (25 per cent) and the UK (13 per cent).

The series continues to dominate the Australian iTunes podcast charts, holding the No 1 overall position.

All episodes were ranked in the top 15 last night.

Senator Cleaver Greene joins crass bench



JAMES CROSTHWAITE

Richard Roxburgh, who is taking Cleaver Greene to Canberra to give *Rake* its last hurrah with its fifth series in eight years; below, as barrister Greene

JUSTIN BURKE
TV CORRESPONDENT

After four seasons playing recalcitrant barrister Cleaver Greene on television, actor Richard Roxburgh is relishing his character's fifth and final outing, this time as a crossbench senator in the federal parliament.

"I think the Senate deserves Cleaver," Roxburgh says. "Put it this way, we haven't seen any behaviour from the real-life senators to think otherwise.

"We were actually shooting when many of the resignations took place from people discovering citizenship documents from other countries in their sock drawers. But in general there's a lot of mad tomfoolery in that place, which made rich pickings for us."

Roxburgh, whose final season of *Rake* begins on the ABC this month, said Greene's "devil-may-care" attitude had endeared him to audiences in an increasingly politically correct landscape.

"I find it so crippling, such a dumbing-down of humanity that nobody is allowed to say what they actually believe because of the fear that the sixth person on the left may have once had an experience, such that these words will cause them to feel something about it," he said. "If you are going to operate a human civilisation like that, we are doomed to failure, and the same goes for comedy."

Aside from the short-lived US version of *Rake* starring Greg Kinnear — "They gave it a good shot," Roxburgh said — his biggest regret was not getting more of the Australian series to audiences faster.

Elements of Cleaver Greene will stay with him, not least many of his character's costumes.

"My wardrobe was actually furnished by Cleaver over time, but in my defence, I never have played a character before whose wardrobe you might actually want. I can tell you, there was no rush to grab Roger Rogerson's outfits."

Roxburgh has since filmed several movies and enjoyed stretching out some different acting muscles.

"With the whole world throwing money at streaming and TV, as ever, I seemed to have drifted off elsewhere, like a salmon determined to swim upstream," he said.

Cleaver Greene will stay with audiences faster.

"We endlessly had people begging, even pleading with us: 'When the living f..k are you going to get the next season on the TV?' I understand it, the world has changed and people expect to be able to binge-watch, and five seasons in eight years was not fast enough."



Rush sex accuser to stand by claims



Rush Norvill

OLIVIA CAISLEY

The actress at the centre of a sexual harassment complaint against Geoffrey Rush has broken her silence and agreed to testify in defence of *The Daily Telegraph* in defamation proceedings brought by the Oscar-winning actor.

The Federal Court heard yesterday that Eryn Jean Norvill, an actor who co-starred with Rush in the Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear*, had provided a statement in defence of *The Daily Telegraph*. It is the first time Norvill has spoken publicly about the matter.

Rush, 67, is suing the Sydney paper's publisher Nationwide News (publisher of *The Weekend Australian*) and journalist Jonathan Moran over a series of stories published last year, which alleged the actor had been investigated for "inappropriate conduct" during the play that ran from November 2015 to January 2016.

The actor has vehemently denied the allegations and claims the stories defamed him by portraying him as a "sexual predator" and a "pervert".

A statement sworn by Norvill and filed to the court as part of an affidavit on Tuesday forms the basis of the newspaper's attempt to amend its defence to include the truth defence.

But Rush's barrister Sue Chrysanthou opposed the amendment, describing the changes as "too little, too late".

She argued there were inconsistencies between the actor's statement and the newspaper's original defence.

"Given your honour saw the defence, heard the defence and heard Mr Blackburn (defence barrister Tom Blackburn SC) stand up here and say repeatedly 'she told him to stop and he didn't' — now the case is the exact opposite," Ms Chrysanthou said. "The complainant says she told him to stop and he did.

"Same with the toilet. The statement we now have, 'didn't follow me into the toilet'. I mean, what is my client to do with this?"

But Nationwide News defence barrister Alec Leopold SC told the court the company had "acted without delay" in its application for the truth defence, an amendment it filed "as soon" as Ms Norvill came forward with her statement.

The Daily Telegraph has argued in the wake of the #MeToo movement and the unearthing of widespread sexual misconduct and harassment within the entertainment industry, the allegations against Rush were "matters of proper and legitimate public interest".

Lost climber rescued from alps

MATTHEW DENHOLM

Australian climber Terry Harch was being treated in a Dunedin hospital late yesterday after being plucked from a New Zealand mountain pass in a dramatic helicopter rescue.

The Townsville-based soldier's week-long ordeal near Mount Aspiring on the South Island ended about 2pm AEST during a "snatch and grab" rescue.

"It's a great result, as we did not want the climber spending another night on the mountain," search-and-rescue officer Neville Blakemore said.

The four-member rescue team, which had spent Thursday night with Lieutenant Harch, and two other rescuers who had been on their way to help, were also flown off the mountain.

Mr Blakemore said the weather had been "very difficult" all day, with wind and cloud preventing helicopters from reaching Lieutenant Harch until late afternoon, when a "weather window suddenly opened up".

Lieutenant Harch, suffering mild frostbite but otherwise in "reasonable" health, was found by rescuers late on Thursday after surviving freezing, windy and snow-bound conditions since the preceding Friday.

A Rescue Co-ordination Centre NZ crew stayed overnight on Thursday with Lieutenant Harch, who is thought to have dug a snow shelter to survive. The crew provided him with warm clothing, food and a tent.

The 29-year-old climber, who has experience climbing in New Zealand and is a member of the Army Alpine Association and ADFA Mountaineering Club, was flown from an area known as Quartzrock Pass, at an elevation of 2300m, about 16km from the base of the 3033m Mount Aspiring.

Senior search and rescue officer Geoff Lunt said Lieutenant Harch was spotted about 5pm on Thursday, "standing and waving" from rocks in a helicopter.

"The climber has been sheltering for the past two nights at the pass and he has clearly made some good decisions to be able to survive the bad weather, heavy snow and high winds," Mr Lunt said. "We think he dug himself a snow dug-out shelter and that's helped in his survivability over these last few days."

Lieutenant Harch endured winds up to 60km/h, a wind chill factor as low as minus 16C and heavy snow in an avalanche-prone area.

Helicopter pilot Sean Mullally said initial missions up the mountain failed to find the climber.

"He is very lucky to be alive. I don't think he would have lasted another night," Mr Mullally told *The New Zealand Herald*.



Australian climber and soldier Terry Harch

MOUNTAIN PERIL



Height: 3033m
Location: Fiordland National Park
Fatalities: More than 30 deaths in the past decade

Lieutenant Harch entered the area on Friday and is thought to have left his heavier gear behind to make a quick ascent of the mountain, before being caught out by the bad weather.

The alarm was raised on Monday and rescue crews monitored his emergency locator beacon — activated about noon on Tuesday — as concerns grew.

New Zealand Mountain Safety Council chief executive Mike Daisley said winter mountaineering was a high-risk activity and in this case "the right call was probably not to go".

"I know he's come a long way to tick this one off, but it's just not worth the ultimate price," Mr Daisley said.

More than 30 people have died in the Mount Aspiring National Park in the past decade.

The Australian Defence Force said Lieutenant Harch was on leave at the time. "The soldier's family have been notified and are being supported by Defence," a spokesman said.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: AGENCIES

Police seek carjack gang of African appearance

A group of up to seven men of African appearance are wanted by Victoria Police after allegedly threatening a driver at gunpoint in a carjacking in Melbourne yesterday.

The attack occurred in Pakenham, in Melbourne's south-east, around 2.40pm.

It is understood the male victim was parked on Savage Street when up to seven men approached his gold Holden Commodore sedan and began to threaten him, police said.

"One of the men produced a firearm and demanded the victim get out of his car," a Victoria Police spokeswoman told *The Weekend Australian*.

"One offender then left in the vehicle. The others fled on foot."

The car was found abandoned just a five-minute drive away on Galley Way. "The victim was not injured during the incident," the police spokeswoman said.

Police described the offenders as African in appearance.

A woman who lives on Savage Street told *The Age* the incident was "incredibly worrying".

"It's incredibly worrying to think this is going on. It's just lucky no-one was walking down the street and became involved ... an innocent victim," she said.

"It's extremely disturbing to think it's going on right where we live. It's frightened me enormously."

This is the second Melbourne carjacking in eight days, after a woman had a gun put to her head in a carjacking in Melbourne's outer southeast last week.

EMILY RITCHIE

Weight of evidence: Stonehenge ashes offer up Welsh link

TOM WHIPPLE

The biggest of the Welsh bluestones used in Stonehenge weigh four tonnes.

About 5000 years ago, our ancestors hewed 80 of these from the rocks of the Preseli Mountains, dragged them through the Welsh valleys, rolled them past forests, floated them across the Severn River, and then stood them on their end 250km away on England's Salisbury Plain.

Would anyone really be surprised if the effort killed them? Now there is evidence suggesting that might be exactly what happened.

An analysis of the cremated bones of people buried around Stonehenge has found that they died at the time the stones were erected, and several of them had spent the years before their death living elsewhere — the most likely location being the Preseli Mountains of west Wales. The findings, using advances in bone analysis, show that there seemed to be a deep link between the two sites.

"This is yet more evidence for what must have been a very special relationship," said Mike Parker Pearson, of University College London. "The Preseli Mountains are a bloody long way away. It's an extraordinary journey. You don't normally move stones more than five miles in the Neolithic."

For several decades archaeologists have used strontium isotopes in teeth to establish where people lived. The technique relies on the fact that plants take up isotopes in the soil in which they are grown.

Although teeth, which are covered in hard enamel, preserve this strontium signal, buried bones do not as they absorb isotopes from the surrounding soil. Cremated bones are different though, as the heat can seal the isotopes in — but until now no one has been able to access the information.

For a paper in the journal *Scientific Reports*, Professor Parker Pearson's team were able to apply a new technique developed by Christophe Snoeck, from Oxford University, to analyse a collection of cremated remains that were excavated in the 1920s. This showed them that, surprisingly, 10 of the 25 people did not live around Stonehenge. Strontium analysis cannot say definitively where they did come from, but it is consistent with west Wales.

As to why they ended up there, Professor Parker Pearson said that we would probably never know. It may have been that Stonehenge was a sacred enough place that the people carrying the stones took remains with them. Or it may have been that they died in the process of carrying them.

THE TIMES

Pymble Ladies' College

Principal

Pymble Ladies' College, Sydney

The Council of Pymble Ladies' College invites applications for the position of Principal, following the recent announcement that during 2019 Vicki Waters, the current Principal, will be leaving after more than a decade of exceptional service to the College.

Pymble is widely recognised for the academic excellence it offers, holistic and well balanced personalised learning approach that meets the specific wellbeing, academic and career needs of each and every girl.

A Uniting Church non-selective, independent school with over 2300 day and boarding girls from Kindergarten to Year 12, the College has superb learning facilities set on 30 hectares of beautiful park-like grounds on Sydney's Upper North Shore.

Providing inspiring landscapes, the next Principal of Pymble will build strong and authentic relationships with the girls, staff and families in the community, advancing the award-winning education that has been a hallmark of the College since it was founded and ensuring its continued sustainability. Empathy, energy, resilience and a willingness to support the Christian faith of the College are all essential attributes.

Odgers Berndtson is assisting Pymble Ladies' College Council with the appointment. For more information or a confidential conversation regarding the position, please contact Jane Hallam on +61 2 8905 5705 or at PymbleLadies@OdgersBerndtson.com

The closing date for applications is Friday 31 August 2018.

ODGERS BERNDTSON

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August 4, 2018

Section: TheNation

Rush sex accuser to stand by claims

OLIVIA CAISLEY

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The Federal Court heard yesterday that Eryn Jean Norvill, an actor who co-starred with Rush in the Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear, had provided a statement in defence of The Daily Telegraph. It is the first time Norvill has spoken publicly about the matter.

Rush, 67, is suing the Sydney paper's publisher Nationwide News (publisher of The Weekend Australian) and journalist Jonathon Moran over a series of stories published last year, which alleged the actor had been investigated for "inappropriate conduct" during the play that ran from November 2015 to January 2016.

The actor has vehemently denied the allegations and claims the stories defamed him by portraying him as a "sexual predator" and a "pervert".

A statement sworn by Norvill and filed to the court as part of an affidavit on Tuesday forms the basis of the newspaper's attempt to amend its defence to include the truth defence.

But Rush's barrister Sue Chrysanthou opposed the amendment, describing the changes as "too little, too late".

She argued there were inconsistencies between the actor's statement and the newspaper's original defence.

"Given your honour saw the defence, heard the defence and heard Mr Blackburn (defence barrister Tom Blackburn SC) stand up here and say repeatedly 'she told him to stop and he didn't' — now the case is the exact opposite," Ms Chrysanthou said. "The complainant says she told him to stop and he did.

"Same with the toilet. The statement we now have, 'didn't follow me into the toilet'. I mean, what is my client to do with this?" But Nationwide News defence barrister Alec Leopold SC told the court the company had "acted without delay" in its application for the truth defence, an amendment it filed "as soon" as Ms Norvill came forward with her statement.The Daily Telegraph has argued in the wake of the #MeToo movement and the unearthing of widespread sexual misconduct and harassment within the entertainment industry, the allegations against Rush were "matters of proper and legitimate public interest".

---- Index References ----

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August 10, 2018

Section: TheNation

Rush 'touched actress on breast'

ROSEMARY NEILL

Actress Eryn-Jean Norvill will allege that Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush touched her breast and lower back and made "groping gestures" near her torso when they worked together in a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear, the Federal Court has been told.

The allegations surfaced as the court yesterday reinstated The Daily Telegraph's truth defence in the defamation case brought by Rush.

Alec Leopold SC, appearing for Nationwide News, publisher of The Daily Telegraph, said the newspaper intended to provide corroborating evidence of Norvill's claims about Rush's alleged "touching of her breast and touching of the lower back and tracing his finger across the lower back and those incidents".

Last week, lawyers for The Daily Telegraph launched their bid to have their truth defence restored. This was prompted by Norvill agreeing to testify for the newspaper.

A confidential statement by Norvill will form the basis of the paper's truth defence.

Meanwhile, a document filed late yesterday by Rush's lawyers revealed the range of claims Norvill will make about the Oscar-winning actor.

Among the claims, the document said, was that Rush's hand "traced across the side of the complainant's right breast" during a 2015-16 preview performance of King Lear.

The document said that, during rehearsals, he made "groping gestures" in reference to Norvill's torso in front of other cast members.

It also revealed that Rush sent Norvill a text message on June 10, 2016, six months after the production, stating that he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate".

Rush's legal team argue that "none of this material, at its highest, could be regarded as 'scandalously inappropriate' or amount to 'sexual assault' ".

"It also could not result in a finding that the applicant is a 'pervert' or a 'sexual predator'.

"Therefore the pleading, as currently propounded, should not be allowed," Rush's legal team said.

In court yesterday, judge Michael Wigney and Rush's barrister, Sue Chrysanthou, asked why Norvill had not come forward sooner. Mr Leopold replied that it was understandable that Norvill was a "relatively junior actor" who would be "reluctant" to speak out against an "iconic figure" such as Rush.

Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph and journalist Jonathan Moran after the newspaper published allegations that he had been the subject of an "inappropriate behaviour" complaint made by Norvill.

The Pirates of the Caribbean star said those articles falsely painted him as a "pervert" and "sexual predator".The trial, previously scheduled for September, will now begin on October 22, and is expected to run for 14 days.

--- Index References ---

News Subject: (Assault & Battery (1AS33); Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Violent Crime (1VI27))

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NewsRoom

WESTLAW

COP BELIEVES 'SHE'S STILL IN THERE'

Digging for Lyn called off 'too soon'



EXCLUSIVE

DEE THOMAS
VID MURRAY

A police officer who oversaw forensic examinations during a dig of Lyn Dawson's former home believes the missing Sydney mother was buried on the property, declaring: "I think she's still there."

Bob Gibbs, a former detective sergeant and crime scene examiner, said police "definitely" may have missed Lyn's body in a partial dig around the swimming pool at the front of the block in 2000.

Police had descended on the home at Gilwinga Drive in Bayview on Sydney's northern beaches as they ramped up investigations into Lyn's 1982 disappearance and suspected murder at the hands of her husband, former Newtown Jets rugby league star Chris Dawson.

Mr Gibbs told of his frustration that they didn't keep digging after discovering next to the pool a buried cardigan that appeared to have been repeatedly pierced with a knife.

Interviewed for *The Australian*'s investigative podcast series *The Teacher's Pet*, he said detectives didn't have the budget to do more. "I was spewing," Mr Gibbs said, speaking publicly for the first time about the 36-year-old cold case.

"It's a bit of a coincidence that there is a cardigan in the hole with what looks like stab marks in it.

"I was very disappointed when they didn't continue to dig."

Mr Gibbs said he was certain the detective in charge of the investigation at the time, Domian Lonno, was "pulling his hair out" at being unable to continue digging.

The pink cardigan had fallen it into pieces, but had otherwise "hardly deteriorated".

Finding it was the "second best thing to finding a body", he said.

"The holes in the cardigan are very consistent with knife marks in a domestic sort of stabbing situation," he said.

Julie Andrew, Lyn's former neighbour, has previously told *The Australian* it was Lyn's favourite cardigan.

Mr Gibbs said police had dug only in a limited area, relying on advice from scientific experts about possible locations of Lyn's remains, but ground penetrating radar used by the experts was of questionable value around the pool.

"At the time I thought it was a crock because it's a fill area," Mr Gibbs said.

"It's great science when you're out in the bush looking for bush graves.

"It's probably come a long way since then, but back in 2000 I thought it was a bit of a long bow to say that there might be a body there when you're actually looking at an area that we knew was fill.

"I think she's still there, I really do. We might have just missed her."

By then, bedrooms had been extended over an area of loose soil at the back of the home, and police had not looked there.

In late 1984, two years after Lyn disappeared, her husband sold the house and moved to Queensland with the couple's two young daughters and his former schoolgirl lover, Joanne Curtis.

The property was sold again, in 1987, to Neville and Sue Johnstone, who were surprised by Mr Dawson's uninvited visits to the home.

Two coroners found Mr Dawson murdered his wife, but he has not been charged, with the NSW DPP repeatedly citing insufficient evidence.

He denies killing his wife.

Do you know more about this story? Contact thomash@theaustralian.com.au



DEREK ABRAMS

'We might have missed her,' says ex-detective Bob Gibbs

'My time was short': Jarrod Lyle, a star to the end, says thanks

BRENT READ

For the second time in little over a week, messages flooded in from around the globe in honour of Jarrod Lyle. This time, sadly, would be the last.

Lyle died on Wednesday night with his wife, Briony, children Jemima and Lusi and his closest friends in attendance. At just 36, his brave fight was over.

Cancer doesn't play favourites. If it did, Lyle would still be here. Australian sport has lost one of the good guys, a bloke who wore a smile to the bitter end, defying the cancer that ate away at his body and his resistance.

He beat it twice but there would be no third time. Briony delivered the news yesterday morning. The golfing world mourned. Tributes flowed from across the sport. Compatriot Greg Chalmers posted his through "rivers of tears". Marc Leishman posted a picture alongside Lyle with a heartfelt message for his family. Jason Day was deeply saddened.

Americans Justin Thomas, Patrick Reed and Richie Fowler paid homage. So too did Spaniard Jon Rahm, South African Ernie Els and Englishman Justin Rose.

Lyle's fight transcended nationalities and spanned the sport's competitive divide: they loved him all the way from the US PGA Tour to the local club, drawing inspiration from the way he refused to give in until he had no more to give.

Rahm and wife Kelley were among more than 1000 people who donated to a GoFundMe account set up to help look after Lyle's daughters. So too Thomas, Harold Varner III and Benoit Snetsiker. Open for little more than a week, the account was well on the way to its $200,000 target by late yesterday. Another American, Bryson DeChambeau, won the long drive competition at the PGA Championship this week. He immediately said he would donate his $25,000 prize to Lyle's family.



AAP

Jarrod Lyle: 'Thanks for your support, it meant the world'

Few were not touched by his fight. He overcame acute myeloid leukaemia the first time as a teenager, fighting back to play on the PGA Tour. Diagnosed a second time, he fought his way back again. The third time was no charm.

"It breaks my heart to tell everyone Jarrod is no longer with us," Briony wrote. "He passed away peacefully at 8.30pm, having spent his final week in Torquay among family and close friends.

"Lusi, Jemma and I are filled with grief and now must confront our lives without the greatest husband and father we could have wished for. At the same time, we have been blessed and overwhelmed with the messages and actions of support from around the world and feel comforted that Jarrod was able to happily impact so many people throughout his life. Our humble thanks to you all.

"Jarrod was able to take in many of the unbelievably kind and generous acts and words in his final few days and was overwhelmed by the emotional outpouring. He asked that I provide a simple message: 'Thanks for your support, it meant the world. My time was short, but if I've helped people think and act on behalf of those families who suffer through cancer, hopefully it wasn't wasted.'"

A public memorial service will be held at The Sands in Torquay at a date to be announced. Lyle asked that in lieu of gifts or flowers, people donate to Challenge, a charity that looks after children with cancer.

EDITORIAL P13
SPORT P32

Restaurants thrive as part of the gang



JERAD WILLIAMS

'We've been full every night': Chef Alex Munoz Labart with his wife Karla in their Burleigh Heads, Queensland, restaurant

JOHN LEHMANN

When chef Alex Munoz Labart finally decided to open his own place after years of toil and reputation-building at top Sydney restaurants, he also decided the city that had made his career was "just too hard".

The time-honoured model of a chef's own restaurant is — like the dream of home ownership — becoming a difficult-to-grasp dream, especially in the big cities.

"It's nice to cook in a big city and get recognised but for us, Sydney was just out of our price range," said the chef who has worked for independent restaurants (Marque), small groups (Cirrus) and large (est.).

Last month, he opened Labart in Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast with wife Karla "and we've been full every night".

"The big restaurant groups do incredible things, especially in the area of training and salaries, but it makes it very hard to compete," he says. "Everybody needs to be paid fairly, but it's extremely hard for a small-business owner to meet those demands."

And whether you're hopping into a local pub for steak, looking for artisan pasta or strapping yourself in for a ride at the finest restaurant, chances increasingly are that is part of a bigger group.

And restaurants that are part of a larger group don't need to be homogenised products again this year, many such restaurants have made a significant impact on *The Weekend Australian*'s Hot 50 Restaurants list. Sixteen, in fact, have familial or corporate connection to a larger group.

So while there are many low-profile restaurant groups around Australia servicing run-of-the-mill dining, there are also dominant groups that get a lion's share of the discerning dollar.

One is owned by Chris Lucas, whose group portfolio now includes six high-profile places in Sydney and Melbourne, including Chin Chin and Kisume.



Next year, Lucas will open a Melbourne restaurant with Scipa (Sydney) chef Martin Benn at the helm. Another Melbourne restaurant, in Bourke Street, has already been announced and he says in the next six months he'll announce four more, in Sydney and Melbourne.

"I'm not keen on the phrase 'restaurant group'," Lucas said, "because there are a lot of different business models. Private equity, outside investors ... we're really just an owner-operator group that happens to have a lot of restaurants, a family of restaurants if you like."

But he pointed out that the industry landscape "is vastly different" to 10 years ago, with the massive expansion of Sydney's Merivale Group focused on food and beverage, the rise of Matt Moran's Solotel Group (Sydney and Brisbane) also emphasising dining over pubs and gaming, and the move into restaurants of private equity firms such as Quadrant, with its acquisition of Urban Purveyor Group, and then the Rockpool assets, now known collectively as Rockpool Dining Group across four capitals.

"I regard myself as an independent restaurant operator with a family of different restaurants, but independence in many (groups) is being lost because they're being driven by the number crunchers, and it's affecting the product. The creative elements have lost control."

He said a diversity of operators and employers was essential for a healthy industry and large corporate restaurant groups contribute enormously to the industry.

"We don't want to listen to the naysayers that talk down the big groups and say they're all bad. They're not all bad. They employ people and create opportunities that are good for this industry."

Back in Burleigh Heads, Munoz Labart is confident he's made the right decision. When it's just a husband and wife, he says, "it's a whole new ball game".

"Our restaurant is about so much more than me and the food; its about quality of life and what the team can provide customers, and at the end of the day, I can afford the right team here. Competing with the likes of Merivale and Solotel in Sydney, I doubt that would be the case."

Rush 'touched actress on breast'



Norvill Rush

ROSEMARY NEILL

Actress Eryn-Jean Norvill will allege that Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush touched her breast and lower back and made "groping gestures" near her torso when they worked together in a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear*, the Federal Court has been told.

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McEnroe, Courier form Nine doubles team

BARRY DICKSON
MEDIA EDITOR

Tennis legend John McEnroe is returning to the Australian Open as the new face of Nine's coverage as tennis shifts to a new home after more than 40 years on Seven.

Just two months after Nine secured the 2017 rights after failing to forward a long-term deal with Tennis Australia, the free-to-air network announced McEnroe will join former Seven pundit and fellow American Jim Courier as the two main Open commentators.

McEnroe, a three-time Wimbledon champion and former world No 1, last commentated on the Open for Seven 15 years ago although he appeared at last year's event in a comedy skit with Hollywood actor Will Ferrell.

Retired Australian player Todd Woodbridge will join Nine's team alongside Paralympic gold medallist Dylan Alcott and former Australian professionals Alicia Molik and Jelena Dokic. Another former Australian tennis player, Sam Groth, rounds out Nine's cast as part of a six-year $340.5 million media rights deal.



McEnroe at the mic

Nine insiders said former Australian star and Seven commentator Peyton Hewitt could also switch to Nine. The former world No 1 player was in talks with network bosses, sources said.

Nine hosts Rebecca Maddern, James Brayley and Tony Jones will anchor Nine's new-look tennis coverage.

Seven's coverage of the 2018 Open at Melbourne Park ended the network's 40-year association with the Australian Open.

One of the biggest shake-ups of sports rights in Australian television history saw a $600m-a-year media rights deal agreed between the Nine Network and Tennis Australia this year.

It triggered a merry-go-round of other sports rights deals.

In March, Nine bought tennis rights from 2020 to 2024. A month later, Cricket Australia sold its rights to Seven and Fox Sports for $1.18 billion, over six years. After losing international cricket to Seven, Nine brought forward its agreement with Tennis Australia by one year in a deal worth an extra $48.5m.

The big loser in the changes to the summer television schedule is CBS-owned Network Ten, which lost its coveted Big Bash League rights to Seven and Foxtel is now without a top-tier sport.

In an interview with *The Australian*, Tennis Australia chief Craig Tiley said the sport was pursuing plans to develop tennis into a broader entertainment offering in response to pressure from the Big Bash League in a crowded summer market.

"The big opportunity is building new entertainment streams around the core tennis offering of food, music and kids.

"We really want to bring the on-site and stadium experience into Australian family homes," said Mr Tiley.

Oscars reboot to arrest low ratings

RICK SCHWARTZ
LOS ANGELES

Faced with declining ratings for its annual awards telecast, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences plans to keep some prizes off the air and add a "popular film" category.

The changes are among the most drastic in recent years.

In a letter to members of the academy, the board of governors offered few details on the new award, including which films would be eligible or whether voting would be open to the public.

"We are committed to producing an entertaining show in three hours, delivering a more accessible Oscars for our viewers worldwide," the letter said. It was signed by the academy's president, John Bailey, and the chief executive, Dawn Hudson.

To keep the show at three hours or less, the board said it would eliminate certain categories from the live telecast, which has in recent years stretched to almost four hours because of the academy's 24 awards.

The non-televised categories would be announced during commercial breaks, as at other awards shows. The academy did not say which categories, or how many, would be eliminated, but those such as sound mixing have been cited as uninteresting to a broad audience.

The changes to Hollywood's most coveted award speak to the telecast's ratings slump and the academy's increasingly marginal cultural influence. While Hollywood studio returns focus on megabudget offerings such as *Avengers: Infinity War*, the academy has rewarded features whose total gross sometimes equals an *Avengers* matinee.

At the same time, domestic box-office returns have stagnated, and much of the cultural conversation has shifted to TV series such as *The Handmaid's Tale*.

This year's Oscars telecast, in which *The Shape of Water* won best picture, pulled in a record-low 26.5 million viewers, a 19 per cent drop on the previous year.

The academy has tried to fix the problem for years, with attention centred on tiny box-office hauls of movies getting the most awards. In recent years, big winners like *Moonlight* have failed at the box office, especially compared with previous favourites like *Titanic* or *Rain Man*. If more viewers were cheering on a popular movie, the thinking goes, they may be more likely to tune in.

The moves are sure to provoke criticism in Hollywood, where executives have seen the Oscars as a final bastion for honouring quality in the face of endless superhero movies.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

ARTS P15

Thirteen wrecks but which one's ours?

250 YEARS
COOK'S GREAT ENDEAVOUR

EXCLUSIVE

CAMERON STEWART,
SAM BUCKINGHAM-JONES

For more than two centuries the waters of Newport Harbour, Rhode Island, have hidden the ghostly remains of Australia's most historic ship.

Now a team of Australian divers is preparing to launch the most important expedition yet to solve one of the nation's great maritime mysteries, the resting place of Captain James Cook's Endeavour.

They hope the expedition next month will confirm which one of a small group of ships sitting on the bottom of Newport Harbour is the Endeavour.

The discovery would close the circle in the story of Cook and Australia, and end a remarkable 25-year hunt for the ship.

"If the stuff we are going to do on this expedition works then there is going to be some exciting information coming out," says marine archaeologist Kathy Abbass, who has overseen the search for the Endeavour from her Newport home since the 1990s. "We can't yet say it is the Endeavour, but we are closing in."

The fate of the Endeavour has long confounded historians because the ship disappeared from naval records after it was sold to a private owner, John Wilkinson, in 1775 following Cook's famous 1768-1771 voyage. It was renamed the Lord Sandwich and in 1999 Dr Abbass found archival records in Britain saying the ship was one of 13 transports scuttled in Newport Harbour in 1778.

The new search holds special significance as the 250th anniversary of Cook's departure from England approaches. On August 25, 1768, Cook sailed from Plymouth on his first voyage that would see him encounter New Zealand and the eastern coast of Australia.

The expedition in Newport Harbour will see James Hunter, a Sydney-based marine archaeologist with the Australian National Maritime Museum, dive into the same murky waters that once carried Australia II to victory in the America's Cup.

The 45-year-old will be one of four people — two from the museum, two from the Silentworld Foundation — to travel to the US early next month to renew the search for the ship that carried Cook and his crew up the east coast of Australia.

The remains of the 13 ships lie between 15m and 25m below the surface of the harbour, but research in recent years has narrowed the hunt down to one of five larger vessels. The challenge, Dr Hunter says, is to pick which one is Endeavour.

"You're dealing with five vessels from the same century, the same decade, roughly the same size, mainly from England," he says. "What you have is several shipwreck sites built at the same time and they don't have plaques that say, 'hey, I'm this ship'."

Visibility is low and the sea floor is muddy. While the vessels largely sank into the sediment — preserving them — anything above the floor has been almost eaten away by micro-organisms, sea animals and the steady movement of tides and currents.

"You get this section of hull that's buried but, if you're lucky, you have elements of that site that are above the mudline," Dr Hunter says. "We look at the overall length of the hull. If timbers are exposed, we would look at those timbers.

"You have to systematically work your way through those wreck sites. Sometimes it is the minute details."

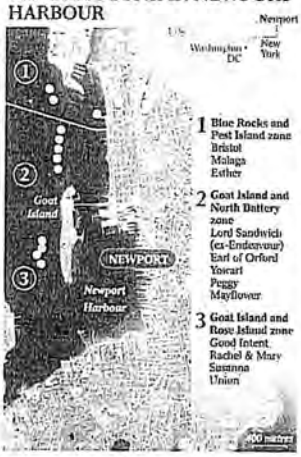


JAMES CROUCHER

Marine archaeologist James Hunter with a replica Endeavour at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney and, below, diving in Newport Harbour last year



THE SHIPS SUNK IN NEWPORT HARBOUR



Dr Abbass says the divers will be looking for special features that might identify it as the Endeavour. One of these is size, because the Endeavour was larger than the other transports. Another is the type of timber: it would need to be consistent with that found near Whitby in northern England where the ship was built.

"Proving that it is the Endeavour means test excavations, trenching and then we have got to have a place to take care of the artefacts," Dr Abbass says.

The founder and lead investigator for the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, Dr Abbass says this would require large donations because the campaign to find the Endeavour receives no US government funding.

Dr Hunter, a dual American-Australian, says his interest in the Endeavour goes beyond its links to Cook. "It started out as a humble collier — it moved coal. Part of this is looking at what made that vessel so special that Cook wanted that one," he says. "It wasn't built for purpose, it was selected for certain attributes. After Cook's expeditions, it had a very lengthy life. It went through different iterations of existence. It became a transport to the Falkland Islands.

"Again, you ask, 'what is it about that ship that made the royal navy go: that's the one?' It cut its teeth on Cook's voyages. There's that, and then there's this civilian life. What was it doing in that period? There's this whole post-Cook aspect that people don't know about. It gives it a lot of depth, no pun intended."

Cameron Stewart is also US contributor for Sky News Australia.

EDITORIAL P23

Fishing Cook's lost jewel from maritime graveyard

How The Australian broke the story last year

Director told Rush to be more 'paternal'

BY SEAMARY NEILL

Prominent theatre director Neil Armfield told actor Geoffrey Rush to make his gestures towards his young co-star Eryn Jean Norvill — who was playing Rush's daughter in *King Lear* — more "paternal", because a key scene was becoming "creepy and unclear", a new defence document filed to the Federal Court has alleged.

The document, filed by lawyers for *The Daily Telegraph*, which is being sued for defamation by Rush, also claimed "Mr Armfield further directed the Applicant (Mr Rush) not to stroke the complainant's (Norvill's) body."

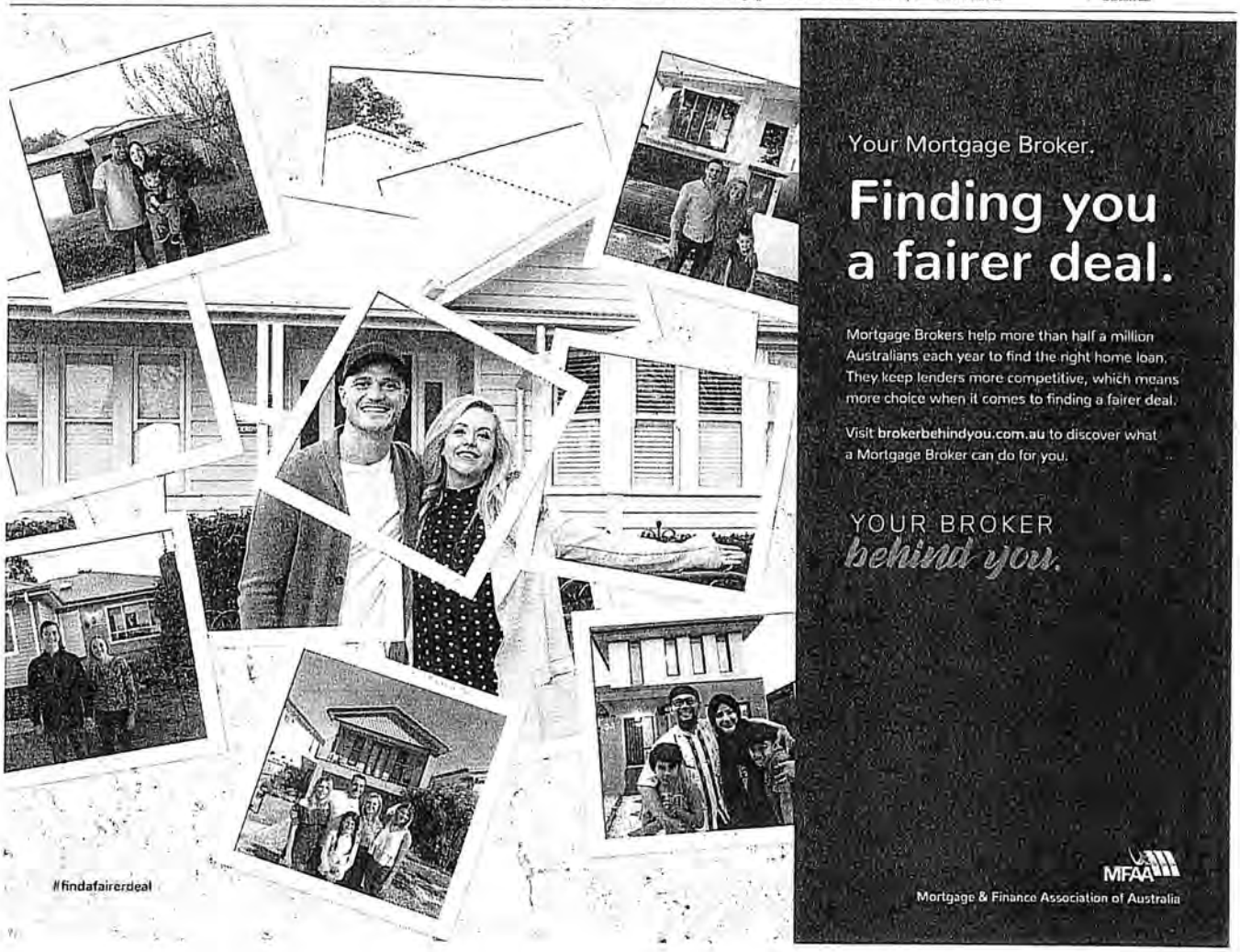
Armfield's instruction followed a 2015 preview performance in which Rush allegedly "moved his hand so that it traced down the complainant's (Norvill's) torso and across the side of her right breast". This "departed from the way in which the scene had previously been performed".

These allegations appear in *The Daily Telegraph*'s second further amended defence document in the case. The new document has been prompted by Norvill agreeing to testify for the newspaper, which is now pursuing a truth defence.

Rush is suing *The Daily Telegraph* and journalist Jonathan Moran after the newspaper published allegations he was the subject of an "inappropriate behaviour" complaint relating to the STC's *King Lear* production. The Oscar winner denies any wrongdoing, and said these articles falsely painted him as a "pervert" and "sexual predator".

The Telegraph's lawyers allege that his conduct towards Norvill was "sexually predatory".

The case goes to trial on October 22.



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Section: TheNation

Director told Rush to be more 'paternal'

Rosemary Neill

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WESTLAW

PM apologises for lack of action on banks

MICHAEL RODDAN
LIZABETH REDMAN

Scott Morrison expressed his "regret" yesterday at holding off from calling a royal commission into the banks as he lashed the "shocking" and "despicable" treatment of the father of a Down syndrome man who was mocked by Freedom Insurance employees as a "bloody whinger" when he attempted to cancel the useless and expensive insurance policy forced on him.

"Of all the problems I was seeking to address (in the banking and financial industry, the real hurt being felt by Australians also needed to be addressed," the Prime Minister said in question time.

"I regret we didn't do it earlier."

Mr Morrison's admission came as Josh Frydenberg slammed the misconduct of another independent life insurer, ClearView, and warned that stronger penalties given to the corporate regulator would be deployed in cleaning up the scandal-ridden sector.

"The ClearView experience and the 160,000 alleged breaches (of criminal law) for providing unsolicited advice was clearly wrong," the Treasurer said.

Mr Morrison's and Mr Frydenberg's responses followed another day of searing revelations at the financial services royal commission, including Commonwealth Bank admitting it purposely destroyed the Financial Ombudsman after it rejected a life insurance claim based on out-of-date medical definitions of a heart attack.

The most reprehensible behaviour, picked through in excruciating detail, involved Freedom Insurance, which ran a number of high-pressure outbound call centres, pushed tens of thousands of policies on unwitting customers and urged its agents to sell "ironically" by offering them luxury trips to Bali and other bonuses.

Father and Baptist minister Grant Stewart had earlier expressed his dismay at the way Freedom sales agents spoke about his family, saying they had used language he "couldn't repeat in the pulpit".

Internal chat logs displayed at the commission revealed boiler-room banter between "retention" staff who were paid lucrative bonuses to convince thousands of customers not to cancel their funeral insurance policies.

Discussing Mr Stewart's attempt to cancel the policy multiple times, one employee labelled him a "bloody whinger".

The first agent said "his son sounds not normal tho", adding "strange" and "but the dad sounds like he's gonna take it further". The reply was: "I don't know what he expects to get out of it lol."

In another email exchange, an agent asked her colleague to look at the cancellation request. The colleague replied "No", and the first agent replied with 2% sad faces.

Testifying for a second day at the Melbourne Federal Court, Freedom chief operating officer Craig Orton said the mocking of Mr Stewart was "totally inappropriate" and conveyed the company's attempts to convince him to keep the policy fell below consumer expectations.

In a short statement, Freedom boss Keith Cohen said the group was deeply sorry.

Freedom employed a team of 30 staff members whose job was to convince customers who wanted to cancel policies to continue to pay premiums.

Of the almost 40,000 cancellation calls Freedom received over the last financial year — more than 70 a day — about half were from people who could not afford the cover. Only a quarter of these customers were successful.

EDITORIAL P13
BUSINESS P17, 21

Fair Work breach costs Boral $30,000

EWIN HANNAN
WORKPLACE EDITOR

Boral subsidiary De Martin & Gasparini has been ordered to pay $30,000 to the construction union after it breached the Fair Work Act by threatening to make more than 100 workers redundant.

DMG made the threat after a majority voted down changes to an enterprise agreement the company was seeking to allow compliance with the federal building code. Non-compliant companies could not bid for commonwealth building work.

Federal Court judge Michael Rigney found the company's "redundancy" threat was designed to instil fear in the workforce. He said the breach of the Fair Work Act, which carried a maximum $68,000 penalty, was "very serious".

"There could be little doubt that De Martin & Gasparini was put to the unenviable position that it and its related companies would be unable to perform any commonwealth government-funded building work after 1 September, 2017, if it was unable to vary the enterprise agreement," he said.

"That would, undoubtedly, have been financially and commercially very damaging, if not almost catastrophic, not only for De Martin & Gasparini, but also Boral and its related companies De Martin & Gasparini was effectively put in that difficult position through no fault of its own. The enterprise agreement had been negotiated and entered into well before the ende was finalised."

He said the difficult position that DMG found itself in "did not, and does not, excuse or justify the unlawful action it ultimately took".

"It does, however, lend to explain it," he said. "The action was, in a sense, an ill-conceived, poorly considered and rather desperate response to the difficult circumstances that De Martin & Gasparini found itself in."

As events transpired, the impugned actions taken by DMG ultimately were unnecessary as the parties agreed on changes to make the agreement code-compliant before September last year.

"The contravention involved senior management of not only De Martin & Gasparini but also its parent company, Boral," he said.

"The contravention was, however, an isolated event and was not in any sense systematic or part of a course of conduct. Nor was it the product of inadequate or defective compliance systems.

"Rather ... it was the product of rather exceptional circumstances and an ill-conceived or poorly considered response to those circumstances. De Martin & Gasparini did not profit in any way from the adverse action and, ultimately, nobody suffered any substantial loss or damage."

"The damage caused by the contravention was essentially limited to the upset, distress, and anxiety felt by the workers during the period that the threat to dismiss them hung over their heads."

CFMEU NSW construction division secretary Darren Greenfield said the fine paled in comparison with those faced by workers and their unions.

Chinese plasterers owed $1m as employer cut free

More than 120 Chinese plasterers at the Royal Hobart Hospital redevelopment are owed up to $1 million in wages and entitlements and their employer has been terminated from the project after failing to show it was solvent.

The project's managing contractor, the John Holland/Fairbrother joint venture, severed its contract with Melbourne carpentry contractor Accuracy Interiors after it had produced evidence it was not.

The Chinese plasterers have stayed off the job after stopping work last week in protest at not being paid for up to eight weeks.

Shaun Reardon, the construction union's Victorian assistant secretary, said an unexplained audit had found the workers were owed more than $960,000.

John Holland is searching for another company to employ the men and the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union said the plasterers had been told they would be paid what was owed to them.

The union has said the workers would not return to work until concerns about their wages, visas and employment status were resolved. "What's happening on this John Holland site is absolutely astonishing," Mr Reardon said. "Four weeks after the CFMEU complained about underpayments and the exploitation of these workers in which the builder is legally obliged to inform the ABCC and the federal government, they have allowed it to continue to this."

EWIN HANNAN

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Australian Press Council

Wagners sued for paternal love, not money

JAMIE WALKER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

For the Wagner brothers, taking on Alan Jones was never about the money. It was about their elderly father, Henry, and his pained bewilderment every time Jones got on the radio to take the stick to the wealthy Toowoomba family.

Jones's noisy campaign, which yesterday turned into a very expensive liability for his employer, Macquarie Media, as well as majority shareholder Fairfax Media, started when he accused family members of lying about their plans for an old horse stud they had bought for $3 million outside their home town of Toowoomba.

Denis Wagner and brothers John, Neill and Joe said the land would be redeveloped into a business estate for light industry. Jones, who grew up in the area, insisted from the 2GB studio in Sydney it was a front for coal or gas mining.

When the brothers received approval to add on an airport in 2012 — arguing that the precinct wasn't viable without the "connectivity" the $200 million hub would provide — Jones went to town, saying it was a con and no airline would touch it.

Five years on, the Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport handles 80 flights a week by Qantas and regional carriers to Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin, Townsville and Cairns as well as international freight services. And the Wagner men have had their day in court at Jones's expense, securing damages of $3.75 million for defamation, principally over his discredited claims they had caused the deaths of 12 people in the 2011 Grantham flood disaster and conspired to cover it up.

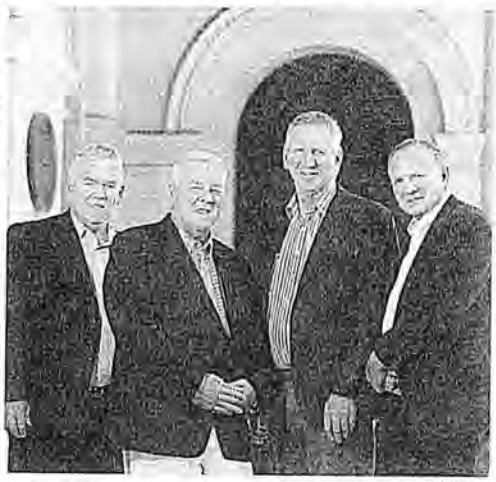
"Dad used to ring me every day, five minutes after Jones had been on," Denis Wagner said.

"He'd say, 'Have you heard what he said about us today? What are you going to do about it?' And I'd say, 'Dad, just turn him off, it's not worth having a heart attack over.' But ... how do you explain to an 81-year-old man that you can build an airport in 20 months, you can pour concrete in Russia in -60C temperatures and you can bloody build bridge components in Toowoomba and install them in North America, but you can't stop someone telling lies about you on radio?"

Mr Wagner, 57, said yesterday's big win in court showed that a broadcaster of Jones's standing was still accountable. "This ruling gives us enormous confidence in our legal system and we hope others who feel they have been defamed will not be left feeling helpless," he said.

Of course, not everyone has the deep pockets of a family that controls a vast publicly listed construction and property concern spanning precast concrete products, trucking, property development and composite fibre technologies. The family company, with its 55 per cent holding in the listed business, continues to be headed by John Wagner, 61, an aviation buff who did the legwork on the Wellcamp airport.

Wagner Inc grew out of the concreting operation started in 1923 by patriarch Henry, a stonemason by trade. He sat through much of the seven-week trial with wife Mary by his side. In 2015, the Wagners ranked 14th on the BRW Rich Families List with an estimated worth of $955m — a sum that's now a little larger.



Neill, John, Denis and Joe Wagner in Brisbane yesterday

ANNETTE DEW



AAP

Alan Jones at court in May

BIG PAYOUTS

The Wagners v Alan Jones	$3.75 million
Lloyd Rayney v WA Police	$2.6 million
Ron Clarke v ABC	$1.1 million*
Rand Mining and Tribune Resources v Blogger Terence McLernon	$700,000
Rebel Wilson v Bauer Media	$600,000**
The Cobys v Allen & Unwin	$515,000
Joh-Bjelke Petersen v QTQ-9 Brisbane/ Alan Bond	$400,000

* $600,000 of defamation payment later returned
** Originally $4.5m, reduced on appeal

Judge's $3.75m blast for top broadcaster

Continued from Page 1

damages in Queensland and easily surpassed the national benchmark of $2.6m set last year after Perth barrister Lloyd Rayney was judged to have been defamed when WA police named him as the prime suspect in his wife's murder.

It fell short of the $4.8m in damages sought by the Wagner brothers, who run a construction-based enterprise worth more than $1 billion including the $200m Toowoomba Wellcamp airport, west of Brisbane.

Justice Flanagan said the damages were aggravated by Jones's desire to injure the reputations of John, Denis, Neill and Joe Wagner — partners in the family business — and his "wilful blindness" to the truth on the 32 occasions that he laid into them on his syndicated radio show between October 2014 and August 2015.

"Mr Jones agreed that some of the criticism he levelled against the plaintiffs was savage," the judge said. "I accept the plaintiffs' submission that the tone of the matters and their content are self-evidently vicious and spiteful.

"In light of Mr Jones's wilful blindness to the truth or falsity of the imputations conveyed, his conduct in using such language was unjustifiable."

Denis Wagner told The Australian the family would not have taken legal action had Jones let up on them after a 2015 commission of inquiry into the Grantham tragedy, headed by former state solicitor-general Walter Sofronoff, rejected claims that the partial collapse of earthworks at a Wagner-owned quarry near the Lockyer Valley town unleashed the deadly torrent on January 10, 2011.

Justice Sofronoff found expert hydrological analysis of the flood broadly supported the findings of an earlier inquiry that the quarry, acting as a sinkhole, delayed the arrival of the flood in Grantham by up to 10 minutes and reduced the water level by up to 10cm.

"Had Jones stopped criticising us after the Sofronoff inquiry, that would have been enough," Mr Wagner said. "We would never have taken the action."

Macquarie Media — 54 per cent owned by Fairfax Media with minority stakes held by adman John Singleton, investor and corporate adviser John Carnegie and Jones himself — said it was disappointed by the court decision and would be considering the option to appeal. "I need to read the entire judgment very carefully," Jones said. "I do feel I have somehow let down the people of the Lockyer Valley who sought my assistance. As the judge found in this case, I sought to ventilate concerns expressed by those people."

A conjoined defamation claim against Nick Cater, executive director of conservative think tank the Menzies Research Centre and a former editor of The Weekend Australian, was dismissed by Justice Flanagan.

Cater thanked Jones and Macquarie for their support: "While I am pleased with the court's findings towards me in these protracted proceedings, I am disappointed by the findings against Alan Jones 2GB and (Brisbane affiliate) 4BC."

Fairfax's stock price rose slightly to $2.5c, despite the potential hit from the payout. Macquarie had posted a before-tax profit of $74.2m in the 2017 financial year.

Costs in the case — estimated to be as high as $3m — are yet to be determined.

Nine inherits a legal firestorm

DARREN DAVIDSON
MEDIA EDITOR

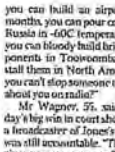
The Alan Jones defamation trial underscores some of the lesser known risks faced by Nine's takeover of Fairfax in a media industry that has become the playground of the defamation lawyer.

Following the $47 million defamation payout awarded to Hollywood actress Rebel Wilson last year, reduced on appeal, judge Peter Flanagan yesterday found Macquarie Media's radio station 2GB and Jones defamed the Wagner family.

Macquarie and majority shareholder Fairfax are on the hook for $3.75m in damages, but the entire cost could hypothetically land on Nine's balance sheet if 2GB and Jones launch an appeal.

The Fairfax-Nine merger is due for completion by the end of the year if the competition regulator approves the $4 billion-plus transaction. Any appeal is likely to take place after that date.

Whether or not 2GB and Jones launch an appeal, Fairfax, like other publishers, is facing legal challenges. Fairfax investigative journalists themselves have a reputation for pushing the envelope — and not holding their punches on stories. Three years ago, former treasurer Joe Hockey won a defamation case against Fairfax after the Federal Court found he was damaged by a poster and two tweets.



Marks

Among outstanding legal actions hanging over Fairfax, Chinese-Australian billionaire Chau Chak Wing is suing for defamation over allegations he tried to bribe UN officials. Last month, Victoria Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith launched defamation proceedings against Fairfax after it made serious allegations about his time serving with the special forces in Afghanistan and also his personal life.

Nine's chief executive Hugh Marks believes this is the cost of doing business as the free-to-air network seeks to reinvent itself through deals, sources close to him say. He has pledged to respect Fairfax's culture, though it adheres to very different journalistic traditions.

Still, Nine's current affairs shows 60 Minutes and A Current Affair have had their share of legal disputes in recent years.

And Marks will have feared a great deal from 60 Minutes' Beirut kidnapping story in 2016, a public relations crisis within six months of him taking the helm at the network. A source close to Marks says: "Nine is used to being in the eye of the storm at the pointy end of the news cycle. There will be other challenges for Hugh, but this won't be one of them."

In an era when digital titans are devouring traditional players, Marks is prepared to pay a premium for a publisher to transform Nine into a media and digital powerhouse.

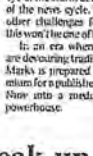
Actress's relationship break-up may be linked to Rush complaint: lawyer

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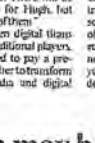
Lawyers for Hollywood actor Geoffrey Rush have flagged that they are investigating a possible link between a sexual harassment complaint made by actress Bryn Jean Norvill against their client and her distress at the time over a relationship break-up, a court has heard.

Rush, 67, is suing Nationwide News over a series of articles published in The Daily Telegraph in December. The articles reported the actress had made a sexual harassment complaint against Rush from when the pair co-starred in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear from November 2015 to January 2016.

In an application before judge Michael Wigney in the Federal Court yesterday, Rush's barrister Bruce McClintock SC, said documents revealing Norvill was going through a break-up at the time and "details going to the core of that relationship and the end of it" could be relevant to her complaint. They included a chain of emails related to Norvill's relationship breakdown and notes taken during her sessions with a counsellor. The authors of the emails were not identified in court.



Rush



Norvill

"We say there is a reference here (that) suggests another possible cause of distress," Mr McClintock said. "There is no rational basis on which my client could be denied access to those statements."

He said there was "obviously something significant about that relationship referral to in the counsellor's notes" and "if there was something going on in that relationship ... it might very well affect the assessment of the probabilities of the complainant's assertions against my client".

Norvill's lawyer, Lyndelle Barnett, said Rush's legal team was engaged in a "classic fishing" exercise, "trawling to see if there is anything to affect Ms Norvill's credit".

"The applicant might put the submission that the cause of Ms Norvill's distress was a break-up, not Mr Rush's conduct," Ms Barnett said.

"The applicant (Rush) has everything that could even touch on this case ... What is now being sought is to go beyond documents concerning the complainant's allegations and go over a three-year period."

Justice Wigney rejected Mr McClintock's subpoena application for all documents on Norvill between October 10, 2015, to the present on the grounds they were "too broad". He agreed the chain of emails should be made available to the Rush team.

The trial, set down for three weeks, is scheduled to begin on October 22.

Case of the cap not fitting, so throw it

CHRIS MERRITT
ANALYSIS



The big payout in the Alan Jones case confirms the great flaw at the heart of defamation law: the "cap" on damages payouts is illusory.

It means the Wagner brothers will together receive more for their hurt feelings and loss of reputation than a factory worker would receive for being maimed. The inconsistency does nothing to engender respect for the law and is an unaddressed blind spot for the nation's attorneys-general.

The cap on defamation damages is $398,500 and is supposed to cover "non-economic" losses, which means compensation for hurt feelings and the loss of reputation.

Yet the Queensland Defamation Act, and its equivalent provisions in other states, has left the way open for courts to punch a hole through the cap whenever they perceive "aggravated" damage is present. This explains the $12 million won yesterday by the Wagners and the equally lucrative payout to Rebel Wilson, originally $4.6m.

Those rulings tell the community that physical harm suffered by ordinary people at work is less important than injuries to the reputation of those rich enough to fund years of civil litigation. This demands reform.

Jones's legal team argued unsuccessfully that unless the cap on damages were interpreted differently, it would be meaningless. They were talking sense. Judge Peter Flanagan, however, disagreed and followed the unfortunate cap-busting approach that was used to great effect by the Victorian Court of Appeal in the Wilson case.

For Jones, this was a case in which almost everything went wrong. His attempt to prove the truth of what he said about the Wagners and the cause of Grantham's flood was a disaster.

His lawyers commissioned reports from three experts and the judge demolished them all.

That broadcaster must now be kicking himself for failing to settle this case when he had the chance by offering more money and an even more humble apology than he did back in November 2015. That offer would have given the four Wagners $50,000 each and an apology that Justice Flanagan said yesterday was not "fulsome".

The only setback for the Wagners was that Nick Cater, once editor of The Weekend Australian, was vindicated. The judge found Cater neither expressly or impliedly agreed or adopted the defamatory imputations of Jones. That victory must be bitter-sweet. The Spectator paid the Wagners $572,674 to settle a claim over one of Cater's articles, and they have another case on foot against Cater and Nine Network.

BORROWERS URGED TO CHANGE HOME LOAN LENDERS

Banks 'slugging loyal customers'

MICHAEL RODDAN

One of Australia's biggest banks considered waiting until after an inquiry into mortgage pricing before it slugged customers with higher interest rates, the competition watchdog has revealed.

The admission came in a report released yesterday by the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission that urged Australians to change their bank after finding the country's biggest banks are slugging loyal customers with higher rates than newer borrowers.

The regulator also said the big four banks were wary of lowering interest rates on home loans out of fear they would lose revenue or generate smaller profits.

The interim report is from the ACCC's residential mortgage pricing inquiry that was launched after the government slapped a $5 billion tax on Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, ANZ, National Australia Bank and Macquarie Bank in last year's federal budget.

The inquiry was designed to find out how the largest lenders charged home loan customers following the tax.

"We've made a decision about whether it is in the public interest to identify banks. We've done that where it is appropriate. It didn't really add anything to name which bank that was," he said.

Scott Morrison said the findings were similar to those found in the ACCC's energy market study. "Complexity is used against the customer," the Treasurer said.

"What we need is greater transparency, more competitive pressures and more power to the customer whether it's the banks or big energy companies or others."

The ACCC said there was a lack of transparency about the discounts offered by the banks, which made it difficult for borrowers to know whether they were being duped.

The average discount offered by the banks over the two years to June 2016 was between 78 and 139 basis points.

"The lack of transparency is about only giving competitive pricing when you're really pushed to," Mr Sims said. "Everyone is time poor. Shopping around is tedious. Let's get a better banking system in the future so that isn't needed, but until then shopping around is the best advice I can give."

He said rather than competing vigorously, the four major banks ignored smaller lenders offering low rates and priced in tandem with the other big-four lenders, which control about 80 per cent of the $1.6 trillion mortgage market.

National Australia Bank chief operating officer Anthony Cahill said the bank was required to balance many factors when setting its home loan rates. "We continually monitor our competitors, both large and small, to make sure we're providing competitive home loans," he said.

A CBA spokeswoman said the bank would review the report and contribute to the regulator's final report, due later this year.

A Westpac spokesman said the bank was "supportive of Australia moving towards an open data regime in banking".

The Australian Banking Association said the ACCC report "clearly shows very high levels of discounting in the Australian home loan market".

CBA takes swipe at broker commissions

Mortgage broking faces a shake-up after revelations at the banking royal commission that CBA thinks commissions paid to brokers represent an inherent conflict of interest and it would like to get rid of them.

BUSINESS P19

NBN leaves homes without phones, net

ANTHONY KLAN

More than one in 10 homes was left without a home phone or internet for more than a month after being connected to the National Broadband Network, according to the communications watchdog.

A survey of 1891 homes and small businesses last November and December by the Australian Communications and Media Authority found 20 per cent had been left without a phone for up to 24 hours, but 12 per cent had been left without a landline for over a month.

Of those surveyed, 25 per cent of homes and businesses said they had been left without a landline for two weeks or more — mainly due to "technical issues with installation" — while 28 per cent reported being without internet for at least a fortnight.

The survey also found relatively high levels of dissatisfaction with telco complaints processes, with 24 per cent of those who made complaints either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the response they had received.

Of those dissatisfied, 58 per cent said it had taken too long to fix a problem, and 48 per cent said they were dissatisfied due to poor communication.

ACMA chairwoman Nerida O'Loughlin said the survey showed "telco complaints-handling processes need to improve".

"Telco customers deserve to have their complaints dealt with quickly and effectively," Ms O'Loughlin said.

"As industry co-regulation is proving ineffective in this area, we will put in place rules to limit the ACMA can act more quickly to deal with non-compliance."

ACMA has said it will introduce a string of rules governing telcos, including requiring them to reconnect a home or business to their old service if the NBN won't work straight away, and setting minimum complaints-handlings procedures that telcos must abide by, or face substantial fines of up to $250,000.

"The new rules, unlike co-regulatory industry codes, will be immediately and directly enforceable by ACMA," the regulator said. ACMA released for public comment yesterday its proposed new rules for telcos handling complaints.

The ACMA survey also found consumers remained heavily swayed by price when determining which NBN speed package to buy, with 86 per cent of respondents citing cost as an important factor in their decision-making.

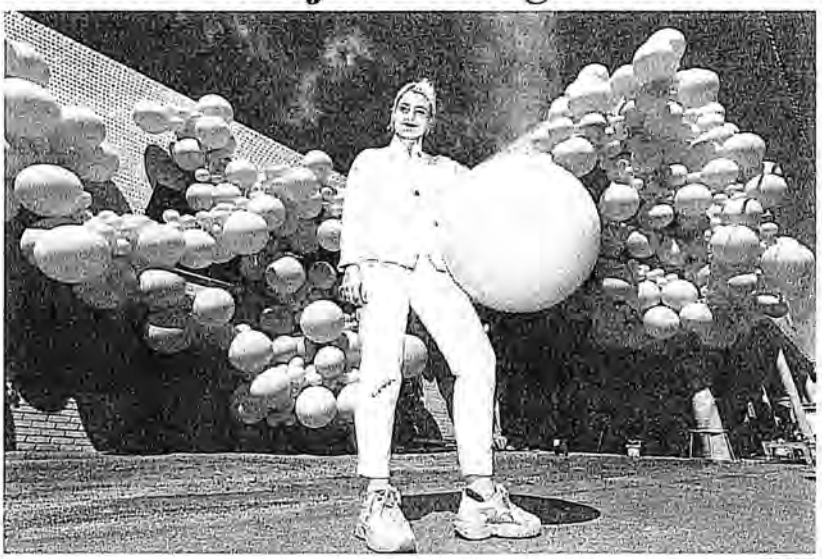
There still remained a lack of knowledge around internet speeds, with 45 per cent of respondents saying they didn't know what NBN speed package they had signed up for. However, 42 per cent of respondents said they had conducted their own speed tests.

Earlier this week NBN Co, which is a wholesaler and sells NBN connections to telcos such as Telstra who sell them to consumers, reported a huge improvement in peak-time speeds.

The average NBN-connected home now experienced just 12 minutes of slow speeds a week due to congestion, compared with an average of four hours a week three months ago.

In December, NBN Co slashed the price of "headwidth" encouraging telcos to buy more, helping to prevent speeds crashing at peak times such as after 7pm weekdays.

Art more than just a thought bubble



American artist Jihan Zencirli poses with one of her three installations for Melbourne Design Week

GETTY IMAGES

ASHLEIGH WILSON
ARTS EDITOR

They burst out from the building like an explosion of bubbles, a fleeting moment of festivity on a narrow Melbourne street.

As part of Melbourne Design Week, Los Angeles artist Jihan Zencirli, aka Germinis, covered the 30m facade of Hub furniture's showroom in Abbotsford with 7000 orange balloons.

Zencirli also created two other installations elsewhere in Melbourne: one in Collingwood, where black balloons cover the entrance to the Hub general store then extend inside, and the other inside another Hub shop on Exhibition Street in the city.

Zencirli describes her projects as "hidden surprises". The artist is careful, too, not to pollute the community once she's gone: the balloons are 100 per cent latex and compostable and biodegradable.

"All three of my installations have been designed with the intention of creating moments of joy for passers-by," said Zencirli, who flew out of Melbourne for Los Angeles on Wednesday night after overseeing the installations.

"I felt really inspired by this hidden element and the idea of uncovering something special so decided to focus heavily on that when planning the installations. When I go to a new city, the way I connect with it and its people, is through my art."

Zencirli moved to Los Angeles from Seattle seven years ago, on a whim, and quickly established a reputation for her quirky, ephemeral art. She had begun experimenting with balloons only the previous year, but her hobby had soon taken over her life as the installations began appearing around the world.

Her Melbourne project followed an installation unveiled recently in Manhattan, her largest to date, for the New York City Ballet. Thousands of balloons, ranging from 25cm to 3m, had been installed inside the ballet's headquarters at the Lincoln Centre as part of the company's sixth annual art series. The installation struck a chord, with *The New York Times* describing the balloons as hanging "like huge grapes from a pergola".

Melbourne Design Week, presented by the National Gallery of Victoria, features local and international designers and runs until March 25.

ARTS P15

Theatre bosses put sex rules on centre stage

EXCLUSIVE

ROSEMARY NEILL



McLachlan



Rush

Major subsidised theatre companies have signed up for a high-level forum on sexual harassment following research that reveals the sector has a "malable" problem with the issue.

The forum will also consider new industry protocols for sex, nudity and other intimate scenes.

Chief organiser Zoe Angus, from the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance's equity division, said the event, covering sexual harassment in theatre, was without precedent globally.

Senior artistic and managerial staff from the five state theatre troupes, including the Sydney, Melbourne and Queensland theatre companies, as well as Bell Shakespeare, Belvoir, Griffin, Malthouse and La Boite theatres, will join for the two-day meeting in Melbourne from tomorrow.

The meeting follows last year's MEAA survey on sexual harassment and bullying in live performance, which found 40 per cent of respondents had experienced sexual harassment. Significantly, 27 per cent of respondents had experienced or witnessed "the most notable" harassment and bullying occur in subsidised theatre — more than for opera, independent theatre or musical theatre.

"It was a sufficiently notable trend ... that it became clear to us that (subsidised theatre) was a sensible first starting point (for reform)," Ms Angus said.

The union leader said the need for a new approach to intimate scenes would be a key agenda item at the meeting.

Such scenes — including simulated sex, nudity and scenes depicting parent-child relationships or family feuds — could "give rise to certain vulnerabilities and risks where they are repeated", so the forum would discuss safety issues for artists. Despite the risks of such scenes, Ms Angus said "the cultural practice not only in Australia, but globally really, is that everyone just gets on with it, and our evidence pretty clearly says that people are crumbling sometimes".

The Melbourne meeting comes as defamation cases brought by stars Craig McLachlan and Geoffrey Rush — who strenuously deny allegations of sexual harassment or inappropriate behaviour levelled against them by theatre ex-workers — play out in court.

While the forum will not include commercial theatre, opera or dance companies, Ms Angus said: "This is chapter one. The reason we started with theatre is that our evidence was telling us there was a particular problem with that sector.

"We are done with talking. We're now ready to come up with some concrete solutions."

Father denies Pell 'invention'

TESSA AKUMAN

The father of one of Cardinal George Pell's accusers has denied "inventing" allegations against the cleric after he failed to name him in a police statement.

The Melbourne Magistrates Court heard yesterday that the father had learned about the historical sexual offence allegations involving his son in 2015 but didn't mention Cardinal Pell in a statement to police that year.

The father and Cardinal Pell's barrister Robert Richter QC engaged in a heated exchange in court about whether the man was told the allegations involved Cardinal Pell.

"You say your omission from the statement was just 'you forgot'," Mr Richter said. "That's an invention of yours since July 2015. You just made that up after you made your statement."

The father said Mr Richter had insulted him.

"Yes, that may be an insult but it's true, is it not," Mr Richter said.

"Absolutely not," the father said.

Cardinal Pell is appearing in a committal hearing charged with historical sexual offences in relation to multiple complainants. The hearing will determine whether he will stand trial.

Alleged victims gave evidence in a closed court last week.

Yesterday the court heard the



AAP

Cardinal Pell at court

alleged offending involving the man's son occurred when then Father Pell visited the family at a lake in the 1970s with another priest.

He said in 2015 his son did not go into detail about the alleged offence. "I cannot remember the details," he said. "I was more concerned about the fact that he had been abused by priests."

The father said he did not ask his son which priests allegedly committed offences against him.

The father of another of Cardinal Pell's accusers, questioned about how his son had behaved when being dropped off and picked up at a church in the 1990s, said there was "nothing that sticks in my memory now".

The father said he thought his son enjoyed being part of the cathedral choir. "I just got the general impression that he was happy doing it and enjoying it," he said.

The court heard the father told police his son had a "rough time of it" when he was in his 20s.

The father said this was due in part to alcohol and he also thought his son was seeing a psychotherapist.

"My instinct as a father, he wasn't really sure about where he was heading in life," the man said.

The court heard the alleged victim had made a drunken "emotional outburst" in a car ride with his brother and sister.

The brother told the court he had not been concerned by the conversation but he hadn't really been listening.

In his police statement, read out by barrister Ruth Shann, also acting for Cardinal Pell, the brother said he heard the alleged victim say something to the effect of: "You don't know what's happened."

"The other thing you heard being said was along the lines of 'some f.ked-up stuff has happened to me'," Ms Shann said.

She told the court the brother spoke to the alleged victim the next day and asked if he was all right. She said after being told "yes" the brother put the comments down to the alleged victim being drunk and emotional.

The hearing continues.

Grieving dad 'never felt Brodie in danger'

The father of an eight-year-old boy allegedly murdered by his mother in Victoria says he never felt his son was in danger, and not being there to prevent his death is his "biggest regret".

Brodie Moran's body was found at a Toolgarook house on the Morning on Peninsula last week, following a call to Ambulance Victoria.

His mother, Joanne Finch, 42, is in custody after being charged with murdering the Toolgarook Primary School student.

In a statement on Thursday, father Lee Moran says he never stopped "loving, caring and supporting" Brodie, whom he described as a "very loved, kind, considerate and caring boy".

"Brodie's passing has touched so many people," he said. "If I could be half the person my son was I would be proud.

"He lived a life in his eight short years that many others may not live in a lifetime.

"When remembering Brodie, it is with happiness of his warm cheeky smile and loving caring nature, and this is a gift he has left us all."

Mr Moran said not being there to prevent his boy's death is his "deepest regret".

"Although Joanne and I had separated in July 2015, I never stopped loving, caring and supporting my son both emotionally and financially," he said. "Brodie and I had a weekly FaceTime sessions together when he would share with great enthusiasm all that he had done that week.

"At no point did I, or anyone around Brodie and Joanne, feel that he was in danger."



Lee Moran with his murdered son Brodie

Mr Moran said he was touched by the warmth and support people, including from strangers from the other side of the world, had shown him.

He also thanked police and medical services and requested people allow him, his family and friends to grieve in private.

Ms Finch appeared in court last week and did not apply for bail. She was remanded to next appear in court on June 29.

AAP

Aussie bomb expert killed in Cambodia

An Australian bomb expert and a Cambodian soldier have reportedly been killed in a blast on a Cambodian military base.

The *Phnom Penh Post* reported three others, including another Australian, were also hurt in the incident that is understood to have occurred at a shooting range within the base in Pursat Srauch district, in central Cambodia.

Provincial Governor Vy Samnang said the casualties were believed to have been shooting at targets about 2pm yesterday when they saw something on the ground.

When one went to pick up the object — a Russian-made bomb — it exploded.

Military police said the three Cambodians were soldiers, while Mr Samnang said the two Australians were bomb experts.

Neither the Australian embassy nor the department of Defence and Foreign Affairs and Trade immediately responded to requests for comment.

"The Australian body is still at the hospital waiting to be taken by the Australian embassy," Health Department director O'Vann Then told the paper.

AMANDA HODGE

TOMORROW IN WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

MAGAZINE
The search for the Vietnam War's frozen man



NIKKI GEMMELL
Where did all the insects go?



REVIEW
FIRST IMPRESSIONS
The best of the Musee d'Orsay descends on Adelaide



Mary Magdalene
The film shedding new light on a contested life

INQUIRER
How Labor's tax changes will affect you





Actor Geoffrey Rush at his press conference in Melbourne. Picture: Jay Town

NSW

Actor Geoffrey Rush launches court action over Sydney Theatre Company claims

Sally Rawsthorne, The Daily Telegraph
December 8, 2017 3:45pm

MELBOURNE actor Geoffrey Rush has fronted for the first time since being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" while starring in a Sydney play, saying coverage of the case was "demeaning" and "hurtful".

The character actor refused to take questions but delivered a solemn statement about the Sydney Theatre Company claims, revealed by The Daily Telegraph.

Rush stood with his lawyer to declare that he would launch legal action over the reports in The Daily Telegraph.

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said. He said The Daily Telegraph had made "false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages".



Rush stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community."

The Daily Telegraph stands by its reporting of the complaint made against Rush during his last stint at the STC for the production of King Lear.

Editor Christopher Dore said the newspaper would defend its accurate reporting in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," Mr Dore said.

"We will defend our position in court."

At the centre of the drama was a complaint revealed by the STC made by one of its actors against Rush.

The STC told The Daily Telegraph that it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" after the 2015 production of the Shakespeare play.

The nation's premier theatre company said it would protect the identity of the complainant and would work to "minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace".

Rush subsequently stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced.

Lawyer Nicholas Pullen yesterday said Rush, 66, would not answer questions.

The matter will go before the Federal Court in Sydney on February 8.

Originally published as 'Hurt' Rush launches court action over claims



BUSYBITS

Email your busy bit to alicia.nally@news.com.au

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DIVE DAY

Female crew celebrated

Quicksilver Group female Silverswift crew were celebrated on Saturday at a PADI International Women's Dive Day on the Great Barrier Reef.

The adventure dive and snorkel boat ferried 84 passengers to experience three amazing reef sites led by skipper Amanda Matthies.

Ms Matthies (above right) was supported by a majority female crew from the customer service team and four female dive instructors.

Quicksilver managing director Tony Baker said more than 650 staff were employed in the company and female dive instructors were "very much a part of ensuring our passengers have sensational days diving the underwater world".



"It is great to see Silverswift join in this day.

"Our liveaboard dive vessels, Pro Dive Cairns has a growing number of female dive instructors and they currently represent a third of the team," he said.

"We congratulate our team on the amazing dedication they have every day on the Great Barrier Reef."

CITY FIRM IN 'EXCITING PROJECT'

Drones monitor turtles

Cairns-based company Droner was asked to supply and operate drones in a survey of turtle tracks in Cape York.

Founder Tom Watson (right) said it was an exciting project to be involved in. The Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance recently conducted trials to explore the potential use of unmanned aerial vehicles for turtle monitoring activities.

Overall, the 1.4 kilogram, multi-rotor drone with a 20 MP in-built camera provided the best results for the turtle track monitoring activities. This drone had good stability to deal with windy conditions, high camera resolution, boat-launching capability, and could deliver both grid and linear flight paths. Under suitable weather conditions, this drone captured high-quality aerial imagery that could be analysed for turtle track species and numbers. A final report is being completed on the outcomes of the drone trials and will be made available on the WCTTAA website on completion (www.capeyorknrm.com.au/wcttaa).



MISSION BEACH BRANCH TURNS 10

Community bank party

LAST week the Mission Beach Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank celebrated its 10th birthday. On Friday night, about 60 guests attended an event at Mission Arts.

Outgoing chairman Tony Lee (above) and new chairwoman Kelly Cavallara thanked the previous board members, staff, shareholders and customers for their ongoing support.

To date, Mission Beach Community bank branch has contributed more than $200,000 to local organisations, working towards a vibrant thriving Mission Beach community.



Recipients include the Cassowary Coast Multi Sports club, Mission Beach Community Arts Centre, Mission Beach Outrigger Canoe Club, Mission Beach State School, Mission Beach Scouts, Mission Beach Game Fishing club, Mission Beach Business & Tourism, Mission Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, Mission Beach Outdoor Film Festival, the town's sailing club and Rotary.

OPEN HOUSE FOR NETWORKING

Free barbecue at shed

GO Commercial will host its own version of an open house, a free open shed barbecue, today from 12-1pm at Shed 3, 170-182 Mayers St, Manunda.



The event will provide local business owners the opportunity to network and chat about what's happening in the market while enjoying a tasty sausage sizzle and cold drink.

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MYVIEW

"TO ENSURE A SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY FITS YOUR BUSINESS, LOOK AT THE MAKE-UP OF YOUR WORKFORCE. YOU SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER THOSE STAFF WHO ARE VULNERABLE.



NO-GO ZONE: Bad workplace behaviour from the 1970s and '80s has largely disappeared, but employers need to remain on guard.

A big price to pay on harassment

SEXUAL harassment has become a major topic for business owners and managers thanks to the worldwide publicity surrounding the Me Too movement.

The careless language and behaviour that made some workplaces uncomfortable in the 70s and '80s are a distant memory for many, but employers and managers still need to play a proactive role in ensuring their workplace is a healthy one.

Any business big or small, blue collar or white collar, needs a policy on sexual harassment. While a policy is not required by law, having such a policy can help prevent the law being broken as a result of employees not being aware of their responsibilities.

The policy should be a part of inductions for new staff and be included in regular staff training.



JOHN HAYWARD

Creating a sexual harassment policy need not be an onerous task. There are plenty of good, basic resources on the internet to get generic advice. Try the Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Fair Work Commission and the Fair Work Ombudsman websites.

Tailor the policy to fit your workplace and set out a process for your organisation to deal with it. If you need tailor-made advice, a lawyer can assist.

To ensure a sexual harassment policy fits your business, look at the make-up of your workforce.

You should also consider those staff who are vulnerable or who may be in a minority.

An organisation with a majority of male employees may need a female sexual harassment officer to ensure a woman would feel safe and comfortable raising issues.

Similarly, cultural issues might have a bearing on how complaints are handled.

In Far North Queensland we have many nationalities working in the tourism industry and doing seasonal work like fruit picking.

Those workers may have different tolerance levels in their countries to what Australians finds acceptable, so you should not assume your expectations are the same as theirs.

Social media adds an elevated risk for businesses, as stories of harassment can spread quickly. High-profile Australian actors Geoffrey Rush and Craig McLachlan both filed defamation claims after complaints were widely reported.

Another sting for employers is that they are often equally responsible for the actions of an employee found guilty of sexual harassment.

An employer can also be liable if the harassment takes place outside work hours.

If there is an issue in your workplace, it should be resolved as quickly as possible so it does not escalate. This is important for the victim.

Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Commission received 78 complaints of sexual harassment in 2016-17, with 75 per cent in the workplace.

The Me Too movement has lifted the lid on unacceptable behaviour. Check your business policy so you too can be a part of #MeToo.

John Hayward is an employment lawyer at WGC Lawyers

China drives demand for top Aussie drops

A THIRST for premium Australian wine has driven growth in the value of wine exports at the fastest rate in 15 years, new figures show.

Overseas sales jumped 20 per cent to $2.76 billion in 2017-18, with China, where 40 per cent of exports are bought, the biggest contributor, according to data from industry body Wine Australia.

The sector also recorded its highest average value for wine since 2009, with an increase of 9 per cent per cent, to $3.24 per litre.

But the value of exports to the US – the world's largest wine market – fell by 8 per cent to $424 million, with the volume of Australian wine sold to the US falling by 11 per cent.

Wine Australia chief executive Andreas Clark said the focus would now be on improving sales in the US.

"The premium end of the US wine market is enjoying robust growth, as are Australian exports in nearly all price points above $10 per litre," Mr Clark said. "We're working to accelerate this growth in demand through a marketing push supported by the Australian Government's $50 million Export and Regional Wine Support Package."

Wine Australia said the overall growth of overseas sales was due to a 15 per cent increase in active exporters.

Export sales of wines priced between $20 and $29.99, as well as those priced between $50 and $99.99, both grew by 80 per cent.

NewsRoom

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July 25, 2018

Section: Business

A big price to pay on harassment

JOHN HAYWARD

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--- Index References ---

News Subject: (Business Management (1BU42); Civil Rights Law (1CI34); Employment Law (1EM67); Gender Relations (1GE36); HR & Labor Management (1HR87); Legal (1LE33); Social Issues (1SO05); Workplace Harassment (1WO08))

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NewsRoom

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MAROONS ORIGIN JUMPER BUNGLE

WHAT A STITCH-UP

EXCLUSIVE PETER BADEL

THE Queensland Rugby League has been rocked by a multimillion-dollar sponsorship bungle after selling off naming rights on the mighty Maroons Origin jumper for a paltry $80,000.

In one of the worst gaffes in the QRL's 109-year history, the most powerful brand in Australian sport was sold for a knockdown rate in a deal slammed by industry experts as "pure madness" and estimated to have cost State of Origin's most successful team at least $2 million.

Adding insult to the farce, NSW last night launched its 2018 Origin jersey, which attracted a deal worth more than $1 million.

It's also understood the NSW women's jersey comes with a price tag of about $200,000, for a game that is not even televised.

The Courier-Mail can reveal Bank of Queensland and RACQ were keen to back the Maroons after major sponsor Suncorp quit, but baulked at the QRL's $1 million-plus asking price.



Facing a Maroons jumper with no sponsors, the QRL brokered a last-minute arrangement with Intrust Super for an effective price of $80,000. *The Courier-Mail* can also reveal the design of the new jumper (right).

REPORT P9





EXCLUSIVE

Superstar denies 'inappropriate behaviour'

KING LEER

JONATHON MORAN

OSCAR-winning superstar Geoffrey Rush has been hit by accusations he behaved inappropriately during an Australian production of *King Lear*.

However, Rush – through his lawyers – last night vigorously denied the claims.

The Sydney Theatre Company told *The Courier-Mail* it "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour".

"The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended," it said.

Lawyers for the famed Queensland-born actor said he had "not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company, the alleged complainant nor any representative of either".

The actions of Rush (pictured above, as King Lear) towards co-workers were "impeccable beyond reproach", his lawyers said.

REPORT P4-5



WIN GROCERIES FOR A YEAR FULL DETAILS PAGE 9

KING LEER

Source: Courier Mail (Australia)
Publication Date: November 30, 2017
Country: Australia
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11/30/17 Courier-Mail (Austl.) 1

News

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Section: News

JONATHON MORAN

OSCAR-winning superstar Geoffrey Rush has been hit by explosive accusations he behaved inappropriately during an Australian production of King Lear.

The famed Queensland-born actor was the subject of a complaint about behaviour during a Sydney Theatre Company season of the Shakespeare tragedy, The Courier-Mail can reveal.

However, in a strongly worded legal letter, lawyers for Rush (pictured above as King Lear) last night said he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" and that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

The theatre company yesterday confirmed receiving a complaint about the married father of two and a spokeswoman said the organisation was still dealing with the issue.REPORT P4-5

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: Sydney Theatre C
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush)
EDITION: CourierMail
WORD COUNT: 124

EXCLUSIVE Superstar denies 'inappropriate behaviour'

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News

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REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush)
EDITION: CourierMail3
WORD COUNT: 121

More rain on the way

MORE heavy showers are expected to fall again today after a month's worth of rain led to flash flooding across parts of the southeast yesterday.

The deluge saw 111mm of rainfall on Mount Coot-tha, 91mm at Alderley and 78mm at Bracken Ridge in under five hours. There was severe flash flooding in Brisbane's north, which trapped one woman inside her vehicle at Toombul. She was reportedly rescued by two council workers.

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a very high chance of showers again today, becoming heavy at times.

Restoring money loss

HAIR loss company Ashley & Martin is being sued by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission for alleged unfair contracts.

The ACCC has lodged a claim in the Federal Court to declare the cooling off period for Ashley & Martin treatment plans to be unfair.

The ACCC said the two-day cooling-off period in the company's standard contracts was too short.

After two days, consumers automatically became liable for a full 12-month cost of treatment, averaging about $3000 to $3500.

Alert for travellers

TWO imported cases of mosquito-borne viruses this month have prompted health authorities to warn Christmas travellers to avoid being bitten while overseas. The Townsville Public Health Unit yesterday confirmed a Cranbrook resident had earlier this month been struck down by dengue, while another person in Mackay had fallen ill with the Zika virus.

Public Health Registrar Dr Julie Mudd is urging holidaymakers to seek genuine travel advice about health risks posed in the country they are visiting.



IN A RUSH

Theatre investigates 'inappropriate behaviour'

EXCLUSIVE
JONATHON MORAN

OSCAR-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of *King Lear*.

But the star vigorously denies the allegations and says that the company has never told him of any allegations of wrong doing.

The Courier-Mail can today reveal that one of the country's most successful actors was the subject of a complaint during the production of *King Lear*.

It is understood the allegations of inappropriate behaviour occurred over several months.

The local production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at the Roslyn Packer Theatre.

There were also several months of rehearsals.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman said to *The Courier-Mail*.

"The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended. The company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld. STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."



In a strongly worded legal letter, lawyers for Rush at HWL Ebsworth last night said that he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" and that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach.

"Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised," the letter states.

"Further, he has not been informed by them of the

Kids' sleep devices are taking off with Virgin

VIRGIN Australia has lifted a ban on kids' sleep aids that convert into "mini beds", following a safety review.

From today, parents can bring inflatable cushions and portable leg rests such as Plane Pal, Fly Tot, or JetKids Bedbox accessories on-board as part of 7kg carry-on allowance.

In-flight experience general manager Tash Tobias said Virgin was the first major Australian airline to give the all-clear for such gadgets, which let children stretch out their legs.

"We know that travelling with kids can be a stressful experience and we want to make it as smooth as possible for the families that fly with us," Ms Tobias said. "These popular comfort items have been reviewed by our team of safety experts against our high safety standards."

Use is restricted to window seats on smaller aircraft, and to window and middle block centre seats on larger aircraft. They must not prevent seats in front from reclining.

Some disgruntled parents complained on social media earlier this year upon learning the products were prohibited on key Australian airlines due to evacuation hazard concerns.

Almost 100 international airlines permit such devices. Virgin Australia's subsidiary, Tigerair, is still assessing them.

Lord Mayor zips in to take plunge on adrenalin ride

THRILLSEEKERS will soon be able to plunge from the top of Mount Coot-tha on the longest zipline in Australia as part of a high-adrenalin ride over the treetops.

Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk is expected to announce today that West End company Zipline Australia has been endorsed to build two ziplines at Mount Coot-tha – the city's second-most visited precinct behind South Bank.

"Zipline Australia will build the longest treetop canopy zipline tour in Australia, with a 1500m course weaving through the Mount Coot-tha forest, creating an exciting new leisure and lifestyle attraction," Cr Quirk said. "An additional 1400m megazip experience will offer up to six adventurers the chance to zip side-by-side while taking in views of the Brisbane cityscape."

The 1.4km megazip ride has been designed to start from a new platform at the Mount Coot-tha lookout, dropping down to finish near the botanical gardens. At its highest point, it will have a 170m vertical drop, believed to be the highest in Australia.

The 1.5km treetop zipline will finish near JC Slaughter Falls in the northeast. It is believed to be the longest continuous zipline in Australia.

TOM SNOWDON

Desperate family wait for justice two years on

GRAHAM Robertson says a delay in the delivery of inquest findings into his son Charlie's death is stopping the family getting justice and moving on.

The 19-year-old died in his Miami apartment on June 13, 2015, from an overdose of the drug fantasy.

Charlie's father and mother Rose believe that he had a non-alcoholic drink spiked.

In March, a five-day inquest heard seven Rapid Action Patrol police officers raided Charlie's apartment looking for his flatmate. They tried to wake Charlie, but were unsuccessful. Police left Charlie in bed, before leaving the apartment without calling triple-0.

They were called back later by one of his flatmates, who found the 19-year-old dead, the inquest was told.

Seven police officers were demoted after an Ethical Standards Command investigation.

Mr Robertson said the family had been trying to get in touch with the Coroners office since September about the findings delivery but had received no reply. "All we want is to get justice for our son and tell his story and we can't do that without the findings," he said.

A spokesman for the Coroners Court of Queensland said that the matter was "still adjourned for a date to be fixed at this stage"

BOME03Z01MA - V1

TO DENY CLAIM



COMPLAINT: Aussie actor Geoffrey Rush, who starred in *Shine*, *Quills* and more recently in *Pirates of the Caribbean* has denied an "inappropriate behaviour" claim against him.

nature of the complaint and what it involves."

The letter from the legal firm's partner Nicholas Pullen goes on to say that Rush has not been involved with the Sydney Theatre Company or its representatives for a period of more than 22 months.

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The 66-year-old married father-of-two and Melbourne resident is also the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema Television and Arts and is expected to attend the annual AACTA Awards at The Star Event Centre next week.

Service to counsel network staffers

CHANNEL Nine has opened an independent counselling service following allegations this week of sexual assault by former TV personality Don Burke (below) as the network's boss Hugh Marks addresses staff for the first time, saying "we cannot rewrite history".

A new phone line was set up yesterday to allow people to report instances of past behaviour they would like addressed.

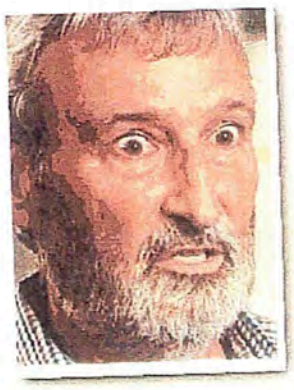
"Former Nine employees with complaints can provide their personal contact details and HR will follow up directly on a strictly confidential basis." Nine said in an email to staff.

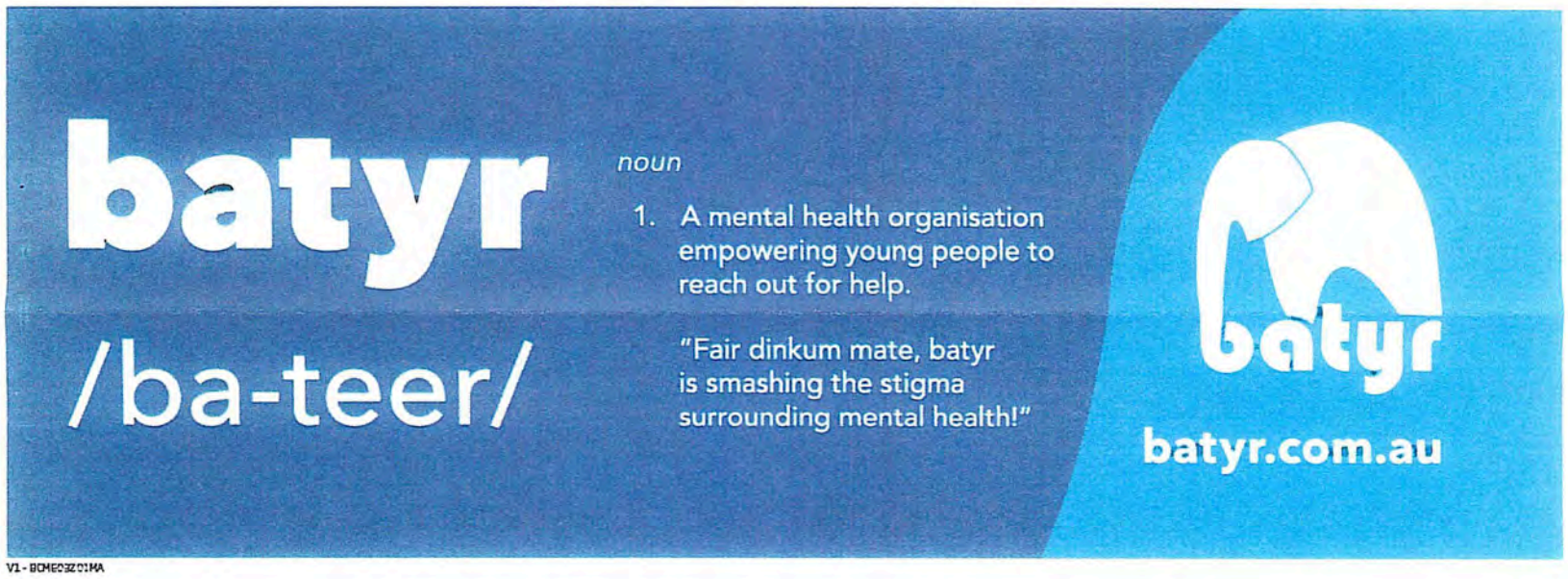
The counselling will be provided at no cost to them, Nine said, and will support the person to "work through any issues that relate to their time" at Nine.

Mr Marks, meanwhile, told staff that allegations of harassment and misconduct by Burke were "appalling", vowing to deal with misconduct, harassment, discrimination and bullying issues "effectively".

Burke returned to Nine's *A Current Affair* this week where he admitted to behaving like a bullying tyrant, and having "a number of affairs", but said he could not remember "exact things I did 20 years ago".

He has been described as a "sexual predator" and "psychotic bully" during the 17-year run of *Burke's Backyard*. Speaking to *ACA* host Tracy Grimshaw, he claimed to be a victim of a "witch hunt" ignited by the Harvey Weinstein scandal.





THOMSON REUTERS

In a rush to deny claim

Source: Courier Mail (Australia)
Publication Date: November 30, 2017
Country: Australia
Source Type: Newspaper

11/30/17 Courier-Mail (Austl.) 5

News

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Section: News

EXCLUSIVE JONATHON MORAN

Theatre investigates 'inappropriate behaviour' OSCAR-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of King Lear.

But the star vigorously denies the allegations and says that the company has never told him of any allegations of wrong doing.

The Courier-Mail can today reveal that one of the country's most successful actors was the subject of a complaint during the production of King Lear.

It is understood the allegations of inappropriate behaviour occurred over several months.

The local production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at the Roslyn Packer Theatre.

There were also several months of rehearsals.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman said to The Courier-Mail.

"The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended. The company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld. STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments." In a strongly worded legal letter, lawyers for Rush at HWL Ebsworth last night said that he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" and that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach.

"Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised," the letter states.

"Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves." The letter from the legal firm's partner Nicholas Pullen goes on to say that Rush has not been involved with the Sydney Theatre Company or its representatives for a period of more than 22 months.

"In the circumstances, if such a statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least.

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THOMSON REUTERS

Pirates star Denies claim

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11/30/17 Courier-Mail (Austl.) 5

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EDITION: CourierMail
WORD COUNT: 538

Croc block bid ends in court date

A "VIGILANTE" who interfered while conservation workers were removing a crocodile trap with a 4m beast inside has been snapped up by authorities.

Police have charged a 32-year-old Innisfail man after he allegedly obstructed and verbally abused Department of Environment and Heritage Protection officers while they were attempting to move a trap trailer on Tuesday.

It is alleged the man began arguing with EHP officers about 12.30pm, before he got more aggressive by standing on the trailer and extending the winch. While the officers were pulling the trap out, it's understood the man got into the water at waist depth and pushed the trap.

Police say the man caused the crocodile to become agitated and strike the side of the trap. The man is scheduled to appear at the Innisfail Magistrates Court on December 18.

LEXIE CARTWRIGHT

Oroton in collapse

OROTON stores will operate as usual after the 79-year-old Australian luxury handbag retailer collapsed into voluntary administration.

The company says it has been unable to find a viable option for recapitalising or selling the business after a seven-month strategic review.

Interim chief executive Ross Lane, grandson of Oroton founder Boyd Lane, said there was no other solution.

"The board is disappointed that it has had to take this step after running such a comprehensive process," he said.

BUSINESS P57



SUPPORT: Actors Meyne Wyatt and Brandon McClelland (inset below) back the actor who has accused Oscar-winner Geoffrey Rush of touching her inappropriately during the stage production of *King Lear*. Rush vehemently denies the claim.

'IT WASN'T A JOKE'

Actors back accuser as Rush slams theatre for career slur

JONATHON MORAN

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A new STC statement yesterday said that it had responded "truthfully" after being approached by *The Courier-Mail* this week.

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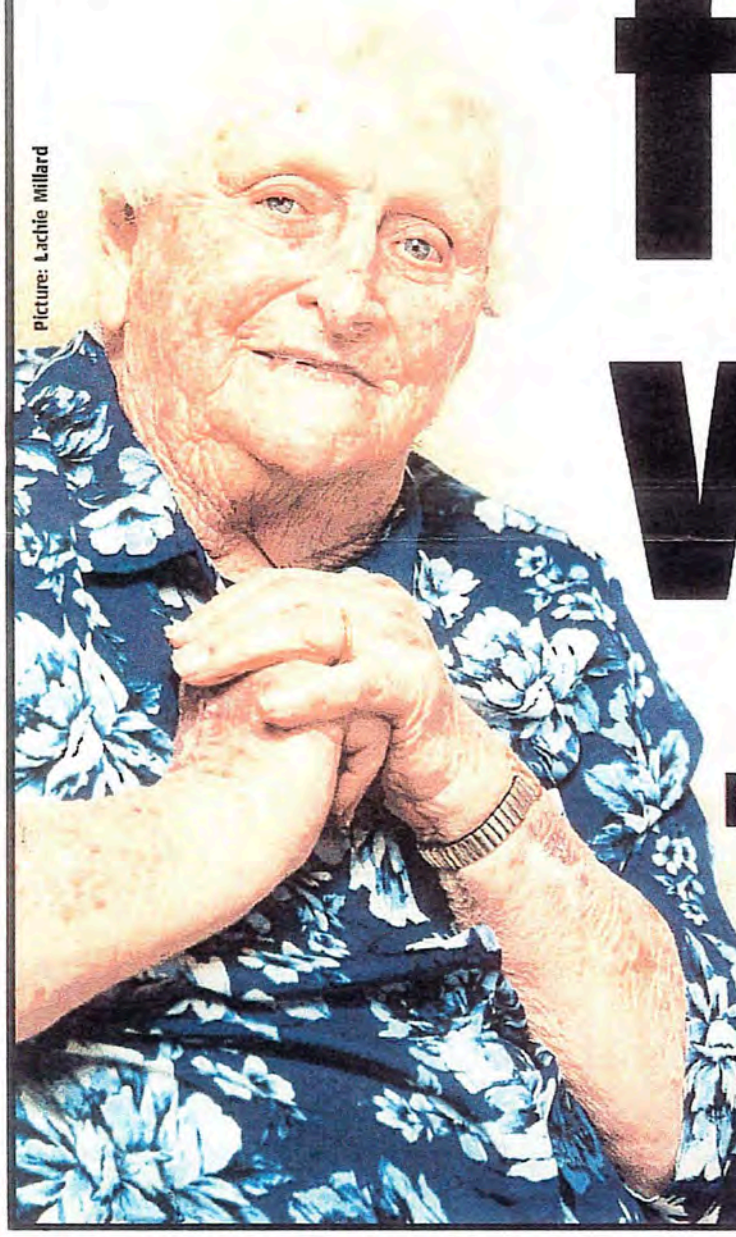
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DES HOUGHTON EXCLUSIVE

Lady Flo's final wish

Thirty years after Joh forced out, his widow has unfinished business



Picture: Lachie Millard

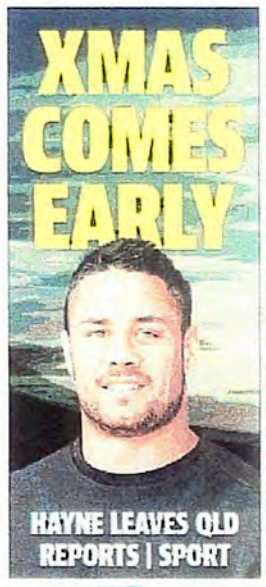


LADY Flo Bjelke-Petersen has revealed she is still desperate for the shredded reputation of disgraced husband Joh to be restored as she approaches the age of 100.

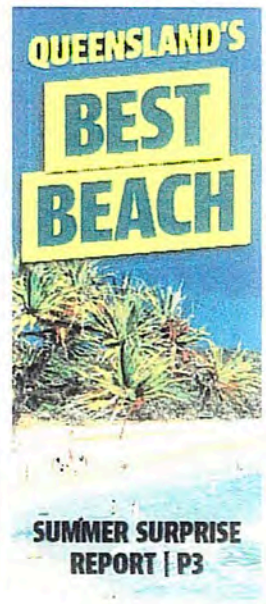
In an exclusive interview with *The Courier-Mail* 30 years after Sir Joh was forced from office, Lady Flo (pictured) insisted she was proud of his legacy and maintained "he did a great job as premier of Queensland".

"There will never be anyone like Joh," Lady Flo, 98, said.

REPORT P4-5







New threat to wounded PM

EXCLUSIVE
RENEE VIELLARIS

A WOUNDED Malcolm Turnbull is facing a damaging new ambush – this time on penalty rates – after he was forced to call a royal commission into banking misconduct that he argued against just days ago.

As the Prime Minister begrudgingly announced the banking blowtorch yesterday, Labor was formulating a plan to hijack a Government Bill in a bid to undo penalty rate changes by enticing rogue MP George Christensen to cross the floor. Sources said the Government feared again being held hostage by Nationals "with pet issues".

REPORT P10-11



'I believe Rush claim'

EXCLUSIVE
JONATHON MORAN

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

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REPORT P7

'I believe Rush claim'

Source: Courier Mail (Australia)
Publication Date: December 1, 2017
Country: Australia
Source Type: Newspaper

12/1/17 Courier-Mail (Austl.) 1

News

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LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush; Meyne Raoul Wyatt)
EDITION: CourierMail3
WORD COUNT: 58

TWO ACTORS BACK CLAIM

Source: Courier Mail (Australia)
Publication Date: December 1, 2017
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Source Type: Newspaper

12/1/17 Courier-Mail (Austl.) 7

News

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WORD COUNT: 390

'IT WASN'T A JOKE'

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Source Type: Newspaper

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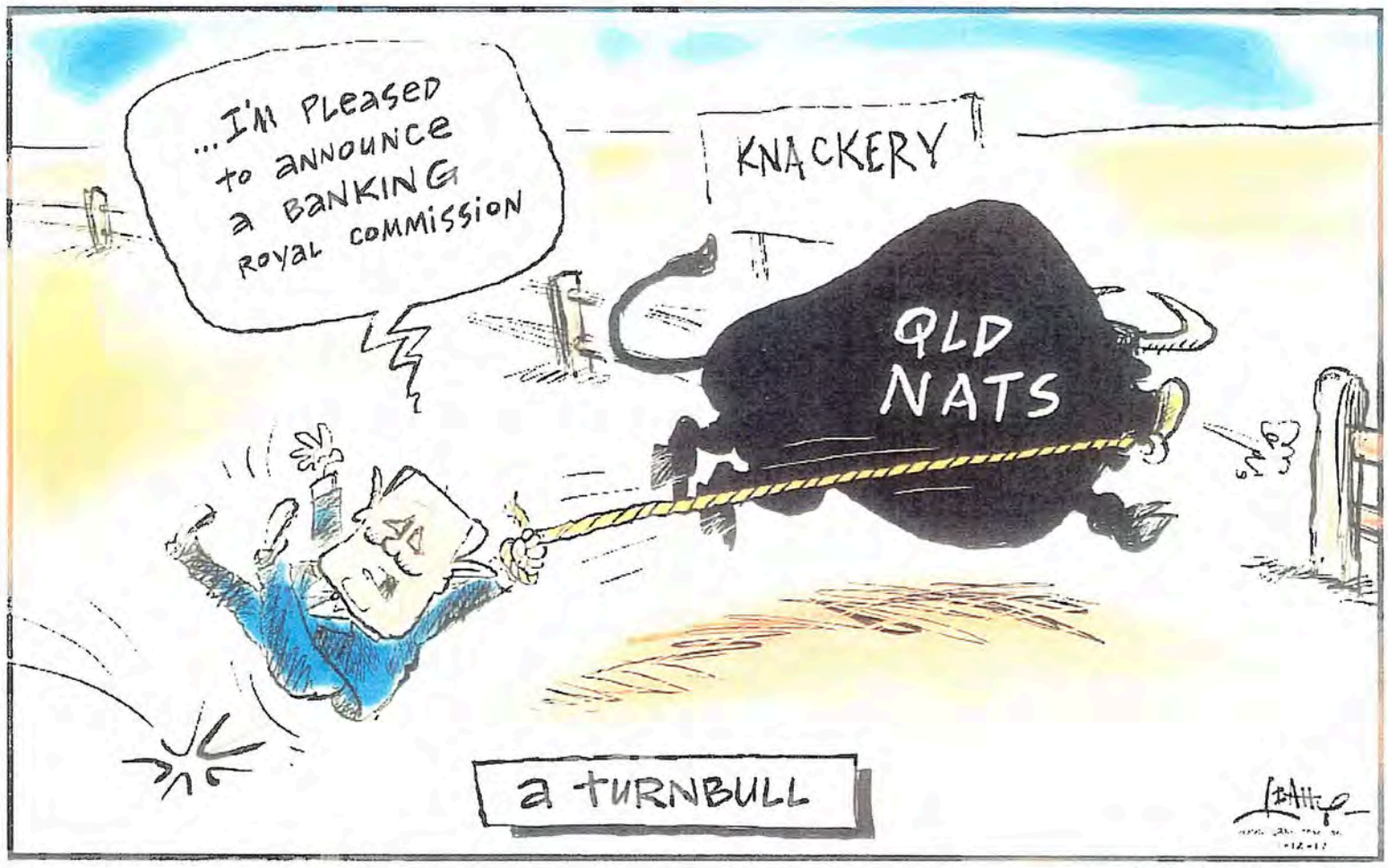
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Sex pests no joke if you're a woman

IN RESPONSE to Chris Banks (Letters, Nov 29), I have the (mis)fortune of being a reasonably attractive female (or so I'm told), and I can take a joke as well as anyone.

The kind of harassment that has caught media attention lately is not merely the occasional light-hearted banter. There is a difference between the type of behaviour Banks described and the type that is persistent, ongoing, demeaning and threatening.

I imagine it's more difficult for a male to understand how overwhelming and frightening it feels when a much larger, and generally more senior, person is continually backing you into a corner either physically or verbally, and you are powerless to fight back.

I can say from personal experience that it is definitely no joke, and so will many other women.

Martina Tait, Geebung

WHILE sexual offenders should be punished, I'm starting to wonder if there is some sort of witch-hunt on high-profile celebrities.

The latest one accused of "inappropriate behaviour" is Geoffrey Rush (C-M, Nov 30).

Whether he has done something wrong or not I don't know, but it seems odd to me that the so-called "victims" of high-profile celebrities take so long to come forward and many of them have only done so after others have. It may be that they needed support to do so, or some other reason.

Ralph Burge, Petrie

IT'S interesting that Channel 9 is now offering an independent counselling service following allegations of sexual harassment against former TV personality Don Burke.

Those at the top who knew about his alleged behaviour seemingly did nothing at the time. Now it seems they are in damage control, scrambling to do what should have been done years ago.

Helen Holdey, Brighton

THE WORD ON THE STREET

Would you like to see Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have their honeymoon in Australia?

2pm, Queen Street Mall, Brisbane CBD

Words and Pictures: Clare Armstrong



FRANK JOHNSON
69, farmer, Mackay
Yes. I think it could be good for regional tourism. Somewhere like the Whitsundays, especially Hamilton Island, would be nice for a honeymoon.



EBONY WILLIAMS
23, photographer, Carina
Yes. Australia is very laid back and I think Prince Harry would enjoy that aspect of it.



LUCINDA MCAFEE
22, personal assistant, Upper Mt Gravatt
I think it would create a frenzy if they did. Maybe they'd like to visit a remote part of Australia and enjoy time away from the scrutiny.



DAVID WEST
38, museum curator, Indooroopilly
Yes, I don't see why not. They should go somewhere like Port Douglas to see the Reef.



MARIA TINOAI
22, manager, Upper Mt Gravatt
It wouldn't be my top choice for a honeymoon. I think somewhere on the coast of Europe would be nice.



DAVID CORAZZA
55, university lecturer, Sunnybank Hills
It doesn't bother me if they come at all. The decision is up to them.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Different roads sometimes lead to the same castle.
— George R.R. Martin

HOT TOPIC

YOUR VIEWS ON FACEBOOK.COM/COURIERMAIL

Rich parents are sending their children to free state schools despite being able to afford a private education, according to research.

Who cares? Rich or poor, all children have the right to go to public schooling. It's a choice. It's not there only for people who can't afford private schooling.
Skye Woodgate

I'd be taking advantage of the state school system too, particularly in affluent areas where the schools are good and people are already paying a premium for housing, rates and taxes.
Myra Mawby

Let your kids go to school where you want. What does income have to do with it?
Renee Fossa

The days of free schooling are long gone. In the past, books were supplied by schools and the students borrowed them. They only had to have pens, pencils and notebooks. Now parents have to supply everything, even tissues, photocopy paper and whiteboard markers.
Lorraine Bonnyman

There are excellent schools all over Queensland in both sectors. The best school for your child is the one that best caters for your child's needs.
Tony Fraser

FOR THE RECORD

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LAW LIST

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Letters and emails must be dated, carry the full address of the writer and a daytime telephone number for verification. Letters should be concise and topical. Writers may choose to have their name and email address published rather than their name and suburb or town. Letters are submitted on condition that News Queensland as publisher of The Courier-Mail may edit and has the right to license third parties to reproduce in electronic form and communicate these letters. The winner of Letter of the Month receives a pen branded with The Courier-Mail's logo.

THOMSON REUTERS

Sex pests no joke if you're a woman

Source: Courier Mail (Australia)
Publication Date: December 1, 2017
Country: Australia
Source Type: Newspaper

12/1/17 Courier-Mail (Austl.) 35

News

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Section: Letters

IN RESPONSE to Chris Banks (Letters, Nov 29), I have the (mis)fortune of being a reasonably attractive female (or so I'm told), and I can take a joke as well as anyone.

The kind of harassment that has caught media attention lately is not merely the occasional light-hearted banter. There is a difference between the type of behaviour Banks described and the type that is persistent, ongoing, demeaning and threatening.

I imagine it's more difficult for a male to understand how overwhelming and frightening it feels when a much larger, and generally more senior, person is continually backing you into a corner either physically or verbally, and you are powerless to fight back.

I can say from personal experience that it is definitely no joke, and so will many other women.

Martina Tait, Geebung

WHILE sexual offenders should be punished, I'm starting to wonder if there is some sort of witch-hunt on high-profile celebrities.

The latest one accused of "inappropriate behaviour" is Geoffrey Rush (C-M, Nov 30).

Whether he has done something wrong or not I don't know, but it seems odd to me that the so-called "victims" of high-profile celebrities take so long to come forward and many of them have only done so after others have. It may be that they needed support to do so, or some other reason.

Ralph Burge, Petrie

IT'S interesting that Channel 9 is now offering an independent counselling service following allegations of sexual harassment against former TV personality Don Burke.

Those at the top who knew about his alleged behaviour seemingly did nothing at the time. Now it seems they are in damage control, scrambling to do what should have been done years ago.Helen Holdey, Brighton

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

NEWS SUBJECT: Business Management (1BU42); Crime (1CR87); Employment Law (1EM67); HR & Labor Management (1HR87); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Workplace Harassment (1WO08)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush; Ralph Burge; Martina Tait; Don Burke; Helen Holdey)
EDITION: CourierMail
WORD COUNT: 289

Salvage postponed

THE mission to salvage the FV *Dianne*, which overturned in stormy seas on October 16 off the coast of central Queensland, has been postponed due to bad weather.

The rescue operation will raise the trawler from the ocean floor, allowing an extensive search of the boat, where two fishermen were found dead.

Four other crew members have not been found.

A Queensland Police spokeswoman said that if conditions improved, the salvage operations would start today.

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POWERBALL

1124 30-11-2017

22 26 31 35 21 38
10

1st	Jackpot	0
2nd	Transferred to	Division 3
3rd	$10,852.40	40
4th	$187.65	661
5th	$69.60	1360
6th	$41.45	19,914
7th	$28.65	25,880
8th	$14.30	118,645

Victim could be scarred for life, says detective

Hospital's 3.30am grab and stab

GREG STOLZ

POLICE fear a young Gold Coast nurse could be mentally scarred for life after a terrifying incident yesterday when he was abducted at gunpoint, stuffed into the boot of his car and then robbed, beaten and stabbed.

Joe Brooker, 25, was left traumatised and covered in blood after being confronted by a group of four balaclava-clad men brandishing a gun and knives about 3.30am yesterday as he took a break from nightshift duties at Pindara Private Hospital, Benowa.

One of the men held a gun to his head and demanded drugs, his phone and wallet.

Mr Brooker was then forced into the boot of his Toyota hatchback and driven to an ATM at Parkwood where he was made to withdraw $500. He was then put back into the boot by the bandits who crashed the car into a house fence at Ashmore.

Despite multiple stab wounds and shock, he managed to clamber out of the car.

"He was just covered in blood and he just looked up at me, looking out of the window, and said 'help me'," resident Samantha MacDougal said. "When he took off his shirt, he had all knife wounds. He said 'I've been robbed, they put a gun to my head'."

The bandits then stole a Toyota Prius before also crashing it on Ashmore Rd, where a 16-year-old was arrested and taken to hospital with "significant" neck injuries. His accomplices remained on the run last night.

Detective Inspector Marc Hogan, of Burleigh Heads CIB, said there was no evidence Mr Brooker knew his attackers and he appeared to be the "very unfortunate" victim of a random attack.

"It's extremely concerning," he said. "This person is going about their own life and then it's drastically interfered with. It might change him forever – who knows?"

Mr Brooker was taken to Gold Coast University Hospital for treatment, but was released yesterday morning.

IF ANYONE HAS INFORMATION CONTACT CRIME STOPPERS ON 1800 333 000.







VIOLENT ATTACK: Joe Brooker; and (inset) the stolen Prius on Ashmore Rd.



Academy in crisis talks after complaint

AMELIA SAW

THE Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) held crisis talks on Thursday in the wake of accusations of "inappropriate behaviour" levelled at the organisation's president, Oscar-winner Geoffrey Rush.

Rush (above), who has denied the allegations made by a female co-star during the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *King Lear*, was due to open AACTA's prestigious 7th annual awards ceremony on Wednesday.

The AACTA board met on Thursday while executives debated how to proceed.

"They hope it will blow over," a source said. "But they are really not sure what to do."

Board members include Mark Morrissey, Noni Hazlehurst, Brian Walsh, Margaret Pomeranz and Alan Finney.

Until the allegations were made public on Wednesday by *The Courier-Mail*, AACTA planned to open the televised awards night with a prerecorded video featuring Rush and comedian Rebel Wilson.

AACTA declined to comment on whether it intends to proceed with airing the video, which reportedly cost thousands to make. Board members also declined to comment.

It remains unknown whether Rush will walk the red carpet on Wednesday.

Although unrelated to the scandal surrounding Rush, Wilson has also been surrounded by controversy this year after she successfully took magazine giant Bauer media to court for defamation and was awarded millions of dollars in damages.

Unicorn Films are producing their latest feature film CELESTE in Far North Queensland for an international and national audience.

Co-written by Queenslanders, the late Billie Brown and directed by Ben Hackworth. CELESTE has an all-Australian cast – Radha Mitchell, Thomas Cocquerel, Nadine Garner and Odessa Young to name a few.

Shot against the exotic ruins of Paronella Park and FNQ's Innisfail Region, CELESTE is a heartfelt story full of passion, tragedy and opera fermenting in the steamy, tropical Queensland jungle.



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BCME03Z01MA - V1

I WAS A VICTIM OF SLEAZES ON POWER TRIPS

FIONA BYRNE

TV bombshell Sophie Monk said she was the victim of touchy, sleazy entertainment executives who would invite her to meetings that would turn out to be dates.

The Gold Coaster said sexual harassment is rife in the entertainment industry – but it's nowhere near as bad in Australia as it is in the US.

"You definitely get hit on a lot when you shouldn't," she said.

"You think you are going in for a meeting and the next thing it is a dinner meeting and you go, 'Oh, I get where this is going'.

"They can be touchy feely and say inappropriate things.

"People can get drunk with the power and the money and a lot of girls will do things to get roles."

Monk, 37, said she learned to survive and maintain her self-respect after experiencing a decade of inappropriate behaviour while living and working in the United States.

"It is just very loose over there and who do you go to? There are no rules. There is no HR system to go through," she said.

"There are a lot of young women there with no money and they are just trying to get through and perform and it is a tough place to be. I don't regret leaving there at all."

Monk said that while she had dealt with plenty of sleazy behaviour in the US, she had never encountered any inappropriate behaviour while working in Australia.

"I have never been hit on in Australia," she said.

"It is completely different here. There is so much money over there (in the US) and people tend to, I don't understand why, bow down to money and power."

SURVIVOR: Sophie Monk says the attitudes are different in America.

FOR MORE CELEBRITY GOSSIP CONFIDENTIAL P94-95

In Rush to exit, at this stage

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 Rebel Wilson last week.

"AACTA acknowledges the decision today of Geoffrey Rush to voluntarily step aside 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 Mail can reveal the allegations against Rush, which he has repeatedly denied, caused a major shake-up of the AACTA board.

Foxtel executive director of television Brian Walsh has written to the board to notify it of his resignation.

Others on the board include Noni Hazlehurst, Alan Finney, Margaret Pomeranz and Mark Morrissey.

Foxtel and Channel 7 are the broadcast partners of the event and are understood to have contacted AACTA on Friday with concerns about Rush's position as well as his participation in the ceremony.

"We were jointly concerned about sending the wrong message to the community and brought everyone back to the table to consider 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 2015 to January 2016.

The STC confirmed a complaint was made after the production came to an end.

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 Meyne Raoul Wyatt. "I was in the show," Wyatt wrote on social media after *The Courier-Mail* broke the story. "I believe (the person) who has come forward."



Rush 'forced' to step down as president

TV chiefs want a clean slate

SALLY RAWSTHORNE

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 measure of writing a joint letter to AACTA chief executive Damian Trewhella, leading to Rush stepping down as president of the organisation at the weekend.

"The entertainment industry ... is under intense scrutiny in relation to allegations of unacceptable behaviour," 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 Courier-Mail understands the letter was sent on Friday, a day after the AACTA board had crisis talks.

"We are concerned that the current events affecting the industry may impact on the integrity of the awards broadcast next Wednesday night," the letter read.

This year's event has been overshadowed by allegations levelled at some of entertainment's biggest names.

Veteran actor and producer Josh Lawson said the industry was in transition and would emerge stronger.

"I look forward to the new normal where anyone of any gender can work without intimidation and fear," Lawson (pictured) said at yesterday's 7th annual AACTA awards luncheon. "It's like cutting out a tumour - it's messy, it's bloody and ultimately we will be better for it."

Walking Dead star Callan McAuliffe, who worked with Rush on *The Book Thief*, threw his support behind the actor. But he also revealed he had been subjected to sexual harassment during his career.

"It has happened to me before which is uncomfortable. People grope you," he said.

ABC host Julia Zemiro 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."

Actor Melina Vidler said: "It's really difficult to say because you don't want to tell your mother or your husband, let alone the world."



Man faces sex charge

A MAN is expected to appear in court today charged with a string of alleged historic sex offences

Police arrested the 71-year-old man last month.

After an investigation, police charged the man with dozens of offences stemming from alleged incidents in the Brisbane area between 1981 and 1995.

Among the charges are seven counts of indecent treatment of boys under 17 years, four counts of carnal knowledge and three counts of deprivation of liberty.

He is expected to appear in the Brisbane Magistrates Court today.

Connecting with coma patients is all in the eyes

AUSTRALIAN researchers are developing a way of allowing coma patients who have severe brain injury or paralysis to communicate with their pupils.

Until now, doctors could do little more than ask an unresponsive patient to squeeze their hand or blink if they can hear them. Research has shown that using current communication methods, about 40 per cent of patients in a minimally conscious state were initially incorrectly diagnosed as being in a vegetative state.

New research presented at the Australasian Neuroscience Society Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney is showing that pupil dilation is a proven, accurate way of measuring alertness and cognition.

"Unlike all the other muscles, those that control the dilation and constriction of the pupils are not under standard motor control," Associate Professor Olivia Carter from the University of Melbourne said.

"The muscles of the pupil constrict and dilate in response to levels of noradrenaline. You can increase noradrenaline in a person by just thinking really hard about something."

They are now developing tablet-based software that could be easily used by intensive care doctors.

Bourke trial fiasco over

A REBUKE from a Supreme Court judge has cut through red tape that threatened to delay the trial of Bourke St accused Dimitrious Gargasoulas.

Bureaucrats had refused to hand over the medical records of Gargasoulas to his barrister in the lead-up to his preliminary hearing on December 15.

Gargasoulas, 27, is charged with six counts of murder and 28 of attempted murder over the January 20 incident in Melbourne. His matter returned to the Supreme Court yesterday before Justice Lex Lasry.

It was a frustrated Justice Lasry who heard last week that the Department of Justice had failed to cough up the records.

V1- BCME03Z01MA



All Sam wants for Christmas is a better new year.

Sam* is one of 1.1 million young Australians growing up in poverty[1]. This affects his whole life, including at school. He is missing out on the extra support he needs to keep up in class. He can't catch up without you.

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* Sam's image and name have been changed to protect his identity.
1 *ACOSS Poverty Report*, 2016



7th Annual AACTA Red Carpet Glitz and Glamour

AWARDS

Rachel Griffiths defends Geoffrey Rush amid allegations

Staff Writer, News Corp Australia Network
December 6, 2017 11:27pm

AUSSIE actress Rachel Griffiths has defended Geoffrey Rush, saying the Oscar winner "is not Harvey Weinstein".

Griffiths referenced the Hollywood mogul — who faces multiple allegations of sexual misconduct — on the red carpet at tonight's Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Awards in Sydney.



Rachel Griffiths arrives at the AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) Awards.

"Geoffrey Rush is not Harvey Weinstein and I have had more than a handful of interactions with Harvey Weinstein," Griffiths told the ABC on the red carpet.

Rush stepped down as AACTA president amid allegations of inappropriate behaviour during the STC production of King Lear in late 2015.

Griffiths told the ABC that although the topic of inappropriate behaviour across industries needed to be addressed, "nobody likes to be tried in the public square".

Rush has denied the allegations.

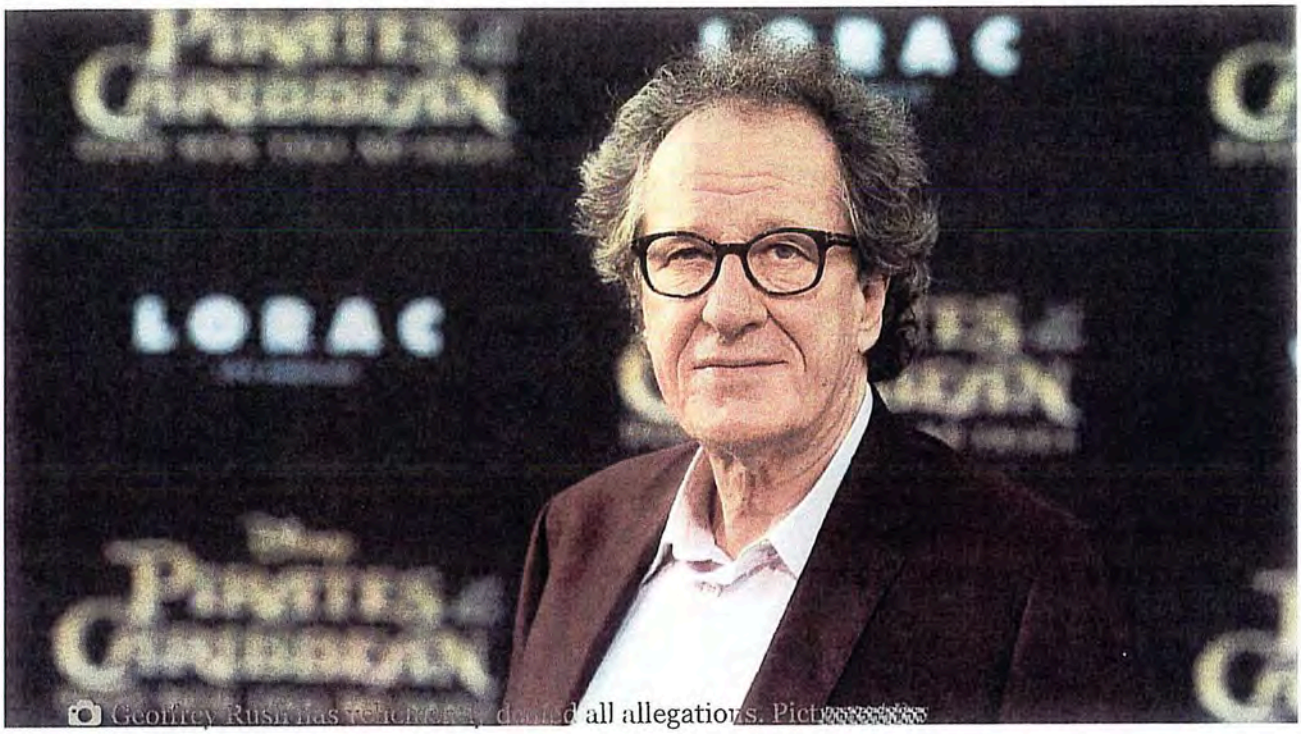
Originally published as Rush 'is no Harvey Weinstein'



Menu Rewards

The Courier-Mail

NEWS BREAKING LOCAL QUEENSLAND CRIME & COUR



Geoffrey Rush has reportedly denied all allegations. Pict

NSW

Sydney Theatre Company and King Lear director backs Geoffrey Rush

jack hougton, The Daily Telegraph
December 7, 2017 12:00am
Subscriber only

THE director of a Sydney play at the centre of claims actor Geoffrey Rush "inappropriately touched" a co-star yesterday backed the Oscar-winner, saying his "playfulness" was also part of his "great artistry".

However, he also conceded he did not actually know the full details of the alleged incident. "In my time in all the weeks and months of rehearsal and performance, I saw absolutely nothing other than an artist at the top of his form leading a company with respect and playfulness and great artistry," Neil Armfield told ABC presenter Fran Kelly.

"Even talking about this as a sexual allegation is completely inappropriate. It is not (sexual in nature). It is inappropriate behaviour."



Acclaimed director Neil Armfield. Picture: Matt Loxton



ABC presenter Fran Kelly.

A stunned Kelly followed up by asking if Armfield knew details of the allegations.

"No, I do not know the details. The details have not been revealed," Armfield told the radio presenter.

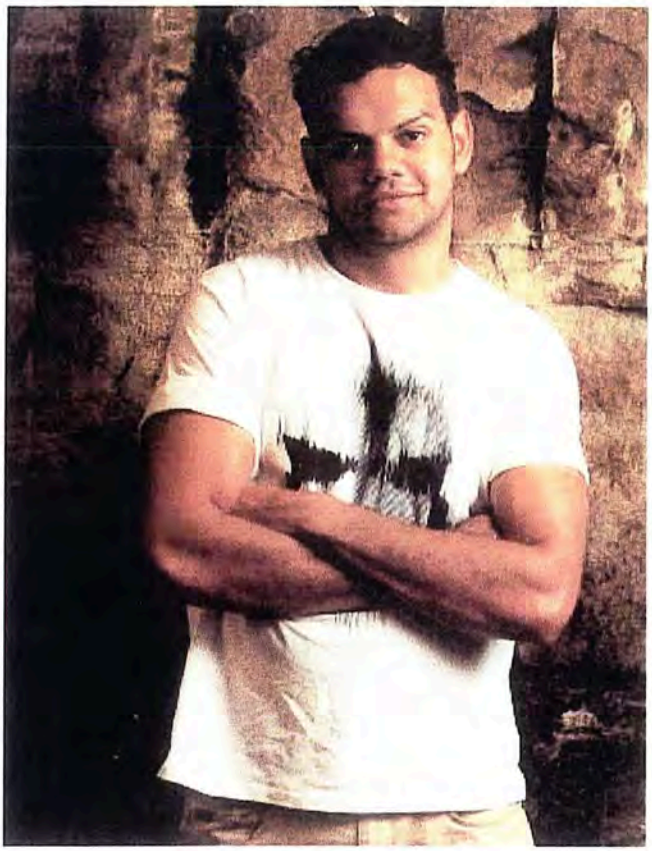
RUSH DENIES 'INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR'

RUSH'S FULL DENIAL OF ACCUSAL

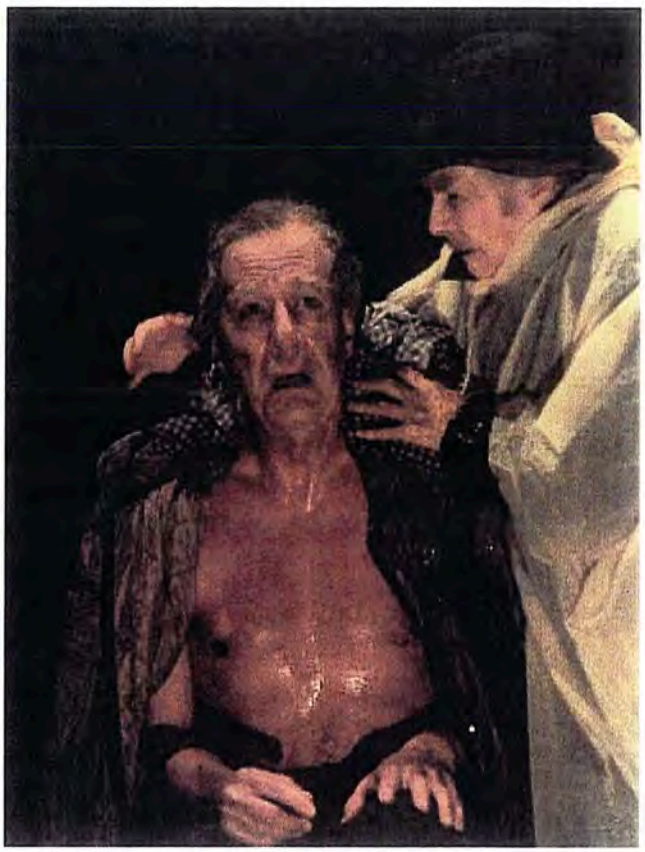
Mr Armfield also took aim at two Sydney Theatre Company actors who came forward in defence of the complainant, including rising young actor Meyne Raoul Wyatt who urged the public to believe the woman.

"The two actors who have come out in support — one of them wasn't in the cast at all," he said.

"There is so much chatter about — as I understand it — it is a matter only between the complainant and the company.



Meyne Wyatt at the Sydney Theatre Company in Walsh Bay.



Geoffrey Rush and Robyn Nevin in the STC production of King Lear. Picture: Heidrun Löhr

"The complainant did not even wish for Geoffrey Rush to know about this. It was between the Sydney Theatre Company and the complainant."

"(I was not told of the allegations) until months after the production had finished."

GUESS THE NEXT LINE IN THE CAROL

Guess the next line in the carol

Rush was accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of King Lear.

The star vigorously denied the allegations and complained he was never told of any allegations of wrong doing.

The production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran at the Roslyn Packer Theatre between November 2015 to January 2016.

Originally published as King Lear director backs Geoffrey Rush




News
Can you guess the next
line in the Christmas carol?

ACTORS FLOCK TO 'AUSSIE OSCARS'

KRIS CRANE
ALISON STEPHENSON

AUSTRALIA's acting elite threw their support behind the women speaking out about sexual harassment as they stepped on to the red carpet at the AACTA Awards last night.

Dubbed the "Oscars of Australia", many high-profile stars used the media platform to celebrate those who have spoken out against the inappropriate behaviour that has come to light within the industry, with *Wentworth* star Danielle Cormack calling them "pioneers".

"People that are brave enough to come forward are pioneers. (They) pave the way," she said.

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

TV presenter Don Burke is also facing allegations.

Acting veteran Debra Lawrance spoke of being a victim of harassment in the past, saying that it involved "very famous men".

But there was still reason to celebrate, as acclaimed film *Lion* picked up an amazing 12 gongs. Among those to hit the red carpet in Sydney were Brisbane actor Melina Vidler, Simon Baker, Radha Mitchell, Sophie Monk and Rachel Griffiths.

CHECK OUT ALL THE RED CARPET FASHION
CONFIDENTIAL P26



OLD-WORLD GLAMOUR: Melina Vidler arrives at the AACTA Awards. Picture: AAP

HR will see you now, sir

EXCLUSIVE
ANTHONY MARX

A SENIOR SunWater employee faces an internal investigation after a boozy Christmas party in Brisbane, where colleagues claim he made racist and sexist insults.

Sources say the man shocked colleagues at the function last Friday at the Southbank Beer Garden.

A partygoer told *The Courier-Mail* that the employee verbally abused company staff who were struggling to bundle him into a cab at the end of the evening.

"He turned to an Indian person and told him to 'f— off you Indian' and he told another woman to 'f— off you fat bitch'" the source said. "He was intoxicated and ... his behaviour was racist and sexist and demeaning on so many levels."

SunWater chief executive Nicole Hollows acknowledged the staff member faced potential disciplinary action over the matter, which could include a warning or even dismissal.

"A formal complaint has not been made; however, we are aware of the allegations of misconduct and immediate action has been taken to investigate the claims," Ms Hollows said. "We are taking these allegations very seriously and will not hesitate to enforce disciplinary action if these are in any way substantiated."

It comes as SunWater rolls out a new "values program" for its employees to counteract what some see as a dysfunctional work environment.

SunWater staff have alleged that there was "a culture of fear" within the organisation. The new campaign focuses on "valuing people, working together and taking responsibility".

> HE WAS INTOXICATED AND ... HIS BEHAVIOUR WAS RACIST AND SEXIST AND DEMEANING ON SO MANY LEVELS

The man involved could not be contacted and the Beer Garden declined to comment.

CITY BEAT P40

Eat whole grains for health

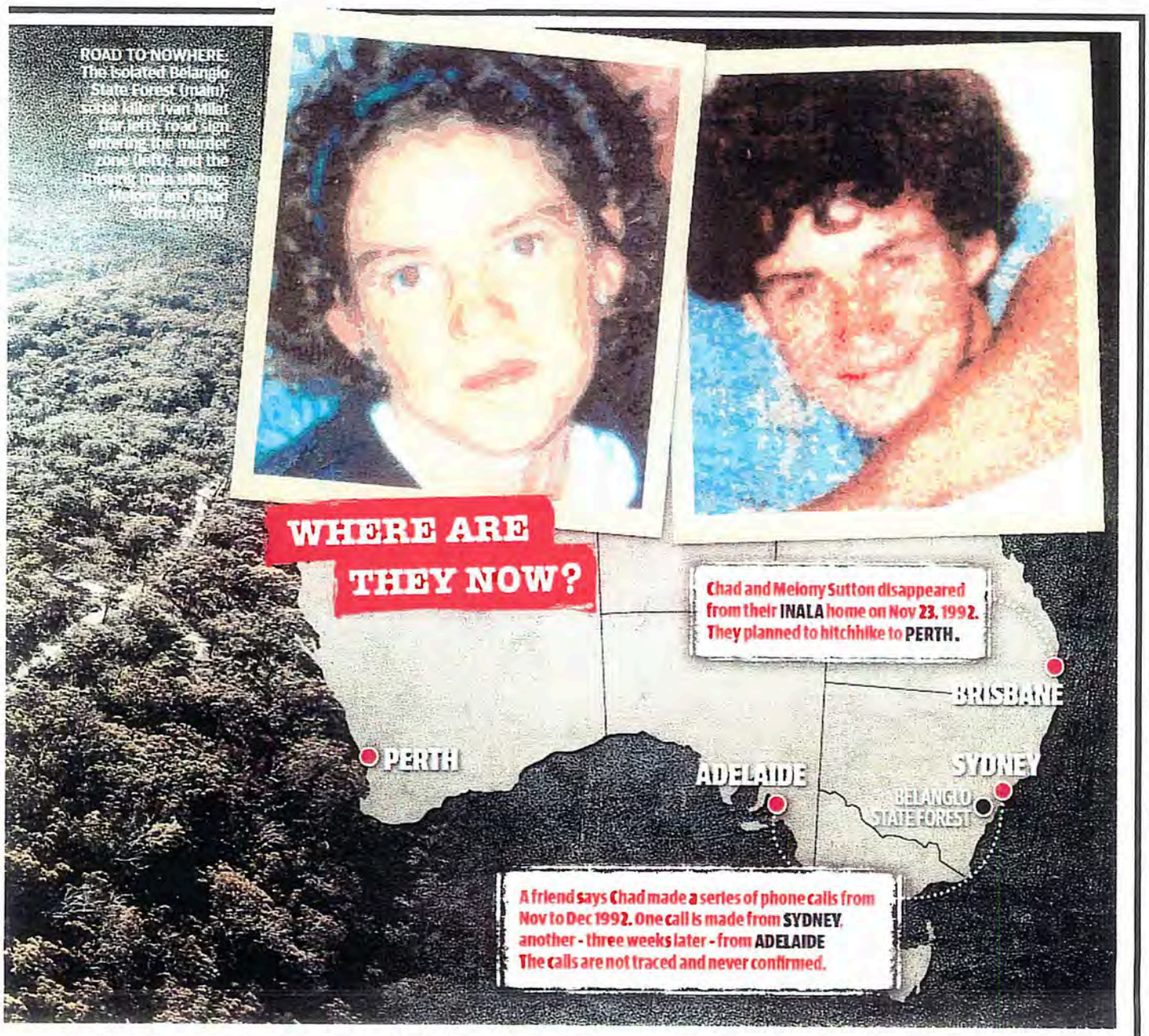
AUSTRALIANS risk increasing their chances of developing diabetes, cardiovascular disease and colon cancer if they cut quality carbohydrates high in cereal fibre from their diets, experts say.

A group of leading international and Australian experts say that the evidence on the health benefits of eating whole grains is "unequivocal".

Professor Jennie Brand-Miller from the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre and School of Life and Environmental Sciences said that there was a "very noisy" group trying to convince people to cut carbohydrates completely.

"The science is unequivocal when it comes to diabetes and cardiovascular disease," Prof Brand-Miller said.





friend who was living in Perth at the time.

The friend, named Chris, called police in April 1993 to say he had received as many as eight or nine calls from Chad between late November and late December.

It is possible Chad attempted to call after that, but Chris told police he moved house in late December.

Chris said that in one of the calls, Chad told him they were in Sydney. In another, about three weeks later, he had said they were in Adelaide. Sen-Sgt Powell said that while police had no reason to doubt the information, it was "very unusual" that nobody ever came forward to say they had picked up the two hitchhikers.

The phone calls were not able to be verified through phone records.

"The time gap between the phone calls would indicate they were hitchhiking with a number of people or travelled a number of different ways," he said.

"I would have thought somebody would have come forward shortly after 1992 ... (that) there would be a concerned mother or father who would say why are these young kids hitchhiking by themselves, and give them a lift to help them out and then (call police)."

Sen-Sgt Powell said that without any verification of the siblings' whereabouts at any time, detectives had been left with the whole of Australia as a search area.

He said there was also a possibility the siblings had been left on the side of the road in a remote area and died of dehydration, their bodies never found.

Grandmother Jean Turich said that Chad and Melony's mother had died without learning the fate of her children. But she said her daughter never gave up hope that they'd turn up alive.

"(She was always) saying they'll turn up somewhere, sometime," she said.

"It's only a natural a mother would think that. She was terribly upset, crying."

Ms Turich said she believed it was likely her grandchildren had been abducted.

"It's either foul play they've met with or else someone's got them ... into one of those cults," she said. "I just wish someone who knows something would come forward."

Sen-Sgt Powell has appealed to the public for any information regarding the pair.

The Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

Rush to take action over claim

LEADING actor Geoffrey Rush is bringing 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 courts," he said.

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

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

The veteran actor's breakthrough 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 Australia's biggest and most respected Hollywood exports, starring in *Shakespeare in Love*, *Elizabeth* and *The King's Speech*.

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

He now lives in Melbourne with his wife.

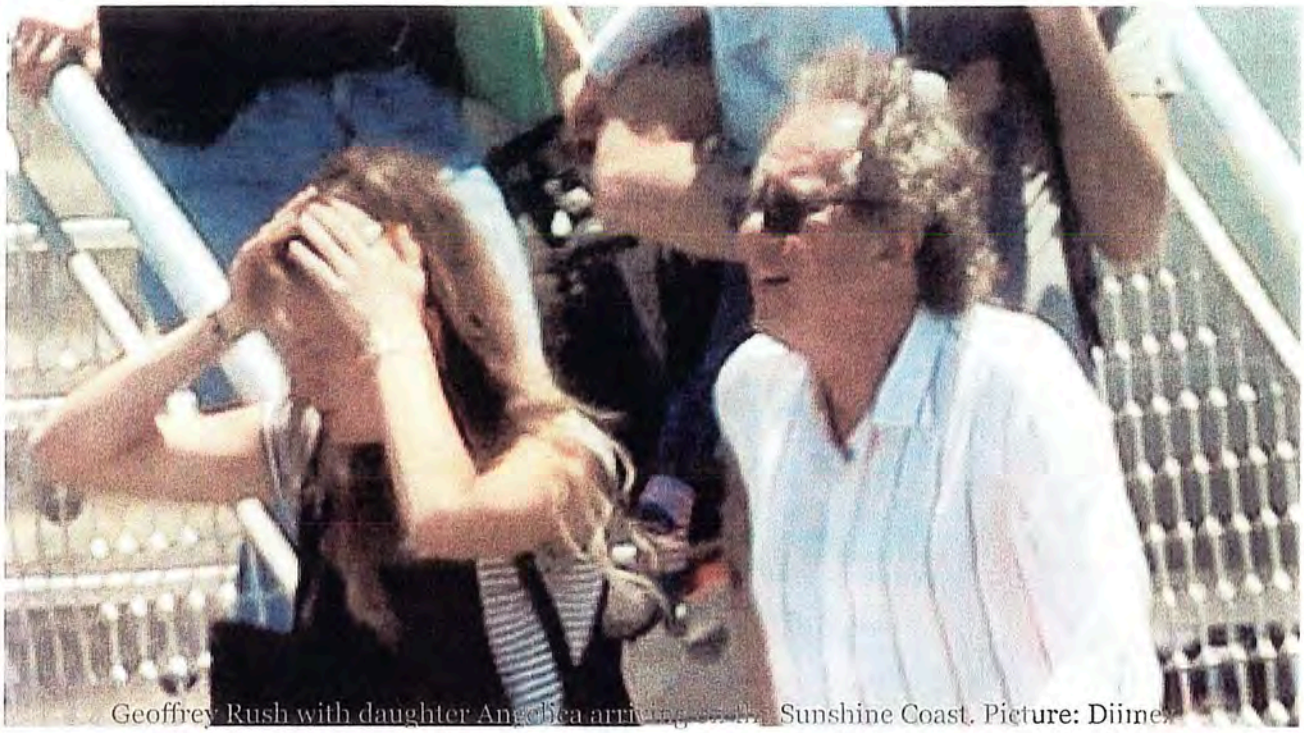
The *Daily Telegraph's* editor Christopher Dore said: "*The Daily Telegraph* accurately reported that the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour.

"We will defend our position in court," he said.



STAR WARS REVOLUTION INSIDE TODAY

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Geoffrey Rush with daughter Angelica arriving on the Sunshine Coast. Picture: Diine

CONFIDENTIAL

Geoffrey Rush has returned to his home state of Queensland for a break

Kristy Symonds, The Courier-Mail
December 21, 2017 1:00am

GEOFFREY Rush returned home to Queensland yesterday.

The Oscar-winning actor, who denied recent allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during his work with the Sydney Theatre Company, was pictured touching down on the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Rush, who has labelled the claims false and commenced legal proceedings, was seen with his daughter Angelica – who he said the claims had been "extremely hurtful to" – as they arrived just in time for the Christmas holidays.

The 66-year-old who grew up in Toowoomba looked relaxed wearing a pair of blue denim jeans, a loose white collared shirt and sunglasses as he stepped off the Virgin Australia flight carrying a small piece of hand luggage.



Geoffrey Rush with daughter Angelica arriving on the Sunshine Coast. Picture: Diimex

His wife Jane Menelaus, whom he has been married to since 1988, and his son James were not spotted at the airport.

The *Pirates of the Caribbean* star recently most recently finished filming on Australian tale *Storm Boy*, which was adapted from the Colin Thiele book of the same name and co-stars the likes of fellow Aussie Jai Courtney.

Mr Rush was earlier this month nominated for a Golden Globe in the Best Performance by an Actor in a Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television category for his portrayal of Albert Einstein in the National Geographic production *Genius*.

He is up against Robert De Niro, Kyle MacLachlan, Jude Law and Ewan McGregor at the 2018 awards.

His response to the nomination included comments made at the time about the "complexity of humankind" and striving to "define the multiplicity of dimensions in the male experience".

The actor, who denies allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during STC's 2015 production of *King Leer*, is one of a string of stars, including Hollywood starlet Margot Robbie, to arrive in the Sunshine State ahead of Christmas.







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ELDERLY LIVES 'AT RISK'

AGED SCARE 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 bruising" 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 P6

Stroke hope for victims

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

Human trials will start later this year, after scientists discovered their experimental therapy can reduce brain injury and aid recovery up to three days after a stroke.

REPORT P3



Rush was told to 'stop'

MATTHEW BENNS

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*, claims he also followed her into the female toilets at the after-party. He denies the allegations.

REPORT P4

V1 - BCMED1Z01MA

'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". The incident left her "visibly upset".

Rush, 66, is suing *The Daily Telegraph* for its reporting of Ms Norvill's complaint about alleged inappropriate behaviour to the Sydney Theatre Company 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.

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 play's 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.



SHE WAS TOUCHED IN A WAY THAT MADE HER UNCOMFORTABLE

Tom Blackburn, QC

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, SC, counsel for *The Daily Telegraph*, told the court this touching amounted 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 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 crush" on the actress was clearly said in jest.

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

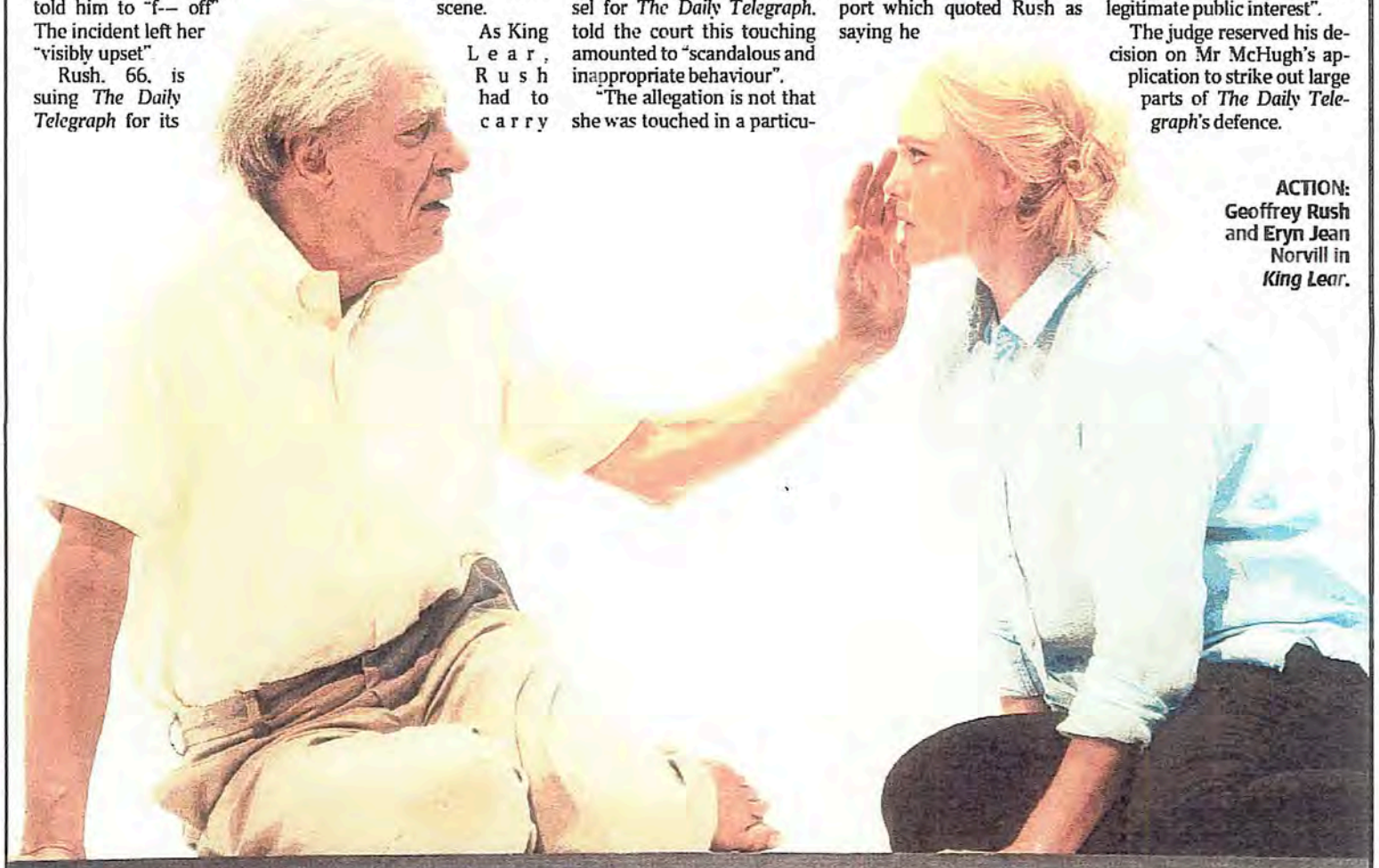
Mr Blackburn said: "There can be no more compelling reason for publication than it was true."

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 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*.

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 $6 an hour and $16.50 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 9am-5pm on week days.

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

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 230,000 jobs over the next decade.

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V2 - BCME01Z02MA

Consumers 'to blame' for bad bank deals

NATASHA BITA

TREASURER Scott Morrison has blamed "passive" consumers for failing to demand better deals from banks and insurers – despite a government report slamming "sharp practices" in the financial sector.

"Too often we, the customers, have also become complicit in allowing the deck to be stacked against us," Mr Morrison told the Australian British Chamber of Commerce in Sydney yesterday. "You can guarantee it – the more passive a customer is, the worse deal they are going to get."

Mr Morrison called on consumers to take "personal responsibility" for their financial dealings, saying: "As a government, we believe in personal responsibility – in fact, we are counting on it."

The Treasurer yesterday released the Productivity Commission's 686-page report into financial services following its year-long inquiry.

The report, which is scathing of banks, mortgage brokers and insurers, identifies "sharp practices" by some insurance sellers, and it calls for a ban on banks paying trailing commissions to mortgage brokers throughout the life of a loan.

It says banks and insurance companies have been "exploiting consumer loyalty" by offering lower interest rates and cheaper insurance to new customers, while offering "inferior quality products to some groups of customers".

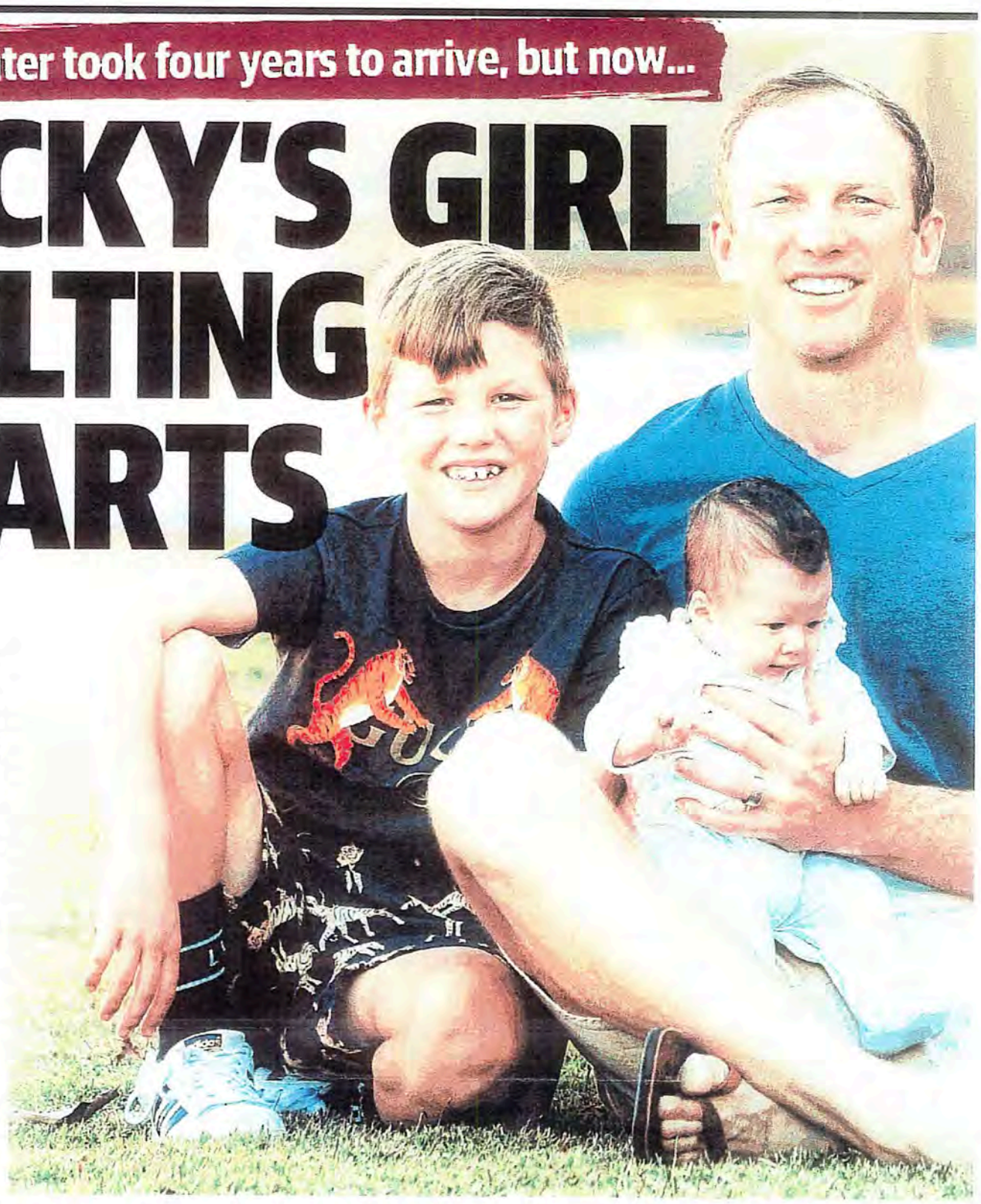
The report recommends that from next year, insurers should be forced to send renewal notices showing the previous year's premium and the percentage change. And state governments must stop adding taxes to insurance premiums, it says.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said banks had failed to "put their customers first".

"We're determined to hold the wrongdoers to account, and we are changing the law to make sure that banks do the right thing in future," he said.

First daughter took four years to arrive, but now...

LOCKY'S GIRL MELTING HEARTS



RIKKI-LEE ARNOLD
PETER BADEL

SHE is the Lockyers' "little miracle".

Broncos great Darren Lockyer and his wife Loren have been blessed with their first daughter, Cleo, after enduring a long wait to have their fourth child through IVF treatment.

With three rugged boys already creating havoc in the Lockyer household, Loren this week spoke of her joy at the arrival of Cleo and how she never gave up hope to have a fourth child.

All of the couple's children, including sons Sunny, 8, Flynn, 6, and Hugo, 5, were conceived through IVF and after four years of trying, Cleo was born in June.

Loren said they were never discouraged in their bid for a fourth child and admitted she always secretly wanted a girl.

"We always wanted four kids and last year was it for us," Loren said. "We thought last year was our last year to have a try for a baby. I'm 40 next year and I wanted to have all my kids by the time I was 40.

"She was our little miracle."

Loren said she was lucky to already have her three sons but the couple's persistence paid off when they found out they were pregnant last year.

They had almost come to accept that they weren't going to have a fourth child and, as a result, booked a trip to Disneyland, tempting fate.

"Book a trip and you'll get pregnant," Loren joked.

Over the next nine months, Loren convinced herself she was having yet another boy, with the couple opting to keep the baby's gender a secret. Darren suspected, however, that his wife wanted a girl.

"After chasing three boys around, I think she was secretly hoping for a daughter," he said. "Ultimately, it didn't matter if we had another boy. Like anyone, you just want a healthy child, but I was prepared either way."

On June 1, Cleo came into the world and when the Lockyers were told they had their first daughter, Loren couldn't quite believe the news.

"I did want a girl but I would have never told anyone that," she said.

"I secretly thought for a long time how it would be lovely to have a daughter. I always used to say I was happy to be the mother of boys and that's true.

"I was completely happy because what you don't have you don't miss and we have six nieces so we were surrounded by girls anyway.

"But when she came out it was a shock. I was more in disbelief because I had convinced

Mum jailed for stealing her own children away

A BRISBANE mother who stole her children for three years, stopped them going to school and travelled in the dead of night to avoid detection by their father, has been jailed for 18 months for breaching family court orders.

The woman's elderly mother, who has terminal cancer, was also sentenced to six months behind bars by the Federal Circuit Court of Australia for failing to disclose where her daughter was hiding.

Both women, who cannot be named for legal reasons, where charged with civil contempt – the mother for breaching custody orders and the grandmother for failing to comply with a location order. The court heard the children's mother and father, who split in 2013, finalised custody arrangements in late 2014.

Several months later, the mother absconded with the children, claiming their father had been physically and emotionally violent towards the family. The two children were not returned to the father until late 2017.

"When the mother absconded with the children, they led a nomadic lifestyle," Judge Michael Jarrett said.

"The children were not taken to school – they were 'home schooled'."

ALEXANDRIA UTTING

Actor backs newspaper in Rush defamation lawsuit

THE actor at the centre of a sexual harassment complaint against Geoffrey Rush has broken her silence and agreed to testify for *The Daily Telegraph* in the newspaper's defence of a defamation lawsuit by the actor, a court heard yesterday.



Eryn Jean Norvill co-starred with Rush (pictured) in Sydney Theatre Company's production of *King Lear* in 2015 and 2016. Rush, 67, sued the News Corp Australia paper last December over its coverage of a sexual harassment complaint lodged with the STC by Ms Norvill. Mr Rush said the articles were false and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

The Federal Court was told yesterday a statement by Ms Norvill forms the basis of an application by *The Daily Telegraph* to amend its defence document to include the defence of truth. This is the first time Ms Norvill has spoken publicly about the matter. Justice Michael Wigney threw out the paper's original truth defence on the basis it was "plainly deficient".

Lawyer claims red tape keeps accused in cell

THE lawyer of alleged Gold Coast Villains gang member Harley Barbaro has accused police of delaying paperwork to keep him in custody.

Barbaro was taken into the Southport Watchhouse yesterday morning after police raided his Labrador home. The raid came days after Barbaro was locked in an Instagram feud, calling former Hells Angels bikie Ben Geppert a "maggot dog". Barbaro and flatmate Brodie Mortimer have been charged with contravening an order about information necessary to access information stored electronically.

Police will allege both men declined to provide their passcode for their mobile phones, despite a warrant.

Defence lawyer Campbell MacCallum yesterday in a Southport court asked for the matters to be heard, but the court was told police were still completing paperwork in relation to the matter.

"Without being too sceptical that is probably what is being done to hold him overnight," Mr MacCallum said.

Magistrate Kerrie O'Callaghan said without paperwork there was little the court could do. Mr MacCallum confirmed the warrant was in relation to posts made on social media.

Barbaro is expected to appear in court this morning.

BCME03Z01MA - V1

NewsRoom

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2018 WLNR 23596864

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August 4, 2018

Section: News

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THE actor at the centre of a sexual harassment complaint against Geoffrey Rush has broken her silence and agreed to testify for The Daily Telegraph in the newspaper's defence of a defamation lawsuit by the actor, a court heard yesterday.Eryn Jean Norvill co-starred with Rush (pictured) in Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear in 2015 and 2016. Rush, 67, sued the News Corp Australia paper last December over its coverage of a sexual harassment complaint lodged with the STC by Ms Norvill. Mr Rush said the articles were false and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing. The Federal Court was told yesterday a statement by Ms Norvill forms the basis of an application by The Daily Telegraph to amend its defence document to include the defence of truth. This is the first time Ms Norvill has spoken publicly about the matter. Justice Michael Wigney threw out the paper's original truth defence on the basis it was "plainly deficient".

---- Index References ----

Company: TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP LTD

News Subject: (Business Management (1BU42); Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Employment Law (1EM67); HR & Labor Management (1HR87); Social Issues (1SO05); Workplace Harassment (1WO08))

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Other Indexing: (News Corp Australia; Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Michael Wigney)

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NewsRoom

Good golly Miss Vollie at Ekka

Drag queen bingo at all-new show

MICHELLE COLLINS

DON'T drag your heels. Gates to the Ekka open today and it isn't just your usual clash of city meets country.

All the popular traditions are back – sideshow alley, showbags, animals, fashion, flowers and food. But this year they've added a touch of glam. For the first time in its 141-year history, drag queens are part of the entertainment.

Next Thursday in the Stockmen's Bar & Grill, Vollie LaVont will host drag queen bingo.

"Drag is quite a popular entertainment source at the moment and for the Ekka to take it on is a big risk. It could go either way," she said.

"It couldn't have been done 10 years ago, so the fact that straight people enjoy drag as an artform and not as a joke – and can come and have fun, is amazing."

There is also a few surprises at the Natural Fibres Fashion Parades. For the first year, lingerie is included in the fashion parades and at yesterday's preview a kilt by designer WS Workshop raised a few eyebrows.

"I knew it would catch a bit of attention, but the response has been fantastic," said Laura Churchill, who directs the parades.

"I think it is a great showpiece and from what I understand they do sell them."

She said the aim of the parades, which feature up to 26 women's and menswear designers (18 of which are new to Ekka), was to showcase the natural materials of cotton, wool, silk and leather.

> **FOR THE EKKA TO TAKE IT ON IS A BIG RISK. IT COULD GO EITHER WAY**
> Vollie LaVont

"I know from anecdotes from last year, and also previously, that the clothes from the Ekka fashion parade do have a habit of selling well."

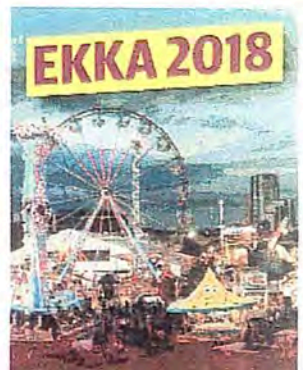
The food options this year have also undergone a transformation. Favourites such as strawberry sundaes, steaks and dagwood dogs are back, but organisers have upped the number of vegan food options from gelato and juice served in pineapples and watermelons to nachos.

This is also the first year the Bavarian Beerhaus, which opened in June, is part of the show.

EDITORIAL P34



SNEAK PEEK: Drag performer Vollie LaVont with cattlemen Chris Flood from Lismore and Sean Wicks from Kingaroy. Picture: Annette Dew



WEATHER: Cool but sunny. Maximum 23, with little chance of rain, light winds

GATES OPEN: 9am

TICKETS: Adult $35, child (5-14 years) $20, Four years and under free. Concession $25, Twilight pass (after 6pm) $20; adult and child pass $45, family pass $80; 10-day pass $100

RIDES: $6-$10

SHOWBAGS: $2-$45

NATURAL FIBRES PARADES: 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm

CHILDREN'S FIREWORKS: 6.05pm

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR: 7.45pm

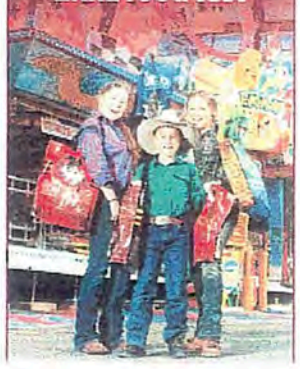
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The tribes of the Ekka

✚

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Nursing homes centre of war on superbugs

A NEW war against deadly superbugs in nursing homes will be launched with a team of Australian researchers to tackle the overuse of antibiotics under a radical intervention.

In the first trial of its kind in Australia, 14 nursing homes will be targeted to ensure they are treating infections properly and not overprescribing antibiotics.

The researchers, from Monash University and Alfred Health, will also use cutting-edge genomic technology to identify the source and spread of the dangerous bacteria in nursing homes across Melbourne and Sydney.

Infectious diseases and microbiology professor Anton Peleg will be given $2.3 million to lead the potentially life-saving operation, which will begin later this year.

It will then be rolled out to the 72 Bupa aged-care homes across Australia, with a goal of eventually extending it to all nursing homes.

The intervention comes after previous work by Prof Peleg uncovered the shocking scourge of superbugs was made worse by the overuse of antibiotics. More than a third of nursing home residents are carriers of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, while at least half of common infections such as urinary tract infections are wrongly treated with antibiotics.

Actress to tell her story in Rush defamation trial

THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star touched her breast and back, a court has heard.



Mr Rush is suing *The Daily Telegraph* over articles published about a complaint of inappropriate behaviour made by his co-star, Eryn Jean Norvill (inset), relating to the time they were appearing in *King Lear* at the Sydney Theatre Company. Mr Rush sued the newspaper last December over its coverage and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing. In proceedings at the Federal Court yesterday, *The Daily Telegraph* succeeded in amending its defence in the lawsuit to allow it to plead truth in the matter, instead of qualified privilege. Ms Norvill's testimony will now be admitted as evidence.

Justice Michael Wigney said that the trial – where both Mr Rush and Ms Norvill will give evidence – will now take place over 13 days beginning October 22.

'Demon in head' when killer attacked woman

A CONFESSED killer screamed "die, b--ch, die" when he beat a Korean woman to death in a Brisbane park, a court has been told.

Alex Reuben McEwan has pleaded not guilty to murdering Eunji Ban in November 2013, but guilty to a lesser offence of manslaughter on mental health grounds.

McEwan's trial in the Brisbane Supreme Court has included evidence of the graphic language he used with police during a formal interview after the killing. He told officers that he'd said to Ms Ban: "It's your fault you walked this way because you had to run into me" as he violently attacked her.

He also told her: "Die, b--ch, die" when he strangled, stomped and punched her for what felt to him like "over a thousand times", the court was told. "I killed her. Stomped her face in with my feet and my fist. Dragged her across the road," he told police. "Can't believe I did that ... I f---ed up."

Ms Ban didn't scream due to the suddenness of the attack but was begging "no" and for "me not to hurt her", McEwan said. "It was a f---ing demon, man," McEwan told police.

His defence lawyer argues his schizophrenia left him unable to control himself when he killed Ms Ban.

The trial continues.

NewsRoom

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August 10, 2018

Section: News

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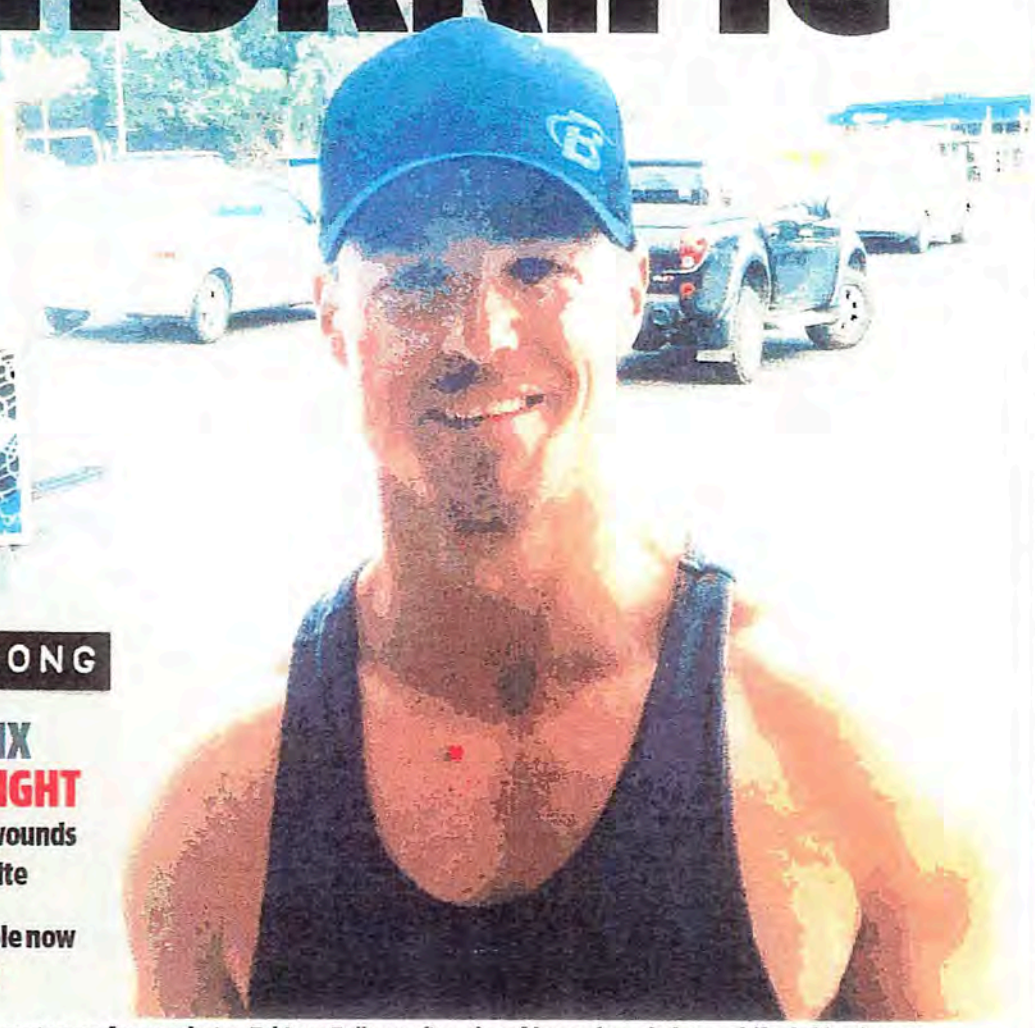
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NewsRoom

woman in desperate plea to parents: Don't google her, the...

TOO HORRIFIC





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NIGHTMARE: Brock Wall (main), serving two life sentences for murdering Fabiana Palhares (inset) and her unborn baby; and (far left) Fabiana's brother Raphael Palhares and sister-in-law Mariana Pineiro. Picture (far left): Adam Head

effusive about this new guy, her brother said.

Shortly after finding out about the pregnancy, Wall got in touch with Fabiana's mother.

He sent her a text message saying: "I don't want to be with Fabiana and I hate her and I want her to get an abortion."

Raphael said his baby sister was a "small but courageous" woman who cared deeply for others.

Even after being attacked by Wall in her Varsity Lakes home on Christmas Day, Fabiana insisted to her family things were looking up.

> The amount of suffering she had to go through ... Not even animals go as far as that to hurt another animal. It's inconceivable
>
> Raphael Palhares

She had ended the relationship and taken out a domestic violence order against Wall. She was ringing in the New Year surrounded by friends, she told them. Even after abusive text messages and phone calls in the months before her death, Fabiana refused to fear the man who would later kill her, Raphael said.

"She was never really scared of anything and even after what happened with Brock attacking her on Christmas Day, she was sending photos of her tummy and the baby's room and the (baby) clothes she had bought," he said.

Mariana added: "She said she wouldn't ... go to Brazil to have her baby just because of him. Her life was here, there was no reason for her to go back to have the baby."

Fabiana told them she had installed security cameras and had police driving by regularly on the lookout for the man who was stalking her and once broke in to watch her sleep.

Wall was served with a variation to the DVO only hours before the murder.

Because of the extent of Fabiana's injuries, her family had her body cremated and took her ashes back to Brazil.

They also held a memorial at Burleigh Heads.

"She felt enchanted by Australia," Raphael said.

Her only brother said he hoped his sister's death would not be in vain, encouraging other women in violent relationships to seek help sooner.

lacked any emotion

that and a lot of that was quite horrific."

The detectives said despite Wall's claim in court he was unintentionally intoxicated by the anti-drowsiness drug Modafinil when he killed Fabiana, investigations found he researched the same drug on his computer before the horrific murder.



Constable Campbell said she cried in court for the first time in two decades of policing when the sentence was handed down because of the "sheer relief" that Fabiana's family would have closure following the crime.

"We always had a photo of Fabiana, and her smile just continued to encourage us to do a good job for this family, and when you saw the raw emotion in court that's probably the first time we had allowed ourselves to feel," Constable Campbell said.

"I feel as if, even though we didn't know Fabiana personally, she taught us things ... of resilience and strength. I don't think it will be something we will ever forget."

V1 - BCME03Z01MA

Star 'made groping gestures'

THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges he simulated groping her breasts in front of colleagues and made lewd gestures towards her, according to new court documents.

Rush is suing *The Daily Telegraph* over articles about a complaint of inappropriate behaviour Eryn Jean Norvill made relating to the time they were in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *King Lear* between 2015 and 2016.

He has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In a document lodged with the Federal Court, the *Telegraph*, published by *The Courier-Mail* publisher News Corp Australia, says Ms Norvill's evidence will show Rush "engaged in conduct of a kind in which only a pervert would engage".

On Thursday, the *Telegraph* succeeded in amending its defence to plead truth. The trial is set for October 22.

Cyclist dies after crash with truck

A CYCLIST died after he was hit by a truck and dragged for several metres yesterday.

Paramedics rushed to Hudson Rd, Albion, about 3pm but were unable to revive the Geebung man, 37.

It is understood he was dragged several metres before the truck could come to a stop.

The driver was treated by paramedics at the scene.

Friday afternoon commuters faced lengthy delays in the area as emergency services remained on scene to investigate.

It follows the death of a motorcyclist who lost control while travelling on the Sunshine Coast Motorway at Marcoola about 1pm yesterday.

It is understood the man was thrown from his motorcycle and struck a guard rail.

The 45-year-old from Burpengary later died from his injuries at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

JACOB MILEY

Comprehensive Review
Legal Framework of the National Intelligence Community

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSIONS

On 30 May 2018, the Attorney-General announced that the Australian Government has commissioned a comprehensive review of the legal framework governing the National Intelligence Community.

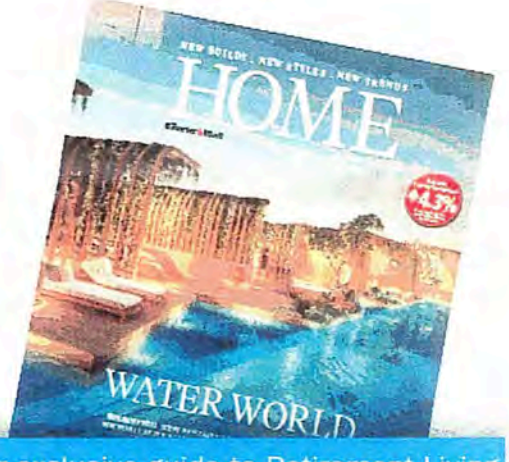
Dennis Richardson AO has been appointed as the Reviewer and is required to report to Government by the end of 2019. Public submissions are now invited on those matters covered in the Review's Terms of Reference, which are available on the Attorney-General's Department's website at https://www.ag.gov.au/nicreview.

Public submissions can be made to the review at comprehensivereview@ag.gov.au or by post to:

Comprehensive Review
c/o Attorney-General's Department
3-5 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600

The closing date for public submissions is 1 December 2018.

00279



Your exclusive guide to Retirement Living is in today's HOME section on page 11.

BE INSPIRED

NewsRoom

8/11/18 Courier-Mail (Austl.) 23
2018 WLNR 24535726

Courier Mail (Australia)
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August 11, 2018

Section: News

Star 'made groping gestures'

THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges he simulated groping her breasts in front of colleagues and made lewd gestures towards her, according to new court documents.

Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph over articles about a complaint of inappropriate behaviour Eryn Jean Norvill made relating to the time they were in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear between 2015 and 2016.

He has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In a document lodged with the Federal Court, the Telegraph, published by The Courier-Mail publisher News Corp Australia, says Ms Norvill's evidence will show Rush "engaged in conduct of a kind in which only a pervert would engage".On Thursday, the Telegraph succeeded in amending its defence to plead truth. The trial is set for October 22.

---- Index References ----

Company: NEWS CORP

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Jean Norvill)

Edition: CourierMail3

Word Count: 133

NewsRoom

Prepare for hula Harry

Prince offered exciting buck's party on Coast

ANDREW POTTS
andrew.potts@news.com.au

A GOLD COAST business is offering to put Prince Harry in a hula skirt or dress him as an air hostess after Federal Tourism Minister Steven Ciobo invited him to celebrate his buck's party here.

In a letter addressed to Edward Lane Fox, the prince's private secretary, Mr Ciobo congratulated Harry on his engagement to Meghan Markle and put forward suggestions for a buck's week on the Coast.

"It is my pleasure to also invite Prince Harry to Australia for his pre-wedding celebrations and honeymoon, and offer the services of Tourism Australia to design the ultimate Australian experience for the celebrations," Mr Ciobo said.

"Having previously visited Australia, Prince Harry is no doubt aware of the amazing experiences we have to offer."

The Moncrieff MP proposed a week of adrenaline-fuelled celebrations for Harry including jet boating, zip-line tours and hot air ballooning.

Among the attractions mentioned by Mr Ciobo was Jetpack Adventures, which propels customers 20 metres into the air off Gold Coast beaches.

The business has entertained celebrities including Shannon Noll, Shawn Mendes and a bevy of NRL players, and chief pilot Greg Weige said the red carpet would be rolled out for the prince.

"It is a fantastic idea and we would love to accommodate him," he said. "We do a lot of buck's parties and there are plenty of funny outfits we could dress him up in, including air hostess or hula skirts."

News of the invitation was welcomed by Paradise Jet Boating owner Tony Johnson, whose business was also mentioned in Mr Ciobo's letter.

Mr Johnson said he would "absolutely love" to entertain the Prince and his friends.

"Prince Harry and his friends would love to go on the boats and have a ride and sightsee through the beautiful Broadwater," he said.

"It is especially nice at that time of year."

Mr Ciobo's buck's party invitation followed just one day after Gold Coast City Council said they would write to Prince Harry inviting him to honeymoon here.

MINISTER'S ITINERARY

- Zip-line at Tree Top Adventure in Cedar Creek.
- Go on a high speed jet boat ride with Paradise Jet Boat.
- Get behind the wheel of a Supercar with Drive Ride Race.
- Catch a sunrise with Hot Air Balloon Gold Coast.
- Go parasailing on the Broadwater with Gold Coast Watersports.
- See the city from the sky with Aussie Air Scenic and Charter.
- Take a drive on the wild side with a Wet n Wild buggy ride.
- Be propelled 20 metres high with Jetpack Adventures.



Jenny Ross takes her dog Charlie out in one of her dog booster seats. Picture: GLENN HAMPSON

BOW WOW! BOOST FOR MOTOR MUTTS

KATE PARASKEVOS

A GOLD COAST business is riding to the rescue of pooches who feel paw-ly in cars.

Dogs Out Doing's canine booster seats have set tails wagging among dog-lovers whose pups yelp for help on trips out.

Owner Jenny Ross said the seats give smaller dogs a view out the window and provide stability which helps prevent car sickness.

"They can be a huge relief for the driver because they know their dog is secure and safe and they won't be distracted when driving," Ms Ross said.

"They are much happier being able to see out the window and are very comfortable in their seat."

Ms Ross sells 4-5 seats a week but said she has never advertised her business.

"This is a new thing for me – I am so passionate about it so I knew it (the business) would go well," she said.

"I just want to make every little doggie happier."

Ms Ross is expanding her business into pet chauffeuring. Using her booster seats, Ms Ross said the premium service will cater to pets' busy lifestyles in air conditioned comfort with "calming music".

"Pets have their unique personalities and each like to be treated their own special way," she said.

"I love animals and I want to put in that extra special care if you're running late and need your pet picked up from doggie day care."

'Lucky' store back in business

LOCAL business owners and life partners Greg Macdonald and Mathew Jacobson are enjoying double cause for celebration this week.

Still on a high after the same sex marriage bill passed through the Senate yesterday, the owner/operators of Oasis Newsagent + Gifts unveil the results of a major makeover of their store today.

"We're very excited. We put so much time and effort and money into it," Mr Jacobson said.

The newsagency, on the ground floor of the Oasis Shopping Centre, in Broadbeach, has been fitted with two new 60-inch, state-of-the-art LED Golden Casket DigiPOS screens, new fixtures and new fittings.

"They show all the latest games and give you all the info about the games and jackpots and what's coming up," Mr Jacobson said.

"It means we don't have to put up big posters anymore. There are only about 50 in Queensland."

Mr Jacobson and former business banker Mr Macdonald, his partner of 20 years, took over the newsagency more than seven years ago.

It's clocked up four Division 1 winners and two first division Instant Scratchy wins worth more than $1 million each since Mr Macdonald and Mr Jacobson took over.

"We're one of the luckiest stores on the Gold Coast," Mr Jacobson said.

Thrills hit new high

THRILLSEEKERS will soon be able to plunge from the top of Mount Coot-tha on the longest zipline in Australia as part of a high-adrenalin ride over the treetops.

Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk is expected to announce today that West End company Zipline Australia has been endorsed to build two ziplines at Mount Coot-tha – the city's second-most visited precinct behind South Bank.

Council loses senior director

GOLD Coast City Council will scour the country for a new council planning director after the resignation of one of the city's most powerful bureaucrats.

Dyan Currie will leave the council on December 22 after serving for more than two-and-a-half years.

Ms Currie, an experienced and highly respected figure in the planning and development industry, will take up a new position at Brisbane City Council next year.

Council chief executive Dale Dickson wished Ms Currie well with her new role and expected interview to be held for a replacement in January.



Dyan Currie is off to Brisbane.

"We have commenced a recruitment process to appoint her successor, and as part of this will be advertising via national media in mid-December," he said.

"It is expected that interviews with short-listed candidates will be conducted in January 2018."

Ms Currie took on the role in early 2015 after more than 14 years at Toowoomba Regional Council.

She replaced Gail Connolly who returned to Sydney to become general manager of Ryde Council.

During her time on the Coast, Ms Currie oversaw the creation of the new City Plan.

Ms Currie was the city's third planning director since the 1995 amalgamation. The first was Warren Rowe.

Council city planning boss Councillor Cameron Caldwell said he had enjoyed working with Ms Currie.

"Dy has made a valuable contribution during her time as director and her new role in Brisbane represents a wonderful personal and professional opportunity," he said.

Rush latest star to face claims

OSCAR-WINNING Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during the Sydney Theatre Company's recent production of *King Lear*.

But the *Pirates of the Caribbean* star vigorously denies the allegations and says the company has never told him of any allegations of wrong doing.

It is understood the allegations of inappropriate behaviour occurred over several months.

The local production of the classic William Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at the Roslyn Packer Theatre. There were also several months of rehearsals.



Geoffrey Rush.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman said.

"The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended. The company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace."

In a strongly worded legal letter, lawyers for Rush at HWL Ebsworth last night said he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" and that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

"Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised," the letter states.

"Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves."

GCBE01Z01MA - V1

Rush latest star to face claims

Source: Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)
Publication Date: November 30, 2017
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Source Type: Newspaper

11/30/17 Gold Coast Bull. 6

News

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Section: News

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REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush; William Shakespeare)
EDITION: GoldCoast
WORD COUNT: 237

Surfers' identity crisis

Push to move clubs as family, party zones clash

RYAN KEEN
ryan.keen@news.com.au

CITY leaders say the Gold Coast must properly address relocating its party precinct away from the midst of family-friendly tourism hub Surfers Paradise.

The radical plan was first floated by real estate identity Andrew Bell five years ago – and the Ray White Surfers Paradise CEO still believes nightclubs should be moved to Southport.

Coast-based Federal Tourism Minister Steve Ciobo is also calling for a rethink, saying the city's main party zone and its family-friendly centre cannot coexist and thrive.

"You cannot successfully have a family, fine-dining upmarket area and then also expect that to flip at 9pm into a nightclub and strip club zone," Mr Ciobo said.

"The city has a rich tradition of both. But the problem is these two are trying to coexist in one location and council should consult with community and develop a long-term plan that gets a better balance.

"What we need is to have a clear delineation between party zone and family zone.

"Anytime you try and combine the two together it's going to be a mess."

Mr Bell said every great city had a decent party precinct and he was supportive of the Coast's night-life economy but it wasn't compatible with being family-friendly.

"I want that part of our economy to prosper," he said, but suggested venues down party strip Orchid Avenue be incentivised to move to Southport near China Town, the light rail and hospitals.

"The State Government needs to come on board and relax the stricter aspects of licensing in Southport to incentivise clubs to move. Venues have spent large amounts of money and are not just going to voluntarily move."

The comments come after Desmond Brooks, the architect behind the design of landmark buildings including Palazzo Versace and Soul tower, called for Surfers' "trashy, sleaze joints" to be punted to Bundall.

LNP Member for Surfers Paradise John-Paul Langbroek said relocation was a massive undertaking.

"Moving is a nice concept, but I don't really know what the answer is because it's too late – this was decided decades ago," he said.

"The Government doesn't really have the money to subsidise landlords to get the clubs out of where they are."

Hollywood Showgirls strip club owner Craig Duffy said: "The answer isn't moving businesses that serve alcohol. The answer is fix it with toilets, ban pub crawls, etc. This is the problem. (Mr Brooks) is right but his solutions are wrong."

Two actors rush to back claim

JONATHON MORAN

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

It comes as Rush, 66 – one of the country's most successful actors – yesterday continued to vehemently deny claims he inappropriately touched a cast member of the local production of the classic William Shakespeare play.

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

"I was in the show," Wyatt wrote on Facebook yesterday after. "I believe (the person) who has come forward."

And Brandon McClelland, who has worked with the woman at the centre of the alleged complaint, urged others on Twitter to believe the actor. "It wasn't a misunderstanding. It wasn't a joke," he posted.

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

Rush issued a statement yesterday denying allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during his time with the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *King Lear*. Rush's statement took aim at the Sydney Theatre Company, alleging it had "chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation".

The statement said: "His treatment of colleagues and everyone he has worked with is always conducted with respect and the utmost propriety."



Summer on the Gold Coast is here and sisters Zoe Reid, 5, and Mia Reid, 6, are ready for whatever it delivers. Picture: JERAD WILLIAMS

WET MONTH AHEAD BUT CHRISTMAS DAY ANYONE'S GUESS

HANNAH SBEGHEN

IT'S going to be a wet Decemeber with long-range forecasts predicting Christmas to be a dreary downpour.

Bureau of Meteorology's Diana Eadie said Gold Coasters could expect above average rainfall over December.

"The climate outlook for December looks pretty wet but it is hard to pinpoint what Christmas Day will bring. We can more than likely expect it to be rainy," she said.

Early warning network forecaster Justin Noonan said there was a big difference between now and this time last year with plenty of north-easterly winds and thunderstorms in store.

"We won't be having another stinking hot December like we did last year. That was actually one of the hottest months on record," he said. "I think the cooler days and rainy afternoons will come as a relief to everyone. Christmas won't feel as sticky."

According to Mr Noonan the Coast will cop another 150mm in the next couple of weeks with a large band of thunderstorms and rainfall.

Mr Noonan said there was a chance it could rain on Christmas Day.

"There is a very active weather pattern going on but it is hard to tell if it will pour down on Christmas Day," he said.

Gold Coast mother of two Rachel Reid said rain, hail or shine her daughters would be spending their Christmas holidays making a splash in the family pool.

Zoe, 5 and Mia, 6 have recently added a new addition to their summer fun.

"They are currently obsessed with the blow up swan," Mrs Reid said.

"I can't get them out, they are just water babies."

More whitespot among prawn imports

MICHAEL WRAY

PRAWN farmers have raised concerns diseased foreign prawns are being dumped in Australia after the Agriculture Department detected three contaminated batches.

Raw imports were banned in January, a month after an outbreak of white spot disease destroyed the prawn farming industry on the Logan River. Prawn farmers suspect the disease spread from imported prawns used as bait in the river by recreational fishermen.

The department has conceded it will probably never know how the disease entered the country, and five months ago allowed imports to resume with beefed-up regulations.

More than 130 consignments have been imported under the new controls with three testing positive for white spot.

More than 30 consignments have not been tested.



Kirk Pengilly.

Kirk's slap at humour

AMID sexual harassment claims levelled against Don Burke, former INXS guitarist Kirk Pengilly says he preferred the 1960s when you could slap a woman on the bum and it was taken as a compliment.

Pengilly, attending a Movember charity event in Melbourne yesterday, said men were starting to feel they couldn't even pay a woman a compliment because it could be seen as sexual harassment.

"I really loved the 60s and 70s when life was so simple and you could slap a woman on the butt and it was taken as a compliment, not as sexual harassment," he said.

V1 - GCBEC1Z01MA

Two actors rush to back claim

Source: Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)
Publication Date: December 1, 2017
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12/1/17 Gold Coast Bull. 3

News

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Section: News

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It comes as Rush, 66 – one of the country's most successful actors – yesterday continued to vehemently deny claims he inappropriately touched a cast member of the local production of the classic William Shakespeare play.

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

"I was in the show," Wyatt, wrote on Facebook yesterday after. "I believe (the person) who has come forward." And Brandon McClelland, who has worked with the woman at the centre of the alleged complaint, urged others on Twitter to believe the actor. "It wasn't a misunderstanding. It wasn't a joke," he posted.

The STC production of King Lear ran from November 2015 to January 2016. Rush issued a statement yesterday denying allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during his time with the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear. Rush's statement took aim at the Sydney Theatre Company, alleging it had "chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation".The statement said: "His treatment of colleagues and everyone he has worked with is always conducted with respect and the utmost propriety."

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EDITION: GoldCoast
WORD COUNT: 221

Trams tax on Coast's carols

PAUL WESTON
paul.weston@news.com.au

THE Gold Coast's not-for-profit tourism promotion groups are being slugged a tram and terror "tax" as they organise Christmas Carols and other free music events on the Glitter Strip.

The Surfers Paradise Alliance and Gold Coast City Council are in a stand-off with TransLink about the costs.

Reports to council shows the alliances are working off a surplus as low as $44,000, yet are facing extra expenditure on "terror mitigation" of $66,000. The trams can add another $20,000 a year.

Surfers Paradise Alliance board chair Laura Younger yesterday told councillors: "We've been approached or told by TransLink, because of the success of a number of events, that we have to pay for extra trams to remove people from our events.

"Which we find quite bizarre, given the people who are catching those trams are still paying for those trams."

Ms Younger said the Mayor's office had lobbied on behalf of the alliance without success and CEO Mike Winlaw was continuing negotiations.

"We haven't actually paid so far. At the moment they're saying the Christmas Carols and SeaFire and they're also now talking about Surfers Paradise LIVE and potentially another event," she said.

"So, we will actually be getting up to $16,000 to $20,000 to pay TransLink because of the number of people within the precinct."

Councillors are stunned by the move, given council helps fund the alliances with a special levy placed on traders which raises more than $3 million annually.

Governance committee chairman William Owen-Jones told colleagues at the briefing: "If it's just a free event and it's just demand, that's what public transport is for.

"It's not for us to subsidise the State delivery of their public transport options."

Broadbeach Alliance chief executive officer Jan McCormick, outside the meeting, confirmed the promotion group was paying for extra trams for free events like Blues on Broadbeach.

TransLink in arguing its case points to figures which shows for Blues that 3350 concert goers stayed in Southport and 27,840 in Surfers Paradise who could have accessed the trams.

"It's a little frustrating as Laura said. Because we're not-for-profit we don't make any money out of ticket sales or anything, and we're expected to pay these costs.

"And we're driving room nights for the city – 135,000 room nights at Blues. We're paying around about $12,000.

"We've tried (to negotiate it out), Laura's taking the baton on that one and I hope she's really successful."

A TransLink statement said: "Event promoters are required to fund the cost of providing additional public transport services where an event has a significant impact on the transport network.

"This is the standard policy for all events statewide as TransLink does not have funding for event transport services."

The Broadbeach Alliance said work with police and festival risk consultants for Blues added $66,000 to the budget.



Shane Nicholson at this year's country music festival – the popular event is to be renamed Groundwater. Picture: RICHARD GOSLING

GROUNDWATER TAPS INTO FESTIVAL'S CULTURE

SUZANNE SIMONOT
suzanne.simonot@news.com.au

THE Broadbeach Country Music Festival will change its name to the Groundwater Country Music Festival from next year.

Event organisers Broadbeach Alliance say this year's fifth annual event in July attracted a record 54,000 people – a 77 per cent increase on the previous year.

Alliance CEO Jan McCormick said the name change and rebrand, to be announced today, reflected the event's status as Australia's fastest-growing country music festival.

"We have been blown away by the growth of this festival on the Gold Coast," she said.

"In just five short years it has become ... a must-do on the events calendar for music lovers and artists."

She said the new name paid tribute to a common denominator in bringing people together and reflected the culture of the Australian people for whom rivers, lakes, streams and oceans were a central part of life.

"Groundwater as a name is reflective of Australia's unique culture, drawing from both the Aboriginal people's close spiritual connection with the groundwater, as well as the farming community's reliance on groundwater for survival," she said.

"Fans can expect Groundwater to stay true to its country roots while following the music landscape which continuously blurs musical genres to attract diverse audiences including the young and young at heart."

She said the festival's success reflected the growing contemporary appeal of country music in Australia.

"We have been watching this musical genre closely on a global landscape and felt now is the right time to introduce a new brand signifying that we are ready to take the strength of this festival even further," she said.

Mrs McCormick said the free festival and its sister event, the Blues on Broadbeach Music Festival, were produced by a small, highly experienced team that understood how the key role artist programming played in retaining loyal audiences and attracting new visitors.

Ex-model: I was 'bullied' by police

FORMER model and actor Kate Fischer has accused Victorian police of being "bullies" after she made a bizarre court appearance contesting drink-driving charges.

Posing and snapping selfies outside the Melbourne Magistrates' Court, the 44-year-old, now legally known as Tziporah Malkah, said she wanted to tell her story "in my own words".

The former flame of billionaire James Packer, who appeared in the 1993 film *Sirens* is accused of driving while intoxicated on January 3.

It's also alleged she refused a breath test after an accident, drove carelessly, reversed in an unsafe manner, and stopped on a nature strip.

Malkah yesterday faced seven charges, and indicated she may contest some or all of them.

The court was told she was "extremely unhappy" with the way police acted on the night of the allegations.

"VicPol are bullies," she told reporters as she left, without providing details. "You'll find out. You'll find out."

Mr Kuzilny said his client was likely to plead guilty, but wanted time to discuss the matters. She is due to return to court on December 15.



Kate Fischer, now known as Tziporah Malkah, leaves court.

Rush actions 'playful'

THE director of a Sydney play at the centre of claims actor Geoffrey Rush "inappropriately touched" a co-star yesterday backed the Oscar-winner, saying his "playfulness" was also part of his "great artistry".

However, he also conceded he did not know the full details.

"In my time in all the weeks and months of rehearsal and performance, I saw absolutely nothing other than an artist at the top of his form leading a company with respect and playfulness and great artistry," Neil Armfield told ABC presenter Fran Kelly.

"Even talking about this as a sexual allegation is completely inappropriate. It is not (sexual in nature). It is inappropriate behaviour." A stunned Kelly asked if Armfield knew details of the allegations. "No, I do not," he said

GCBE01Z01MA - V1



Geoffrey Rush in Sydney Theatre Company's King Lear.

VIC NEWS

Geoffrey Rush denies claim of 'inappropriate behaviour' during King Lear production in Sydney

Herald Sun
November 30, 2017 8:35am
Subscriber only

GEOFFREY Rush strongly denies a claim of "inappropriate behaviour" during a recent production of King Lear in Sydney.

Reports in Sydney media this morning claim the Melbourne-based Oscar winner was the subject of a complaint during the Sydney Theatre Company production of the William Shakespeare play.

HWL Ebsworth, lawyers for Rush, said in a strongly worded legal letter that he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" and that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

The denial follows a report that the Sydney Theatre Company had received a complaint relating to Rush's time with the production that ran from November 2015 to January 2016.



Geoffrey Rush. Picture: David Caird

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman for the STC was reported saying.

"The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended.

"The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld.

"STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."

Rush's lawyers said in response: "Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised.

"Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves."



Rush won an Oscar for his leading role in Shine.



Rush in The Pirates of the Caribbean.

The response, from the legal firm's partner Nicholas Pullen, adds Rush has not been involved with the Sydney Theatre Company - or representatives - for more than 22 months.

"In the circumstances, if such a statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least," the statement says.

"Your 'understanding' of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded.

"It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue."

Rush has worked with the Sydney Theatre Company on multiple projects including The Importance of Being Ernest and The Government Inspector.

The 66-year-old married father-of-two won a Best Actor Oscar for playing David Helfgott in *Shine* and was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for *Shakespeare in Love*.

He is well-known for his role as Hector Barbossa in *The Pirates of the Caribbean* films.

Rush has also won an Emmy and Tony.





Rush's lawyer said the actor had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour".

NEWS

Geoffrey Rush claims Sydney Theatre Company 'smearing' his name

stephen drill, Herald Sun
November 30, 2017 10:18pm
Subscriber only

THE Sydney Theatre Company has failed to disclose any findings of an investigation into alleged "inappropriate behaviour" by Hollywood star Geoffrey Rush.

Rush has accused the company of "smearing his name" after it confirmed to Sydney media that the Oscar winner had been the subject of a complaint during a production of the William Shakespeare play, *King Lear*.

The company issued a second statement saying: "At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

"STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare. As already stated, the company received the complaint after Mr Rush's engagement had ended. STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

An STC spokeswoman said they would not comment on "specifics relating to the people involved in the investigation".

The company had improved its complaints process, she said, adding: "STC strengthened its induction processes for freelance actors in relation to where and how to lodge complaints and to encourage them in speaking up when they have concerns."

There was social media support for the person who had allegedly made the complaint.

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said the Melbourne-based actor had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour".



Rush has accused the company of "smearing his name" Picture: David Caird

"It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," he said.

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

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

"I also asked why this information was being withheld and why, according to standard theatre practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

Rush has worked with the STC on multiple projects including *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Government Inspector*.

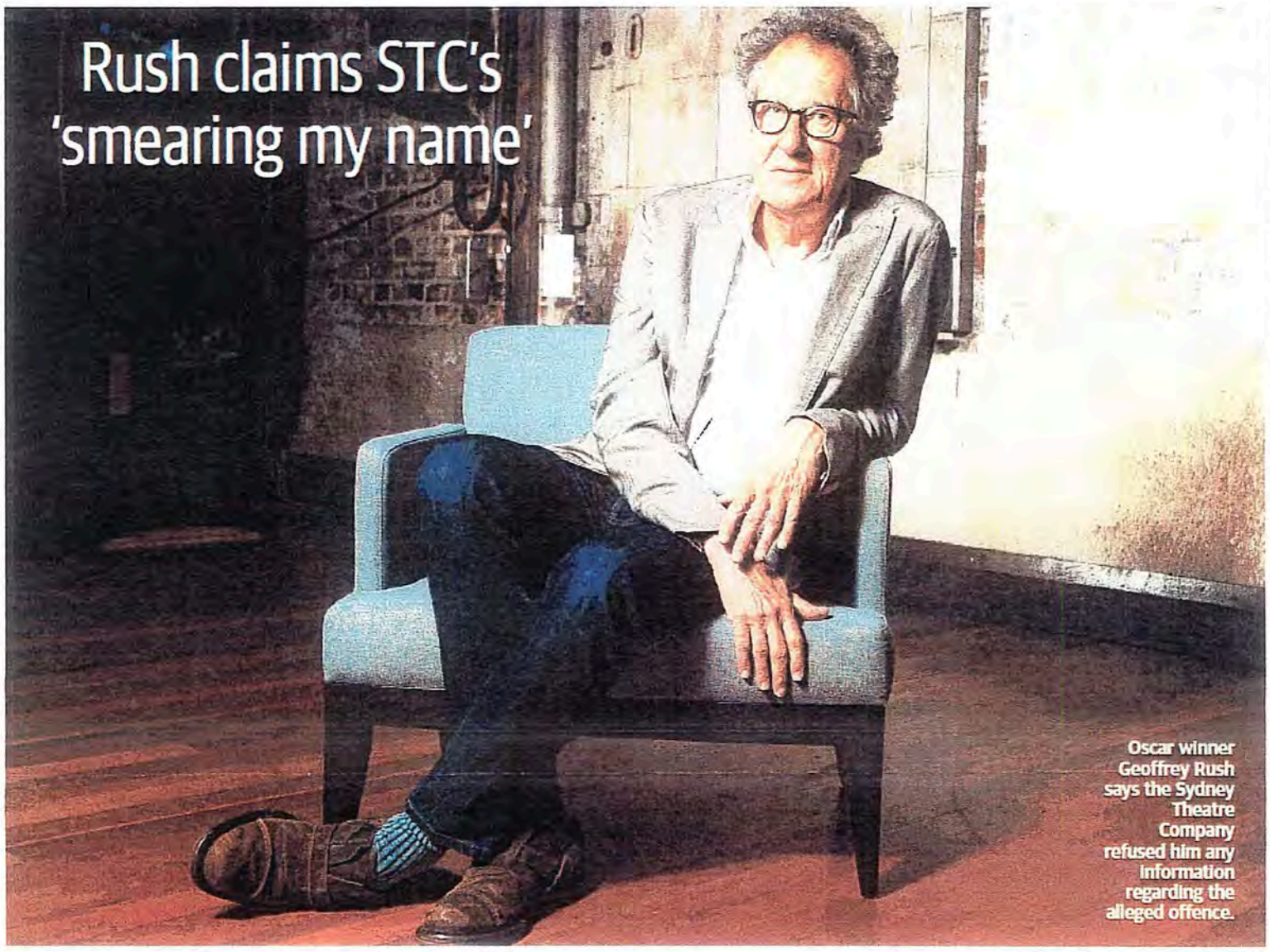
The 66-year-old married father of two won a Best Actor Oscar for playing pianist David Helfgott in *Shine*.

stephen.drill@news.com.au

@steveheraldsun



THEY WOULD NOT TELL ME



Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush says the Sydney Theatre Company refused him any information regarding the alleged offence.

THE Sydney Theatre Company has failed to disclose any findings of an investigation into alleged "inappropriate behaviour" by Hollywood star Geoffrey Rush.

Rush has accused the company of "smearing his name" after it confirmed to Sydney media that the Oscar winner had been the subject of a complaint during a production of the William Shakespeare play, *King Lear*.

The company yesterday afternoon issued a second statement saying: "At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with

STEPHEN DRILL

confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

"STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare. As already stated, the company received the complaint after Mr Rush's engagement had ended. STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

An STC spokeswoman said they would not comment on "specifics relating to the people involved in the investigation".

The company had improved its complaints process, she said, adding: "STC strengthened its induction processes for freelance actors in relation to where and how to lodge complaints and to encourage them in speaking up when they have concerns."

There was social media support for the person who had allegedly made the complaint.

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said the Melbourne-based actor had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour".

"It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," he said.

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

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

"I also asked why this information was being withheld and why, according to standard theatre practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

Rush has worked with the STC on multiple projects including *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Government Inspector*.

The 66-year-old married father of two won a Best Actor Oscar for playing pianist David Helfgott in *Shine*.

stephen.drill@news.com.au

TEEN SEX VICTORY

THE country's top Family Court judges have made it easier for transgender teens to change sex.

A Sydney dad who brought the landmark case on behalf of his son, 17-year-old "Kelvin", who was born female but has identified as a boy since the age of nine, has won the right for teenagers to make the decision without the oversight of the court.

Teenagers can now start hormone treatment to change their sex with approval only from the doctors and their parents.

"The treatment can no longer be considered a medical procedure for which consent lies outside the bounds of parental authority and requires the imprimatur of the court," the court said in its judgment.

Of about 60 transgender applications made by children to the Family Court since 2004, none has been refused.

Kinders' cash call

ASHLEY ARGOON

FRUSTRATED parents and early childhood educators will confront the government today to call for kinder funding for every Victorian child.

A petition with more than 6000 signatures will be handed to the Andrews Government, urging it to fund 10 hours of three-year-old kinder a week.

Australian Education Union president Meredith Peace said three in four Victorian three-year-olds missed out on kinder because of the cost.

"Access to preschool education shouldn't rely on a parent's capacity to pay," she said.

Michelle Forbes said a lack of support meant two of her three sons would likely miss out on the year of early education.

"The children who miss out are all behind the eight ball and it's not fair," the Keilor Downs mum said.

Currently, four-year-old kinder is partly subsidised by the state and federal governments whereas three-year-old kinder is not.

Many kinders offer less than 10 hours a week — the amount the Andrews Government is being urged to fund — because of high demand.

Exercise strikes terror fears

JAMES DOWLING

THE nation's counter-terrorism agencies fear returning foreign fighters are capable of creating nationwide cells.

Authorities are preparing for a cell of sophisticated terrorists whose network stretches across state borders.

The government has warned the 110 Australian foreign fighters, if returned, could be capable of launching terror attacks in multiple states.

To prepare, police and federal agencies launched the six-month Exercise Outback, which included officers posing as returned foreign fighters.

They were deployed across the country over the past two days, in a test of multi-jurisdictional surveillance and intelligence gathering.

Justice Minister Michael Keenan said security agencies worked around the clock to stop people seeking to do harm. "These disruptions remind us of the depravity of these would-be terrorists, whose only aim is to foster fear in the hearts of everyday Australians," he said.

"Counter-terrorism exercises, including Exercise Outback, are vital to ensuring we remain vigilant and stand prepared to respond to the threat of terrorism by disrupting attacks before they occur."



Meghan Markle

MEGHAN'S WORKING TITLE

WITH a royal wedding in the works, speculation is rising about the title to be bestowed on Meghan Markle when she marries Prince Harry in May.

Will the American actor be a British princess? The answer is: sort of. Markle, 36, will not formally be known as Princess Meghan because she is not of royal birth.

However, she will become Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Wales when she marries Harry.

The speculation is that Queen Elizabeth will make Harry a duke — like his brother, William — and Markle a duchess when they wed at Windsor Castle. In that case, Markle would be known as a duchess.

Royal observers think the queen will make the newlyweds the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. In that case, Markle would become Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Sussex.

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THEY WOULD NOT TELL ME

Source: Herald Sun (Australia)
Publication Date: December 1, 2017
Country: Australia
Source Type: Newspaper

12/1/17 Herald-Sun (Melbourne) 4

News

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Section: News

STEPHEN DRILL

THE Sydney Theatre Company has failed to disclose any findings of an investigation into alleged "inappropriate behaviour" by Hollywood star Geoffrey Rush.

Rush has accused the company of "smearing his name" after it confirmed to Sydney media that the Oscar winner had been the subject of a complaint during a production of the William Shakespeare play, King Lear.

The company yesterday afternoon issued a second statement saying: "At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

"STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare. As already stated, the company received the complaint after Mr Rush's engagement had ended. STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety." But the company did not expand on the nature of its investigation, nor its conclusion.

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said the Melbourne-based actor had never been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour".

"It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," Mr Pullen said.

"Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them, let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates." Rush had said in the statement: "The moment I became aware of rumours of a complaint, I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company asking for clarification about the details of the statement. They refused to illuminate me with the details.

"I also asked why this information was being withheld and why, according to standard theatre practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming." The company had on Wednesday confirmed to Sydney media it had received a complaint relating to Rush's time with the production that ran from November 2015 to January 2016.

"The company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace," it said.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld." Rush has worked with the STC on multiple projects including The Importance of Being Earnest and The Government Inspector.

stephen.drill@news.com.au

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NEWS SUBJECT: Government Litigation (1GO18); Legal (1LE33)
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47)
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OTHER INDEXING: (Geoffrey Rush; Nicholas Pullen)

EDITION: HeraldSun
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7th Annual AACTA Red Carpet Glitz and Glamour

AWARDS

Rachel Griffiths defends Geoffrey Rush amid allegations

Staff Writer, News Corp Australia Network
December 6, 2017 11:27pm

AUSSIE actress Rachel Griffiths has defended Geoffrey Rush, saying the Oscar winner "is not Harvey Weinstein".

Griffiths referenced the Hollywood mogul — who faces multiple allegations of sexual misconduct — on the red carpet at tonight's Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Awards in Sydney.



Rachel Griffiths arrives at the AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) Awards.

"Geoffrey Rush is not Harvey Weinstein and I have had more than a handful of interactions with Harvey Weinstein," Griffiths told the ABC on the red carpet.

Rush stepped down as AACTA president amid allegations of inappropriate behaviour during the STC production of King Lear in late 2015.

Griffiths told the ABC that although the topic of inappropriate behaviour across industries needed to be addressed, "nobody likes to be tried in the public square".

Rush has denied the allegations.

Originally published as Rush 'is no Harvey Weinstein'



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Herald Su

NEWS BREAKING NEWS LOCAL VICTORIA LAW & ORDE



Actor Geoffrey Rush at his press conference in Melbourne. Picture: Jay Town

NSW

Actor Geoffrey Rush launches court action over Sydney Theatre Company claims

Sally Rawsthorne, The Daily Telegraph
December 8, 2017 3:45pm

MELBOURNE actor Geoffrey Rush has fronted for the first time since being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" while starring in a Sydney play, saying coverage of the case was "demeaning" and "hurtful".

The character actor refused to take questions but delivered a solemn statement about the Sydney Theatre Company claims, revealed by The Daily Telegraph.

Rush stood with his lawyer to declare that he would launch legal action over the reports in The Daily Telegraph.

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said. He said The Daily Telegraph had made "false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages".



Rush stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community."

The Daily Telegraph stands by its reporting of the complaint made against Rush during his last stint at the STC for the production of King Lear.

Editor Christopher Dore said the newspaper would defend its accurate reporting in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," Mr Dore said.

"We will defend our position in court."

At the centre of the drama was a complaint revealed by the STC made by one of its actors against Rush.

The STC told The Daily Telegraph that it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" after the 2015 production of the Shakespeare play.

The nation's premier theatre company said it would protect the identity of the complainant and would work to "minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace".

Rush subsequently stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced.

Lawyer Nicholas Pullen yesterday said Rush, 66, would not answer questions.

The matter will go before the Federal Court in Sydney on February 8.

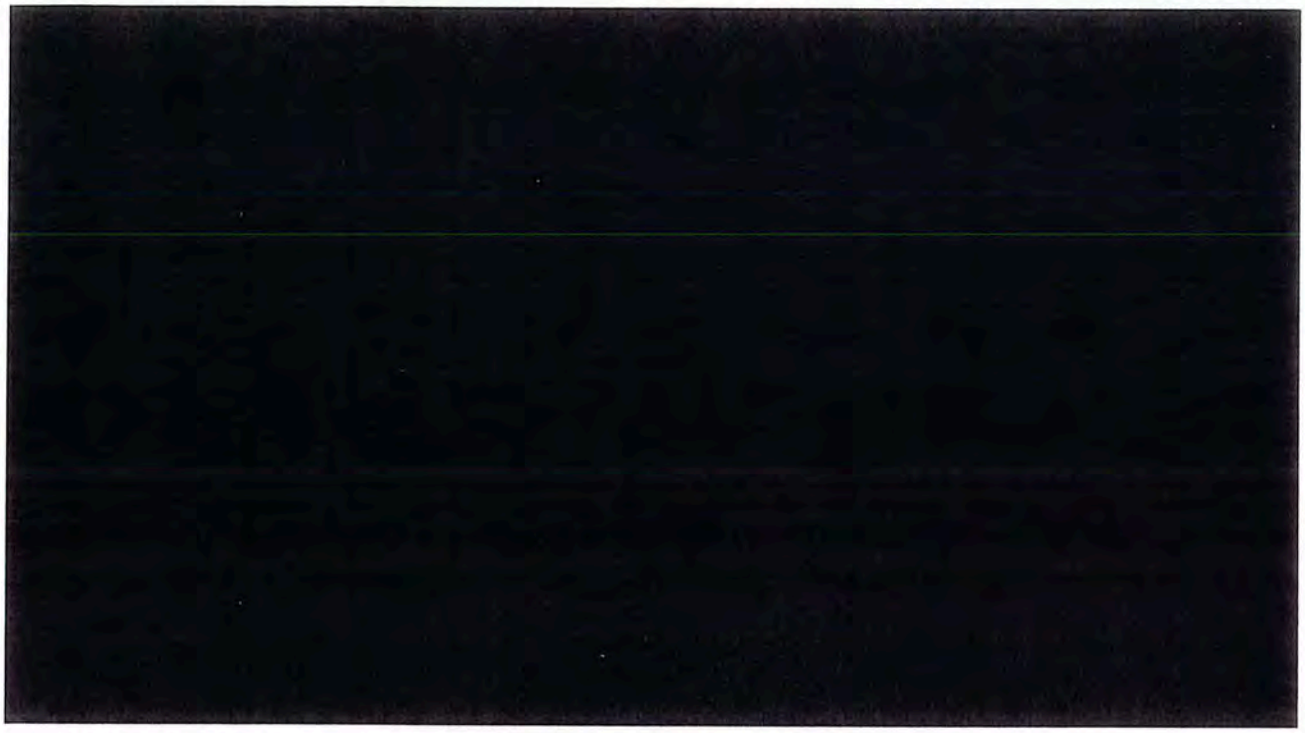
Originally published as 'Hurt' Rush launches court action over claims



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NEWS BREAKING NEWS LOCAL VICTORIA LAW & ORDE



Behind-the-scenes at the Pirates of the Caribbean Gold Coast set

VIC NEWS

Geoffrey Rush announces he will bring defamation action over allegations of inappropriate behaviour

Danielle McGrane, AAP, Herald Sun
December 8, 2017 4:57pm

GEOFFREY RUSH will bring defamation proceedings over allegations of inappropriate behaviour made against him.

The Oscar winner today announced that he would take action in the Federal Court against the *Daily Telegraph*, which published the story.



Geoffrey Rush at today's press conference in Melbourne. Picture: AAP



Actor Geoffrey Rush before speaking to the media today. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said.

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



Reece Hooker
@ReeceJHooker

Geoffrey Rush: "I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts."

3:02 PM - Dec 8, 2017

1 4 8

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said Rush was unable to answer questions about the case.

He announced the legal proceedings today at the offices of law firm HWL Ebsworth in Melbourne.



Rush won an Oscar for Shine. AP Photo/Reed Saxon





Rush with Johnny Depp in Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides.

The veteran actor's breakthrough performance in the 1996 film *Shine*, earnt him an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA.

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

Rush, 66, lives in Melbourne with his wife.

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

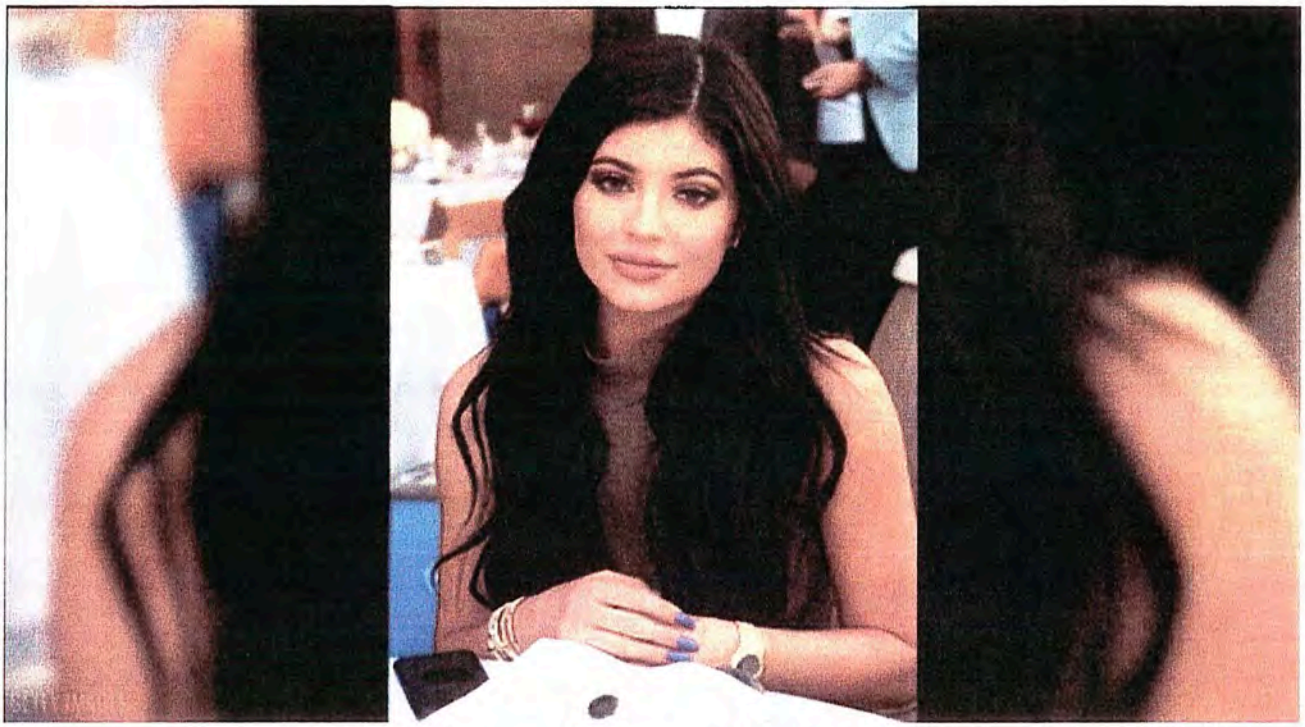
"We will defend our position in court."

READ MORE: OSCAR WINNER DENIES INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

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Kylie Jenner 2017 Golden Globes Photos - Are Her Lips Reduced?!?

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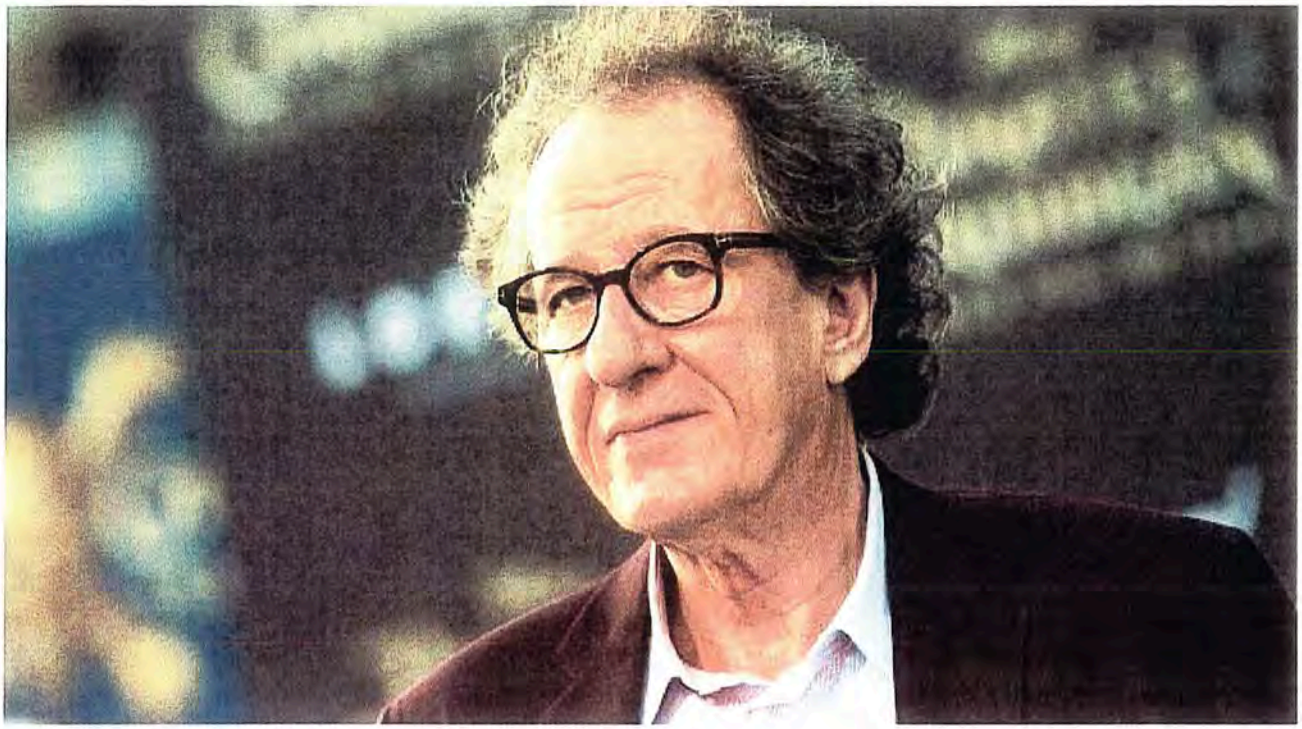
Geoffrey Rush's bizarre nomination rant

The Daily Telegraph
December 12, 2017 11:50am
Subscriber only

GEOFFREY Rush has marked his Golden Globe nomination by commenting on the "complexity of humankind" and his struggle to "define the multiplicity of dimensions in the male experience".

Rush has been nominated for his racy depiction of Albert Einstien in the TV mini-series Genius.

The Oscar-winner is among a number of Australian actors nominated this year — including Margot Robbie, Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman.



Geoffrey Rush

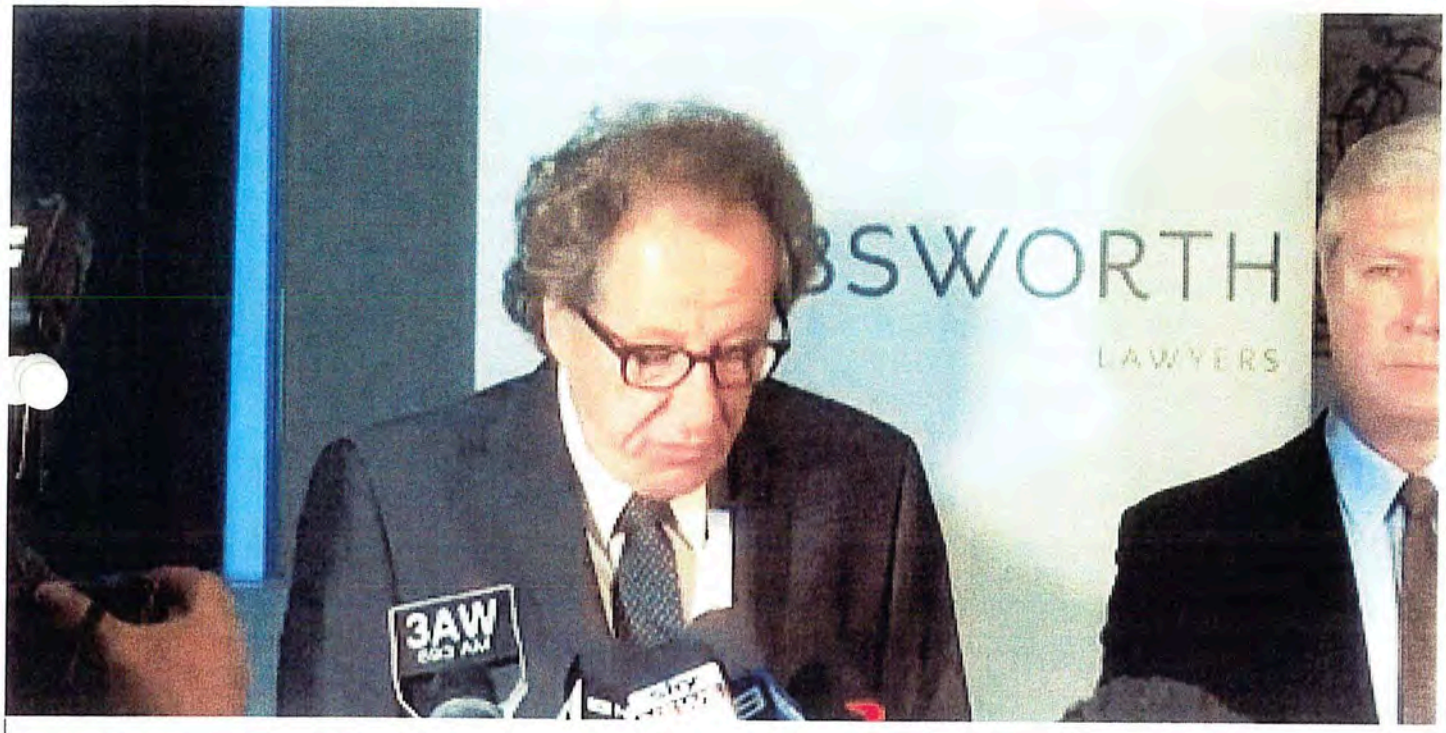
After the list of nominations were released yesterday, Rush said: "This is good news for Albert Einstein. I believe in science. I also believe in the complexity of humankind. I am honoured to be in the company of fellow nominees who, with their artistry, have strived to define the multiplicity of dimensions in the male experience".

Rush's nomination comes after he vehemently denied allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during the recent Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear.

He is up against The Wizard of Lies' Robert De Niro, The Young Pope's Jude Law, Twin Peaks' Kyle Maclachlan and Fargo's Ewan McGregor

Australian productions Top of the Lake: China Girl and Big Little Lies are also up for several awards.

Originally published as Rush's bizarre nomination rant



Actor Geoffrey Rush to sue Daily Telegraph over claims

Geoffrey Rush's co-star Eryn Jean Norvill touched five times, court hears

MATTHEW BENNS, EDITOR-AT-LARGE, The Daily Telegraph
February 20, 2018 12:00am
Subscriber only

d Sun
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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 on five 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 stood outside her cubicle until the "visibly upset" actress told him to "f--- off".



Geoffrey Rush and Eryn Jean Norvill rehearse for the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear.

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

Yesterday the Federal Court lifted a suppression order on the newspaper's defence

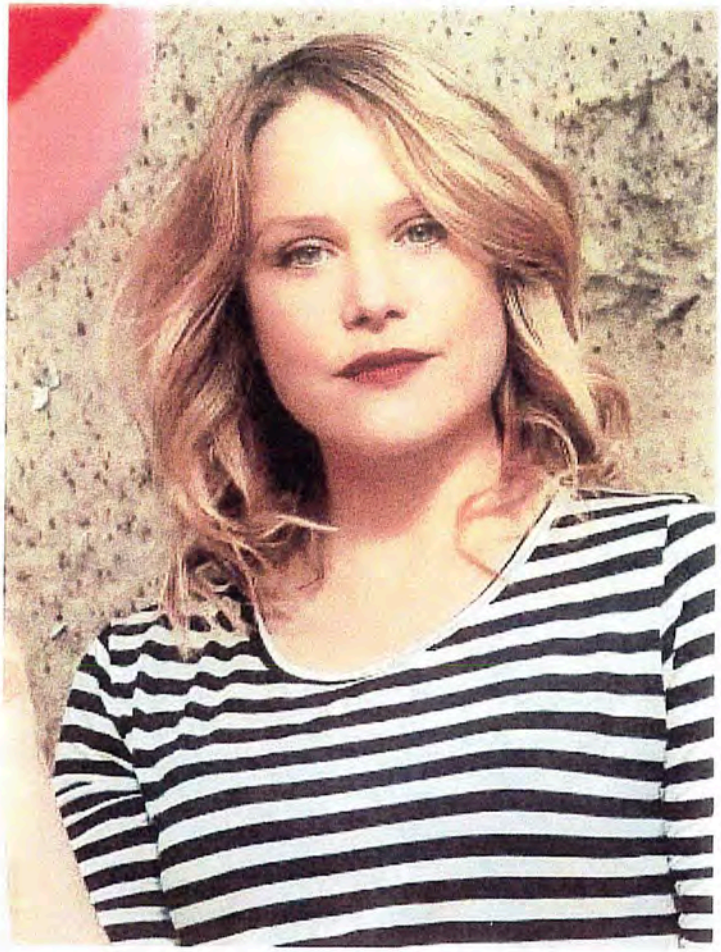
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According to the document, Rush touched the actress "in a manner that made the Complainant feel uncomfortable" during the play's final scene.

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.



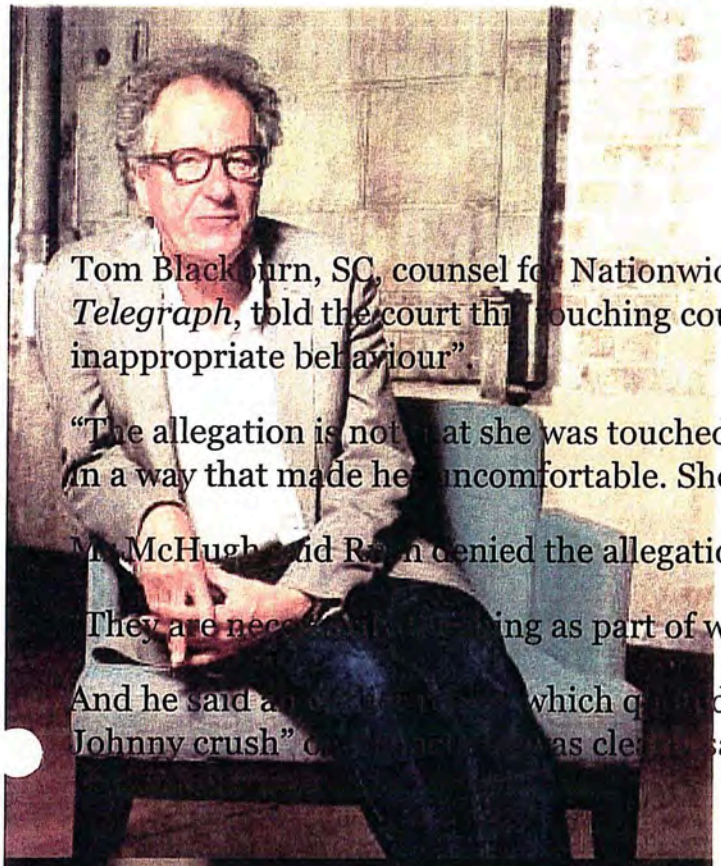
Eryn Jean Norvill made a formal complaint to the STC.



d Sun

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http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/geoffrey-rushs-costar-eryn-jean-norvill-touched-five-times-court-hears/news-story/cc9f7d12fa8fda3d8f682dd72eb74826



Rush as he appeared in the STC poster for King Lear.

Tom Blackburn, SC, counsel for Nationwide News, publisher of the *Daily Telegraph*, told the court that 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 said Rush denied the allegations.

"They are necessary [illegible]ing as part of what the production requires," he said.

And he said a [illegible] which quoted Rush as saying he had a "stage door Johnny crush" on [illegible] as clearly said in jest.





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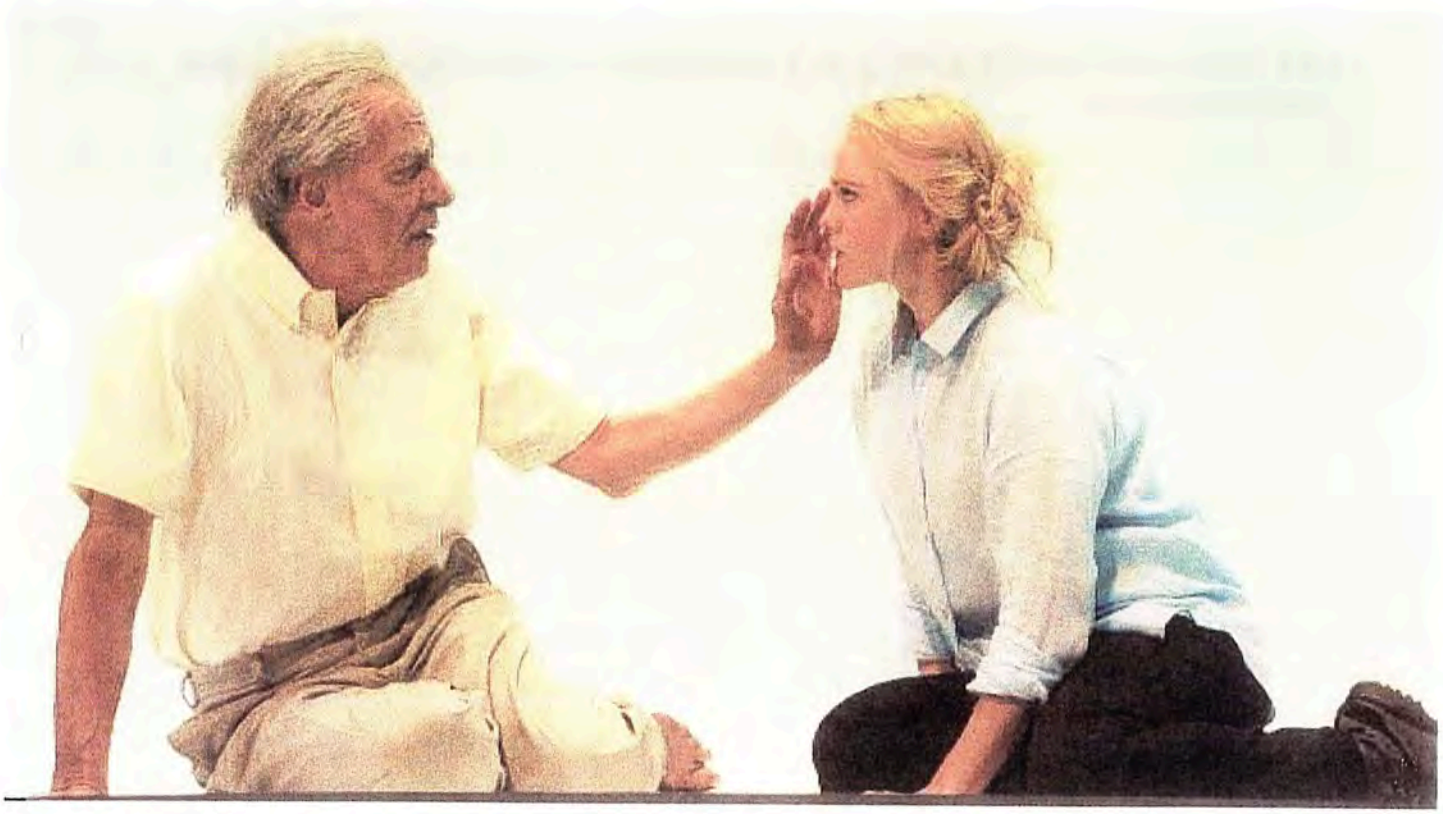
http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/geoffrey-rushs-costar-eryn-jean-norvill-touched-five-times-court-hears/news-story/cc9f7d12fa8fda3d8f682dd72eb74826

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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 Rosyln Packer Theatre, knowing (Norvill) was in there, and stood outside a cubicle" that she was in.



Rush and Norvill on stage during the production of the Sydney Theatre Company's King Lear. Picture: Heidrun Lohr

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."

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.

d Sun

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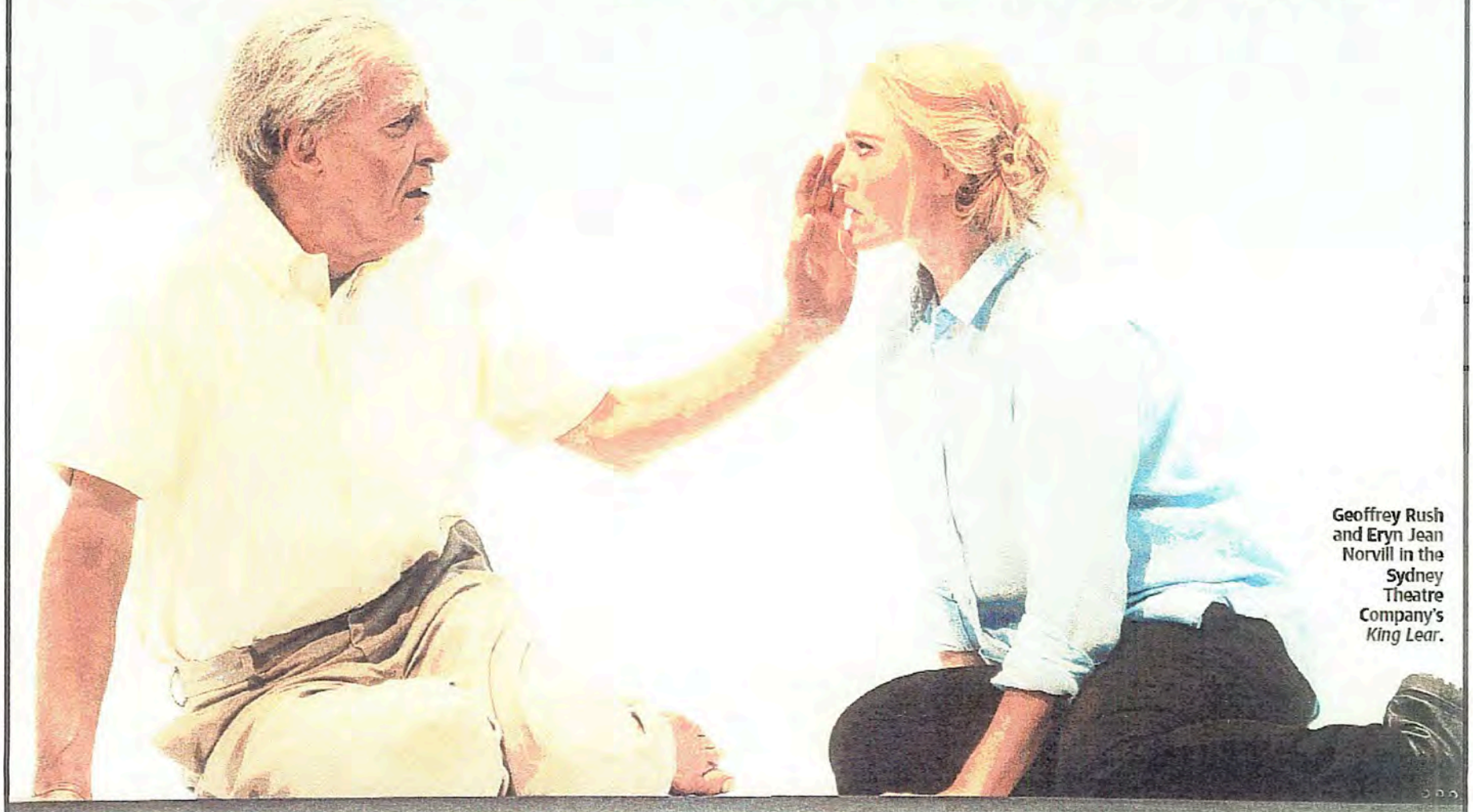
http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/geoffrey-rushs-costar-eryn-jean-norvill-touched-five-times-court-hears/news-story/cc9f7d12fa8fda3d8f682dd72eb748260

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Court hears that actress repeatedly asked Geoffrey Rush to ...

STOP DOING IT



Geoffrey Rush and Eryn Jean Norvill in the Sydney Theatre Company's *King Lear*.

MATTHEW BENNS

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 2015-2016 production of *King Lear*, Eryn Jean Norvill, complained about the *Pirates Of The Caribbean* star after he allegedly touched her on five 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 stood outside her cubicle until the "visibly upset" actress told him to "f--- off".

Rush, 66, is suing the *Daily Telegraph* for its reporting of Ms Norvill's complaint about alleged inappropriate behaviour, made to 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 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 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 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 Rosyln Packer Theatre, knowing (Norvill) was in there, and stood outside a cubicle" that she was in.

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.



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TODAY
MIN 12
MAX 23
Partly cloudy. Winds east to southeasterly

TOMORROW
MAX 26
Sunny

FRIDAY
MAX 28
Mostly sunny

SATURDAY
MAX 29
Shower or two

Tatts

OZ LOTTO: Draw 1257: 4, 16, 34, 8, 32, 11, 13 Supps: 29, 20 Div 1 prize pool $5m. Prov pool: $8,657,315.06
MONDAY LOTTO: Draw 3748: 19, 34, 20, 26, 39, 42 Supps: 43, 29 Div 1 jackpots to $1m Div 2 $8937.50 Div 3 $503 Div 4 $31.40 Div 5 $16.85 Div 6 $13.95

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In making a word each letter may be used only once, and the centre letter must be included. No slang, hyphens, apostrophes or plurals ending in 's'. Minimum four letters. Good 20, Very good 28, Excellent 37

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Cash crisis hits hospital care

TOM MINEAR

VICTORIA'S hospitals are facing a $183 million shortfall over four years, according to a new Labor campaign attacking Malcolm Turnbull over health funding.

The federal government has offered Victoria a new five-year deal to inject an extra $7 billion into the state's public hospitals by 2025.

But Labor says the government's existing agreement with the states until 2020 is not keeping pace with demand in Victoria's emergency departments, which treated 1.7 million patients last year.

The state's hospitals are only receiving 45 per cent of their budgets from the Commonwealth, rather than Labor's goal of 50 per cent, leaving the $183 million shortfall which could pay for an estimated 30,000 births or 7000 knee replacements.

Labor leader Bill Shorten and Opposition health spokeswoman Catherine King will today launch their "fix our hospitals" campaign to pressure the government ahead of May's federal Budget.

"When you or your loved one is sick, the last thing you need is to worry about is whether your local hospital has enough beds to give you the health care you need," Mr Shorten told the *Herald Sun*.

"Under Turnbull, doctors, nurses and hospital staff are over stretched and under resourced. They are crying out for help — but Turnbull isn't listening."

The total number of sick Victorians presenting to emergency departments each year has increased by 158,000 since the Coalition was elected in 2013, and more than half of public hospital doctors are now working unsafe hours.

But despite the renewed campaign, Labor is yet to commit to delivering extra cash to Victoria's public hospitals and paying for half of their bills.

Mr Turnbull presented his hospital funding deal to state and territory leaders at last month's Council of Australian Governments summit, saying it was a generous offer which provided record funding.

New South Wales and Western Australia signed up to the deal but Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said he could not agree "at this stage".

The state government argued the Commonwealth's offer capped funding increases at 6.5 per cent a year, which it said would not be enough cover increasing demand from public hospital patients.

Victoria has also complained it is owed another $104 million from the federal government for its hospitals, a spat which is expected to be resolved soon.

BUSHFIRES RACK UP $12M BILL

CHANEL KINNIBURGH

THE devastating bushfires in the state's southwest last weekend have already cost insurers $12 million in damages.

Insurance Council of Australia CEO Rob Whelan declared the ravaging bushfires a catastrophe on Sunday night, ensuring policyholders would be given priority by insurers.

Mr Whelan said it may be some time before the full extent of property losses is clear but claims last night stood at $12 million.

The big bill comes as it was revealed it took more than two hours for those in danger to be sent an emergency alert text message.

Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley said "getting timely and relevant messages that had the information in it to make informed decisions was challenging in the early stages".



Cardinal George Pell arrives at Melbourne Magistrates' Court. Picture: DAVID CROSLING

Pell may face new charges

WAYNE FLOWER

CARDINAL George Pell may face fresh charges following a shock development in his preliminary hearing.

The Melbourne Magistrates' Court this morning heard a witness who was to face cross examination had supplied a new statement to police last night. The statement is understood to contain criminal allegations against the Cardinal.

Cardinal Pell's barrister Robert Richter, QC described the new statement — made weeks into the Cardinal's hearing — as "problematic".

Cardinal Pell is in the process of a preliminary hearing that will determine whether he faces a jury trial over allegations of historical sex offences.

Mr Richter said his legal team needed to investigate the fresh claims with a view to having them dealt with separately should charges proceed.

"We do not know if charges are to be laid or not in relation to him," he said.

The witness had only been called to give evidence at Cardinal Pell's hearing to answer questions about his original statement, which placed the Cardinal at a location where alleged offences against others took place.

Mr Richter called for the witness's first statement to be removed from the police brief of evidence and dealt with separately. Prosecutors did not oppose the application.

Mr Richter said he disputed information in the witness's first statement.

The hearing continues.

Rush case to go to trial, court hears

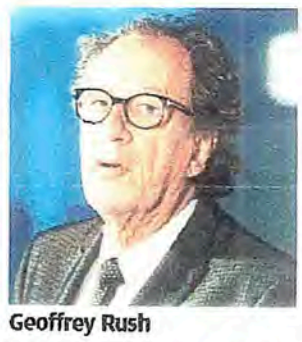
MATTHEW BENNS

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush's defamation claim against *The Daily Telegraph* will go to trial in August, a court heard yesterday.

In the interim, *The Daily Telegraph* will consider appealing a preliminary judgment in which Justice Michael Wigney struck out parts of its defence to the legal action brought by the *Pirates of the Caribbean* star.

Mr Rush is suing *The Daily Telegraph* after it reported his co-star in a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear* lodged a complaint with the STC over Mr Rush's "inappropriate behaviour".

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



Geoffrey Rush

Editor of *The Daily Telegraph* Chris Dore said: "*The Daily Telegraph* considers that its conduct in publishing the articles 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," he said.

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3/21/18 Herald-Sun (Melbourne) 2
2018 WLNR 8505505

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March 21, 2018

Section: News

Rush case to go to trial, court hears

MATTHEW BENNS

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---- Index References ----

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WESTLAW

MUSK FEARS THIS BIT OF FUTURE


Elon Musk

ELON Musk is changing the cars we drive and hoping to take us into space to colonise Mars. But there's one aspect of the future he fears — the rise of artificial intelligence.

The Tesla boss believes it will turn rogue and gobble up mankind. Along with the late Stephen Hawking and Bill Gates, he has called for global regulatory oversight to make sure we don't summon up the machine-created "demons" by accident.

He has even set up his own not-for-profit company to crusade for controls on AI, an unpopular stance in his Silicon Valley sphere.

His recent shock move to take Tesla private shows again how much he dislikes playing by the rules. Mr Musk has explained to his 30,000 staff that he wants to shield Tesla, plagued by production problems, from distracting swings in the share price and negative propaganda.

Truth to be argued in Rush case

Actor's co-star to tell in libel trial

FIONA WINGETT

THE actor at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star touched her breast and back, a court has heard.

Mr Rush is suing *The Daily Telegraph* in Sydney over articles about a complaint by his co-star, Eryn Jean Norvill, of inappropriate behaviour during a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear*.

Mr Rush sued last December. He has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In the Federal Court yesterday, publisher Nationwide News Pty Ltd succeeded in amending its defence to one of truth rather than qualified privilege. Ms Norvill's evidence will now be admitted.

Alec Leopold, SC, for Nationwide News, told the court it would show Mr Rush engaged in a number of incidents of sexual harassment including "touching on her breast and lower back and tracing his finger across her lower back". He said that evidence "from persons who were present at the time" would corroborate Ms Norvill's claims.

Justice Michael Wigney questioned Ms Norvill's decision to come forward at such a late stage, "after indicating for some months she didn't want to co-operate".

However, Mr Leopold argued that it was "understandable that somebody in the acting world who is a relatively junior actor, such as Ms Norvill, who is at the centre of allegations about a very senior, indeed iconic, figure in the acting world, was reluctant to come out and speak".

A statement by Ms Norvill detailing her allegations of harassment, lodged with the court last week, formed the basis of Nationwide News' application to amend its defence.

Justice Wigney had thrown out an original defence of truth in March, on the basis that it was "plainly deficient" and lacked sufficient detail as to the precise nature of the behaviour that gave rise to Ms Norvill's complaint to the STC.

Sue Chrysanthou, for Mr Rush, said his decision not to oppose the newspaper's application to amend its defence to one of truth should not be seen as acceptance.

"That's not to be taken in any way to be any concession on Mr Rush's part that the pleading is any good," she said.

Ms Chrysanthou said Rush was suffering "continuing trauma because of these proceedings", and that any delay was "intolerable" to the actor.

"Frankly, it is in his interest for this to be dealt with as a matter of finality and in full," she said.

"He is ready to come to court ... and that is the reason why the application is not opposed." Ms Chrysanthou said.

Justice Wigney said the trial, at which both Mr Rush and Ms Norvill will give evidence, would take place over 13 days from October 22.

In the STC production, which ran from November 2015 to January 2016, Mr Rush played King Lear and Ms Norvill played one of the king's daughters, Cordelia.

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@FionaWingett

NORTHBANK DEVELOPMENT TICK


An artist's impression of the Northbank redevelopment.

A NEGLECTED northbank CBD site will be revitalised with a $450 million redevelopment approved.

Seafarers Place will comprise a 17-storey hotel and apartment tower, and a public park.

Developer Riverlee plans to turn historic Goods Shed No.5 into a function hall and restore Flinders Wharf and its heritage-listed crane.

Located between Spencer St and Charles Grimes Bridge, the area has been called the missing link between the CBD and Docklands.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp has called the Yarra's northbank an eyesore, especially the precinct between Spencer St and Flinders St station.

Seafarers Place got City of Melbourne approval in February and the state Planning Department has now given it the green light.

The tower will have 280 hotel rooms and 150 luxury apartments.

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August 10, 2018

Section: News

Truth to be argued in Rush case

Fiona Wingett

THE actor at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star touched her breast and back, a court has heard.

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fiona.wingett@news.com.au@FionaWingett

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START YOUR WEEK WITH SUNDAY

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LOTTERY RESULTS

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TASSIE LIVING



HOW SWEET IT IS

THIS week you can enjoy a sweet sneak peek between the covers of new recipe book *delicious.daily*. The extract from this gorgeous new book will help you cook some of the most impressive desserts imaginable and turn the everyday into the extraordinary. We also offer our selection of five of the best freshest, locally available juices. Plus there's the latest in home, entertainment and gardening news as well as our handy seven-day TV guide.

TRAVEL



HEALTH



SPORT



THE Socceroos are in a solid position to advance past the early stages of the World Cup in Russia after drawing a good group yesterday.
PAGES 66-67

TODAY

HOBART	LAUNCESTON	BURNIE
Rain easing	Rain clearing	Cloudy
15	19	21

TOMORROW

HOBART	LAUNCESTON	BURNIE
Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny
18	23	20

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Joyce back in landslide win

ANNIKA SMETHURST

BARNABY Joyce will return to Canberra and take back his role as Deputy Prime Minister after a strong by-election victory.

Once considered Australia's best retail politician, the Nationals leader was hard to find yesterday as he fought to win back his seat of New England.

The former deputy PM, who was forced to resign after discovering he was a dual citizen, cast his vote at his former primary school in the tiny town of Woolbrook, northeast of Tamworth, population 248.

There was no sausage sizzle or street walk for Mr Joyce, who stayed away from the major centre of Tamworth, bar a late visit to a school alongside Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.



REUNITED: Barnaby Joyce with Malcolm Turnbull before voting yesterday.

Mr Joyce spent the day in smaller towns, taking his elderly parents James and Marie with him to cast their vote.

Early results suggested a swing of up to 10 per cent to Mr Joyce, who previously held the safe Nationals seat by an 8.5 per cent margin. Malcolm Turnbull said the result was a "stunning victory".

Addressing supporters last night at the Southgate Inn, Mr Joyce said he was "humbled" by the support.

His re-election bid has been marred by death threats, party infighting and controversial comments from the NSW Deputy Premier that Mr Turnbull should quit.

In the final days of the campaign he travelled with a security guard after being stalked by a local man who has followed him on the campaign trail, bombarding him with questions about his personal life.

Mr Joyce's wife and daughters have been absent from the campaign and his party last night, but Nationals colleagues including Damian Drum, Andrew Broad and Cabinet minister Darren Chester spent the day handing out how-to-vote cards in the rain.

With a threat of an election-day shooting, police were on guard at polling booths across the electorate.

A bullet and a note threatening a shooting was reportedly found on one school premises and another bullet was sent early in November to Joyce's Tamworth electorate office.

Despite the strong swing, Mr Joyce looked like a defeated man while casting his vote with his parents, admitting it hadn't been an easy campaign.

"It's been a very long campaign," he said. "I wouldn't want (it) to go on for another couple of weeks."

Coalition of chaos: Page 53



MARKLE SPARKLE: Meghan Markle has eyes only for fiance Prince Harry. Picture: AP

The royal look of love

STEVEN SCOTT

THE eyes definitely have it.

While the world's newest princess-in-waiting was clearly focused on being the perfect royal, it was the look of love between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle that had everyone talking.

Ms Markle couldn't take her eyes off her new fiance as she charmed the crowd in a freezing British regional city just four days after their engagement.

Officially, it was Prince Harry who was introducing his bride-to-be to Nottingham in the Midlands.

But everyone there was really waiting to see one person — the American TV star and divorcee who had just accepted Prince Harry's proposal.

Ms Markle did not disappoint.

Majesty magazine managing editor Joe Little said her appearance was highly successful.

"I don't recall another occasion when a royal bride-to-be was put to work in such a short time," Mr Little said.

"It would have been something that she and Prince Harry had chosen to do. It was a very good impression at a very early stage."

Kate Middleton waited more than three months after her engagement to Prince William before she ventured out on a formal engagement.

Former Buckingham Palace press secretary Dickie Arbiter said that Ms Markle was clearly comfortable in the limelight.

Under fire Rush quits arts academy

JONATHON MORAN

ACADEMY Award-winning actor Geoffrey Rush yesterday stood down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema, Television and Arts 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 Rebel Wilson last week.



Geoffrey Rush

"AACTA acknowledges the decision today of Geoffrey Rush to voluntarily step aside 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."

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

Foxtel executive director of television Brian Walsh has notified the board of his resignation. Foxtel and Channel 7 are the broadcast partners of the event and are understood to have contacted AACTA on Friday with concerns about Rush's position as well as his participation in the ceremony.



Actor Geoffrey Rush at his press conference in Melbourne. Picture: Jay Town

NSW

Actor Geoffrey Rush launches court action over Sydney Theatre Company claims

Sally Rawsthorne, The Daily Telegraph
December 8, 2017 3:45pm

MELBOURNE actor Geoffrey Rush has fronted for the first time since being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" while starring in a Sydney play, saying coverage of the case was "demeaning" and "hurtful".

The character actor refused to take questions but delivered a solemn statement about the Sydney Theatre Company claims, revealed by The Daily Telegraph.

Rush stood with his lawyer to declare that he would launch legal action over the reports in The Daily Telegraph.

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said. He said The Daily Telegraph had made "false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages".



Rush stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community."

The Daily Telegraph stands by its reporting of the complaint made against Rush during his last stint at the STC for the production of King Lear.

Editor Christopher Dore said the newspaper would defend its accurate reporting in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," Mr Dore said.

"We will defend our position in court."

At the centre of the drama was a complaint revealed by the STC made by one of its actors against Rush.

The STC told The Daily Telegraph that it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" after the 2015 production of the Shakespeare play.

The nation's premier theatre company said it would protect the identity of the complainant and would work to "minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace".

Rush subsequently stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced.

Lawyer Nicholas Pullen yesterday said Rush, 66, would not answer questions.

The matter will go before the Federal Court in Sydney on February 8.

Originally published as 'Hurt' Rush launches court action over claims



Actor to take legal action

GEOFFREY Rush will bring defamation proceedings over allegations of inappropriate behaviour made against him.

The Oscar winner yesterday announced he would take action in the Federal Court against the *Daily Telegraph*, which published the story.

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said yesterday.

The 66-year-old has strongly denied the allegations, which date back to a Sydney Theatre Company performance of *King Lear* in 2015.

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said Rush was unable to answer questions about the case.

He announced the legal proceedings at the offices of law firm HWL Ebsworth in Melbourne.

Daily Telegraph editor Christopher Dore said: "The *Daily Telegraph* accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour. We will defend our position in court." — AAP



Students start to feel the beat

RHYTHM SECTION: Wyonna Paul, 13, with fellow Ogilvie High School students after completing their drumming workshops. Picture: RICHARD JUPE

TEN weeks after many picked up a pair of drumsticks for the first time, a group of Ogilvie High School students has mastered an energetic style of drumming.

The School of Percussive Arts partnered with PCYC Hobart to offer a series of drumming workshops at the school.

The school's director Phillip Campbell said he taught the students the "drumline" technique, which fuses street rhythms with Swiss rudimental drumming.

"It's about the performance element as well," Mr Campbell said. "There's something about drumming and good costumes that gets people excited."

Mr Campbell said many of the students did not know each other very well when the drumming workshops started.

"Over that 10-week period the camaraderie just grew," he said. "[And] you can see the confidence starting to build.

"Drums ... are such a hands-on instrument that people can get simple patterns and really start to build on that and feel like they're getting somewhere. By the end we had a simple but very effective drum piece going on."

Mr Campbell said group drumming also required great discipline and listening skills.

"It's a great team-building experience," he said.

The Hobart City Council funded the workshops.



Shares beat out property price rises

ANTHONY KEANE

AUSTRALIA'S share market is improving at twice the pace of house prices and its winning performance is tipped to continue in the year ahead.

Data from the Australian Securities Exchange and CoreLogic show that while share prices rose almost 11 per cent in the year to December, home prices nationally have climbed an average 5.2 per cent — halving from their annual growth rate of 10.4 per cent in May.

A sinking Sydney housing market — which has been hit by stretched affordability, rising supply and crackdowns on risky mortgages and investment loans — is the main reason for property's poorer performance.

Investment returns from both shares and property look better when their dividend and rental incomes are added, rising 15 per cent and 9 per cent respectively in the past year — way above returns from cash savings that are near 2 per cent.

CoreLogic's head of research for Australia, Cameron Kusher, said Sydney's 0.7 per cent drop in home values last month had lowered its annual growth to 5 per cent and was likely to fall further, while Melbourne's current 10 per cent growth was expected to slow down or potentially fall.

"Slower growth or falls in the two largest housing markets in the country is likely to slow the headline (national) rate of growth further over the next 12 months," he said.

"Even if every other capital city saw an acceleration in value growth — not something that we are expecting — it would likely not be enough to offset the slowdown in Sydney and Melbourne."

Hobart's property market has been leading the nation for growth during the second half of the year.

In contrast, share markets around the world are climbing and most forecasters say 2018 is looking positive, albeit with increased risks in some countries, such as the record-breaking US.

Catapult Wealth director Tony Catt said the world was now showing synchronised growth after the painful post-global financial crisis years.

"We've finally cracked it," he said.

"Alternatives such as residential and commercial property don't look that enticing and I think for the share market the weight of money will be there."

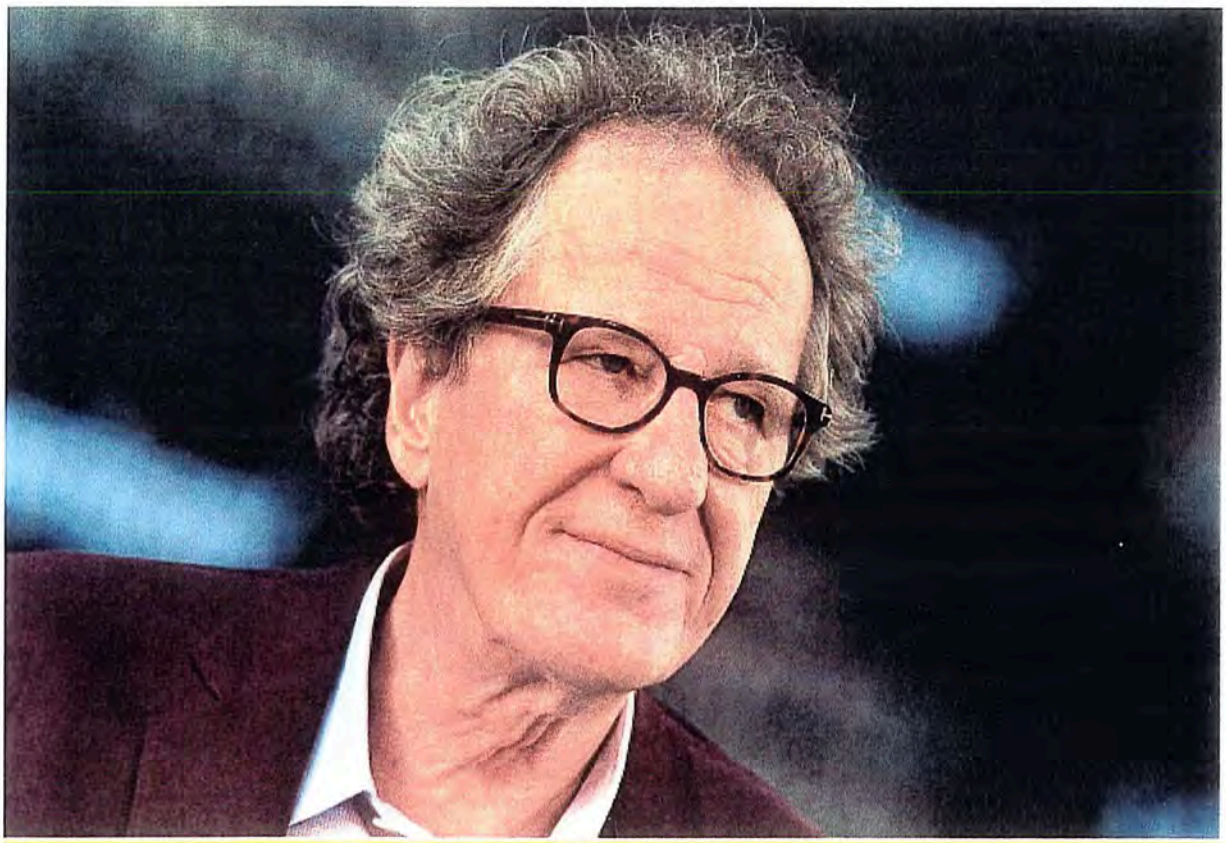
Mr Catt said the share market's growth this year had been driven by resources, mining services and healthcare companies.

AMP Capital has predicted total investment returns from Australian shares to be about 8 per cent next year, but estimated residential property to be just 1.5 per cent.

Business: Pages 40-42

Geoffrey Rush accused of 'inappropriate behavior'

By Tamar Lapin November 30, 2017 | 8:54am



Geoffrey Rush
FilmMagic

Academy Award winner Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behavior" while acting in a production of "King Lear," according to new reports.

The Sydney Theatre Company says it received a complaint from a staffer a little under two years ago relating to Rush's time on the production that ran from November 2015 to January 2016, the Daily Telegraph reported.

"Sydney Theater Company received a complaint alleging that Mr. Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behavior," a spokeswoman for the prestigious theater company said. "The Company received the complaint when Mr. Rush's engagement with the Company had ended."

The accuser asked to remain anonymous and did not want Rush to be notified or involved in any investigation — and the company did not expand upon what "inappropriate behavior" Rush allegedly engaged in.

Rush, 66, staunchly denied the allegations — although he isn't entirely sure what they are referring to.

"In this current environment, 'inappropriate behavior' may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity," his lawyers said in a statement to Page Six.

"These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must be made clear from the outset that Mr. Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

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But two actors who appeared in the production backed up the accuser.

"I was in the show," actor Meyne Raoul Wyatt wrote on Facebook, according to the Daily Telegraph. "I believe (the person who) has come forward. It's time for Sydney Theatre Company and the industry in Australia and worldwide as a whole to make a stand on this behaviour!!!!"

"It wasn't a misunderstanding. It wasn't a joke," tweeted actor Brandon McClelland, the paper reports.

Rush also released a statement saying he'd contacted the theater company when he heard "rumors of a complaint" and asked for clarification about the allegations.

"They refused to illuminate me with the details," he said.

"I also asked why this information was being withheld and why, according to standard theater practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level," he added. "However, no response was forthcoming."

Rush won the Oscar for best actor in 1997 for the film "Shine," and has also won an Emmy and a Tony.

FILED UNDER **GEOFFREY RUSH**

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AACTA awards: Crisis talks over Geoffrey Rush allegations

GEOFFREY Rush has stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts in the wake of this week's allegations of inappropriate behaviour.

Amelia Saw, with AP

News Corp Australia Network DECEMBER 2, 2017 3:35PM

advertisement



An agent for former STC artistic director Andrew Upton stated Upton was unaware of the complaint made against Geoffrey Rush until this week. *Source:Getty Images*

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush has stepped down as president of Australia's screen industry academy after the Sydney Theatre Company revealed it had received a complaint against the actor of "inappropriate behaviour."

Rush announced on Saturday that he was stepping down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) ahead of the academy's annual awards on Wednesday.

Rush has said in a statement to the Associated Press he's stepping down "effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved."

AACTA says in a statement it accepted and respected Rush's decision to voluntarily step aside as president.



Geoffrey Rush in rehearsal for the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear. *Source:Supplied*

AACTA held crisis talks on Thursday in the wake of the accusations.

Rush, who has denied the allegations made by a female co-star during the Sydney Theatre Company (STC)'s production of *King Lear*, was due to open AACTA's prestigious 7th annual awards ceremony on Wednesday.

The AACTA board met on Thursday while executives debated how to proceed.

"They hope it will blow over," a source said.

"But they are really not sure what to do."

Board members include Mark Morrissey, Noni Hazlehurst, Brian Walsh, Margaret Pomeranz and Alan Finney.

Until the allegations were made public on Wednesday by *The Daily Telegraph*, AACTA planned to open the televised awards night with a prerecorded video featuring Rush and comedian Rebel Wilson.

AACTA declined to comment on whether it intends to proceed with airing the video which reportedly cost thousands to make.

Board members also declined to comment last night.

It also remains unknown whether Rush will walk the red carpet on Wednesday.

Although unrelated to the scandal surrounding Rush, Wilson has also been surrounded by controversy this year after she successfully took magazine giant Bauer media to court for defamation and was awarded millions of dollars in damages.

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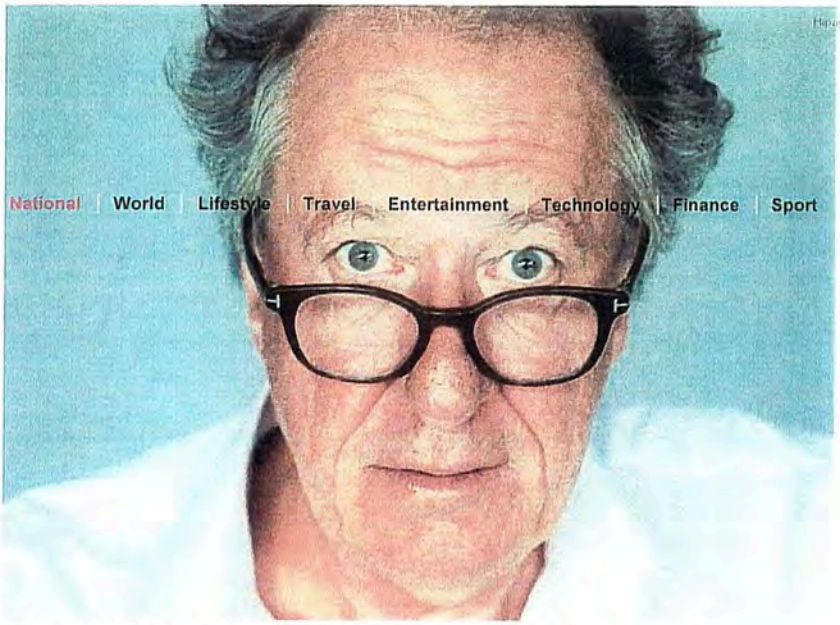


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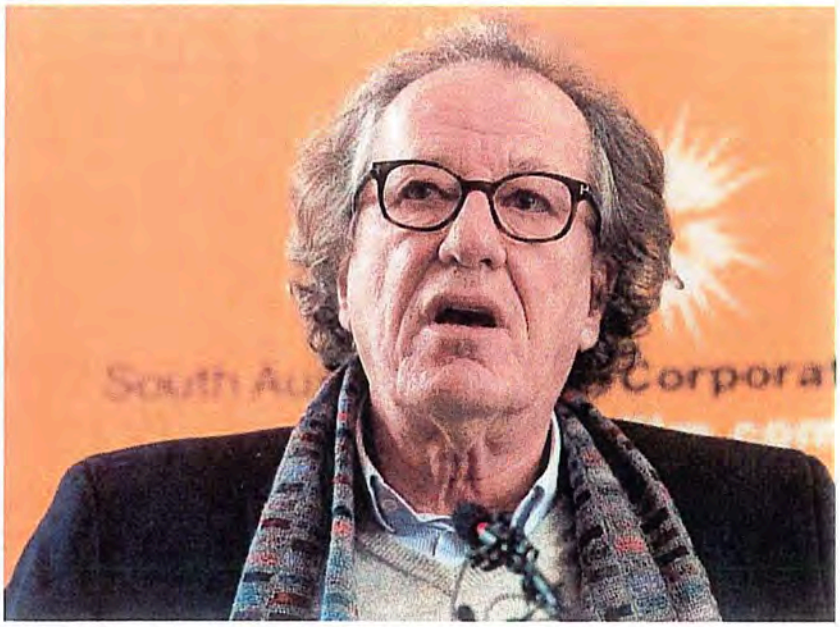
It remains unknown whether Rush will walk the red carpet on Wednesday. *Source:News Corp Australia*



Former *Neighbours* star Meyne Wyatt, who starred in the *King Lear* production with Rush, has taken to social media to confirm he believes his female castmate and has called on Australia's entertainment bodies to stamp out sexual harassment and other inappropriate behaviour.

And fellow actor Brandon McClelland, who worked alongside the actress who made the complaint against Rush, urged other to believe the complaints: "It wasn't a misunderstanding."

In this statement, released exclusively to News Corp, an agent for former STC artistic director Andrew Upton, stated Upton was unaware of the complaint made against Rush until aired in the media this week.



Geoffrey Rush has denied the allegations. *Source:AAP*

Upton is married to national treasure Cate Blanchett, who is also an AACTA ambassador and has worked closely with Rush on numerous productions including *Elizabeth* and *Oscar and Lucinda*.

The statement read: "Andrew Upton programmed *King Lear* in 2014 as part of his final season as artistic director of the STC. He and his family moved to the UK shortly after Christmas 2015 so that the children could start school.

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"The complaint in regard to Mr. Rush, of which Andrew was unaware, was registered after *King Lear* had closed in 2016."

In November, AACTA issued a public statement in the wake of various international scandals about its own standards.

"AACTA's aim is to recognise, encourage, promote and celebrate film and television excellence in Australia. We also recognise our role in working with our members in upholding standards in our industry that we can all be proud of, including the provision of a safe and respectful workplace," read the statement.

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awards

Rachel Griffiths defends Geoffrey Rush amid allegations

AUSSIE actress Rachel Griffiths has defended Geoffrey Rush — who faces allegations of inappropriate behaviour — during her appearance at the AACTA Awards.

Staff Writer

News Corp Australia Network DECEMBER 6, 2017 11:27PM

Video Image



7th Annual AACTA Red Carpet Glitz and Glamour

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AUSSIE actress Rachel Griffiths has defended Geoffrey Rush, saying the Oscar winner "is not Harvey Weinstein".

Griffiths referenced the Hollywood mogul — who faces multiple allegations of sexual misconduct — on the red carpet at tonight's Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Awards in Sydney.

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Rachel Griffiths arrives at the AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) Awards. *Source:AAP*

"Geoffrey Rush is not Harvey Weinstein and I have had more than a handful of interactions with Harvey Weinstein," Griffiths told the ABC on the red carpet.

Rush stepped down as AACTA president amid allegations of inappropriate behaviour during the STC production of King Lear in late 2015.

Griffiths told the ABC that although the topic of inappropriate behaviour across industries needed to be addressed, "nobody likes to be tried in the public square".

Rush has denied the allegations.

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celebrity life

Geoffrey Rush responds to allegations of inappropriate behaviour

ONE week after being hit by claims of inappropriate behaviour, Geoffrey Rush has fronted press to address the allegations.

James Weir @hellojamesweir

DECEMBER 8, 2017 2:22PM

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Geoffrey Rush breaks his silence at Friday's press conference. Picture: Jay Town *Source:News Corp Australia*

VETERAN Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has broken his silence on the allegations of inappropriate behaviour being made against him, dubbing the claims "intolerable" and announcing he's filed a defamation lawsuit.

Rush, 66, faced media in Melbourne on Friday where he denied the claims that allegedly occurred during his time with the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear in 2015.

The actor said he would be taking legal action against *The Daily Telegraph* for publishing reports about the claims, which he dubbed "false", "demeaning", and "intolerable".

"It is an action I'm taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community," he said.

"This has created irreparable damage to my reputation, has been extremely hurtful to my wife, my daughter and my son and to my extended family as well as to many colleagues in the film, told vision and theatre industry.

"The situation is intolerable and I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts."

Following the statement, Rush did not take questions from reporters. The matter will go before the Federal Court in Sydney on February 8.

In response to Rush's decision, *The Daily Telegraph's* editor Chris Dore defended the newspaper's decison to publish the story.

"*The Daily Telegraph* accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," Dore said.

"We will defend our position in court."



'Intolerable' Geoffrey addresses the claims on Friday. *Source:News Corp Australia*

Today's press conference is Rush's first public appearance since the claims were reported.

Following last week's reports of the incident, The Sydney Theatre Company confirmed it received a complaint but would not disclose details of the allegations.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation," a statement read. The theatre company said it complied "in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."



Geoffrey Rush makes his first media appearance since the claims. *Source:News Corp Australia*

Soon after the allegations were reported, Rush stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards, just days before the

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organisation's seventh ceremony. He was absent from Wednesday's televised event in Sydney, where stars dodged questions from reporters about the allegations.

When asked about the claims being leveled against Rush, Australian actress Rachel Griffiths said the actor "is not Harvey Weinstein" — referencing the Hollywood mogul who faces multiple allegations of sexual misconduct.

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"Geoffrey Rush is not Harvey Weinstein and I have had more than a handful of interactions with Harvey Weinstein," Griffiths told the ABC on the red carpet.

The veteran actor received acclaim for his breakthrough performance in the 1996 film *Shine*, which earnt him an Academy Award, Golden Globe and BAFTA.

Rush is one of Australia's most respected exports, starring in acclaimed films like *Shakespeare in Love* , *Elizabeth* and *The King's Speech.*

— with AAP

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Geoffrey Rush announces he will bring defamation action over allegations of inappropriate behaviour

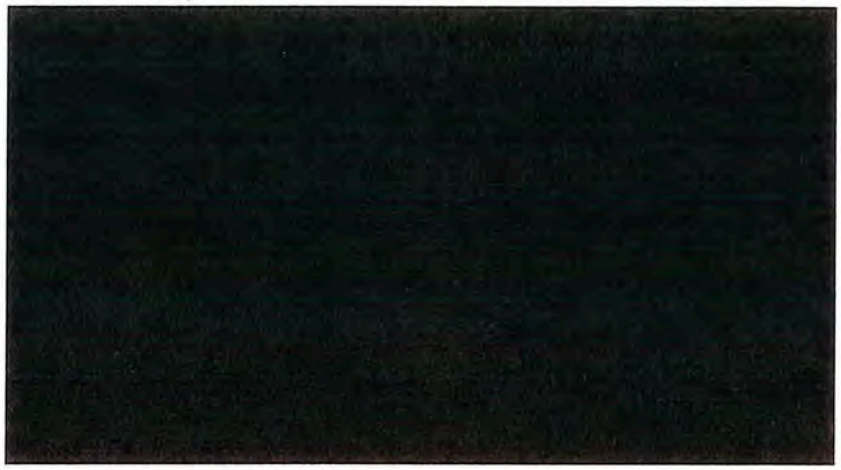
GEOFFREY RUSH will take legal action over allegations of inappropriate behaviour while he was working at the Sydney Theatre Company.

Danielle McGrane, AAP

DECEMBER 8, 2017 4:57PM

Video Image

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Behind-the-scenes at the Pirates of the Caribbean Gold Coast set

GEOFFREY RUSH will bring defamation proceedings over allegations of inappropriate behaviour made against him.

The Oscar winner today announced that he would take action in the Federal Court against the *Daily Telegraph*, which published the story.



Geoffrey Rush at today's press conference in Melbourne. Picture: AAP *Source:AAP*



Actor Geoffrey Rush before speaking to the media today. Picture: Stuart McEvoy *Source:News Corp Australia*

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said.

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

Reece Hooker
@ReeceJHooker

Geoffrey Rush: "I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts."
3:02 PM - Dec 8, 2017
1 4 8

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said Rush was unable to answer questions about the case.

He announced the legal proceedings today at the offices of law firm HWL Ebsworth in Melbourne.



Rush won an Oscar for Shine. AP Photo/Reed Saxon *Source:AP*

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Rush with Johnny Depp in Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides. *Source:Supplied*

The veteran actor's breakthrough performance in the 1996 film *Shine*, earnt him an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA.

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

Rush, 66, lives in Melbourne with his wife.

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

"We will defend our position in court."

READ MORE: OSCAR WINNER DENIES INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Originally published as Rush to take action over allegations

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Actor Geoffrey Rush launches court action over Sydney Theatre Company claims

UPDATE: Actor Geoffrey Rush has fronted for the first time since being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" while starring in a Sydney play, saying coverage of the case was "demeaning" and "hurtful".

Sally Rawsthorne

DECEMBER 8, 2017 3:45PM

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Actor Geoffrey Rush at his press conference in Melbourne. Picture: Jay Town *Source:News Corp Australia*

MELBOURNE actor Geoffrey Rush has fronted for the first time since being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" while starring in a Sydney play, saying coverage of the case was "demeaning" and "hurtful".

The character actor refused to take questions but delivered a solemn statement about the Sydney Theatre Company claims, revealed by The Daily Telegraph.

Rush stood with his lawyer to declare that he would launch legal action over the reports in The Daily Telegraph.

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said. He said The Daily Telegraph had made "false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages".

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Rush stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced. Picture: Stuart McEvoy *Source:News Corp Australia*

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community."

The Daily Telegraph stands by its reporting of the complaint made against Rush during his last stint at the STC for the production of King Lear.

Editor Christopher Dore said the newspaper would defend its accurate reporting in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," Mr Dore said.

"We will defend our position in court."

At the centre of the drama was a complaint revealed by the STC made by one of its actors against Rush.

The STC told The Daily Telegraph that it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" after the 2015 production of the Shakespeare play.

The nation's premier theatre company said it would protect the identity of the complainant and would work to "minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace".

Rush subsequently stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced.

Lawyer Nicholas Pullen yesterday said Rush, 66, would not answer questions.

The matter will go before the Federal Court in Sydney on February 8.

Originally published as 'Hurt' Rush launches court action over claims

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media

`aily 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.

AAP MARCH 20, 2018 11:13AM



Actor Geoffrey Rush is suing over an article published by the Daily Telegraph. *Source:News Corp Australia*

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.

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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.

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Actress agrees to testify for Daily Telegraph in Geoffrey Rush lawsuit

The actress at the centre of a sexual harassment complaint against Geoffrey Rush has broken her silence and agreed to testify for The Daily Telegraph in the newspaper's defence of a defamation lawsuit by the Hollywood actor, a court was told today.

FIONA WINGETT

AUGUST 3, 2018 11:42AM



Actor Geoffrey Rush sued The Daily Telegraph last December. Picture: Stuart McEvoy *Source:News Corp Australia*

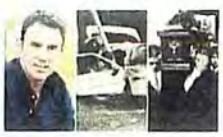
The actress at the centre of a sexual harassment complaint against Geoffrey Rush has broken her silence and agreed to testify for The Daily Telegraph in the newspaper's defence of a defamation lawsuit by the Hollywood actor, a court was told today.

Eryn Jean Norvill co-starred with Mr Rush in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear from November 2015 to January 2016.

Mr Rush, 67, sued the newspaper last December over its coverage of a sexual harassment complaint lodged with the STC by Ms Norvill. Mr Rush said the articles were false and has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

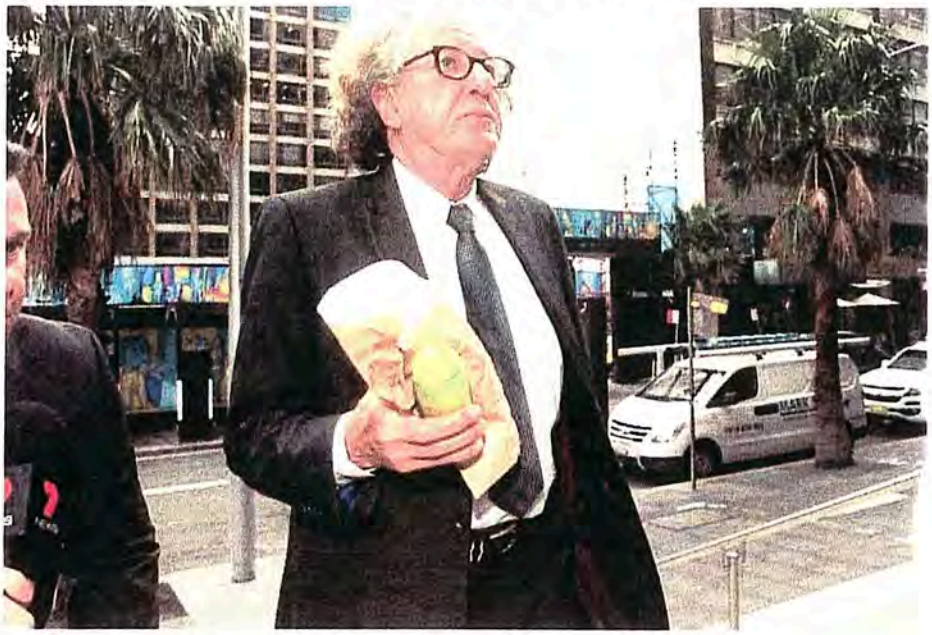
The Federal Court was told today a statement by Ms Norvill forms the basis of an application by The Daily Telegraph to the Federal Court to amend its defence document to include the defence of truth.


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Geoffrey Rush has denied all wrongdoing. Picture: Brendan Esposito *Source:AAP*

This is the first time Ms Norvill has spoken publicly about the matter.

Justice Michael Wigney threw out the newspaper's original truth defence in March on the basis that it was "plainly deficient" and lacked sufficient detail as to the precise nature of the behaviour that gave rise to Ms Norvill's complaint to the STC.

Alec Leopold SC, counsel for Nationwide News Pty Ltd (publisher of The Daily Telegraph) told the court this morning the publishing company had "acted without delay" to apply to amend its defence as soon as Ms Norvill's statement became available.

Sue Chrysanthou, counsel for Geoffrey Rush said her client would oppose The Daily Telegraph's attempt to amend its defence to include the truth defence, based on Ms Norvill's statement.

Ms Chrysanthou said Geoffrey Rush had witnesses who would "directly contradict what she (Ms Norvill) has said (in her statement to the court)."

Justice Wigney said he will hear Nationwide News' application to amend its defence Thursday next week.

His Honour described the new development in the case as a "significant application."

He said he would not yet release Ms Norvill's statement to the public because he did not want there to be a "trial by media".

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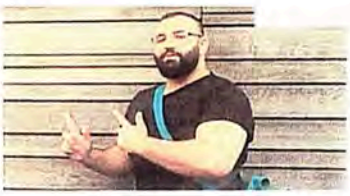
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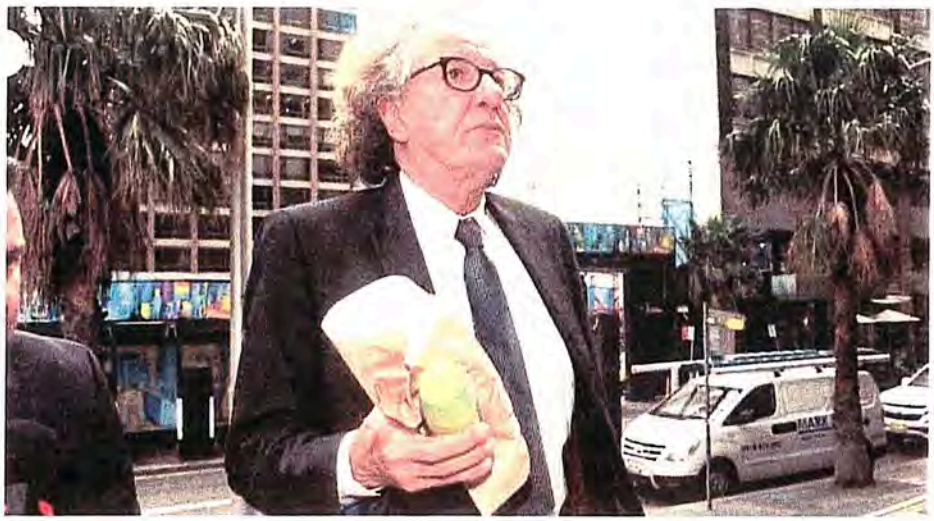


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The Daily Telegraph allowed to use truth defence in Geoffrey Rush defamation lawsuit

THE Daily Telegraph has succeeded in amending its defence in a defamation lawsuit brought against the newspaper by actor Geoffrey Rush over a series of articles last year about a sexual harassment complaint.

AUGUST 9, 2018 **11:25AM**



The Daily Telegraph will now rely solely on the defence of truth or "justification" in its defamation case lawsuit brought against the actor by Geoffrey Rush. Picture: AAP Image/Brendan Esposito *Source:AAP*

HE Daily Telegraph has succeeded in amending its defence in a defamation lawsuit brought against the newspaper by actor Geoffrey Rush over a series of articles last year about a sexual harassment complaint.

During a hearing at the Federal Court in Sydney today, Justice Michael Wigney heard that both sides had agreed that the newspaper should be allowed to reinstate its truth defence.

The testimony of Eryn Jean Norvill, the actress at the centre of the complaint against Mr Rush, will now be admitted as evidence.

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The newspaper has agreed to drop its defence of qualified privilege. It will now rely solely on the defence of truth or "justification" as it defends the libel action.

Justice Wigney said the trial — where both Mr Rush and Ms Norvill will give evidence — will now take place over 13 days beginning on October 22.

Ms Norvill co-starred with Mr Rush in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear from November 2015 to January 2016.



The testimony of actress Eryn Jean Norvill will now be admitted as evidence. Picture: AAP Image/Brendan Esposito *Source:AAP*

Mr Rush sued the newspaper last December over its coverage of the complaint lodged with the STC by Ms Norvill. Mr Rush said the articles were false and defamatory.

atement by Ms Norvill, lodged with the court last week, which detail the harassment allegations formed the basis of the application by The Daily Telegraph to amend its defence document to include the defence of truth.

Justice Wigney threw out the newspaper's original truth defence in March on the basis that it was "plainly deficient" and lacked sufficient detail as to the precise nature of the behaviour that gave rise to Ms Norvill's complaint to the STC. That truth defence has now been reinstated.

Alec Leopold, SC, counsel for Nationwide News Pty Ltd (publisher of The Daily Telegraph) told the court that the newspaper will show Mr Rush engaged in a number of incidents of sexual harassment including "touching on her breast and lower back."

He said there will be corroborating evidence to back up Ms Norvill's claims.

Sue Chrysanthou, counsel for Geoffrey Rush, said her client's decision not to oppose the newspaper's application to include the truth defence should not be seen as any concession by Mr Rush.

as "not a concession by Mr Rush that the pleading is any good," she said.

Ms Chrysanthou said Mr Rush is suffering "continuing trauma because of these proceedings."

She said any delay is "intolerable" to the actor.

"He is ready to come to court .... and that is the reason why the application is not opposed."

Ms Chrysanthou said the newspaper had yet to explain why it took Ms Norvill several months to come forward with her evidence.

Mr Leopold said Ms Norvill's initial reluctance to come forward was understandable given the disparity between her position and Mr Rush's position among actors.

He said it is understandable that someone in the acting world who is at the centre of allegations concerning an "icon" of the Australian theatre industry was "reluctant to come out to speak."

Originally published as Truth defence allowed in Geoffrey Rush defamation lawsuit

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Actress Eryn Norvill says Geoffrey Rus 'groping' during rehearsals

THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the star actor simulated groping her breasts in front of colleagues and made lewd gestures towards her, according to new court documents.

FIONA WINGETT

AUGUST 11, 2018 6:13AM

THE actress at the centre of a defamation case brought by Geoffrey Rush alleges the actor simulated groping her breasts in front of colleagues and made lewd gestures towards her, according to new court documents.

Mr Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph over articles about a complaint of inappropriate behaviour Eryn Jean Norvill made relating to the time they appeared in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear between 2015 and 2016.


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Geoffrey Rush during a court break. Picture: AAP *Source:AAP*

He has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

In a defence document lodged with the Federal Court this week, the newspaper provided details of the truth case it will run at trial which is based on allegations made by Ms Norvill, who will now give evidence for The Daily Telegraph at the trial.

In the document, The Daily Telegraph claims Ms Norvill's evidence will show Mr Rush "engaged in conduct of a kind in which only a pervert would engage".



ıe newspaper has alleged that during a rehearsal in October 2015 Mr Rush made "groping gestures in the air with two cupped hands" that simulated "fondling" Ms Norvill's breasts.

The newspaper alleged Mr Rush would regularly make inappropriate comments about Ms Norvill and would make lewd gestures in her direction.



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Actress Eryn Norvill in rehearsals with Chris Ryan for a production of the Arthur Miller play All My Sons for the Sydney tre Company. Picture: John Fotiadis *Source:News Corp Australia*



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The defence also describes how between 24 and 27 November, 2015, Mr Rush allegedly touched Ms Norvill's breast during preview performances in front of an audience.

The newspaper has alleged that in the second half of December 2015, Mr Rush had moved his hand under Ms Norvill's shirt and along the waistline of her jeans to touch the skin of her lower back in a "deliberate" way when they were about to go onstage.

On Thursday, The Daily Telegraph succeeded in amending its defence to plead truth.

Mr Rush's barrister Sue Chrysanthou did not to oppose the newspaper's application to include the truth defence but said it should not be seen as acceptance of the claim by him.

The trial is set for October 22.

Originally published as Daily Telegraph says Geoffrey Rush simulated 'groping'

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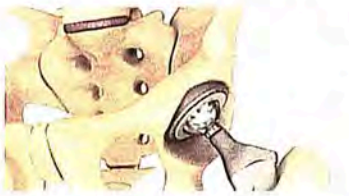
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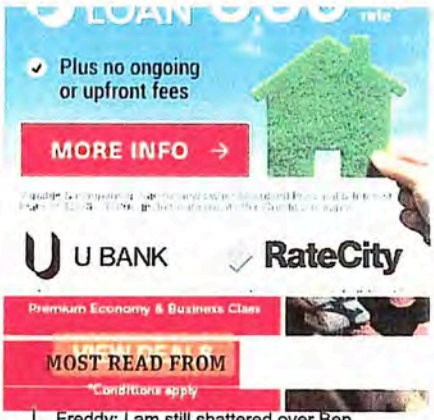
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Actor Geoffrey Rush at his press conference in Melbourne. Picture: Jay Town

NSW

Actor Geoffrey Rush launches court action over Sydney Theatre Company claims

Sally Rawsthorne, The Daily Telegraph
December 8, 2017 3:45pm

MELBOURNE actor Geoffrey Rush has fronted for the first time since being accused of "inappropriate behaviour" while starring in a Sydney play, saying coverage of the case was "demeaning" and "hurtful".

The character actor refused to take questions but delivered a solemn statement about the Sydney Theatre Company claims, revealed by The Daily Telegraph.

Rush stood with his lawyer to declare that he would launch legal action over the reports in The Daily Telegraph.

"I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts," Rush said. He said The Daily Telegraph had made "false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages".



Rush stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community."

The Daily Telegraph stands by its reporting of the complaint made against Rush during his last stint at the STC for the production of King Lear.

Editor Christopher Dore said the newspaper would defend its accurate reporting in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," Mr Dore said.

"We will defend our position in court."

At the centre of the drama was a complaint revealed by the STC made by one of its actors against Rush.

The STC told The Daily Telegraph that it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" after the 2015 production of the Shakespeare play.

The nation's premier theatre company said it would protect the identity of the complainant and would work to "minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace".

Rush subsequently stepped down as the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts after the allegation surfaced.

Lawyer Nicholas Pullen yesterday said Rush, 66, would not answer questions.

The matter will go before the Federal Court in Sydney on February 8.

Originally published as 'Hurt' Rush launches court action over claims



Defamation case to trial

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush's defamation claim against *The Daily Telegraph* will go to trial in August, a court heard yesterday.

In the interim, *The Daily Telegraph* will consider appealing a preliminary judgment in which Justice Michael Wigney struck out parts of its defence to the legal action. Mr Rush is suing the *Telegraph* after it reported his co-star in a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear lodged a complaint with the STC over Mr Rush's "inappropriate behaviour".

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

Fire victims turn angry

HUNDREDS of residents in the southern NSW coastal town of Tathra yesterday surveyed the devastation left by the weekend's blaze in which nearly 100 properties were incinerated.

As shock turned to anger, some residents claim there's been a lack of hazard reduction burns in the area.

However, NSW Rural Fire Service deputy commissioner Rob Rogers argues the inferno passed straight through a burn completed only two or three years ago. Academics are looking to "green fire breaks" — areas of less flammable vegetation including parkland, gardens or golf courses — to protect communities.

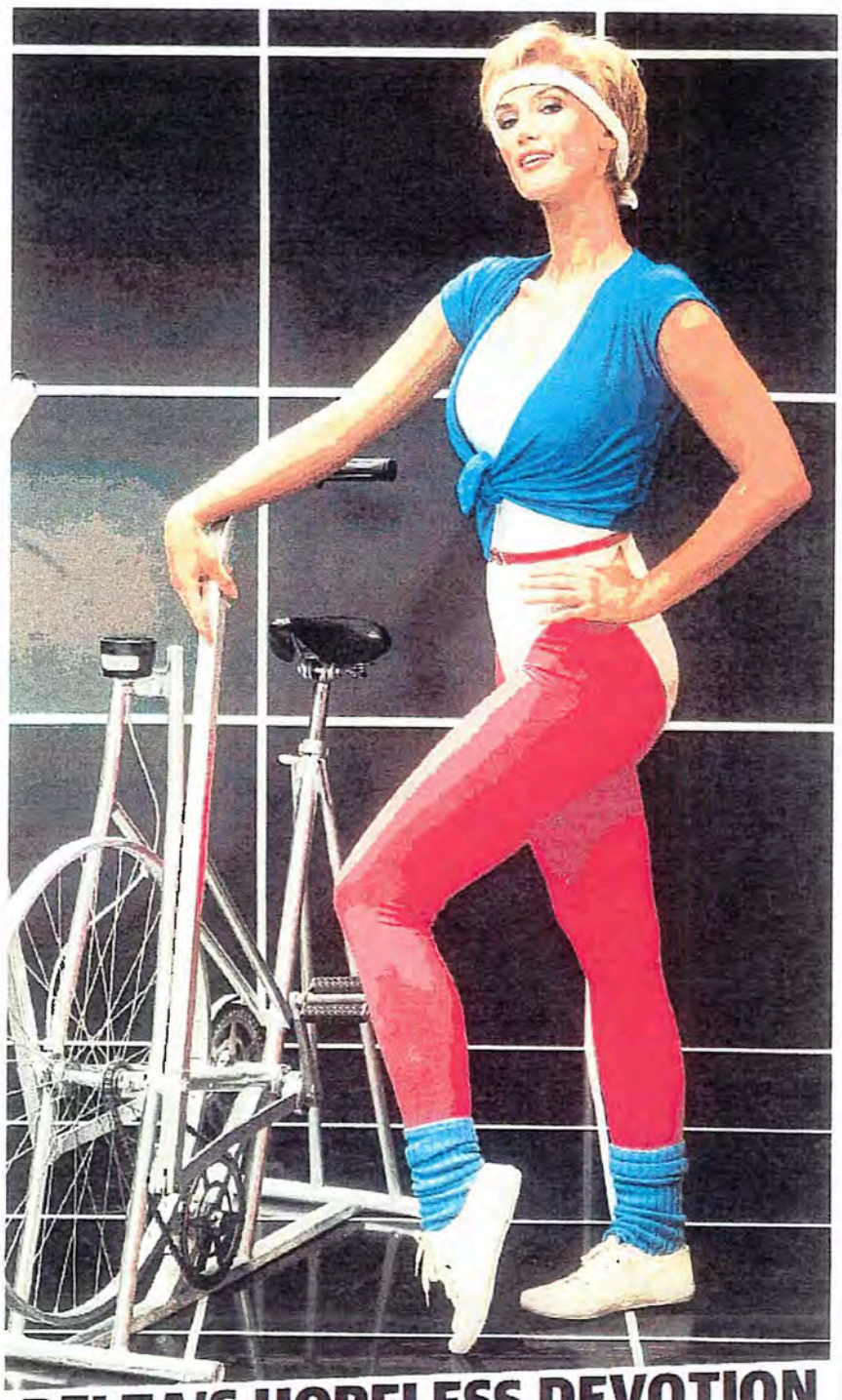
Listeria death toll rises to six

AN elderly NSW woman has become the sixth Australian to die in the rock melon-related listeria outbreak.

The woman in her 90s had significant underlying health conditions, NSW Health said in a statement yesterday.

Three Victorians and three people from NSW have now died as a result of the outbreak which was first revealed in February.

Nineteen people have been infected including the six who subsequently died.



DELTA'S HOPELESS DEVOTION

CAMERON ADAMS

DELTA Goodrem says playing Olivia Newton-John is the role of a lifetime.

"This is a project I couldn't be more excited for people to see," Goodrem said.

"I feel really proud of it. It's a celebration of an incredible woman who has inspired generations, including me. She will forever be my mentor and my idol and also my friend."

Channel 7's *Olivia: Hopelessly Devoted To You* is tipped to air after the Commonwealth Games ends in mid April.

That may see it screen directly up against Goodrem on *The Voice* on Channel 9, which is also rumoured to air mid April. While Newton-John has given the project her tick of approval, it still delves into the darker chapters of her life including the disappearance of ex-boyfriend Patrick McDermott.

Goodrem recreates iconic moments in Newton-John's career, including the musical *Grease* and the *Physical* video (*above*).

Goodrem is joined in the two-part series by Gyton Grantley (who plays her Australian manager Roger Davies, who now looks after Pink), George Xanthis as John Travolta, Todd Lasance as her early manager and boyfriend Lee Kramer, and Richard Brancatisano as husband Matt Lattanzi.

Labor's tax on rich 'to hurt all'

STEVEN WARDILL

NEW homebuyers will be stung for an extra $1000 and small business hit with annual rent hikes of $1500 under supposed "Robin Hood" tax increases to be introduced from July 1.

The first detailed analysis of Labor's election tax grabs on property has revealed the dual imposts will have a negative impact throughout the economy, reducing housing affordability and driving up business operating costs.

Property experts have warned the pain will compound the damage from tax hikes last term, including the absentee owner land tax surcharge which is hitting Queenslanders living and travelling overseas.

"With Queensland preparing to leverage the Commonwealth Games to attract new investment opportunities, these tax increases couldn't come at a worse time," Property Council Queensland director Chris Mountford said.

Labor insisted its proposed property tax hikes were "Robin Hood"-style revenue raising because only big business and the wealthy would be hit.

The slugs included a 25 per cent hike on land tax for holdings valued at more than $10 million and a steep increase in the foreign buyer stamp duty rates. But, developers warn land tax will climb steeply on greenfield residential projects and costs of about $1000 would be passed on to buyers.

"Each lot will wear a portion of those costs," Alder Constructions Greg Tupicoff said. "That's why I imagine that $800 to $1000 is about right."

AVID Property Group general manager Bruce Harper said the flow-on costs would differ between developments but affecting affordability was inevitable.

"At the end of the day cost pressures are already high on greenfield sites and this will be another impost," he said.

Many small and medium-sized business are tenants in properties that will be affected with the industry estimating annual leasing cost hikes of $1500 for a 500sq m space in Brisbane's CBD.

Meanwhile, the Government's land tax surcharge on absentee "foreign" landowners is hitting Queenslanders living and holidaying overseas.

Brisbane IT consultant Craig Smith, who is working in Fiji, said he had been advised the surcharge would apply to his two properties.

"I own two residential properties in Brisbane, hardly a real estate baron, and am struggling to understand the rationale to penalise Australian citizens who invest foreign-derived income back into their home state," he said.



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3/21/18 Townsville Bull. (Austl.) 23
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March 21, 2018

Section: News

Defamation case to trial

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush's defamation claim against The Daily Telegraph will go to trial in August, a court heard yesterday.

In the interim, The Daily Telegraph will consider appealing a preliminary judgment in which Justice Michael Wigney struck out parts of its defence to the legal action. Mr Rush is suing the Telegraph after it reported his co-star in a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear lodged a complaint with the STC over Mr Rush's "inappropriate behaviour".In the Federal Court Justice Wigney yesterday agreed with an application by Mr Rush's lawyers to remove "truth" from its defence of the star's claim.

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05))

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Edition: Townsville

Word Count: 104

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Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush, 3, denies a claim of 'inappropriate behaviour over months' on the set of King Lear theatre production in Sydney

- **Geoffrey Rush denies allegation of 'inappropriate behaviour' on King Lear set**
- **Misconduct allegedly went on for months of the Shakespeare play's 2015-16 run**
- **Alleged complaint received by Sydney Theatre Company after play's run ended**
- **Rush's lawyers have strenuously denied the claim against the Oscar-winning star**
- **Do you know more? Email tips@mailonline.com**

By NIC WHITE FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA
PUBLISHED: 23:53 AEST, 29 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 15:40 AEST, 8 December 2017

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Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has strenuously denied a claim of 'inappropriate behaviour' during a production of Shakespeare play King Lear.

Sydney Theatre Company (STC) said it received a complaint after the play's run was over in January 2016, and that the alleged misconduct went on for months.

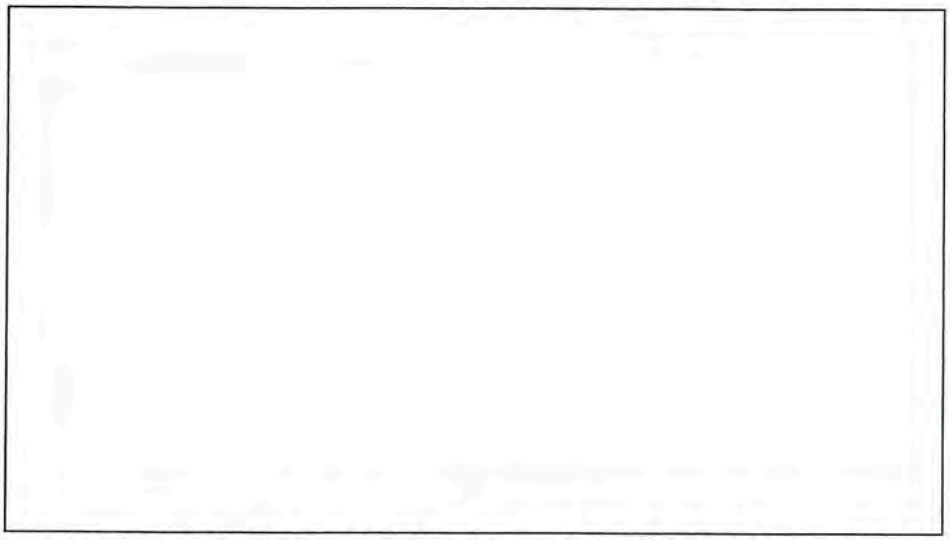
The Australian actor vigorously denied the claim, with his lawyers telling the Daily Telegraph he never heard of any alleged complaint from the Company or the complainant about the 'matter'.

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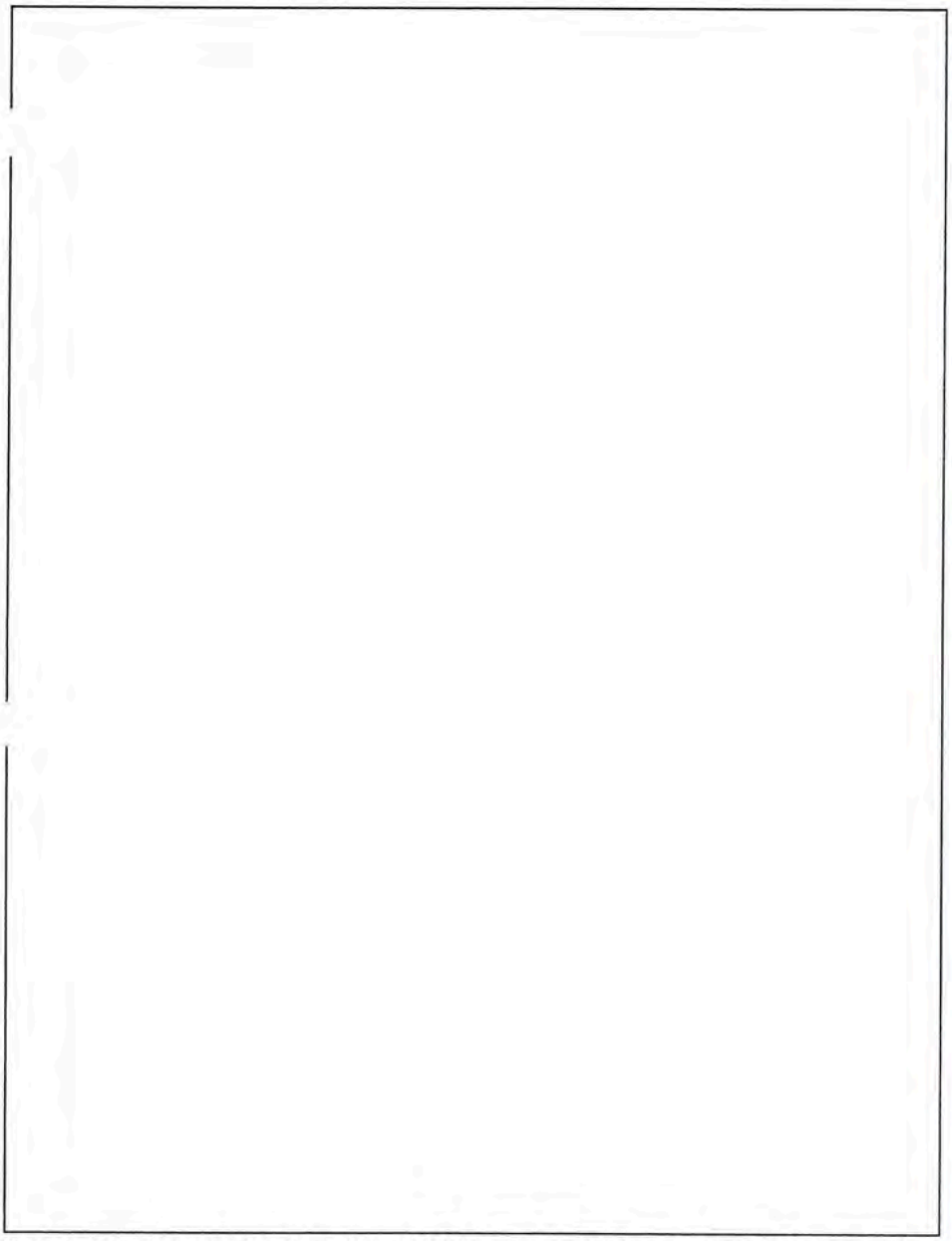
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Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush (right) has strenuously denied a claim of 'inappropriate behaviour' during a production of Shakespeare play King Lear (pictured)



Rush vigorously denied the claim, through his lawyers, saying he never heard of any alleged complaint from the Company or the complainant

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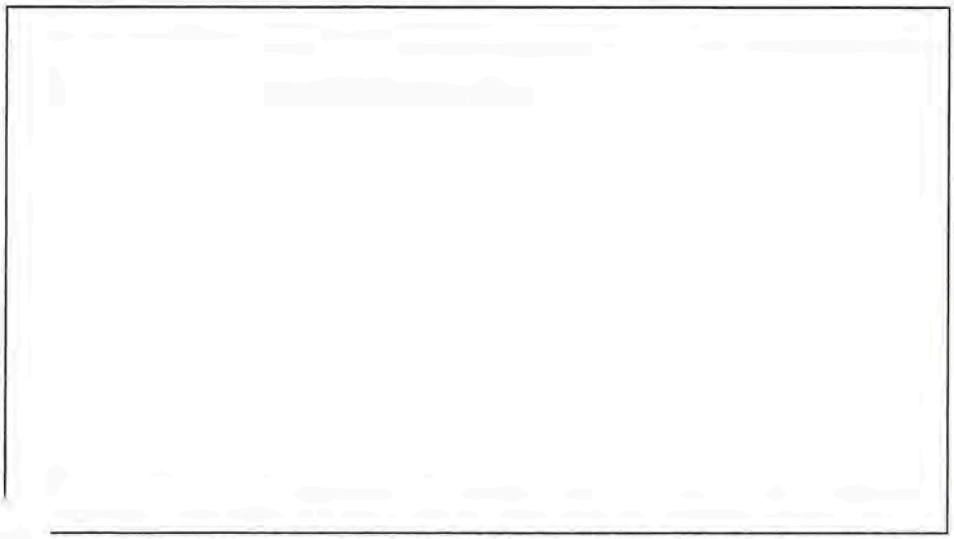
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STC said the alleged complainant requested to remain anonymous and it would thus not comment further.

The Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 in the Roslyn Packer Theatre starring Rush in the title role of King Lear.

's lawyers HWL Ebsworth said the 66-year-old was not approached by either the or the complainant, or representatives thereof, about a complaint.



hakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 in the Roslyn Packer Theatre starring Rush (centre, sitting) in the title role of King Lear

'Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves,' they said.

'In the circumstances, if such statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least.

'Your understanding of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded.

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'It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue.'

Daily Mail Australia contacted STC and HWL Ebsworth for further comment.

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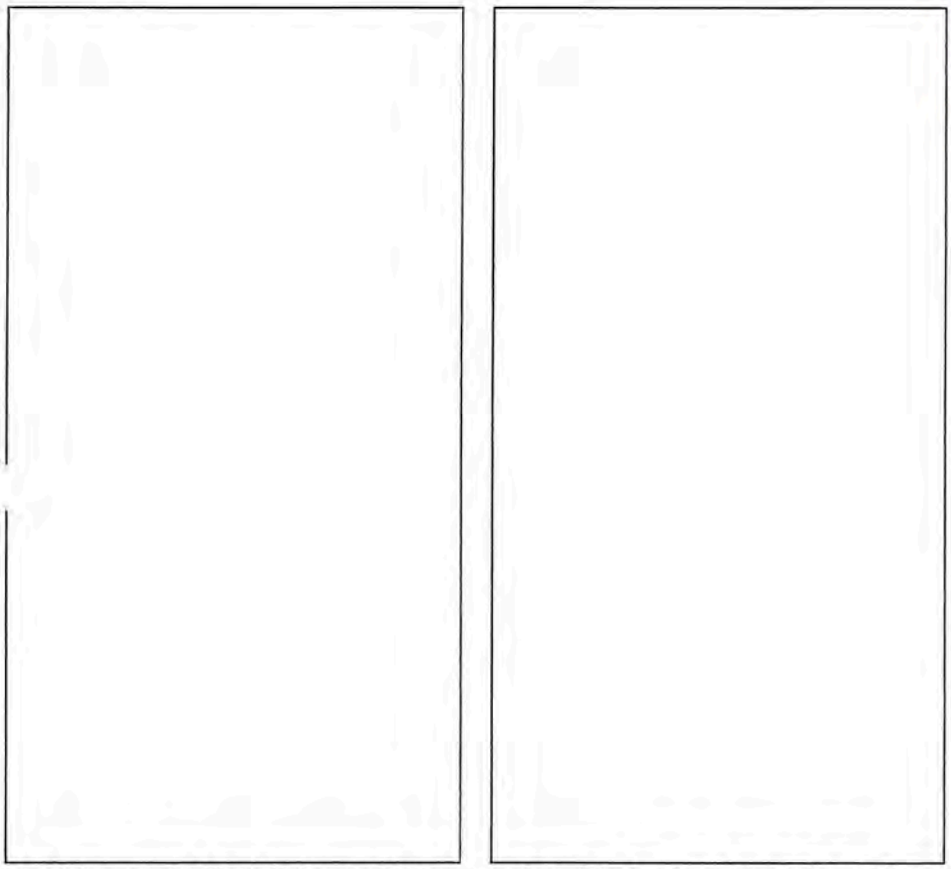
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Colin Farrell looks ruggedly handsome

Rush has been married to Jane Menelaus since 1988, with whom he has a daughter Angelica born in 1992, and a son James born in 1995.

He was named Australian of the Year in 2012 for his services to acting, having achieved the elusive 'triple crown' of winning an Oscar, Emmy and Tony award.



Rush (pictured with Nicole Kidman in 2015) was nominated for Academy Awards for roles in Shakespeare in Love, Quills, and most recently The King's Speech and won for Shine in 1996

Rush's performance in King Lear was praised by theatre critics even though they noted some flaws with the overall production.

'From the moment a bandy-legged, wobbly-limbed Rush ambles forward to utter theatre's most ill-fated demand – "Which of you shall we say doth love us most?" – he is neither too blustery or too brutish,' the Guardian wrote.

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'He told me to get off my a**e and stop whining': How Russell Crowe bagged a cancer survivor a film role, bought him vital medical care and

His career started on stage with the Queensland Theatre Company when his talent was spotted while he was studying at the University of Queensland.

Rush's first play was Wrong Side of the Moon in 1971 and he regularly performed on stage even after his film career began in 1981.

He only appeared in five films before his breakout role in 1996 as David Helfgott in Shine, for which he won an Oscar for best actor.

The thespian was later nominated for Academy Awards for roles in Shakespeare in Love, Quills, and most recently The King's Speech.

He also won two Golden Globes with three nominations, three BAFTAs, one Tony, one Emmy, and two Helpmann stage awards.

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Geoffrey Rush Denies 'Inappropriate Behavior' During Sydney Theatre Company Play



Geoffrey Rush Vincent Sandoval/Getty Images

MIKE MILLER November 29, 2017 09:31 PM

Geoffrey Rush is denying accusations of "inappropriate behavior" during his time with the Sydney Theatre Company (STC).

"The moment I became aware of rumors of a complaint I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company asking for

clarification about the details of the statement," the Academy Award said in a statement.

"They refused to illuminate me with the details. I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming," he added.

A Sydney Theatre Company spokeswoman reportedly said that they had "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behavior" after his "engagement with the company had ended," but did not elaborate on the nature of the complaint.

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"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld," the STC spokeswoman reportedly said, adding, "STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."

PEOPLE has reached out for further comment from both the STC and Rush's representatives but has yet to receive a response.

Rush, 66, recently performed in a production of Shakespeare's *King Lear* between November 2015 and January 2016 at the STC.

"It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," a representative for Rush said in a statement.

The Australian actor is known for his recurring role as Captain Barbossa in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise, and is among a small group of acclaimed actors who have won an Academy Award, Primetime Emmy Award and a Tony Award.

ENTERTAINMENT CELEBRITY 8:25am, Nov 30, 2017 Updated: 3:24pm, Dec 8

Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' claims



TND The New Daily @TheNewDailyAU

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Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush has denied allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during a Sydney Theatre Company production of Shakespeare's *King Lear*.

"It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way", said the Oscar winner's lawyer, Nicholas Pullen from HWL Ebsworth, in a statement provided to *The New Daily*.

The situation means this "is a highly stressful and frustrating time for Mr Rush and his family".

The *Pirates of the Caribbean* star, 66, said the Sydney Theatre

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

But the internationally-lauded company, which counts Cate Blanchett and Robyn Nevin as past artistic directors, "refused to illuminate me with the details", he added.

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

"However, no response was forthcoming."

The alleged behaviour occurred over several months during *King Lear*, News Corp reported. The production was staged from November 2015 to January 2016 and had months of rehearsals beforehand.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokeswoman said in a statement to *The New Daily*.

"The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended. The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace."

Later in the day, the STC sent *The New Daily* a second statement, clarifying the timeline of events and its position.

It said it was asked by a News Corp journalist earlier this month whether it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by Mr Rush while he was employed by the company.

"STC responded truthfully that it had received such a

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At the time of the complaint, said the STC, "the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation".

"STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare.

"STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

Rush's lawyers told News Corp in an earlier statement the actor had never been involved in "inappropriate behaviour" and his treatment of colleagues has always "been impeccable beyond reproach".

In the second statement, they said "at this stage" Rush "can only reiterate" his earlier denials of having been involved in any 'inappropriate behaviour' whatsoever.

"Whether on a film set or in the theatre, Mr Rush has always adhered to the finest professional principals in pursuit of his craft.

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

Melbourne-based Rush, who has two children with Jane Menelaus, his actress wife of 29 years, is the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts. He is expected to attend the annual AACTA Awards at Sydney's Star Event Centre on December 6.

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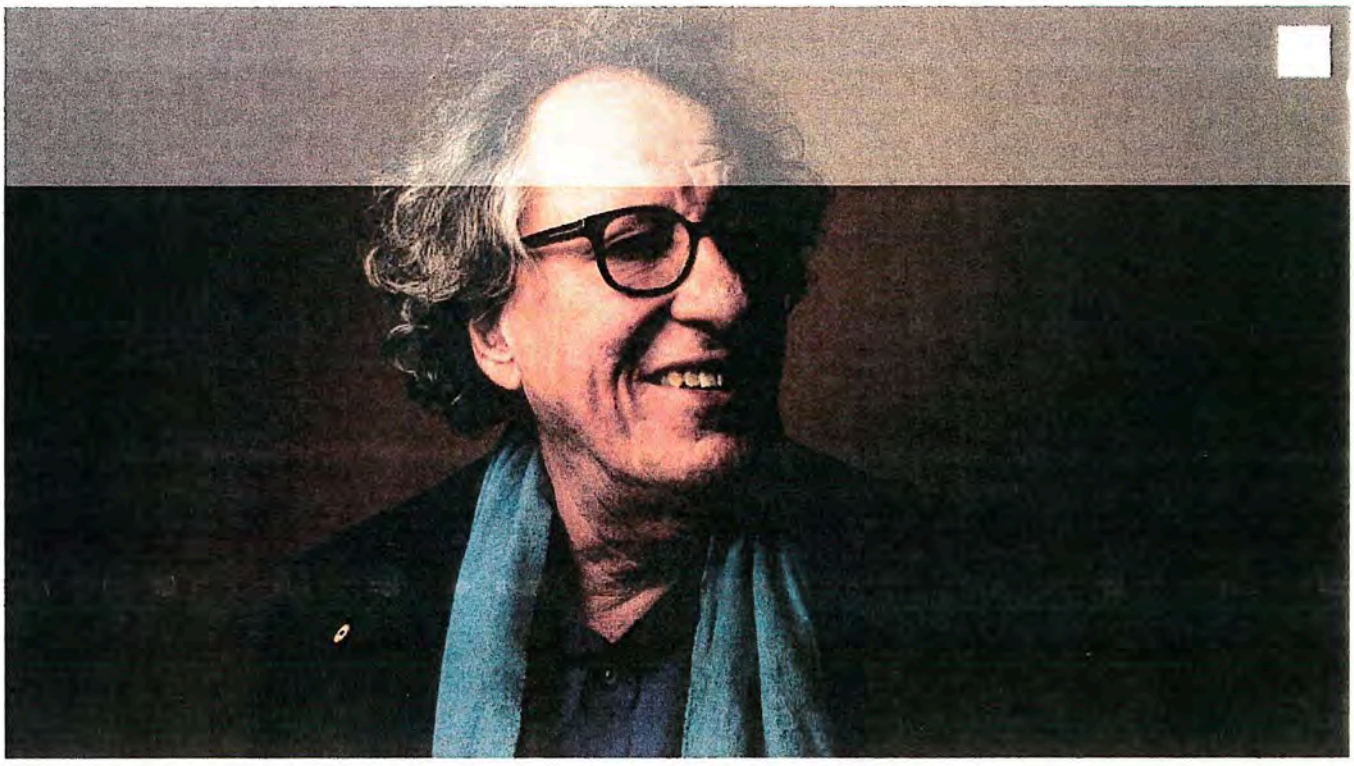
ENTERTAINMENT

Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour', criticises Sydney Theatre Company

By Julie Power
Updated 30 November 2017 — 6:08pm, first published at 2:36pm

For 35 years, Academy-award winner Geoffrey Rush has regularly performed at the Sydney Theatre Company. Now Rush has accused the theatre company of "smearing his name" over an allegation of "inappropriate conduct" during a STC production of *King Lear* in 2015.

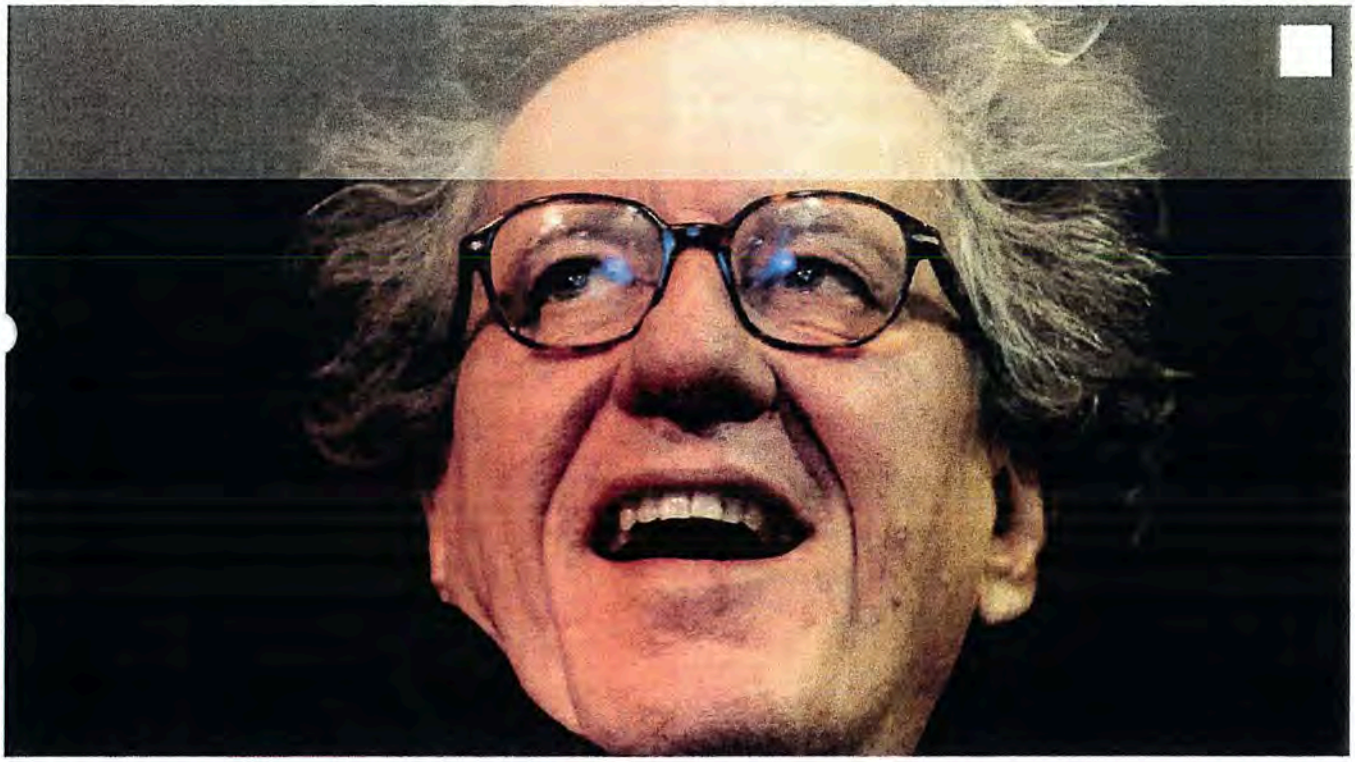
In a statement provided by his lawyers, Rush strongly denied any involvement in any inappropriate behaviour. He said he had asked the STC for details of the allegations but none had been provided.



Geoffrey Rush said he abhorred "any form of maltreatment of any person in any form".
Photo: Rohan Thomson

"It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," Rush said through his lawyers.

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



Geoffrey Rush made his debut with the STC in the 1982.
Photo: Chris Lane CLA

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On Wednesday afternoon the STC said that it had "at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety".

It said it had been asked by a News Ltd journalist earlier this month whether it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by Mr Rush while he was employed by the company.

"STC responded truthfully that it had received such a complaint," it said. "At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation. STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."

Rush's statement said the allegation was made in a statement provided by the STC released some weeks ago, and concerned a complaint made more than 21 months ago.

"In this current environment, 'inappropriate behaviour' may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity. These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion," said the statement provided by his lawyer, Nicholas Pullen of HWL Ebsworth Lawyers.

Rush asked why the allegation had not been raised, using standard theatre practice, "during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level".

"However, no response was forthcoming," he said.

The STC said the company had received the complaint when Rush's engagement had ended. The identify of the complainant had been withheld at the request of the individual.



Geoffrey Rush in a publicity photo for the STC production of King Lear.

Photo: Supplied

Rush made his debut with the STC in the 1982 in *You Can't Take It with You* with Alexander Hay and Gordon McDougall.

He returned to the STC in 1990 when it presented Melbourne Theatre Company's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. It featured Ruth Cracknell as Lady Bracknell and Rush played the role of John Worthing. Rush performed opposite his wife, the actress Jane Menelaus.

"We did *The Importance of Being Earnest* as our honeymoon. For six months on a national tour I got to propose to my wife using Oscar Wilde's beautiful language," he has said.

In 1993, he appeared in David Mamet's *Oleanna*, where he played a university professor locked in a tense battle with one of his students, played by Cate Blanchett who was making her major stage debut after graduating from NIDA.

Rush's statement said he abhorred "any form of maltreatment of any person in any form".

"His treatment of fellow colleagues and everyone he has worked with is always conducted with respect and the utmost propriety," said his lawyers. "Whether on a film set or in the

theatre, Mr Rush has always adhered to the finest professional principles in pursuit of his craft. "

Director Neil Armfield, who worked with Rush on *King Lear*, told the ABC that he did not believe the allegation.

"It's not correct, there's no basis ... I absolutely do not believe it," Armfield said in an interview from New York.

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Julie Power

Julie Power is a reporter for Fairfax Media

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ABC NEWS

Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' during Sydney Theatre Company play

By Avani Dias

Updated Thu 30 Nov 2017, 4:35pm

Academy Award-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused of "inappropriate behaviour" during his work with the Sydney Theatre Company (STC).



PHOTO: Geoffrey Rush is among Australia's most identifiable actors. (AAP: Alan Porritt)

Through his lawyers, Rush has vigorously denied the allegations, saying he had not been informed by STC either of the existence of the complaint or the nature of the complaint.

A Sydney Theatre Company spokeswoman said the organisation had "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour".

"The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended," she said.

> "The company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

"STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare.

"STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

Rush, 66, most recently performed in the STC production of Shakespeare's King Lear between November 2015 and January 2016.

However, the 2012 Australian of the Year has also been involved in STC productions like The Importance of Being Earnest and The Government Inspector.

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

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

"However, no response was forthcoming."

'Highly stressful' time for Rush

Rush's lawyer, Nicholas Pullen, said the actor denied being involved in any inappropriate behaviour.

"It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," Mr Pullen said.

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

Prominent Australian theatre and film director Neil Armfield worked with Rush on King Lear and told the ABC from New York that he did not believe the allegation.

"It's not correct, there's no basis ... I absolutely do not believe it," he said.



PHOTO: Geoffrey Rush has won the "Triple Crown of Acting". (AAP: Tracey Nearmy)



PHOTO: Director Neil Armfield (R) and Geoffrey Rush have worked together. (AAP: Tracey Nearmy)

Rush is one of the country's most respected actors and among the few who have won the "Triple Crown of Acting", meaning he has won an Academy Award, Primetime Emmy Award and a Tony Award.

The actor's lawyer said Rush "abhorred any form of maltreatment of any person".

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

The public and the media need to note this is a highly stressful and frustrating time for Mr Rush and his family, especially when there are no details concerning the 'inappropriate behaviour'."

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'There's no semblance of fact about it': Geoffrey Rush's King Lear co-star slams 'inappropriate behaviour' claim - as the Oscar-winning actor continues to fiercely deny the allegation

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By NIC WHITE FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

PUBLISHED: 20:22 AEST, 30 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 20:29 AEST, 30 November 2017

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Geoffrey Rush's co-star has jumped to his defence against an allegation of 'inappropriate behaviour' on the set of King Lear.

The Sydney Theatre Company (STC), which put on the Shakespere play last year, says it received a complaint from another actor after its run ended in January 2016.

Rush strongly denied the accusation, calling it a 'denial of natural justice' that the STC would make it public without even tell him details of the complaint.

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Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush (right) has strenuously denied a claim of 'inappropriate behaviour' during a production of Shakespeare play King Lear (pictured)

Rush vigorously denied the claim, through his lawyers, saying he never heard of any alleged complaint from the Company or the complainant

His co-star Max Cullen, who played the Earl of Gloucester, said any allegation of misconduct against the 66-year-old was untrue.



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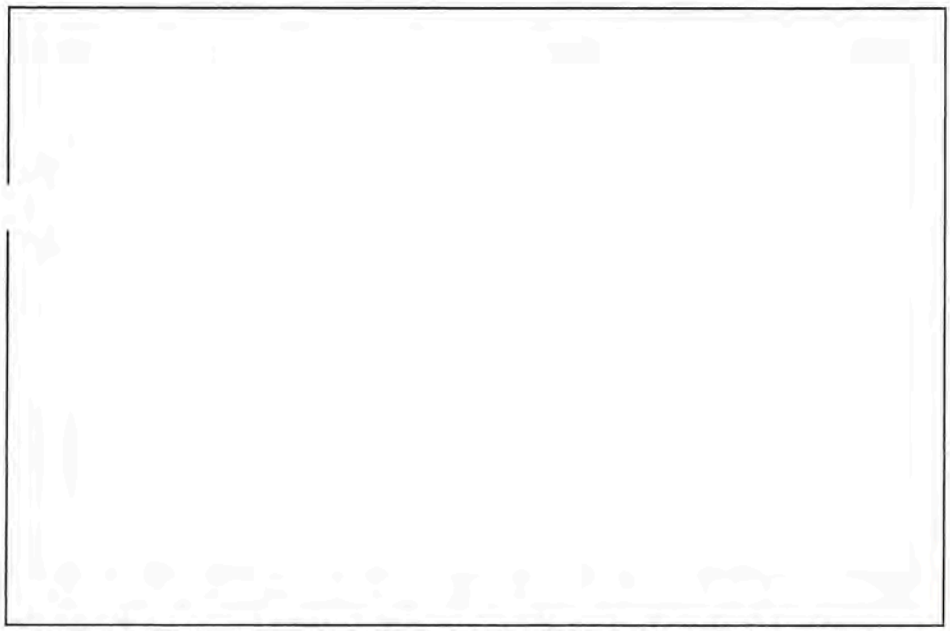
'He's an absolute gentleman and a professional and this behaviour just doesn't happen.

The complaint alleged 'inappropriate behaviour' by Rush during production of the play that ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at the Roslyn Packer Theatre.

STC claims it responded truthfully to media inquiries about the existence of a complaint it investigated, but the alleged complainant wanted to stay anonymous.

'At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation,' it said.

'STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare.'



His co-star Max Cullen (pictured left with Rush in the play), who played the Earl of Gloucester, said any allegation of misconduct against the 66-year-old was untrue

Rush, through his lawyers HWL Ebsworth, slammed this explanation and reiterated that neither the complainant nor the STC ever contacted him about the matter.

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The decorated actor said he immediately called STC management after hearing about the alleged complaint, but 'they refused to illuminate me with the details'.

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

'However, no response was forthcoming.'

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Rush's lawyers said the lack of detail about what the alleged complaint contained was worse 'in this current climate'.

'"Inappropriate behaviour" may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity,' they said.

'These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must made clear from the outset that Mr Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any on in any form.'

Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 in the Roslyn Packer Theatre ing Rush (centre, sitting) in the title role of King Lear

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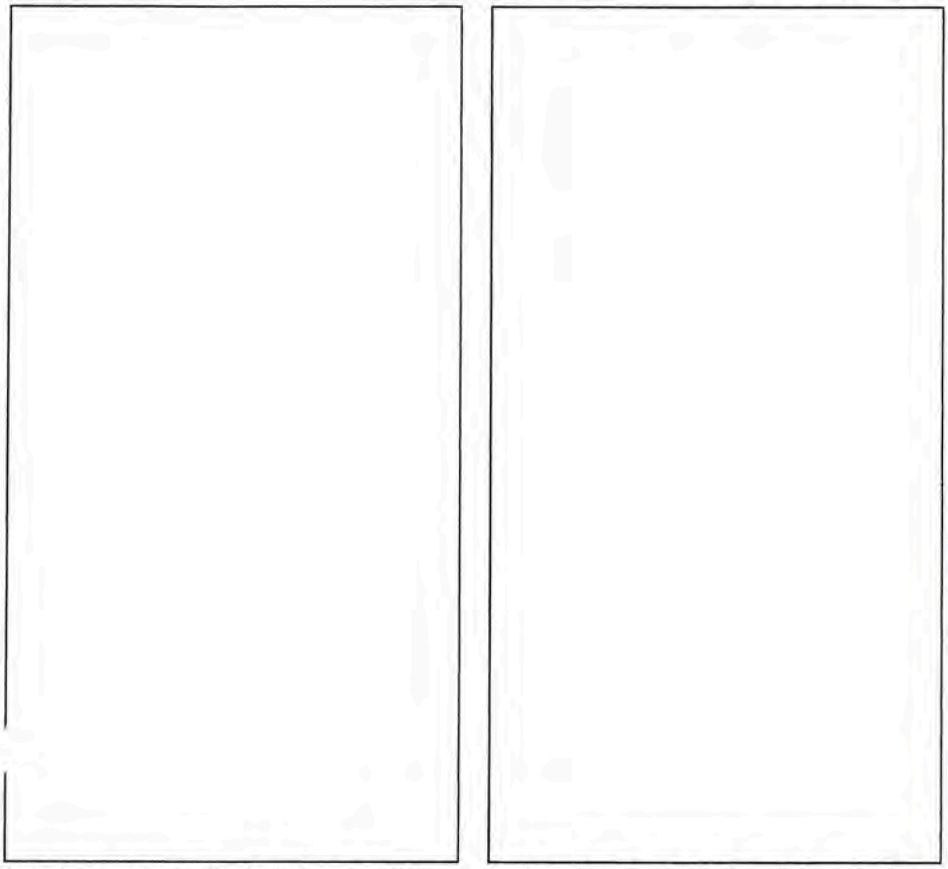
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Rush (pictured with Nicole Kidman in 2015) was nominated for Academy Awards for roles in Shakespeare in Love, Quills, and most recently The King's Speech and won for Shine in 1996

The lawyers said until there was 'decency afford' to Rush about what the 'inappropriate behaviour' actually was, there was little to respond to.

'There has been no provision of any details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to,' they said.

'It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way.

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

..ush has been married to Jane Menelaus since 1988, with whom he has a daughter Angelica born in 1992, and a son James born in 1995.

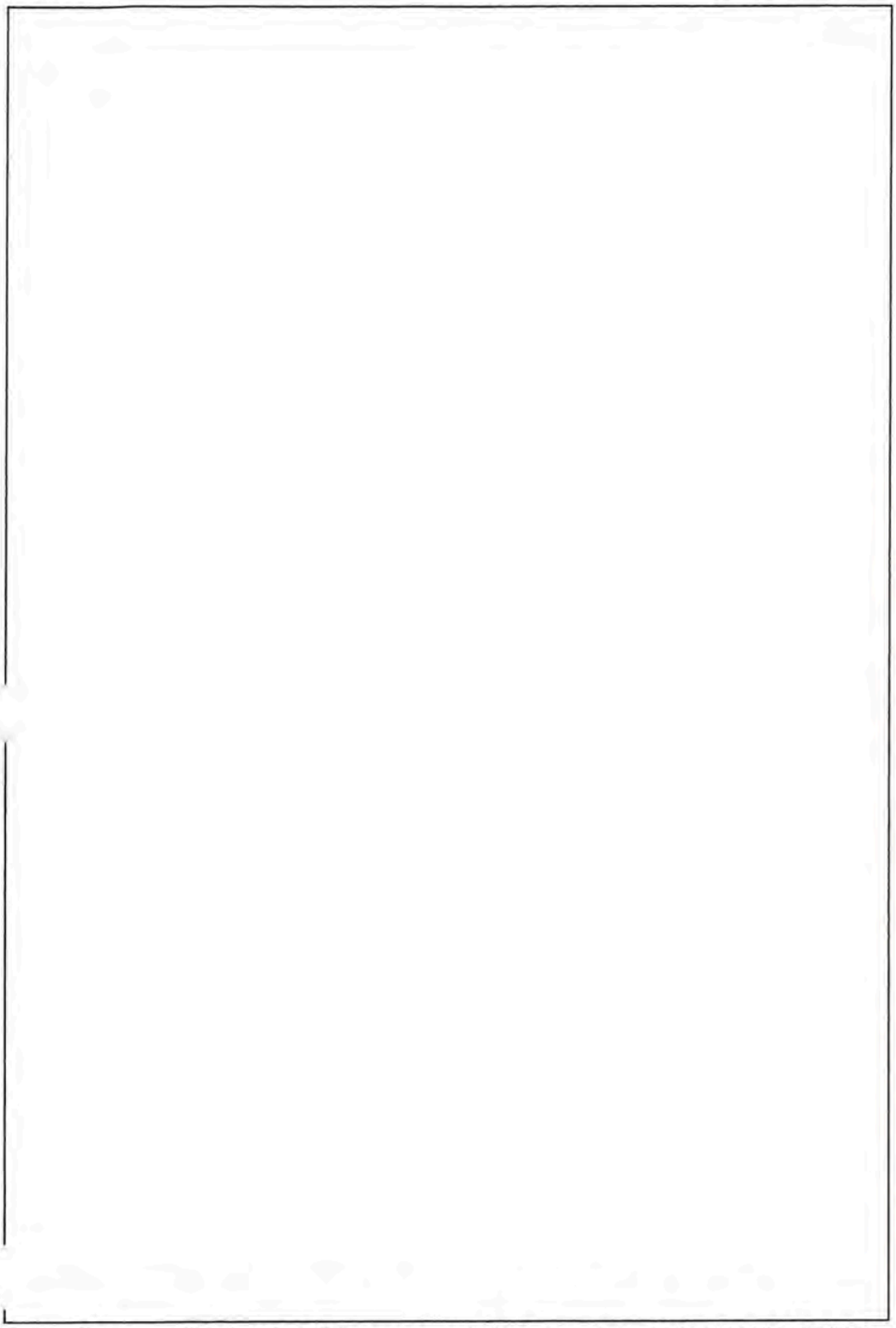
He was named Australian of the Year in 2012 for his services to acting, having achieved the elusive 'triple crown' of winning an Oscar, Emmy and Tony award.

Rush's performance in King Lear was praised by theatre critics even though they noted some flaws with the overall production.

'From the moment a bandy-legged, wobbly-limbed Rush ambles forward to utter theatre's most ill-fated demand – "Which of you shall we say doth love us most?" – he is neither too blustery or too brutish,' the Guardian wrote.

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Rush said he immediately called STC management after hearing about the alleged complaint, but 'they refused to illuminate me with the details'

His career started on stage with the Queensland Theatre Company when his talent was spotted while he was studying at the University of Queensland.

Rush's first play was Wrong Side of the Moon in 1971 and he regularly performed on stage even after his film career began in 1981.

He only appeared in five films before his breakout role in 1996 as David Helfgott in Shine, for which he won an Oscar for best actor.

The thespian was later nominated for Academy Awards for roles in Shakespeare in Love, Quills, and most recently The King's Speech.

He also won two Golden Globes with three nominations, three BAFTAs, one Tony, one Emmy, and two Helpmann stage awards.

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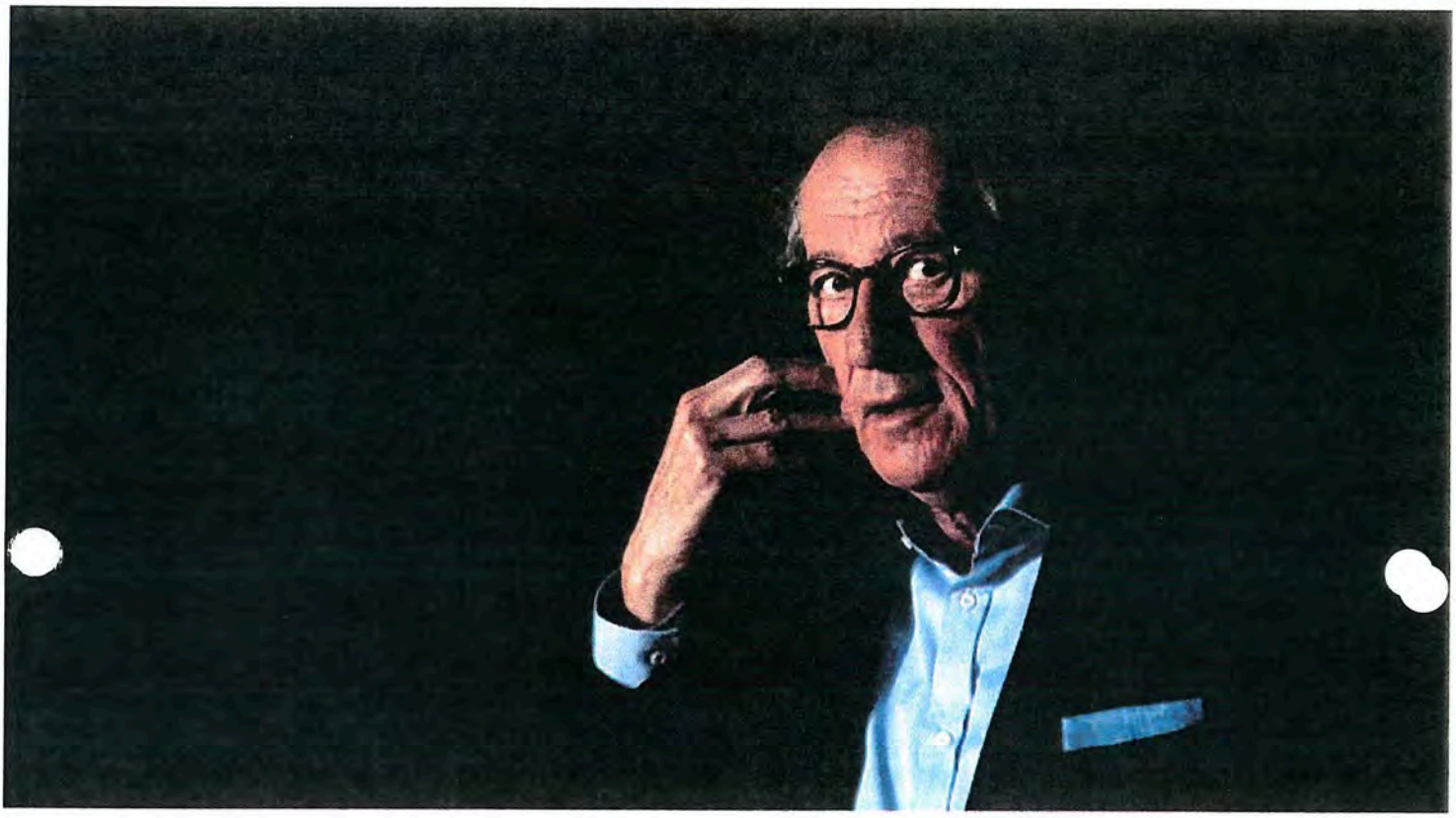
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Geoffrey Rush denies claims of 'inappropriate behaviour' during Sydney Theatre Company production

Published: 30 November 2017 Image credit: Reuters



Oscar-winning actor and former Australian of the Year Geoffrey Rush has vigorously denied claims he engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" while working on a Sydney Theatre Company (STC) production two years ago.

STC said it received a complaint over Mr Rush's alleged conduct after he had performed the title role in a production of King Lear, on stage at Sydney's Rosyln Packer Theatre from November 2015 to January 2016.

"Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," a spokesperson said.

STC would not elaborate on the nature of the alleged conduct, and said the complainant wished to remain anonymous.

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld. STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments," a spokesperson said.

Mr Rush strongly denied the claim, and said he had not been made aware of any complaint made against him, or its details.

"The moment I became aware of rumours of a complaint I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company asking for clarification about the details of the statement," he said.

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

"However, no response was forthcoming."

Through his lawyer, the 66-year-old actor staunchly defended his professional conduct.

"Mr Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form," a statement from lawyers said.

"His treatment of fellow colleagues and everyone he has worked with is always conducted with respect and the utmost propriety. Whether on a film set or in the theatre, Mr Rush has always adhered to the finest professional principles in pursuit of his craft."

The statement said it was "a great disappointment" to Mr Rush that the STC "has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way."

It said that the theatre company failed to inform the actor of the complaint and withheld the specifics of the allegations, but spoke publicly about it, was "both a denial of natural justice" and "not how our society operates."

"At this stage, Mr Rush can only reiterate his statement that he denies having been involved in any 'inappropriate behaviour' whatsoever.

" ' ' '

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Geoffrey Rush denies allegations of "inappropriate behaviour"

The award-winning Australian actor's lawyers have described the claims, which were reported in the Daily Telegraph, as "false and untrue".

by *Angus McPherson* on November 30, 2017

36

Acclaimed Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has denied allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" stemming from his time working on Sydney Theatre Company's production of *King Lear*, which ran from November 2015 to January 2016.

The Daily Telegraph reported this morning (in an article that appears to have been removed from the newspaper's website) that the actor – well known for his award-winning role as pianist David Helfgott in the 1996 film *Shine* and more recently as speech therapist Lionel Logue in the 2010 film *The King's Speech* – was the subject of a complaint received by Sydney Theatre Company.

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

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld," the spokesperson said. "STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."

Rush has denied the allegations, his lawyers from HWL Ebsworth describing them as "false and untrue".

"Mr Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter," Rush's lawyers told the *The Daily Telegraph*. "Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves."

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

"There have been numerous media reports made this morning concerning Mr Geoffrey Rush and allegations of 'inappropriate behaviour'," the statement from HWL Ebsworth said. "In this current environment, "inappropriate behaviour" may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity. These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must be made clear from the outset that Mr Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

"The allegation made against Mr Rush comes from a statement provided by the Sydney Theatre Company. We understand the statement was released some weeks ago and concerns a complaint made to it over 21 months ago. To date, Mr Rush or any of his representatives have not received any representations from the STC or the complainant. In other words, there has been no provision of any details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to."

"At this stage, Mr Rush can only reiterate his statement that he denies having been involved in any 'inappropriate behaviour' whatsoever. Until there is the decency afforded to Mr Rush of what the "inappropriate behaviour" actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage."

Rush, who has performed in a number of Sydney Theatre Company productions over the years, is scheduled to play Malvolio in Melbourne Theatre Company's production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, which opens in November 2018.

The allegations have emerged in the wake of a string of accusations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, which have contributed to an environment in which victims of sexual harassment feel more comfortable coming forward than they have in the past. In Australia, the Confederation of Australian State Theatres – of which Sydney Theatre Company is a member – released a statement at the beginning of November.

"In response to incidents and allegations in the broader entertainment industry both here and overseas, we stand together to say that sexual harassment and abuse in any form is unacceptable," the statement said. "We offer our unwavering support to the courageous people that have already come forward, and to any victims who have not yet had their stories heard – we are here for you."

"We feel it is our responsibility to remove the stigma that can be felt by victims, and to encourage them with confidence to initiate formal complaint proceedings, and to seek appropriate counselling services and support."

Also this month, MEAA Actors Equity released the preliminary findings of an online survey it conducted regarding Australian theatre suggesting 40 percent of performers have direct experiences of sexual harassment, bullying or misconduct. The survey's full results will be released in December.

Update: Sydney Theatre Company has issued an updated statement, read here.

The full statement from HWL Ebsworth

There have been numerous media reports made this morning concerning Mr Geoffrey Rush and allegations of "inappropriate behaviour".

In this current environment, "inappropriate behaviour" may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity. These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must be made clear from the outset that Mr Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form.

His treatment of fellow colleagues and everyone he has worked with is always conducted with respect and the utmost propriety. Whether on a film set or in the theatre, Mr Rush has always adhered to the finest professional principles in pursuit of his craft.

The allegation made against Mr Rush comes from a statement provided by the Sydney Theatre Company. We understand the statement was released some weeks ago and concerns a complaint made to it over 21 months ago. To date, Mr Rush or any of his representatives have not received any representations from the STC or the complainant. In other words, there has been no provision of any details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to.

Mr Rush has said

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

It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way. Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates.

At this stage, Mr Rush can only reiterate his statement that he denies having been involved in any "inappropriate behaviour" whatsoever. Until there is the decency afforded to Mr Rush of what the "inappropriate behaviour" actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage.

The public and the media need to note this is a highly stressful and frustrating time for Mr Rush and his family, especially when there are no details concerning the "inappropriate behaviour".

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Geoffrey Rush to sue The Daily Telegraph for defamation

The actor has launched defamation proceedings against The Daily Telegraph, accusing the paper of making "false, pejorative and demeaning claims".

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Sydney Theatre Company releases statement on Geoffrey Rush

The company has issued an updated statement regarding an employee complaint against the Australian actor.

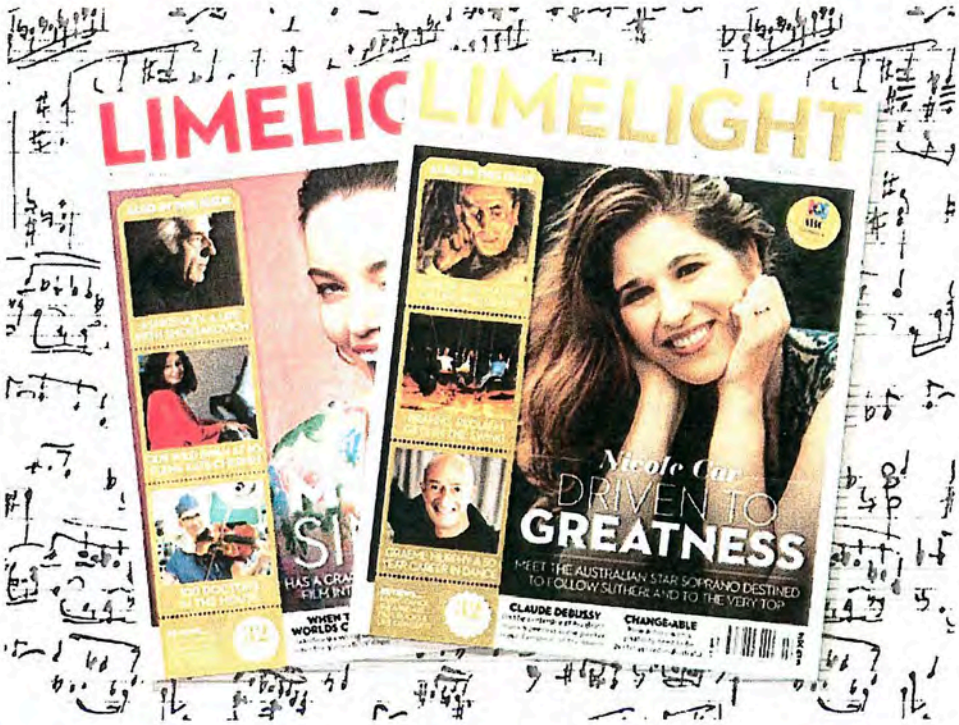
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Geoffrey Rush accused of 'inappropriate behaviour' at theatre

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Geoffrey Rush is facing a complaint reportedly lodged with Australia's Sydney Theatre Company.

IMAGE: RICH FURY/GETTY IMAGES

BY JOHNNY LIEU
NOV 30, 2017

***UPDATE: Nov. 30, 2017, 4:39 p.m. AEDT** This piece has been updated with a statement from Sydney Theatre Company, as well as information regarding the Daily Telegraph.*

Actor Geoffrey Rush, 66, is the latest celebrity to reject accusations of misconduct, according to allegations detailed by Australia's Sydney Theatre Company.

In a statement, STC said it "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour."

SEE ALSO: NBC employees reveal chilling details of Matt Lauer's alleged sexual harassment

The complaint was made when Rush's "engagement with the company had ended."

Rush was last involved with the STC in its season of *King Lear*, which took place between November 2015 and January 2016. There are no details regarding the allegations, according to the STC or Rush's statement to *ABC News*.

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

"I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

Rush's lawyer, Nicholas Pullen, said in a statement that it is a "great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way."

Sydney newspaper the *Daily Telegraph*, which first published the allegations against Rush, appeared to have pulled the story from its website, due to an error code appearing in place of the webpage.

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Has the Tele just pulled its Geoffrey Rush story? pic.twitter.com/CfH7oorypW

— Debbie Cuthbertson (@debstarre) November 30, 2017

In a further statement via email to *Mashable*, STC said it was asked by a News Limited journalist earlier in November on whether it had received a complaint regarding alleged inappropriate behaviour by Rush while he was working for the company.

"STC responded truthfully that it had received such a complaint," the statement reads. "At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

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

"STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

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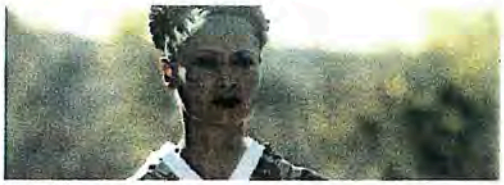
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Alexis Nedd

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How one of your favorite animated characters got her voice

JESSICA LEIBOWITZ / 5 MONTHS AGO

John Roberts is a voiceover actor most famous for his character Linda Belcher on FOX's *Bob's Burgers*. Roberts imitated his friend's mom's voice on comedy videos on YouTube. *Bob's Burgers* creator Loren Bouchard took note, and turned the character into Linda.

Learn more about the life of a voiceover creator in our new series, Supporting Players.

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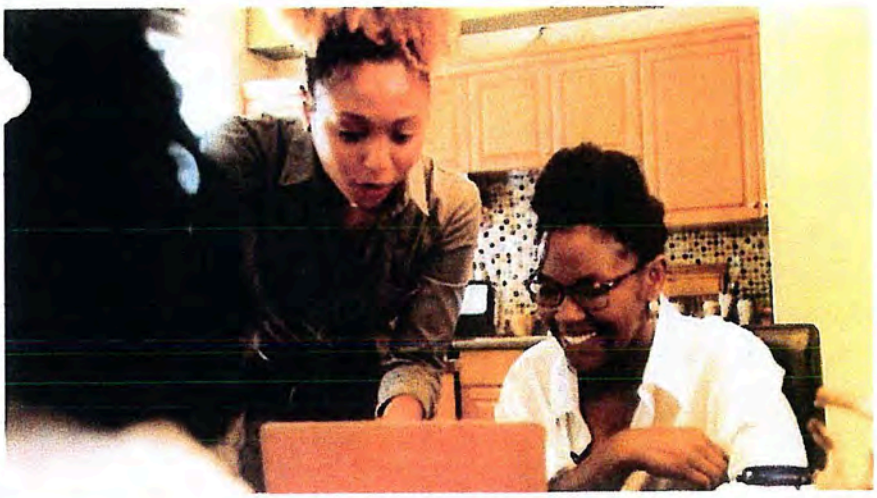
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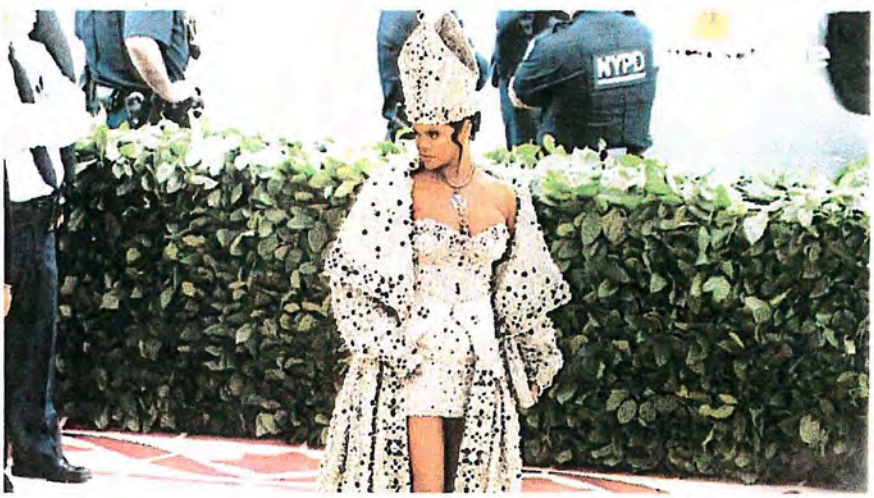
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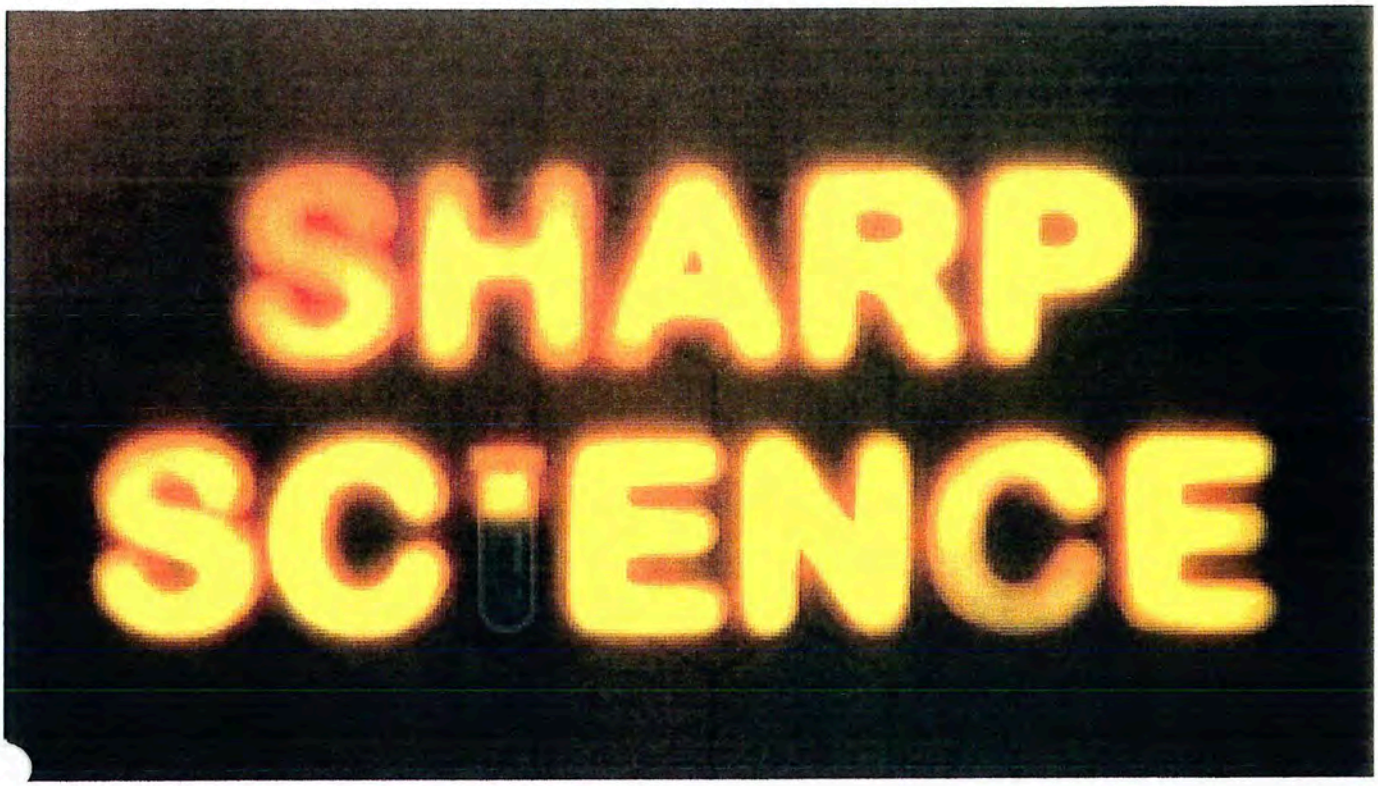
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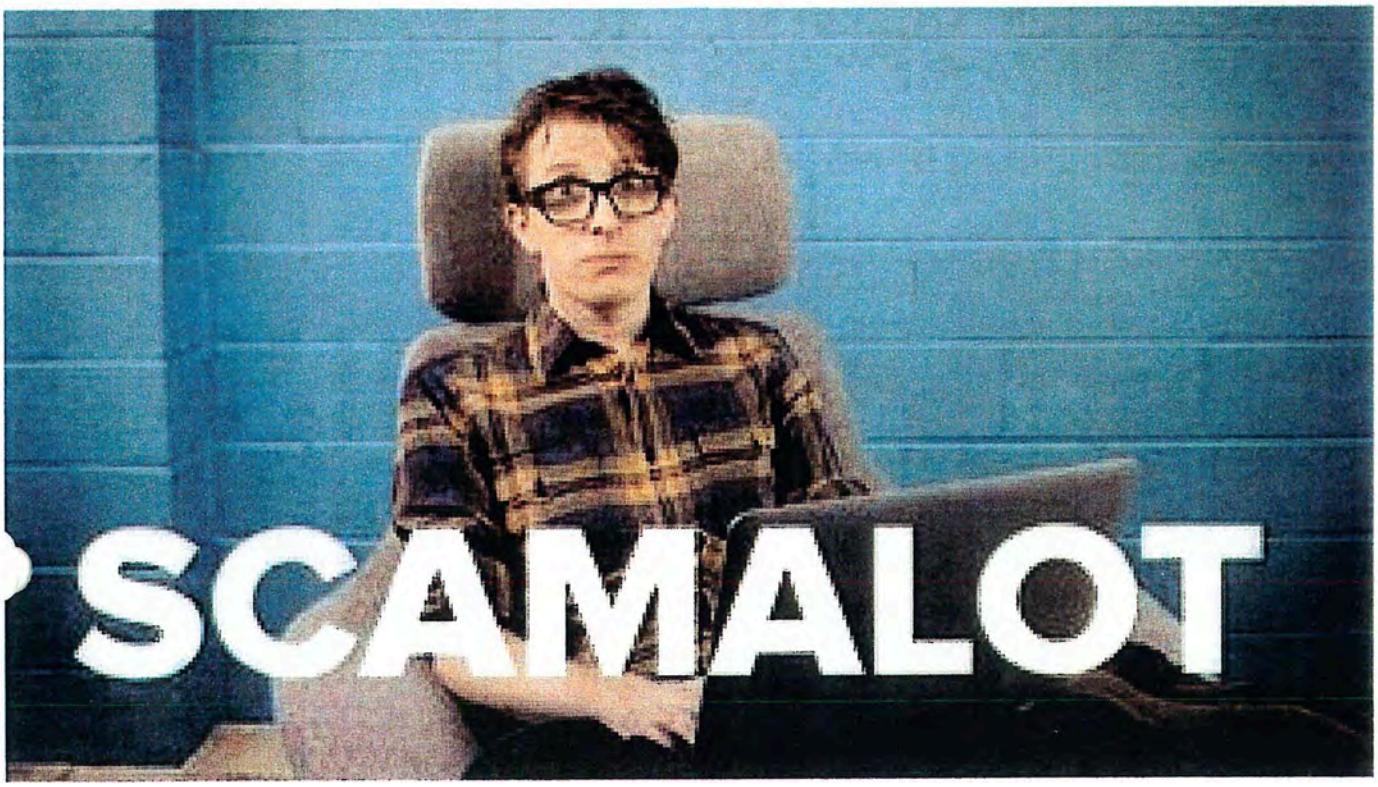


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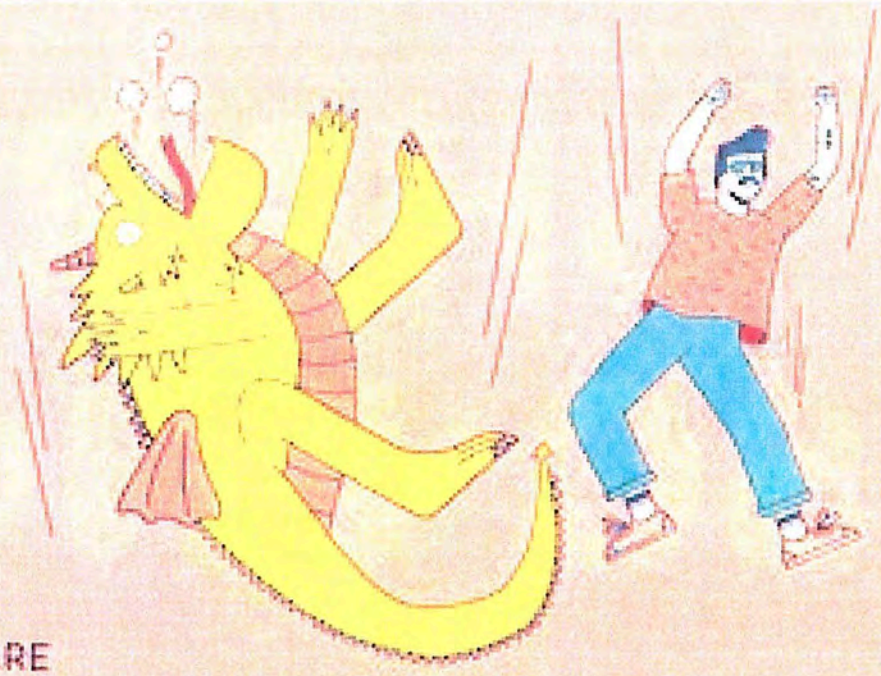
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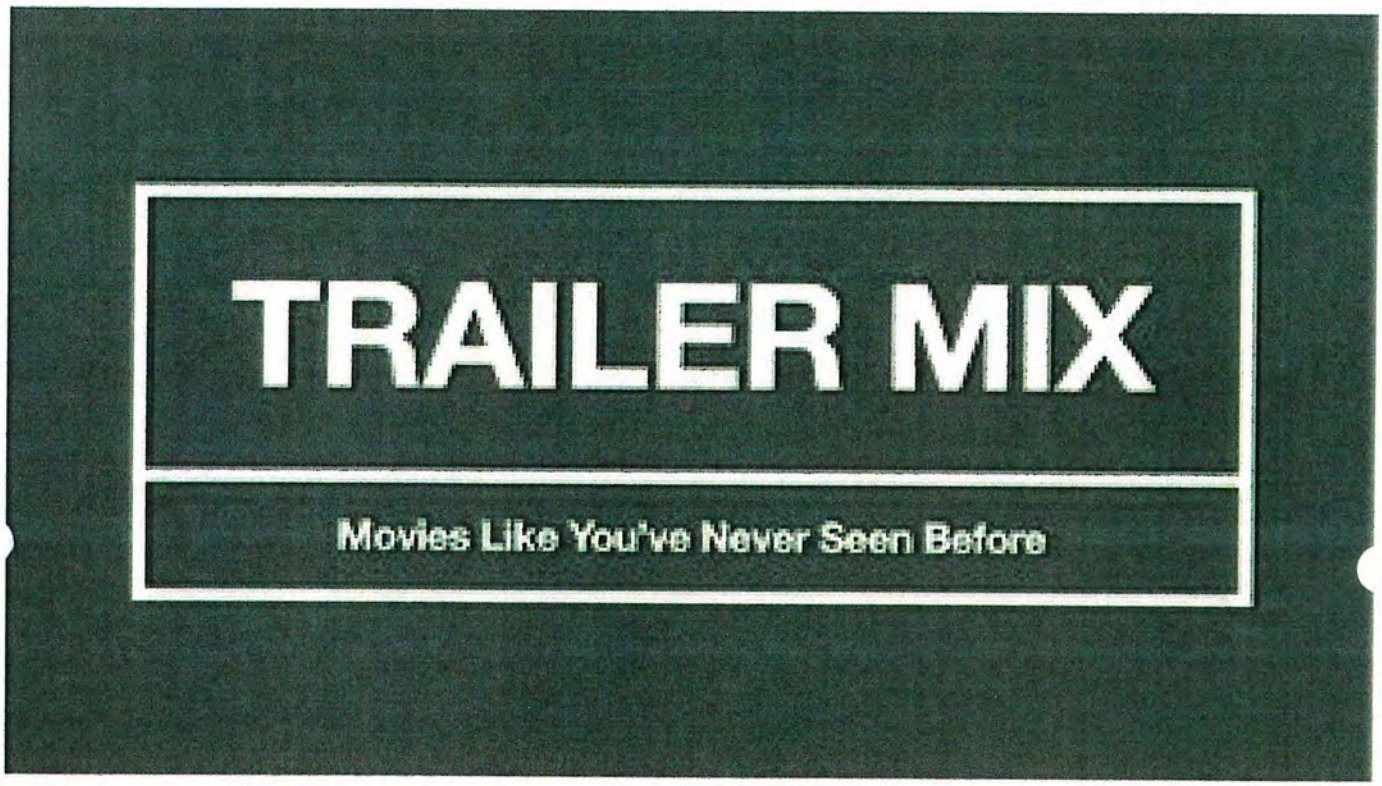
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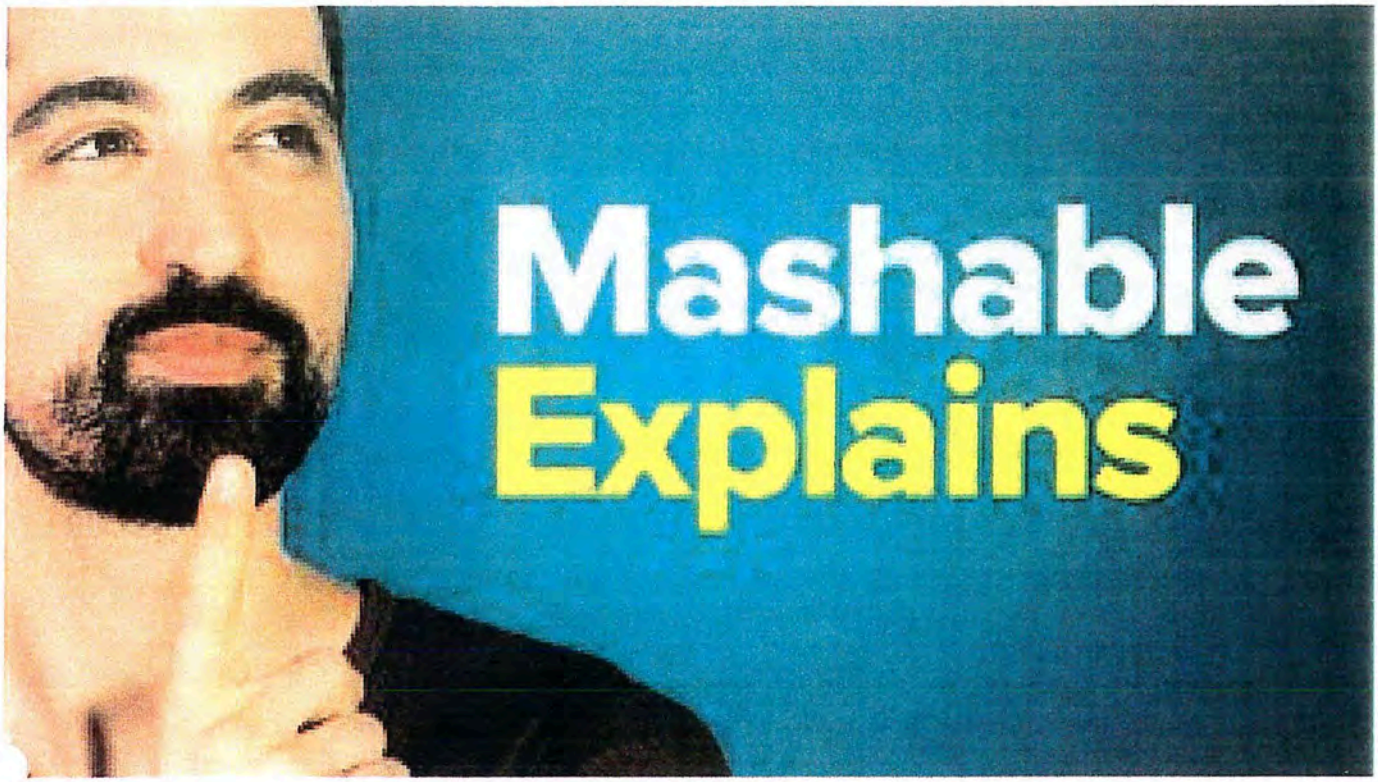


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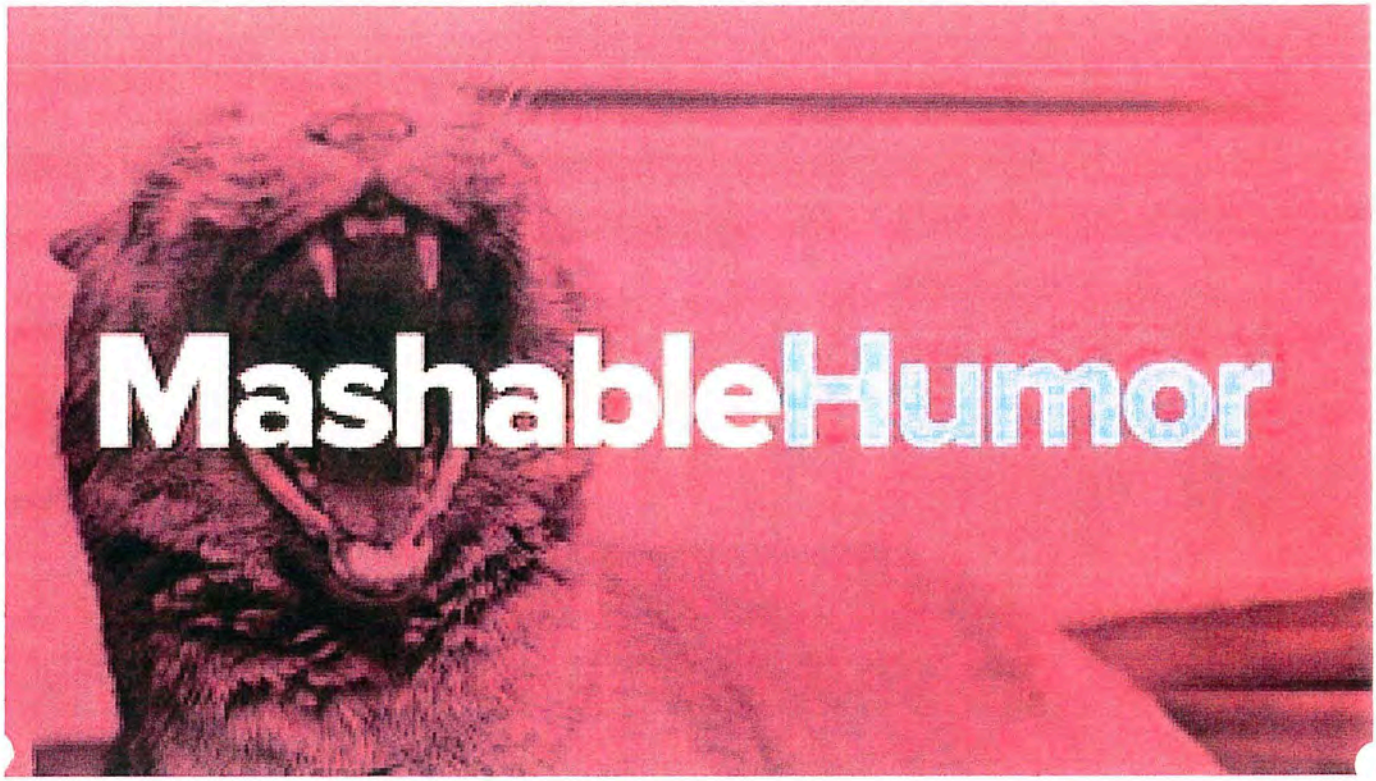


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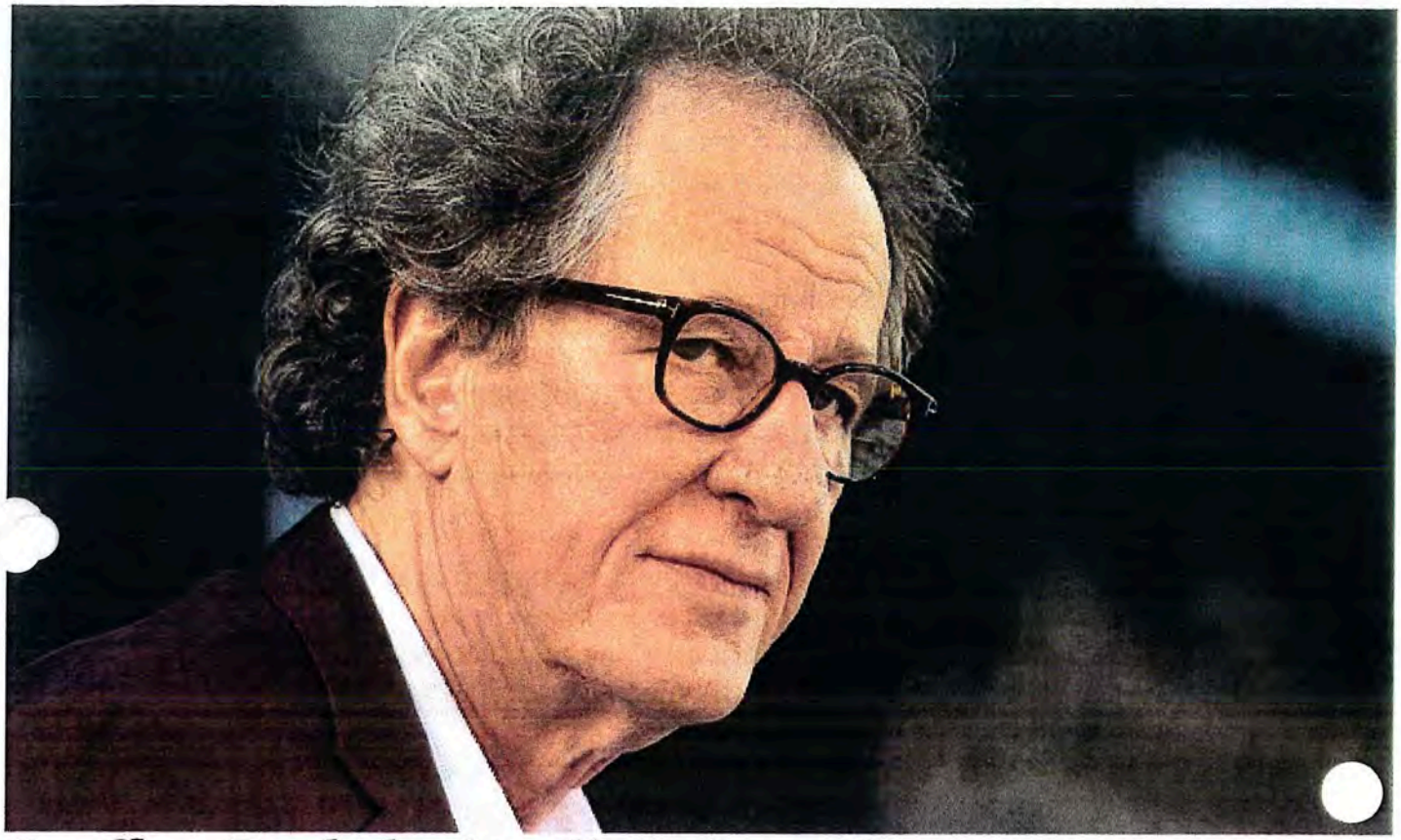
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The Guardian



Geoffrey Rush denies allegations of 'inappropriate behaviour' in play

Oscar-winner who starred in Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear says he has received no details of the complaint from the company or accuser

ıman Zhou

ıu 30 Nov 2017 16.17 AEDT

The Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has denied allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear, after the company said it had received a complaint against him.

Rush's lawyer said in a statement that Rush had not been informed of the nature of the complaint by the complainant or the theatre company, either at the time the complaint was made 21 months ago or since.

"In this current environment, 'inappropriate behaviour' may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity," the statement said. "These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must be made clear from the outset that Mr Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

Rush, 66, who lives in Melbourne, said: "The moment I became aware of rumours of a complaint I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre

Company asking for clarification about the details of the statement. They refused to illuminate me with the details.

"I also asked why this information was being withheld and why, according to standard theatre practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

An STC spokeswoman told Sydney's the Daily Telegraph, where the claims were first published, that the company had "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour". She said the complainant had asked for their identity to be withheld.

"The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended," she said.

On Thursday an STC spokeswoman said: "Sydney Theatre Company was asked by a News Ltd journalist earlier this month whether it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by Mr Rush while he was employed by the company. STC responded truthfully that had received such a complaint.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation. STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare. As already stated, the Company received the complaint after Mr Rush's engagement had ended.

"STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

Rush won an Academy Award for best actor in 1997 for the film Shine and was named Australian of the year in 2012.

He appeared in the STC's production of King Lear between November 2015 and January 2016 and has worked several times for the company.

On Thursday, the STC's online page listing of King Lear was taken down.

In their statement, Rush's lawyers said they understood the complaint was made "over 21 months ago" and that the STC had originally released its statement "some weeks ago".

Rush's lawyer said: "To date, Mr Rush or any of his representatives have not received any representations from the STC or the complainant. In other words, there has been no provision of any details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to."



Geoffrey Rush playing Lear at the Roslyn Packer theatre in Sydney.
Photograph: Heidrun Löhr/Sydney Theatre Company

Rush is the president of Aacta, the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts. In November, Aacta released a statement officially rescinding a historic award given to Harvey Weinstein in 2013.

> We recognise our role in working with our members in upholding standards in our industry that we can all be proud of, including the provision of a safe and respectful workplace," it said.

Rush's lawyer said: "It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way. Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them, let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public, is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates.

"At this stage, Mr Rush can only reiterate his statement that he denies having been involved in any 'inappropriate behaviour' whatsoever. Until there is the decency afforded to Mr Rush of what the 'inappropriate behaviour' actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage.

"The public and the media need to note this is a highly stressful and frustrating time for Mr Rush and his family, especially when there are no details concerning the 'inappropriate behaviour'."

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GEOFFREY RUSH INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR CLAIM EXPOSES ROLE OF THEATRE COMPANY BOARDS

By Raymond Gill (https://dailyreview.com.au/author/raymond-gill/) December 1, 2017

Find Out More (https://dailyreview.com.au/support/)

Any shock about yesterday's reports of alleged inappropriate behaviour by actor Geoffrey Rush at Sydney Theatre Company was followed by surprise at how the company has dealt with the claim so far.

According to Rush, he was not informed about the complaint that is alleged to have occurred during the STC production of *King Lear* in 2015.

"Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them, let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates," Rush said in a statement (http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/geoffrey-rush-denies-inappropriate-behaviour-criticises-sydney-theatre-company-20171130-gydl.html).

The apparent clumsiness of how STC deals with complaints of inappropriate behaviour follows last week's *Daily Review* report (https://dailyreview.com.au/curious-case-sexual-harassment-sydney-theatre-company/68556/) of a claim of sexual harassment.

In that instance, an actor complained of sexual harassment by a co-performer in an STC show. STC management 'dealt' with the claim, but the result was the actor who alleged the harassment left the production, leaving the alleged perpetrator free to continue in their job.

According to the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance's Equity preliminary survey of sexual harassment in actors' workplaces, 40 per cent of survey respondents said they had experienced sexual harassment of a physical nature (touching, groping etc).

The STC however told *Daily Review* last week that "Sydney Theatre Company has investigated a very small number of issues over the last few years".

If these Equity statistics are an accurate guide, cases of alleged sexual harassment at STC either go unreported or those who experience them may not have faith in the investigation of them.

The Equity report suggests this may be the case given that of those members it surveyed, 60 per cent of people who reported sexual harassment said they were dissatisfied with the outcome.

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Last month, Fairfax Media (http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/stage/i-felt-unsafe-actress-tells-of-harassment-on-and-off-the-stage-20171107-gzgdog.html) reported the anonymous account of an actor in an unnamed theatre company who did complain to that company's management of sexual harassment.

When the issue finally reached a senior staff member, the actor described the process:

"She began the meeting smiling," the actress said, before commenting: "So I hear someone's got a bit of a crush on you". "I was shocked," she said. "I felt alone and unprotected."

The board members' role is not to tell the artistic director which plays to stage, but to provide 'real world' experience to oversee the smooth operations of the company.

STC, like any workplace, says it has clear policies in place around sexual harassment.

"STC has several policies – the Workplace, Bullying and Harassment Prevention Policy and the Grievance Procedure Policy. These policies are continually evaluated and updated. Inductions are carried out at the commencement of each production that refer to the existence of the policies and set out who employees should talk to if they want to discuss an issue."

Despite the intentions of the policy (similar to other arts company policies around the country), the very nature of an acting job creates challenges for those claiming sexual harassment and opportunities for those who perpetrate it. Acting is a tactile job; actors play couples and lovers with the intimacy (however feigned) that that involves.

The account of the senior theatre manager of the unnamed company in the Fairfax report above is perhaps not that surprising. Most senior management in professional theatre companies in Australia have come up the ranks working in performing arts companies where interaction between employees is far more casual and intimate than it is if, say, they were working in a 9 to 5 office job.

The STC instances and the Equity survey results expose how performing arts companies in Australia need to clarify and strengthen their sexual harassment processes.

If company management cannot effectively deal with a case of sexual harassment – or even recognise it when one is presented to it– then its board needs to take steps to change the company culture.

Theatre company boards are top heavy with bankers, financiers, lawyers, HR experts (and usually the company's artistic director and CEO and a single artist).

The corporate board members' role is not to tell the artistic director which plays to stage, but to provide 'real world' experience to oversee the smooth operations of the company.

These board members need to stop hiding behind vague "no further comment" press releases and drag theatre management into the 21st century. The exposure of these cases is only going to escalate.

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Do You Value Independent Arts Journalism & Would You Like To Help Raymond Gill (Https://Dailyreview.Com.Au/Author/Raymond-Gill/)



About The Author, Raymond Gill (Https://Dailyreview.Com.Au/Author/Raymond-Gill/)
Raymond Gill is the editor and publisher of Daily Review.

27 RESPONSES TO "GEOFFREY RUSH INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR CLAIM EXPOSES ROLE OF THEATRE COMPANY BOARDS"

Dan Spielman says:

December 3, 2017 at 9:00 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113837)
That the STC has handled complaints of harassment and bullying poorly has been shown to be true to those in the business for some time, and now their failures in this area have been made public.

There are many complexities in the identification and reporting of harassment in any field. It seems universally true, though, that one of the forums where complaint is most compromised in our business is on the rehearsal room floor. For example, it is not rare to hear of productions where bullying or harassment has occurred when senior artists and people in positions of power are present in the room but have not spoken up or brought their influence to bear. Though the delicacies of the artistic process are absolutely not an excuse for different rules of consent, it does seem that even the most decorated and powerful artists can feel like it's not their place to disrupt the process when they are creatively involved. So how confusing might it be for someone without that power?

We can all say that we would hope to act differently and make generalisations about apparently uniformly consenting behaviour, but precisely because the work environment is complex, it is the responsibility of the management of said company to have effective protocols in place. Protocols that are best practise and that acknowledge all aspects of the procedure of complaint from identification through to PR.

Essentially, it should be the focus of management to quarantine the people involved, accuser and accused, until these protocols and processes have been properly observed. Something the STC has clearly failed to do on more than one occasion.

Harassment and bullying are commonplace and completely unacceptable. There is no special condition in the rehearsal process that excludes consent or requires suffering humiliation. Those who claim it is special in this way do not have the relevant experience to comment.

Underlying the broader culture of tacit approval of harassment is the spectre of misogyny on the one hand, and on the other an embarrassing obeisance in relation to fame and power, box office and reputation.

Misogyny is a major target for exposure in our time. And a world where profit and image protection are justification for the devaluing of someone's humanity is not a world we want or should accept.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113837#respond)

A dubbo says:

December 4, 2017 at 8:15 am (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113877)
Dan in this particular case, we have no idea as to what the nature of the compliant was , nor do we have any knowledge re how creditable is the evidence . Nor do we know who 'leaked' the story to the press, nor do we know the motive for the leak.

Am reminded of the time when somebody asked E M Forster : 'what really happened in the Marabar Cave ?' To which Forster replied : ' I don't know'.

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Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113877#respond)

John says:

December 3, 2017 at 11:10 am (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113788)
This is a shameful travesty of justice – pure and simple.
This is going to end badly, for all concerned in the light of the Weinstein tusami sweeping the world.
This matter should only be treated as pure innuendo and never oxygen until or if anything "substantial" was tabled.
To not do so may mean the end of the STC and even that of the career of a most gifted man.
All for copy Mr Murdoch? Have we not been there before?
PUT UP OR SHUT UP!

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113788#respond)

Valentina Levkowicz says:

December 3, 2017 at 8:16 am (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113767)
What a mess. The complainant and the STC must speak.
It is wrong to accuse, then hide! It can't go on. Someone..anyone... tell the truth. There are families involved. The STC's management of the situation is a primer in what NOT to do.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113767#respond)

Archie Lever says:

December 3, 2017 at 12:43 am (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113734)
Richard; let me tell you a little story.....When I was a 19 year old student some 30+ years ago attending what is now called a G8 University doing a STEM course, there were a few females (4 or 5) with 150 males in second year maths class.

The Lecturer was a 70 year old male PhD (Dr G), with an enthusiastic Julius Sumner Miller type of delivery. He would fire off questions to anyone in the class, and give pithy and amusing feedback on the answers received.

One of the female students was asked a question and after some delay gave a wrong answer, to which Dr G replied "no, not tonight Josephine".

Having grown up with a few family WW1 veterans of the venerable Dr G's age, I had heard plenty of that sort of humorous banter and slang.

Laughter rippled through the class, and on it went. We heard later that the female student in question had made a complaint to the University authorities about Dr G's 'inappropriate' remark, and the old boy was in some sort of hot water.

So the female in this case was complaining about an authority figure in a 1970's University setting where there were 150 witnesses to a harmless remark from another era. She must have just read 'The Female Eunuch' which was hot at the time.

Come to thing of it, I was most offended by Germaine Greer on Q&A a couple of years ago commenting on Julia Gillard's big bum and her lack of fashion sense in dealing with it. I think a complaint of 'historical inappropriate behaviour' on the part of Germaine should be made to the HRC, and invite 'Meeto's' to the webpage: Germaineoffendedmetoo@bigpond.com (mailto:Germaineoffendedmetoo@bigpond.com)

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113734#respond)

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richard stremski says:

December 2, 2017 at 7:35 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113708)
Archie Lever clearly has no understanding of social stratification. It is exceptionally difficult to complain about abuse from those who are above you in the pecking order. Not many students ever complain about sexual harassment from a teacher or professor.

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Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113708#respond)

Archie Lever says:

December 2, 2017 at 1:20 am (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113645)
Aren't we Aussies pathetically derivative....some Americans decide to complain against civil war statues and pull some down....a week later we are seeing Captain Cook smeared with paint and noisy calls for statue wars. Harvey Weinstein is exposed in the US, then Kevin Spacey and more on both sides of the left-right spectrum....and now Oz has to have its celebrity exposures....

Can't any of these victims of sexual harassment give the culprit an uppercut at the time, or a swift kick in the crotch, or at least a good verbal bollicking heard by the whole cast?? That might have stopped the culprit in his (or her) tracks for good.

He (its always a 'he') acted inappropriately some years ago and I have been mortally damaged by the act ever since. Does anybody remember Crocodile Dundee goosing the transvestite at the NY party and finding out he/she was a bloke?? It was a good laugh in the movie – now it would be promoting sexual assault!!

One word about 'inappropriate' behaviour – and the accused's reputation and career is smeared for life and in this febrile atmosphere – terminal.

Like 18C, where the victims determine the crime (I felt insulted and offended by what you said so you have committed a crime!); the 'inappropriate behaviour' can be similarly subjective, determined by the victim. 'He said he liked my looks and asked me out; and I was offended because I did not like the look of him, and therefore he is guilty of inappropriate behaviour!'

If Mr Rush is guilty of what could be objectively determined as a sexual assault under the law; he should be dealt with in the courts. If he gave offence to someone by lesser 'inappropriate' behaviour; the alleged victim should have told him to bugger off in a loud voice; and let those around at the time know in a very loud voice as well.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113645#respond)

> **Brendon** says:
>
> December 10, 2017 at 1:57 am (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-114364)
> Wow Mr Lever. Your comments seem to belong in the 28th Century. I suppose you still think of women as your property?
>
> Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=114364#respond)

Dee O'Loughlin says:

December 2, 2017 at 12:01 am (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113642)
Definitely not handled well! To not even be informed of such an accusation? To not have the opportunity to respond? And to have the 'anonymous' accusation made public? Not even close to being handled well! I am struggling to understand the whole process and trust that Geoffrey Rush has the opportunity to know who the accuser is, what he is accused of, and to respond.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113642#respond)

Rocky says:

December 1, 2017 at 9:01 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113629)
Unlike many NFP/Social enterprises, arts companies are not "top heavy" with board talent. Board members are recruited not for their acumen as directors, but as recognition for, or in anticipation of, fundraising abilities. Some directors may (incidentally, through prior experience) have expertise, but they seldom become involved in HR. That's what you have management for.

Arts boards are for cocktails and connections. It's that way in most countries – see the NY Met Opera management/board saga.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113629#respond)

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Winston Appleyard says:

December 1, 2017 at 7:53 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113624)
The question I would be asking is how come a journalist can ask such a direct question of management in the first place without already having knowledge of what to ask? Does this mean that complainants are not getting redress from management and thus go to the media? I am not in any way inferring that Mr Rush is responsible but if so then the mediation process was a crock according to this person

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113624#respond)

Doug Stewart says:

December 1, 2017 at 4:56 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113615)
A single accuser, anonymous, a complaint whose content is secret, and the accused is unaware of the accusation. And then it appears in the press. I wonder if the STC realises what a monstrous abuse of process and of common decency this is. I thought those kinds of denunciations only occurred in the old Cold War Eastern Bloc.

I assume the STC has presented Kafka's The Trial at some stage. That is precisely the plight of Joseph K ... and it seems the STC has taken altogether the wrong lesson from it.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113615#respond)

Venise Alstergren says:

December 1, 2017 at 3:45 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113611)
This is almost beyond belief. How on earth is it permissible to condemn someone, on such a public issue, on the basis of rumour and without substantiating evidence of a smutty crime? If the fault lies with the Sydney Theatre Company, they have erred egregiously. Hell, even a cat burglar gets a trial.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113611#respond)

Bob Weis (http://oirbookcircle.com) says:

December 1, 2017 at 3:42 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113610)
I have known Geoffrey, not well, for some decades now. I am shocked at the report and the clear lack of transparency of this case. There is no doubt that many people are rightly being exposed now but the very nature of the way this has developed leaves a lot of unanswered questions.
On the smell test if the principal accused was not allowed to know the facts how did the Murdoch rubbish get tipped off ? To damage a person's integrity without giving them the opportunity to examine the evidence just seems wrong.
I hasten to say I have no knowledge of this case nor should I. Until Mr Rush is shown the complaint it remains rumour and I hope will not do lasting damage to a man who has given so much to his craft, his peers and for all of us.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113610#respond)

Barry Lucas says:

December 9, 2017 at 3:39 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-114308)
He knew exactly what this was about before it went to the press. He has been playing dumb to help his "I'm the victim" narrative. NEWS CORP jumped the gun as they wanted to claim the story as their own. Just because the GP doesn't know the facts doesn't mean the claims aren't true. People think Geoffrey has been damaged, but someone, anyone, think how hard this media circus might be for the complainant. They are the real victim.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=114308#respond)

Jim KABLE says:

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December 1, 2017 at 3:21 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113608)
Perhaps we need to know the people involved in supposedly handling this public announcement – is it a case of professional jealousy/payback? For sure it can't be simply a procedural error. And as with others and though from afar – I can scarcely credit that this is true – let alone credit the appalling injustice of the announcement.

A friend in the corporate world in the HR side of things speaks of this Season of Good Cheer (and Office Xmas Parties – OXP) as the busiest time for all manner of accusations of harassment and further. Let all the corporate world power "heavies"/managers/underlings be absolutely on the alert right now

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113608#respond)

Jimmy King says:

December 1, 2017 at 2:53 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113605)
Just because someone in the press asks a question does not obligate an answer. In a world where your young shop assistant needs to have a bit of a idea on confidential information and privacy principles the notion that senior people would talk about a specific individual to the press without the issue having been dealt with according to basic principles makes my head spin.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113605#respond)

A Dubbo says:

December 1, 2017 at 2:51 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113604)
Is it definite,that it was the the STC ,that released the story to the press?

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113604#respond)

Peter says:

December 1, 2017 at 2:33 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113601)
A person who claims an offence and insists that the alleged perpetrator not be told, while expecting the employer deal with it seems calculatingly malicious, intentionally spiteful and not to mention somewhat suspicious. The next question is of course, was there an expectation for compensation? I hope the Management and Board also investigated the possibility of slander.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113601#respond)

Richard K Whiley says:

December 1, 2017 at 2:09 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113596)
No names, no facts, no evidence, nothing. All we have is a vague allegation of impropriety on the part of one of our finest and most widely reputable actors. Tragic – and in its handling of the whole business, the STC board should be ashamed of itself.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113596#respond)

AndrewT says:

December 1, 2017 at 2:01 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113593)
The issue here is that there is a right way and a wrong way to address unlawful activity. And the right way does not involve unsubstantiated and anonymous accusations reported in the press. Sexual predators and bullies are a blight in any workplace, but fair process must be followed.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113593#respond)

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Jenny says:

December 1, 2017 at 2:01 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113592)
Don't theatre companies have CEOs? Handling issues like this is operational. I'd expect a CEO with advice from HR to deal with such matters, rather than having board members delving into day to day operations. Sounds like a structural problem.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113592#respond)

Raymond Gill says:

December 1, 2017 at 2:22 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113599)
I agree Jenny but there seems to be pattern emerging of management not handling these issues well. However its board is weighted with corporate experts who should be providing their advice to management on such issues which can explode in their faces by damaging the company's "brand"; (unless, of course they have done so and their advice hasn't been very effective). Cheers, Ray

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113599#respond)

Cate Fowler says:

December 1, 2017 at 1:22 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113587)
I think this is appalling that one of our most esteemed actors has been treated this way. I cannot believe Geoffrey Rush would behave in an unprofessional manner – and I have known him for over 30 years. The unfair inference, with no actual facts, is an appalling miscarriage of justice and is denying his human and individual rights in being informed of the basis of of this accusation. Another huge blight on those who are supposedly responsible for HR policies in arts companies.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113587#respond)

Allie says:

December 1, 2017 at 2:43 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113602)
"I cannot believe Geoffrey Rush would behave in an unprofessional manner – and I have known him for over 30 years."
This is a dangerous sentiment – because you haven't seen something yourself, or haven't experienced it, doesn't mean it's not possible. That's not to say that the way that STC has handled the issue is appropriate, but surely a key issue emerging from the multiple instances of public figures being exposed as having committed various sexual and other offences lately has shown this.

People who commit sexual assault, harassment, rape, etc, don't look or act a particular way. They can live and work amongst people who have no idea, and would never think their friend/colleague/family member capable of committing such offences.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113602#respond)

Chris Westwood says:

December 1, 2017 at 5:52 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113620)
I absolutely agree with Cate Fowler.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113620#respond)

Murray McLachlan says:

December 2, 2017 at 6:14 pm (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/#comment-113702)
'Those who are responsible for HR policies in arts companies', would, in a typical structure, include the HRmanager, probably an operations manager, a 'People and Culture' manager or some such, the General Manager/CEO and, ultimately, the Board (with different levels of responsibility between a management board and a 'strategic' board).

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This is to say nothing of fellow actors, techs, 'creatives' and the director of each individual production who really, given the nature of theatre companies, need to be the 'eyes and ears' of management on the ground.

Reply (https://dailyreview.com.au/geoffrey-rush-sexual-harassment-claim-exposes-role-theatre-company-boards/68819/?replytocom=113702#respond)

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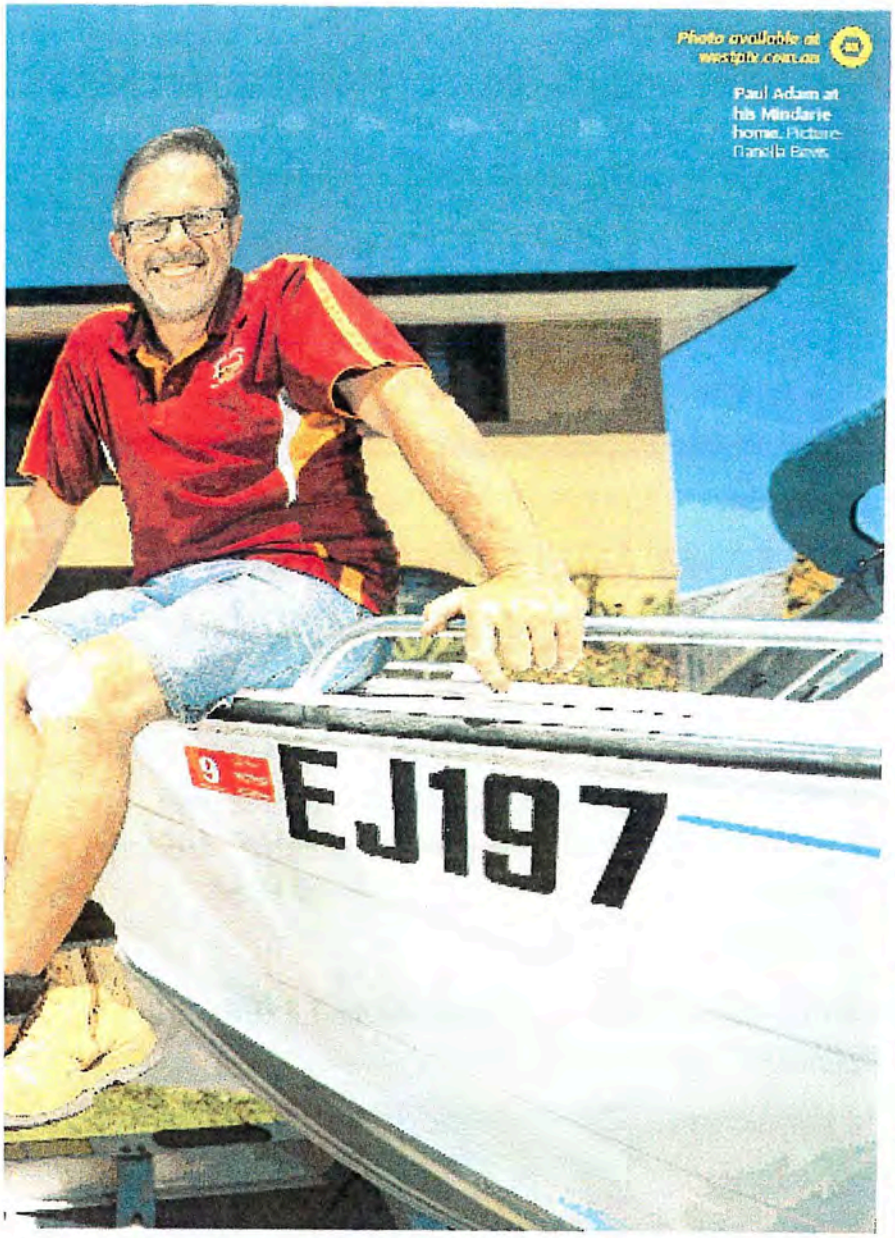
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Baldivis offers bargains

Kim Macdonald

First-homebuyers wanting a property bargain should look in the suburbs that have an oversupply of homes at entry-level prices, according to a valuation expert.

Property commentator Gavin Heaney said an abundance of listed properties within a similar price range in a single suburb tended to drive prices down because it created a buyer's market.

However, buyers should be warned that while they may get a lot of bang for their buck in an oversupplied area, short and medium-term resale values were likely to suffer until the surplus stock was reduced, which could take many years.

Baldivis tops the list for having the highest number of dwellings on the market for $450,000 or below, which is the average entry-level price range.

Baldivis has 148 houses and 16 units priced at $450,000 or less, which make up 2.3 per cent of the total number of properties for sale in WA.

Rockingham has the next highest number of listed entry-level properties, with 44 houses and 77 units within the first-homebuyer price range.

Then comes Gosnells, (see Armadale), Ellenbrook, Balga, Butler, Perth and Waikiki.

At the other end of the price scale, there are 59 suburbs which have no properties selling for $450,000 or below.

Surprisingly, a small number of Perth's more exclusive suburbs have some units for sale within the entry-level price range, including Nedlands, Wembley Downs, Daglish and Cottesloe.

These areas have experienced relatively high capital gains in the past 25 years.

There are currently 5136 properties on the market selling for $450,000 or less.

...he opportunities and re-...ubs.

...expected a rise in employees working from home, thanks to technological advances such teleconferencing, as would as improvements in public transport and driverless cars, would change the landscape.

He said people would continue to be drawn to the beach and river but may not feel compelled to live near Perth, Fremantle or Joondalup.

He believes this will increase the popularity of outlying coastal suburbs such as Safety Bay in the south and Yanchep and Two Rocks in the north.

TOP GROWING SUBURBS

SUBURB	MEDIAN HOUSE PRICE YEAR TO SEP 1992	MEDIAN HOUSE PRICE YEAR TO SEP 2017	ANNUALISED GROWTH	25-YEAR CHANGE
Mindarie	$48,000	$645,000	11%	1244%
Leda	$24,500	$300,000	10.7%	1127%
Port Kennedy	$36,500	$375,000	10.7%	1078%
Currambine	$42,900	$575,000	10.5%	1240%
Clarkson	$33,500	$404,750	10.5%	1108%
Joondalup	$45,500	$515,000	10.2	1032%
Wembley	$29,000	$328,000	10.2%	1031%
Kinross	$44,500	$485,000	10%	990%
Gwelup	$90,000	$855,500	10%	872%
Waikiki	$36,000	$380,000	9.9%	956%
Perth metro region	$90,000	$515,000	7%	560%

Source: Real Estate Institute of WA


Geoffrey Rush

Rush denies inappropriate theatre behaviour

Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has denied accusations of "inappropriate behaviour" during his time with the Sydney Theatre Company.

The STC said that Rush was the subject of a complaint after the 2015-16 production of William Shakespeare's King Lear.

Lawyers for Rush immediately disputed the accusations when the story was published yesterday. Rush said he phoned STC management when he heard rumours of a complaint asking for clarification about the details.

"They refused to illuminate me with details," he said.

"I also asked why this information was being withheld and why, according to standard theatre practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

STC said that it was an allegation "made to (not by) STC and was not a conclusion of impropriety".

Lawyers for Rush said: "It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush that the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way. At this stage, Mr Rush can only reiterate his statement that he denies having been involved in any 'inappropriate behaviour' whatsoever.

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

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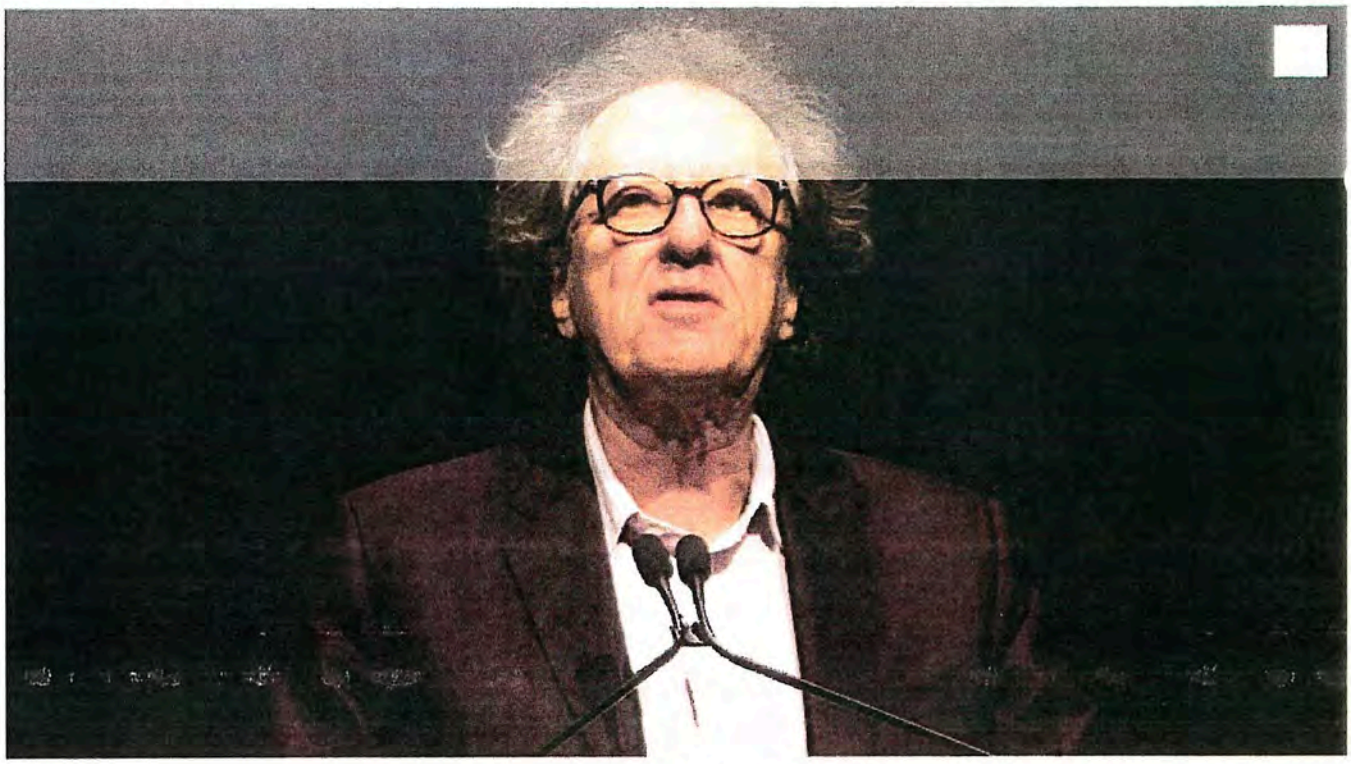
ENTERTAINMENT

Geoffrey Rush steps down from Australian screen academy after Sydney Theatre Company complaint

Updated 2 December 2017 — 6:21pm, first published at 3:19pm

Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush stepped down on Saturday as president of Australia's screen industry academy, ahead of its red carpet annual film and television awards ceremony to be televised this week.

The move came after the Sydney Theatre Company revealed it had received a complaint against the actor of "inappropriate behaviour."



Rush says he is stepping down from AACTA "effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved".

Photo: Paul Jeffers

Media reports say the allegation dated from Rush's starring role in "King Lear" two years ago.

Rush has denied the allegations and said that he had asked the Sydney Theatre Company for details of the allegations, but none had been provided.

Rush's resignation as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) occurred on the weekend before the academy's peak event, its annual awards. These include an industry event on Monday at Sydney's Star Casino and a glamorous televised red carpet event on Wednesday where the winners of best film, best lead actor, best lead actress will be presented.

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AACTA said in a statement it accepted and respected Rush's decision to voluntarily step aside as president.

"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."

Mr Rush has been the president of the awards since 2011, when they replaced the AFIA Awards.

He was expected to appear at the annual ceremony in Sydney on Wednesday.

Mr Rush has also hosted the awards on several occasions

The leadership of AACTA held crisis talks earlier this week following the allegations, discussing the actions they would take going forward.

Rush won the AACTA award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in 1996 for his performance in *Shine*.

In a statement to The Associated Press given through his lawyer, Rush said he was stepping down "effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved."

"Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my standing in the entertainment community. It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow associated with such allegations," Rush said in his statement.

"In the circumstances, I have decided to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of AACTA effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved.

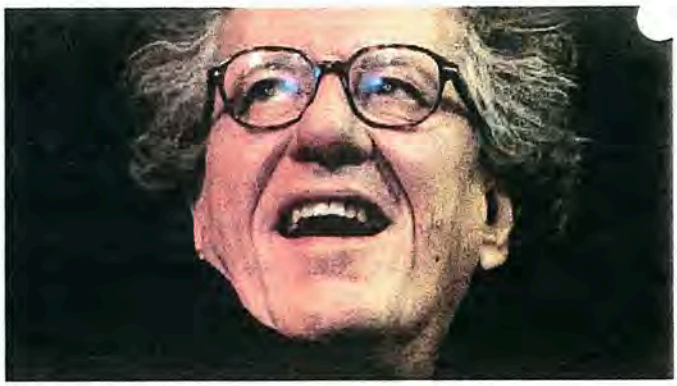
"This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is

the best for all concerned."

Wednesday's event is expected to be attended by some of Australia's top film and television talent, including Sophie Monk, Rob Collins, Jessica Marais, Rachel Griffiths, Noni Hazlehurst and Charlie Pickering, among others.

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Geoffrey Rush steps down as president of Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts

Updated Sat 2 Dec 2017, 4:33pm



PHOTO: Geoffrey Rush is among Australia's most identifiable actors. (AAP: Alan Porritt)

Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush has stepped down as president of Australia's screen industry academy after a theatre company revealed it had received a complaint against him for "inappropriate behaviour".

RELATED STORY: Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' after formal complaint

Rush has denied any inappropriate behaviour at the Sydney Theatre Company.

Media reports said the allegation dated from Rush's starring role in King Lear two years ago.

Rush announced on Saturday he was stepping down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) ahead of the academy's annual awards on Wednesday.

Rush said in a statement to The Associated Press he was stepping down "effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved".

Key points:

- Geoffrey Rush steps aside as president of AACTA
- Rush denies any inappropriate behaviour at Sydney Theatre Company
- Actor says decision "to clear the air is the best for all concerned"

AACTA said in a statement it accepted and respected Rush's decision to voluntarily step aside as president.

"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 statement said.

"We will not be making any further comment at this time."

Rush said in his statement he did not want professional colleagues associated with any allegations.

"Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my standing in the entertainment community," said through his lawyer Nicholas Pullen.

"It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow associated with such allegations.

"In the circumstances, I have decided to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of AACTA effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved.

"This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned."

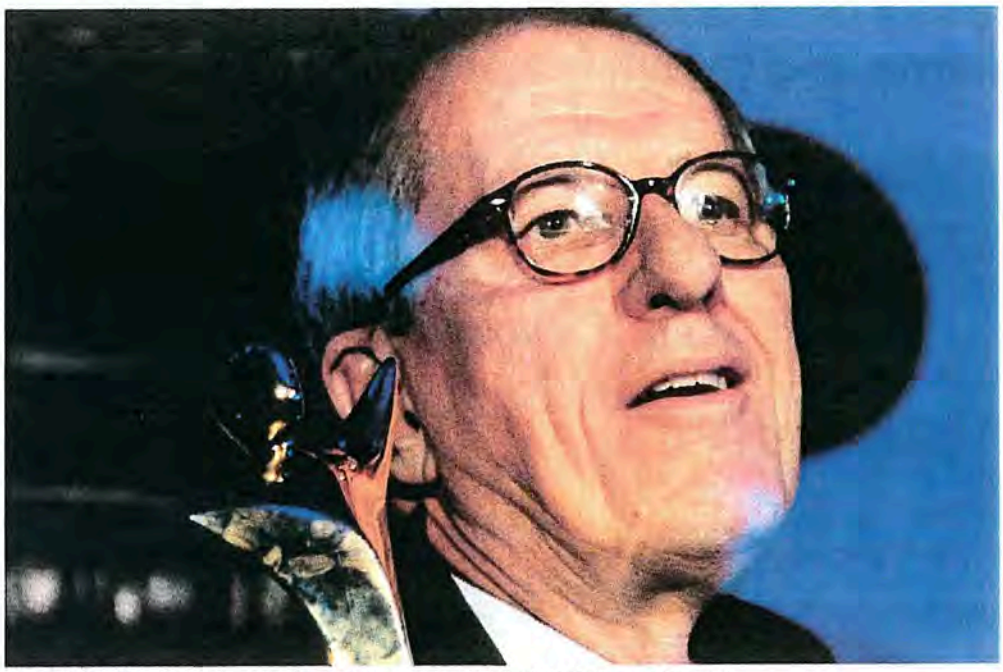


PHOTO: Geoffrey Rush has won the "Triple Crown of Acting". (AAP: Tracey Nearmy)

The Sydney Theatre Company has not disclosed details of the allegation. It said the complainant requested that the allegation be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

Rush has performed at the Sydney theatre for 35 years.

The company said the complaint was made after Rush's employment had ended and it disclosed it when a journalist asked in early November.

The company did not say what action it had taken and it did not respond to questions about whether it would work with Rush in the future.

Rush's lawyers said his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

The actor said on Thursday he became aware of "rumours of a complaint" but the theatre had refused to provide details at the time.

His lawyer said Rush "abhorred any form of maltreatment of any person".

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

"The public and the media need to note this is a highly stressful and frustrating time for Mr Rush and his family, especially when there are no details concerning the 'inappropriate behaviour'."

Rush is one of Australia's most respected actors and among the few who have won the "Triple Crown of Acting", meaning he has won an Academy Award, Primetime Emmy Award and a Tony Award.

The 66-year-old won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for Shine and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the Pirates of the Caribbean films.

AAP/AP

Topics: actor, arts-and-entertainment, theatre, australia

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ENTERTAINMENT THEATRE

Melbourne Theatre Company 'monitoring' Geoffrey Rush allegations ahead of Twelfth Night

By Broede Carmody
Updated 4 December 2017 – 10:22pm, first published at 10:00am

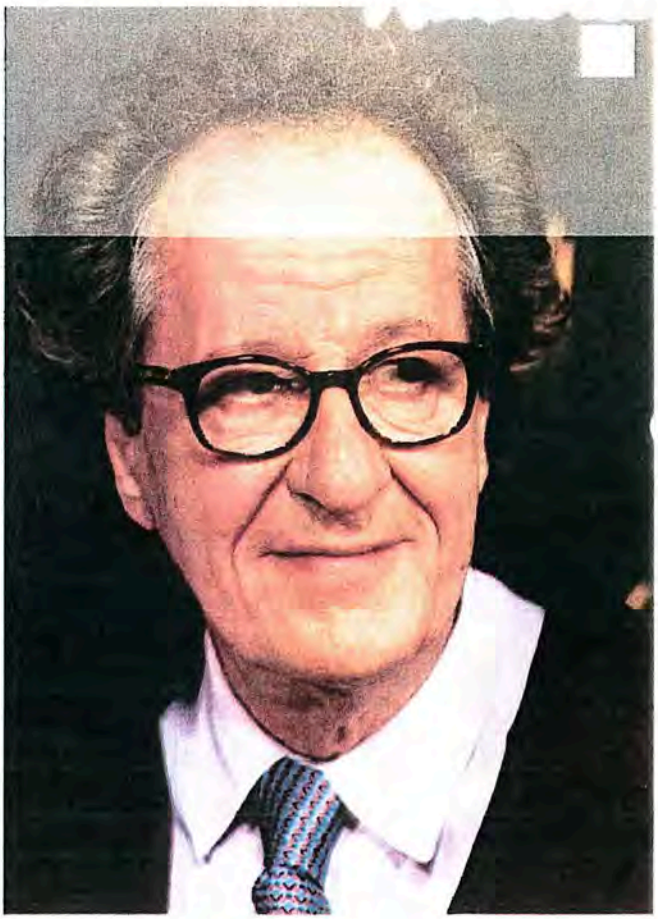
Geoffrey Rush will continue to star in a retelling of Shakespeare's comedy *Twelfth Night* next year after being accused of inappropriate behaviour.

The Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) has issued a statement, however, saying it is "monitoring" the situation closely.

An MTC spokeswoman said the theatre has not received complaints about the Oscar-winning actor's conduct on or off the stage. Rush worked with the theatre company in

2011 for a remake of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and in 2010 for the Melbourne run of musical comedy *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

"MTC has not identified any allegations of inappropriate behaviour during Geoffrey Rush's employment," the spokeswoman said. "MTC has a robust and well established respectful workplace policy that applies to all employees, including performers, creatives and contractors. MTC is monitoring the situation closely."



"MTC has not identified any allegations of inappropriate behaviour during Geoffrey Rush's employment," a spokeswoman said.

Photo: AP

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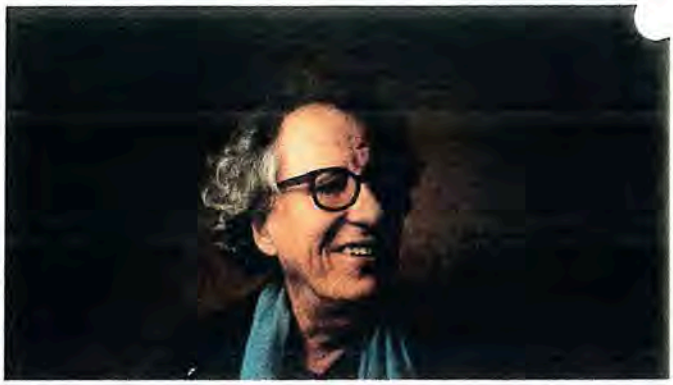
The statement comes after a poster advertising the 2018 show in Melbourne's CBD was vandalised. Rush's eyes were crossed out with a black texta and a defamatory statement was scrawled across the paste-up.

Melbourne Theatre Company said it requested the offending poster be taken down as soon as it became aware it had been tampered with. Rush's face has also appeared on a Melbourne tram and PTV buses as part of *Twelfth Night's* huge marketing push.

The award-winning actor has accused Sydney Theatre Company of smearing his name after it revealed it had received an allegation of "inappropriate conduct" during a remake of *King Lear* two years ago. He has strongly denied any wrongdoing, and claims the theatre has not been forthcoming with details of the alleged incident.

Over the weekend, Rush stepped down as the president of Australia's screen industry academy. However, the organisers of the annual AACTA Awards have refused to say whether he will walk the red carpet on Wednesday.

RELATED ARTICLE



Geoffrey Rush steps down from Australian screen academy after Sydney Theatre Company complaint

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Broede Carmody

Broede Carmody is an entertainment reporter at Fairfax Media.

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ABC NEWS

Australian actors react to sexual harassment storm, call on industry to deal with allegations properly

By Antonette Collins and Clare Blumer

Updated Mon 4 Dec 2017, 5:38pm



PHOTO: AACTA nominee Andrea Demetriades said theatre companies needed to address victims' claims. (AAP: Ben Rushton)

Australia's screen actors have expressed support for victims of sexual harassment, while wary of unsubstantiated media reports, as they stepped out for an industry awards luncheon in Sydney.

They were gathering for the 7th Annual Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts awards industry luncheon which celebrates skilled entertainment professionals. More awards will be handed out at the main ceremony on Wednesday night.

RELATED STORY: Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' after formal complaint

RELATED STORY: Rush steps down as president of Australia's screen industry academy

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It is the first time the awards have been held without Geoffrey Rush, who stepped down as the organisation's president in the wake of an allegation of "inappropriate behaviour" at the Sydney Theatre Company.

Rush has denied the allegation which media reported was related to a production of King Lear in 2015.

Discussion is 'long overdue'

A number of Australia's leading actors spoke on the red carpet at the luncheon at The Star about the turmoil facing the industry both here and overseas.

AACTA nominee Andrea Demetriades said she had a "great time" working with the Sydney Theatre Company, where she has starred in a number of productions, but added companies needed to properly address victims' claims.



"They have got to sort it out as it happens and deal with [sexual harassment allegations] properly so people's names aren't smeared — either the victims or the perpetrators," she said.

PHOTO: Actor Don Hany is nominated for Best Supporting Actor for his role in Ali's Wedding. (AAP: Ben Rushton)

"And if people say it happened, then it happened. That whole thing about women making stuff up — it's too much!"

Actor Don Hany, nominated for Best Supporting Actor for Ali's Wedding, said while he was "sympathetic at how difficult it was to address allegations" he said the discussion was "long overdue".

"The nature of the work revolves around a personal relationship and breaking down or disarming each other very quickly," he said.

"Unfortunately a lot of lines get blurred and lot of it hasn't been discussed for many years.

"I think anyone that encroaches on someone's comfort, their ability to work or their personal space, owes an explanation. At least take responsibility."

Some 'anxious men' out there



PHOTO: Andrew McFarlane and Tina Bursill at the 2017 AACTA awards luncheon. (AAP: Ben Rushton)

Actor Debra Lawrence, who is nominated for Best Performance in a Television Comedy for Please Like Me, said she was curious about what would happen locally after an investigation exposed film producer Harvey Weinstein.

"I'm sure there are some anxious men out there who are frantically thinking back over their ... years in the business," she said.

"Maybe that's their karma?"

Lawrence said the "elephant in the room" was that there was very little evidence of some of the claims made against men, although she and many female friends in the industry were privy to constant sexual harassment over the decades.

"I was never badly affected, not sexually assaulted or anything ... [but sexual harassment] was rife," she said.

Actor Tina Bursill also said "it's been a long time coming" for the industry.

Bursill is nominated for Best Supporting Actress in a Television Drama for Doctor Doctor on the Nine Network and has a career of many decades in the local industry.

"I think it's the newer generation of women and men who are prepared to put themselves out there and are supported by so many," she said.

Lion sweeps pool in awards luncheon

The event was about more than the scandals, with 35 AACTA awards handed out to the best in the industry.

Feature film Lion dominated the awards winning Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Sound, Best Original Music Score, Best Costume Design and Best Production Design.

Seven Types of Ambiguity was the big winner on the box taking home Best Television Drama or Comedy, Best Cinematography in Television and Best Editing in Television.

Ali's Wedding, a romantic comedy about a young Muslim man trying to sidestep an arranged marriage to marry the woman of his choosing, garnered Best Original Screenplay for writer (and lead actor) Osamah Sami who co-wrote the script with Andrew Knight.

Hany, who played Sami's father in the popular comedy, said the afternoon celebrated the "nerve centre" of the industry.

"What we make in the industry is a team effort and there's so little that goes on to recognise that," he said.

"We're all proud of each other's work."

Topics: arts-and-entertainment, awards-and-prizes, event, sexual-offences, sydney-2000, australia



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Episode 43, 4 December 2017

Comments

The rush to convict Geoffrey Rush

Was a single, unspecific and uncorroborated complaint enough to condemn the actor on the front page of the Daily Telegraph?

"MARK FERGUSON: Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush says his name's been smeared and reputation damaged unjustifiably by claims of inappropriate behaviour. He's vigorously denied the accusations from when he performed with the Sydney Theatre Company, insisting he's always acted professionally.

– Channel Seven News, 30 November, 2017"

Hello, I'm Paul Barry, welcome to Media Watch.

And yet another famous face from the entertainment industry is fighting allegations of sexual misconduct, after this front-page shocker in The Daily Telegraph:

"KING LEER

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

Oscar-winner Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' during Sydney stage show

— The Daily Telegraph, 30 November, 2017"

Rush's denial was certainly emphatic, but it didn't stop the Tele jumping to judgement or following up with a double-page spread inside that also found him guilty:

"STAR'S BARD BEHAVIOUR

— The Daily Telegraph, 30 November, 2017"

Although the Tele was unable to tell its readers what Rush was actually guilty of. And the actor's lawyer claimed in a statement that Rush had known nothing about the complaint until the Tele contacted him:

"DAMIAN RYAN: Not to afford a person their right to know what's been alleged against them let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public, is both a denial of justice.

— Channel Nine News, 30 November, 2017"

The alleged incident dates back to late 2015 when Rush was playing King Lear in the Sydney Theatre Company production.

The complainant, an unnamed female cast member, did not want to go public or Rush to be told.

But when the Tele asked the question STC management said it had to admit a complaint had been made.

And that sparked headlines right around the world. From Hollywood, to New York, to London and beyond. Although for them the denial was the story.

But getting back to that original Tele headline "King Leer". Was a single, unspecified, uncorroborated complaint from a woman who wouldn't be named enough for such a public condemnation? The Sydney Morning Herald's Andrew Hornery thought not:

"So, 250 accounts collated involving Don Burke, 1 against Geoffrey Rush we know very little about and denied by Rush. Journalists should exercise a little caution perhaps – the damage can be irreparable.

— Twitter, @hornery, 30 November, 2017"

And Hornery was not the only one to hold that view:

"ANDREW BOLT: … here's an unknown allegation from an unknown person about something unknown and he's got to answer that. I think that's a little … and he says he's done nothing wrong. I think this might have stepped over a line.

— Sky News, The Bolt Report, 30 November, 2017"

More significantly, Andrew Bolt's editors at the Herald Sun apparently agreed with him.

Because, while Brisbane's Courier-Mail and Adelaide's Advertiser both ran the Rush story in

Thursday's paper, it was nowhere to be seen in News Corp's Melbourne tabloid.

And shortly after the Tele's exclusive went up online, an email from Herald Sun deputy editor Chris Tinkler warned his journos to steer well clear:

"IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL STAFF

Do not retweet or post any articles regarding GEOFFREY RUSH.

— Chris Tinkler, Deputy Editor, Herald Sun, 29 November, 2017"

Soon afterwards, a follow-up text message from another newsroom leader warned:

"... please under no circumstances retweet/share/like/repost any stories about Geoffrey Rush on social media etc until further notice. The Tele are running with a yarn which is highly libellous.

— Herald Sun staffer, 29 November, 2017"

But no such caution at the Tele, with Rush splashed across page one again on Friday:

"WE'RE WITH YOU

Theatre cast back accuser as Rush denies 'touching'

— The Daily Telegraph, 1 December, 2017"

That follow-up relied on messages of support for the complainant posted on social media. Apart from the word "touching", it had no new details or witnesses and no further allegations.

So, did the Tele jump the gun?

2GB's Ben Fordham observed to entertainment reporter Peter Ford:

"BEN FORDHAM: There's a real media rush on this ...

... probably about three weeks ago I was told that, yes, someone's preparing something on Geoffrey Rush. Now what do other people in the media do? They all then think 'OK, I want to get ahead of the curve here' so they then try and try and work out what the story is and essentially someone's gone to Geoffrey Rush to say, 'Have you got something to hide?'. He says, 'I don't know what it is', and now that's the story.

PETER FORD Yeah, I think, it's almost like The Daily Telegraph couldn't wait to cook the pudding. They felt they had to serve it up, and they hadn't really cooked it properly, that's my feeling. They know they've got a story and they have got a very good story if they can firm it up ...

— 2GB, Ben Fordham, Sydney Live, 30 November, 2017"

But at the moment, the story is not firm at all. As Nine's Damian Ryan summed it up:

> *"DAMIAN RYAN: A claim and a denial and not much else. Where to on this latest scandal remains unclear. So far, the police are staying out of it and the case remains in the court of public opinion.*
>
> *— Channel Nine News, 30 November, 2017"*

And that is the problem. Because the damage is already done, to Rush, his family and the alleged victim, whose identity is now well known.

The charges against Don Burke, levelled by the ABC and Fairfax, involved multiple incidents of harassment or assault against multiple women, testifying on the record.

The charges against Rush are almost as harmful, but far more flimsy.

Certainly, they ought to be investigated, but if the complainant won't go public and no others come forward, the Tele could find itself on the wrong end of a very expensive defamation action.

It cost Bauer Magazines around $7 million when they claimed Rebel Wilson had made up stories about her childhood.

Geoffrey Rush is just as big a star and in the current climate even more likely to be dropped by Hollywood.

For everyone's sake, the Tele should have waited until it had evidence before convicting him.

YOUR COMMENTS

Comments (20)

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jonathan :

21 Feb 2018 1:01:19am

I am sure the original King Lear would have had no issues feeling up a dead corpse. Wasn't he the ultimate dirty old man, irrational too. Defamation is a tricky and dangerous game. Now in the transcripts even more mud has been thrown at Rush and on the record. Perhaps he should just have waited til the actress brought an action. Will be interesting to see the result.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Captain James :

09 Dec 2017 8:39:30am

....our Geoffrey?...surely not..he's a national living treasure...he just wouldn't...he couldn't...he's one of us....which is everything the UK said about ...(pick name of famous showbiz abuser and insert here).

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Jess.h :

05 Dec 2017 9:04:25pm

Feeling very sorry for Geoffrey :(hope all goes well for him. This sounds very fishy as if someone is out hunting for money. And this is the perfect time because of the harvey allegations. I dearly hope this doesn't mess up his acting career. #SupportRushy

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

jonathan :

21 Feb 2018 1:02:47am

re money sought..> yes, the defamation lawyer who advised him to go ahead..

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Elanor Webber :

05 Dec 2017 4:37:02pm

Media Watch, whilst other media outlets are handling this situation absolutely appallingly you have handled it THE WORST. Are you aware of the damage you do to victims of sexual assault and trauma when you paint someone who is accused of inappropriate behaviour as if THEY are they victim? And emphasis words like "alleged" as if the actual victim (who, don't be mistaken is the female complainant in this situation, although you would like to lead the public to believe otherwise). Congratulations, you have successfully derailed the important conversations made around calling entitled white men to account for their poor behaviours in this toxic industry and made it about how poor white privileged men with wonderful careers and opportunities available to them (which will not be damaged in the slightest by these allegations, maybe even bolstered if this type of reporting continues) are going to be damaged by the truth coming out. I feel for the real victims of this story. I truly feel for her and for the others who would have otherwise come forward although I doubt now will have the courage. Shame.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Alan Davies :

07 Dec 2017 4:17:26am

Wonderful comment could not agree more. We should apply these ideas to all possible criminal complaints. You can be trialled without knowing the charge. You have to prove your innocence. The prosecution's case cannot be questioned and testimony from witnesses disregarded if we judge them privileged. We will all be safer if your ideas were adopted, thank you.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Paul Brookes :

07 Dec 2017 12:58:19pm

Actually as a crime is alleged until investigated and proven in a court of law (as opposed to a court of public opinion), you have an alleged victim and an alleged perpetrator, it does not help anyone to insist an alleged victim is an actual victim without proof just because someone 'feels' that should be the case.
If some people have their way, then yes, people's opportunities and careers would be destroyed just on the word of an alleged victim.
The most important thing to remember in all this is 'facts', they need to be presented, scrutinised, then dealt upon, this is the basis of our legal system and any attempt to

deal with alleged criminal acts in any other way will result in many serious miscarriages of justice.
And please enough with the white privilege argument, I'm sure the likes of Morgan Freeman, Lawrence Fishburn etc all got where they are from their "Black Privilege"!! no, they got there with their hard work and talent, same with people like Geoffrey Rush.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Elsie :

08 Dec 2017 5:41:02pm

The issue isn't whether the victim is telling the truth. It's whether the Tele did enough to corroborate the story, talk to other witnesses and afford Rush a right of reply.
If you want examples, remind yourself of the reporting on Don Burke, Weinstein and Kevin Spacey.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

some dickehead :

08 Dec 2017 10:25:37pm

ALLEGED MEANS ITS NOT PROVEN. It dosnt mean its not true.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Adam :

09 Dec 2017 5:10:22am

Are you an idiot? There is no proof of anything. Im sorry but "sexual harrassment claims" should be dealth with as all other crimes...in a court. You dont know if he is guilty or 8nnicent idiot. We fought fro 1000's of yeasr for a right to trial etc and other human rights and you want to take us baxk to a mob state with no legal system. See how that feels if you are ever falsly accused idiot.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Chris Courtland :

09 Dec 2017 11:14:41am

I have to strongly disagree with your statements Elanor, Media is not the law of the land there is an unknown complaint from an unknown person who wants to remain anonymous - there's a lot of 'what if' without proper evidence. For not knowing or understanding what has happened can you really condemn him as a entitled white man capable of sexual assault? You've labelled him a rapist without even knowing what he's done - it could be a misdemeanor for all we know. I say if there is an issue let the police do there job and people can judge when there are grounds to judge so put down your pitch fork and torch until there is actually a witch to burn.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Not that silly :

09 Dec 2017 11:58:48am

I'm glad you certainly seem to know more about this allegation than anyone else. Could you let us know if anyone even consulted the victim? who didn't want to be

named or known before this story ran. Thank you for racistly identifying that Rush is white, as clearly race is very important to you in this condemnation.. sorry 'conversation' thus must be guilty, please clear Cosby of all charges... Rush may well turn out to be the devils incarnate, I simply ask you prove it first and maybe someone consulte the victim before making them a world wide headline.

Ps. SHAME - (what a stupid way to finish a arguement.)

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

m edgar :

09 Dec 2017 1:05:02pm

Media watch are actually handling this situation perfectly. Until facts are provided and proven all actions are of course alleged. Tell me how you would react if someone complained say to the police that you were beating your partner and the first you heard of it was a report in the local paper with a bad hair day photo of you on the front page and when you phoned the cops they would not tell you who lodged the complaint. Of course the complaint is alleged. The shame is on you for making such an outrageous statement consistent with the Tele's articles. Do you wan't a society where one is "guilty till proved innocent"?

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Dr Jennifer Wilson :

09 Dec 2017 4:09:05pm

On the contrary, it does nothing good for victims when unsubstantiated allegations are pursued by the media as if they are facts.

We know practically nothing about this situation. The Sydney Theatre Company has betrayed the victim, who requested confidentiality, not Media Watch. The STC has also acted unconscionably towards Rush, denying him due process & natural justice to which everyone is entitled, no matter what.

The question we should be asking is why the STC released this statement to the Telegraph

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Brett Hillebrand :

11 Dec 2017 8:39:28pm

It may benefit you to read and take note of the Rule of Law in this country, as it appears that you may lack knowledge of this important legal principle â€“ Or are otherwise acting in a manner deliberately contrary to it.

The fact is: Everyone is entitled to the presumption of innocence until proven guilty, regardless of their social status or gender, and this includes the presumption of innocence for Geoffrey Rush. Your contribution here, specifically the automatic assumption of guilt for Rush simply because he is a 'successful white male', reaks of uneducated, partisan, feminist-motivated misandry and racism, for which there is no place within a progressive society such as ours. If anyone should feel shame for their conduct, it is you.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Michael Page :

12 Dec 2017 4:40:56am

I can't help but wonder if you're from News Ltd and attempting to drum up support for the Telegraph's appalling behaviour.

Of course, the other option is that you truly believe in trial by media and the denial of the presumption of innocence.

One anonymous, unsubstantiated allegation of an alleged incident of unknown severity, and you take MW to task over their critique of the Telegraph's potentially libelous attempts to sell copy?

I also assume you do little more than skim these kinds of stories if you truly believe such unproven allegations actually "bolster" careers.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Bruce Downie :

05 Dec 2017 9:47:07am

Geoffrey Rush hasn't been accorded natural justice. Why wasn't he informed of the nature of his offence as soon as the Sydney Company was told? Why did his accuser want to remain anonymous and for him not to be informed of the accusation? Why is it just coming out now? What is he supposed to have done?

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Gerry Sont :

09 Dec 2017 9:15:06am

I agree, no justice for Geoffrey. Trial by media.

Apparently the STC's response to the complaint was 'Sorry, Geoffrey is the star and puts bums on seats so there's not much we can do"

She did ask him to stop grabbing her breast and vagina each night he picked her up but he didn't.

Most professional actors know who we are talking about here however, in our industry, which is really small and hard to get work, you are extremely afraid of offending anyone in the status quo - the click that you yourself have to work in for the rest of your life. Because, many acting jobs are obtained via recommendation or the phrase ' who do you know who would be good for..."

As to why it's just coming out now? Well, there is power in numbers. Wait until they start looking into our major acting schools!

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Sam Tyler :

05 Dec 2017 8:12:48am

Another good piece by Media Watch. I would just quibble with one word... "UNLESS' it had evidence, not "UNTIL" it had evidence. Did "something" happen? Probably. But in an age when reading a tweet or having someone look at you the wrong way can lead to PTSD was that "something" genuinely "wrong" in some way shape or form? I think it's put up or shut up time.

Reply Agree (0) Alert moderator

Steven grives :

05 Dec 2017 8:08:05pm

I have worked Geoffrey and I might say we didnâ€™t really hit it off .. but I am disgusted by the Daily Telegraph, the response or lack of response from the STC and more than disappointed that somebody can just make a claim against him without giving him the chance to rebut the accusation. I feel for his family his wife and children and although I had a less than real time working with him he must be going through hell. Shut up or put up, a good Australian value or just leave him alone. This has to be snipping at the poppies.

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ENTERTAINMENT TV & RADIO

Director Neil Armfield calls Geoffrey Rush allegations a 'great injustice'

By Rob Moran

Updated 6 December 2017 — 12:14pm, first published at 11:51am

Theatre director Neil Armfield has slammed the "misinformation" surrounding allegations of inappropriate behaviour against Geoffrey Rush, calling the media discussion of the claims a "great injustice".

"Look, I actually think far too much has been spoken about this already," Armfield told Radio National host Fran Kelly when she broached the topic on-air on Wednesday morning.

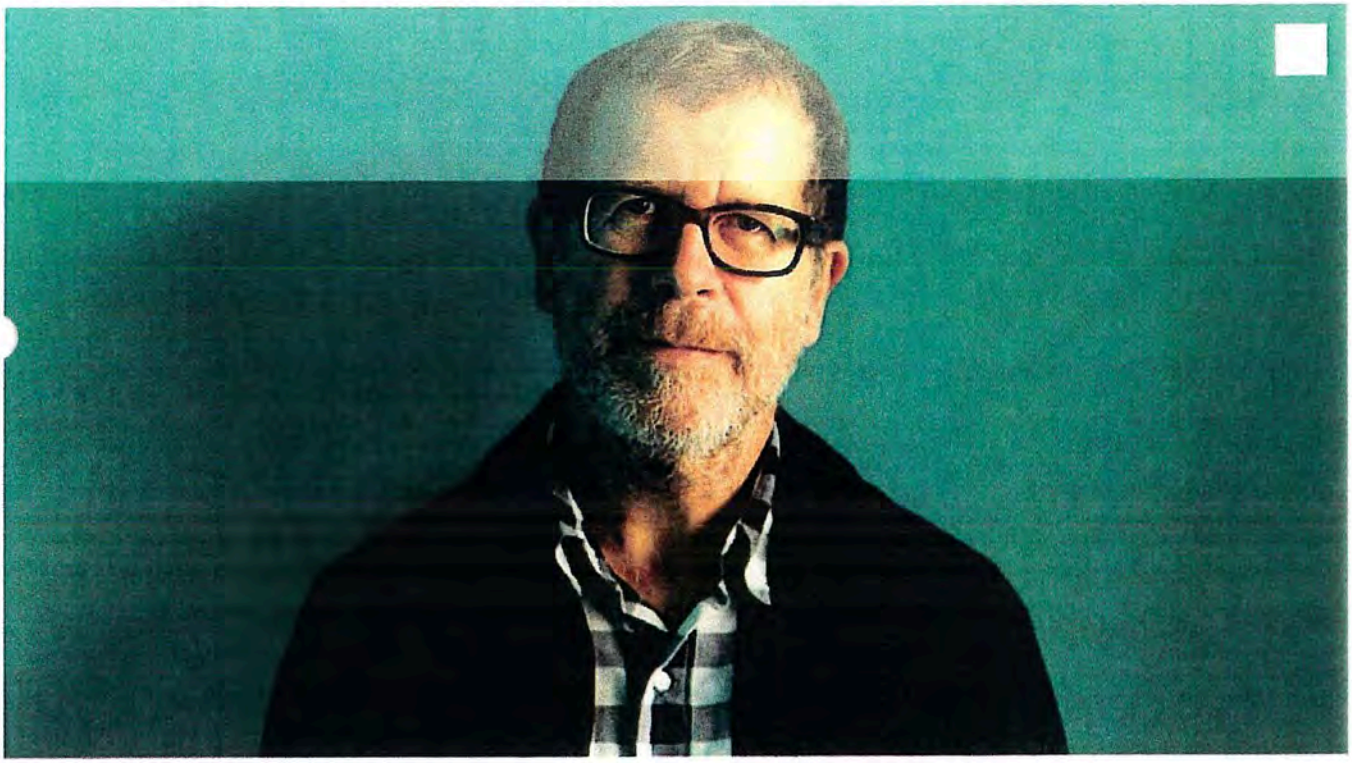


Don't Play

Geoffrey Rush steps down as president of AACTA, Taylor Swift announces Aussie tour and Don Burke's reputation continues to be dragged through the mud.

"The way that this has been spoken about has already set a kind of... I believe, a great injustice is being perpetrated."

The Sydney Theatre Company last week revealed it had received a complaint against Rush of "inappropriate conduct" dating back to his stint on *King Lear* in 2015, which Armfield directed.



Theatre director Neil Armfield has called the allegations against Geoffrey Rush a "great injustice".
Photo: Jacky Ghossein

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The actor issued a statement denying the allegations, and "stepped aside" as president of AACTA ahead of Wednesday's awards ceremony in Sydney.

Armfield, who shot back at Kelly's assertion that Rush had "stood down" from AACTA – "he has stood aside; it's a different thing," he said – defended Rush's behaviour during the 2015 production.

"In my time, in all the weeks and months of rehearsal and performance, I saw absolutely nothing other than an artist at the top of his form, leading a company with respect and playfulness and great artistry - and that's really all I have to say about it," he said.

He dismissed reports from two other actors in the production who publicly backed the complainant as "misinformation".



Rush and Armfield in 2015.
Photo: Supplied

"The two actors who have come out in support, one of them wasn't in the cast at all," he said.

"There is just so much chatter... As I understand it, it is a matter only between the complainant and the Company... The complainant didn't even wish for Geoffrey Rush to know about this."

Kelly, citing an Actors Equity survey that found 40 per cent of respondents had experienced sexual harassment or misconduct at work, asked Armfield whether having such claims in the open was at least a positive step for the industry.

Armfield rejected the notion.

"I have reservations about the way the conversation gets taken up. I think it's a very difficult thing to control and the presumption of innocence is of course lost," he said.

"But I think even just talking about this as a sexual allegation is completely inappropriate... It is 'inappropriate behaviour'," he added, noting he still wasn't aware of the exact details, which are being held by the STC at the complainant's wishes.

Armfield, whose opera *Hamlet* is due to premiere at the Adelaide Festival next year, where he is co-artistic director with

RELATED ARTICLE



Rachel Healy, had previously rubbished the allegations against Rush.

"It's not correct, there's no basis... I absolutely do not believe it," he told the ABC last week.



Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour', criticises Sydney Theatre Company

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Rob Moran
Rob Moran is an Entertainment reporter for The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and Brisbane Times.

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ENTERTAINMENT MOVIES

Lion producer Angie Fielder on the shock of sexual harassment revelations

By Garry Maddox
Updated 6 December 2017 — 11:41pm, first published at 10:46pm

Lion producer Angie Fielder chose precisely the right moment to speak out about sexual harassment and assault in the film industry.

The inspiring drama had just won best film at the seventh Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards - completing a sweep of 12 awards from 12 nominations.



Angie Fielder (left) with the Lion filmmakers and Brierley family after winning best film at the AACTA Awards.
Photo: Cole Bennetts

The elephant in the room was *Lion's* connection to disgraced producer Harvey Weinstein, who had helped get the film made then championed it to six Oscar nominations this year. News of his predatory behaviour triggered the wave of revelations that have swept up other well-known film and television identities.

Four days before the awards, Geoffrey Rush stood down as president of the Academy after an allegation of "inappropriate conduct" which he denied while working for Sydney Theatre Company.



Sunny Pawar in Lion.
Photo: Mark Rogers

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"As a film that was partly financed by the Weinstein Company, it would be remiss of us not to acknowledge the incredible bravery of the women and men who have come forward to break the silence about sexual harassment and assault in our industry," Fielder said on stage.

"It's really encouraging to see the industry taking a stand so let's keep talking about it. That's how we make real change."

Fielder's speech - the most direct comment on the sexual harassment tsunami during the awards - drew resounding applause.

After the ceremony, the rising young producer, who also had the intense hostage drama *Berlin Syndrome* up for best film at the awards, said her personal experience with

Weinstein had been "nothing but professional" on *Lion*.

"In the wake of the allegations against him and allegations against other men in positions of power in the industry, it's been very shocking for me to realise that almost every woman that I know has at some point in her life or career had to deal with sexual assault or harassment," Fielder said.

"That was quite a revelation for me."

She produced *Lion* with Emile Sherman, who has previously said it had been distressing to learn about Weinstein's behaviour.

"We knew he was relentless in all his activities and relentless on behalf of movies, campaigning for them, and relentless in his working style," Sherman said. "But to learn how it was applied to young women was very distressing."

Fielder was hopeful there would be change in the industry.

"I feel very grateful to the people who have come out with their stories and it does feel like it's actually making a difference this time," she said.

"Men are being stood down from their positions of power and, as Emile said, our industry does seem to be setting the tone. And we have to because we're in the public eye."

While conceding she was not fully informed on the allegations against Rush, Fielder said it was "the nature of the beast" that there was going to be trial by media.

"I think it's really important that we listen to everybody involved," she said. "It's a really complicated issue but the fact we're actually having the discussion is a huge leap forward."

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Garry Maddox

Garry Maddox is a Senior Writer for The Sydney Morning Herald.

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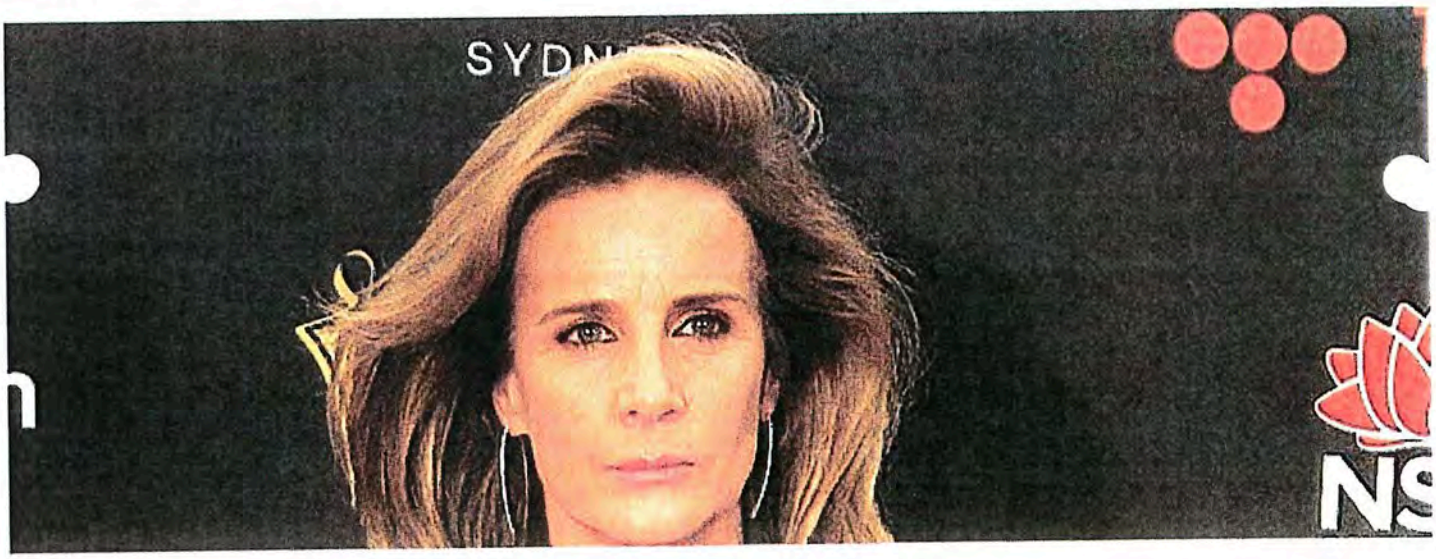
'Trial by media': Stars discuss sexual harassment on AACTAs 2017 red carpet

By Alison Xiao

Updated 7 December 2017 — 9:13am, first published 6 December 2017 — 4:56pm

The red carpet was abuzz with the topic on everybody's lips – sexual harassment in the entertainment industry.

Actress Jacqueline McKenzie, nominated for her role in powerful film *Don't Tell*, revealed she was close to one of the women involved in the Harvey Weinstein allegations, actress Annabelle Sciorra.

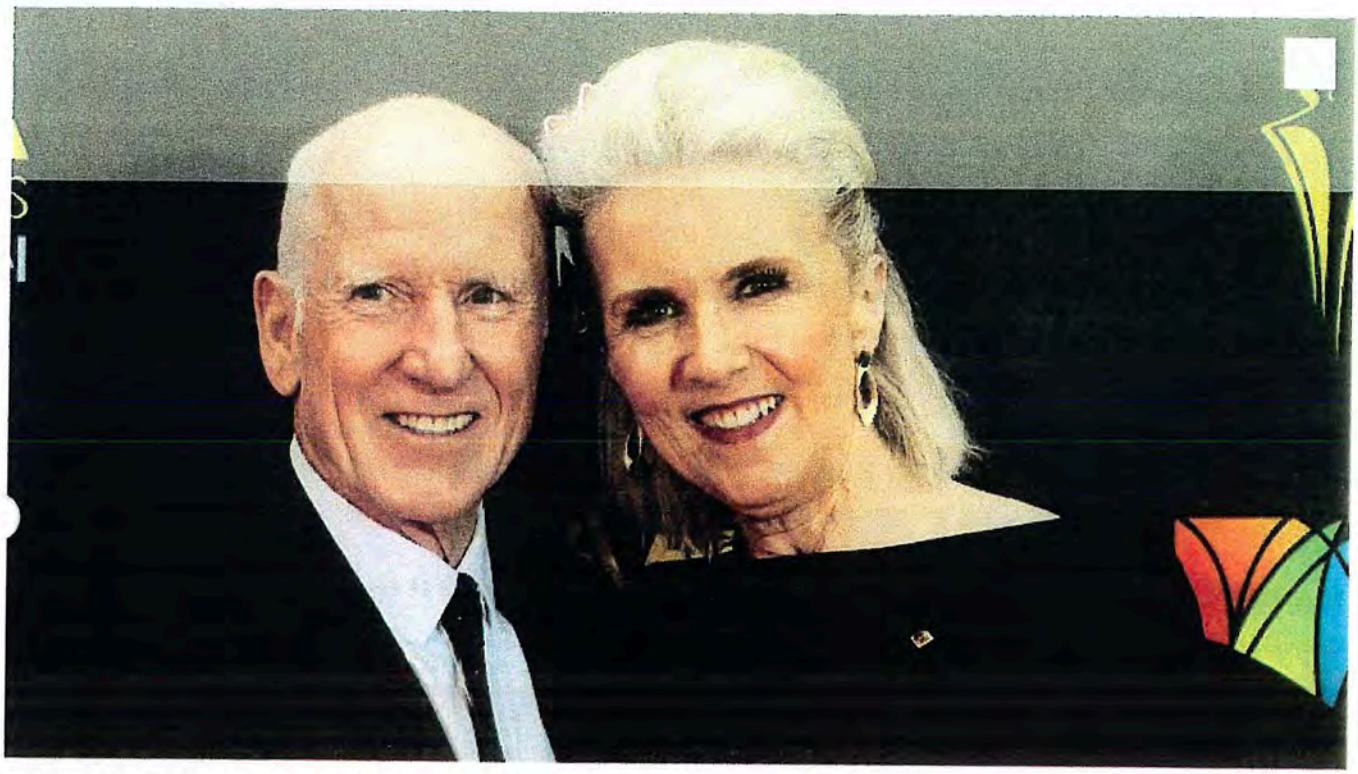


Don't Play

Rachel Griffiths at the AACTAs

She explained how difficult it was for people to come forward on film or TV productions, with hundreds of thousands of dollars likely to be lost as a result.

"The big problem about complaining and reporting is that it slows down production," McKenzie said.



Dennis Coard and Debra Lawrance arrive at the AACTA Awards at The Star.
Photo: AAP

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'It's really unfair on producers, it's unfair on the theatre companies – they shouldn't have to deal with that behaviour. They shouldn't be out of pocket for it. And we shouldn't be fighting just to come to work," she said.

"So there needs to be some standardised code of behaviour."

Please Like Me actor Debra Lawrence said she too had experienced inappropriate behaviour within the industry.

"It happened to me. I was never sexually assaulted by anybody, but the sexual harassment was certainly rife," she said.





Rachel Griffiths arrives at the AACTA Awards.
Photo: AAP

Lawrance, who is nominated for best performance in a television comedy for her role in the ABC series, said there's a "whole casting couch thing".

"It seems to me the stronger you are as a woman, the easier is it to let them know that it's inappropriate," she said.

But the actress cautioned against women coming out with allegations "willy-nilly".

"The thing you don't want to happen is have someone come forward vexatiously and then be ridiculed, because that will let all of the other women down," she said.

The actress said she and her girlfriends would get together over a glass of wine and confide in each other about the men who sexually harassed them, and sharing their names with each other.

"The interesting thing is that those blokes are still out there. I'd like to think they might be feeling a bit anxious."

In regards to Geoffrey Rush's decision to step aside as AACTA awards president last week, she thought it was the right thing to do, but called for due process to be carried out in relation to allegations against him.

Rush has reportedly been accused of inappropriate behaviour during the making



Simon Baker on the AACTAs red carpet.
Photo: AAP

of The Sydney Theatre Company's King Lear in 2015, which he denies.

"Of course I feel very strongly for the young woman whose come forward because it's not a good thing," Lawrance said.

"But we need to make sure that everything is done above board and reported above board with good evidence."

Many actors pushed back on the current focus on their industry, which has seen a constant wave of allegations against numerous Hollywood heavyweights over the past two months.

Rachel Griffiths said journalists should be more concerned about their own workplaces.

"Journalists should be more obsessed with their own industry because some of the worst offences have been in journalism," she said. "The conversations that I've had over the years [about sexual harassment] have been with female journalists."

The *Brothers and Sisters* star maintained that the venue was not an appropriate forum for the topic of sexual harassment.

"I think the red carpet is just not a place to have a discussion about individual cases," she said

"The rage has come from things not being heard and appropriately responded to. We want these things dealt with within the chain of our workplaces."

Comedian Stephen Curry agreed that sexual harassment was not just a problem for the entertainment industry.

"I would imagine it happens no more or no less than any other industry," he said. "The media needs to be a little bit responsible with this stuff because I'm sure there's going to be someone on this red carpet today who's going to say something that's going to be misconstrued and turned into a carnival, a side-show attraction, which just is not helpful at all."

After learning Rush stepped down from the AACTA presidency last week, Curry joked that he would "put [his] name up" for the role.

On a more serious note, he cautioned against the way journalists handled serious allegations.

"Trial by media has almost started to be accepted, which is really sad and I don't think it helps in any way, shape or form. It's so dangerous and creates more division," he said.

"We have to somehow find a way so that people don't suddenly convict people through a newspaper. It's never been the way and it's not fair to any person accused of anything."

Acclaimed director Gillian Armstrong emphasised "power corrupts".

"You could be hit on if you had a job at Baker's Delight or a guy in the fruit shop when you were 15 or 16. Power corrupts. There's one answer – more women in power," she said.

"Men in power have been doing this for centuries and young women have not been able to speak up."

The *Little Women* director said sexual predators were widespread across society, in a variety of workplaces.

"Harvey [Weinstein] is an extreme example of predatory behaviour, but there's predatory behaviour in all businesses," she said.

"But guess where the biggest predators are? In accounting. So you're all just talking about the ones where beautiful women are hit on, but there are beautiful women in so many industries and this is good if it can make young women finally feel that they can speak up."

Jeffrey Walker and Osamah Sami, both nominated for *Ali's Wedding* said they were happy the allegations were coming into the public domain.

"It's f---ing shit there's too many dirtbags and sleazebags out there. I'm glad it's becoming headline news so that others know where the f---ing line is... It makes my blood boil," said Sami.

"Harassment in any workplace is terrible, I think we're all in agreement with that. Industry by industry it will hopefully be dealt with," said Walker.

Actor/director Simon Baker was at the awards to collect the trailblazer award, while some of the country's biggest actors including Paul Hogan and Anthony LaPaglia also attend.

Nicole Kidman has been nominated twice, for her supporting roles in film *Lion* and TV series *Top of the Lake: China Girl*, but hasn't been listed as a confirmed attendee.

Tearjerker film *Lion* is the most nominated movie with a total of 12 nods, seven of which it already won at the AACTA luncheon this week honouring the people working behind the scenes. It will compete against *Ali's Wedding, Berlin Syndrome, Hounds of Love* and *Jasper Jones* for the title of best film.

On the small screen, Jane Campion's second season of *Top Of The Lake* and the Seven Network series *Blue Murder: Killer Cop*, the updated story of notorious real-life NSW detective Roger Rogerson, lead with 11 nominations each.

The AACTA Awards will air on the Seven Network from 8.30pm (AEDT) on Wednesday.

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NATIONAL QUEENSLAND THAT THINKING FEELING

Some men are bad. But not all of them

By Madonna King
7 December 2017 — 12:31pm

Not all men are bad.

It seems the bleeding obvious but in the current highly charged climate where he said-she said accusations are being thrown around freely, it's worth remembering.

And in the pursuit of those guilty of wrongdoing, we should be really, really careful not to tar those who are not.



Kevin Spacey in his now-former role in House of Cards.
Photo: Supplied

Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey, on any account, seem like sub-human beings, and the accusations against Don Burke, here in Australia, are as alarming as they are grave.

Every single one of those complaints should be investigated fully, and we should acknowledge the courage of the women who have come forward, and the leadership of women in the media such as Tracey Spicer and Kate McClymont for encouraging that.

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Indeed, that's exactly what *Time* magazine has done in the US by naming the social movement aimed at boosting awareness of sexual harassment as the most influential "person" of 2017.

Time's editor-in-chief Edward Felsenthal labels the #MeToo movement as the "fastest-moving social change we've seen in decades, and it began with individual acts of courage by women and some men, too".



The cover of Time magazine.
Photo: Time

(For those who have had their head in the sand, it only began a matter of weeks ago after actress Alyssa Milano asked people to tweet "me to" if they had been sexually assaulted or

harassed. In less than 48 hours, the hashtag was tweeted almost a million times.)

Let's hope that momentum continues, and that women feel protected in coming forward with their stories, and then let's hope it moves beyond media and entertainment to politics and the business world because every one of our daughters should be able to go to work without fear that sexual harassment or assault is part of the job.

But what has been niggling at me, these past few days, is the capacity for this to roll out of control, and for males to be targeted unfairly by those with a barrow to push.

Should a single accusation against Geoffrey Rush be investigated? Of course!

But should it be played out in the public arena, where the he-said, she-said claims dominate red carpet interviews?

Is it fair that a single accusation be sufficient to name someone publicly as an alleged offender?

's it OK, as some on Twitter have argued this week, that a few innocent heads might just be collateral in the bid to expose others?

I don't think so - and if that happens, the authority and success of what is being done to unmask the real wrong-doers will be undermined.

A school principal raised it with me this week, while we were discussing the success of male teachers in classrooms of teen girls.

She thought they brought a humour that captured the girls' interest, and lowered the emotional shenanigans that often dominate the discussions of this group.

Her lament was that there were so few of them; many scared off by the threat that a single, made-up complaint could ruin their career.

've spoken about a similar effect in Brisbane years ago, when police were closing in on a sexual predator who would approach women who were exercising by themselves.

Two male colleagues of mine stopped their early-morning run; they had both seen the look of fear on the faces of women as they passed them.

Millions of women across the globe are now sharing their stories about being sexually harassed and assaulted. Long may that continue.

But the success of what happens from here will be in the rigour that is used to out the wrong-doers.

Some men are bad. But not all of them.

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WNEWS

AACTA: Actress Rachel Griffiths hits out at gender inequality but says 'Rush is no Weinstein'

By Clare Blumer and Paige Cockburn

Updated Thu 7 Dec 2017, 7:53am

In light of the sexual harassment storm which has hit the entertainment industry, actress Rachel Griffiths has taken to the red carpet at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards to say "women have had enough".

Joining the stars of the large and small screens, Griffiths said women had not been adequately protected in the industry but actor Geoffrey Rush, recently accused of sexual harassment, "is not Harvey Weinstein".

Disgraced Hollywood mogul Weinstein, accused of sexual harassment over decades, has been the catalyst for a huge number of allegations against men in power.

This year's AACTA awards were the first for which Rush is not in attendance, after he stepped down as the organisation's president in the wake of an allegation of "inappropriate behaviour".

Rush denied the allegation and on Wednesday Griffiths said "nobody likes to be tried in the public square".

"The fact that we are discussing things in the 'marketplace' shows that processes and procedures have not been adequate," Griffiths said.

"Geoffrey Rush is not Harvey Weinstein and I have had more than a handful of interactions with Harvey Weinstein."

Griffiths also stressed it was not just the entertainment industry where women were subject to harassment and inequality.

"It's more prominent because we are a sexy soundbite," she said.

"It's a huge problem in the service industry, it's a huge problem in the hotel industry.

"If we have the conversation in our arena then great, but to make it about us ... is a massive distraction from the real work we need to do as a society."

Veteran director Gillian Armstrong, whose films include Little Women and My Brilliant Career, presented an award alongside Griffiths and advised young women to take off their high heels, put on gumboots and be the boss.

RELATED STORY: 'Deal with allegations so names aren't smeared': Actors react to sexual harassment storm

RELATED STORY: Rush steps down as president of Australia's screen industry academy

AACTA winners:

- Best film - **Lion**
- Best actor - **Sunny Pawar, Lion**
- Best actress - **Elizabeth Moss, Top of the Lake: China Girl**
- Best leading actor in a TV drama - **Hugo Weaving, Seven Types of Ambiguity**
- Best supporting actor in a TV drama: **Ewen Leslie, Top of the Lake: China Girl**
- Best supporting actress in a TV drama - **Nicole Kidman, Top of the Lake: China Girl**
- Best supporting actress in a film - **Nicole Kidman, Lion**
- Best supporting actor in a film - **Dev Patel, Lion**
- Best lead actress in a feature film - **Emma Booth, Hounds of Love**
- Best film director - **Garth Davis, Lion**
- Best TV screenplay - **Seven Types of Ambiguity**
- Best drama series - **Top of the Lake: China Girl**
- Best Asian film - **Dangal**

Trailblazer Baker



PHOTO: Simon Baker has transitioned from actor to director across film and television. (AAP: Ben Rushton)

Simon Baker won the Trailblazer award for his long career in Australian and American television in E Street, The Mentalist and The Guardian.

His feature film directorial debut is a screen adaptation of Tim Winton's book Breath.

A teary Baker accepted the award from a man who blazed the trail across the Pacific decades ago, Bryan Brown.

"I'm the front man babe but you are the rocking rhythm section," he said to his wife in the audience.

On the red carpet he said "successes take care of themselves" but he had learnt from his mistakes.

Nicole Kidman took out best supporting actress for the biographical film, Lion, but she was not in attendance.

However, her real-life counterpart Sue Brierly was on the red carpet alongside adopted son Saroo 'Lion' Brierly.

They revealed they were working on a musical version of their real-life story and Ms Brierly was working on a second book.

Emma Booth won best lead actress in a feature film for Hounds of Love and Dev Patel picked up best supporting actor for his role in Lion.

Lion won all 12 of the categories it was nominated for at the awards taking out best film and best actor for Sunny Pawar.

In accepting the award for best film, producer Angie Fielder commended the "incredible bravery of the women" who had spoken out about sexual harassment in the screen industry.

"Hopefully this marks a time of change, it's really great to see the industry taking a stand."

Pawar has already had an enviable career and is currently shooting his third film so could not make the ceremony.

Top of the Lake: China Girl took out the most awards for a television series claiming best drama series, best actress for Elizabeth Moss, best supporting actor for Ewen Leslie and best supporting actress for Nicole Kidman.

Topics: arts-and-entertainment, awards-and-prizes, film-movies, sydney-2000

First posted Wed 6 Dec 2017, 7:13pm

Contact Clare Blumer

The West Australian

ENTERTAINMENT

Rush sues paper claiming career in ruins

Georgie Moore AAP
Friday, 8 December 2017 6:29PM



Geoffrey Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph over a story claiming inappropriate behaviour on stage.

Geoffrey Rush has accused the Daily Telegraph of destroying his career after it published allegations linking him to the likes of disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

Rush is suing the Sydney tabloid and its journalist Jonathon Moran for defamation following articles alleging the 66-year-old behaved inappropriately to a colleague during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear in 2015.

"(Rush's) reputation as an actor has been irreparably harmed such that he is likely to be shunned by employers in the future," the defamation suit lodged in the Federal Court of Australia on Friday read.

The Daily Telegraph says it will defend its reporting.

Rush told journalists he was seeking "vindication of my good name".

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community," Rush said at his lawyer's office in Melbourne.

"The Daily Telegraph has made false, pejorative and demeaning claims - splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages.

"This has created irreparable damage to my reputation, has been extremely hurtful to my wife, my daughter and my son, and to my extended family, as well as to many colleagues in the film, television and theatre industry."

Telegraph editor Chris Dore was quick to respond to news of the legal action.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," he said in a statement.

"We will defend our position in court."

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen said police had not been in contact with his client over the allegations.

Court documents allege the coverage unfairly associated Rush with disgraced US producer Weinstein and former TV gardening host Don Burke.

Weinstein denies allegations of non-consensual sex while Burke rejects claims of sexual harassment and indecent assault made by former employees of his Burke's Backyard TV show.

Rush stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts on Saturday after the Telegraph published the allegations.

The Australian actor is a stalwart of Australian theatre, won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for Shine, and has three other Oscar nominations.

No date had been set for the matter to be mentioned in the Federal Court.

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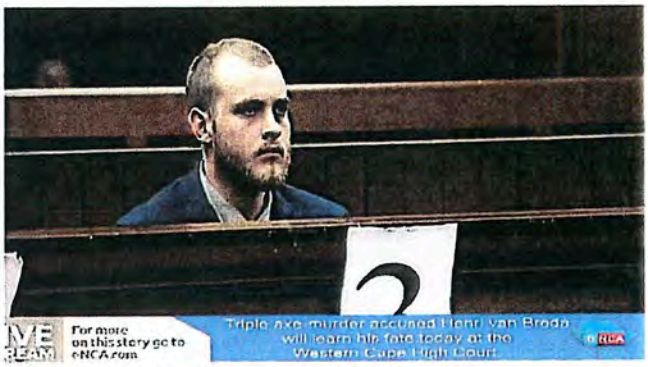
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ABC NEWS

Geoffrey Rush files defamation suit against Daily Telegraph over 'inappropriate behaviour' claims

By Clare Blumer

Updated Sat 9 Dec 2017, 10:15am

Geoffrey Rush has filed defamation proceedings against The Daily Telegraph, which published allegations the actor behaved inappropriately towards a female cast member in a Sydney Theatre Company (STC) play.

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community," he said.

"The Daily Telegraph has made false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages.

RELATED STORY: Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' after formal complaint

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"This has created irreparable damage to my reputation."

The 66-year-old Academy Award winner said the allegations were "extremely hurtful" to his wife, son and daughter.

"The situation is intolerable and I must seek vindication of my good name through the courts."

The first article airing claims that Rush behaved inappropriately during a 2015 production of King Lear was published by the Daily Telegraph on November 30.

Rush denied the allegations on that day, saying he had not been informed by the STC of the existence, or the nature, of the complaint.

What the court documents say

Rush's lawyers filed their statement of claim with the Federal Court of Australia on Friday morning.

The documents name Nationwide News Pty Limited, the owner of The Daily Telegraph, as the first respondent and journalist Jonathon Moran as the second respondent.

The documents allege that by the newspaper publishing its first article with the headline "KING LEER: World Exclusive Oscar-winner Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' during Sydney stage show" that they painted Rush "as a pervert" and a "sexual predator".

They argue that Rush would "suffer economic loss" and his reputation had been "irreparably harmed such that he is likely to be shunned by employers in the future".

Editor says paper 'accurately reported' complaint

The Daily Telegraph editor Chris Dore said they would be defending the newspaper's reporting in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," he said.

"We will defend our position in court."

The STC has not disclosed details of the allegation, but did say an allegation had been made.

A company spokesperson said the complainant requested the allegation be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

The company did not say what action it had taken in response to the complaint or whether they would work with Rush in the future.

Rush announced last weekend he would be stepping aside from his role of the president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) "until these issues have been resolved".

The court documents filed on Friday allege that the actor was "asked to stand aside" by unnamed people "as a result of the publication of the matters complained of and [Rush] acceded to that request given the circumstances".

The major ceremonies held by the AACTAs each year went on without their inaugural president on Monday and Wednesday.

Celebrated actor Rachel Griffiths hit out at the allegations made about Rush on the red carpet on Wednesday.

"Geoffrey Rush is not Harvey Weinstein and I have had more than a handful of interactions with Harvey Weinstein," she said.

After a long and local career in Australian theatre, Rush was a latecomer to international acclaim, winning the Best Actor Academy Award for his role in Shine in 1997 when he was in his 40s.

For his involvement in philanthropic groups and his hand in evolving the Australian Film Institute awards into the AACTAs, he was named the 2012 Australian of the Year by then-prime minister Julia Gillard.

Topics: arts-and-entertainment, melbourne-3000, sydney-2000

First posted Fri 8 Dec 2017, 3:10pm

Contact Clare Blumer

ABC NEWS

Geoffrey Rush defamation suit: What the court documents reveal about the actor's claims

By Clare Blumer

Updated Sat 9 Dec 2017, 12:50am

The defamation suit filed by Geoffrey Rush against The Daily Telegraph claims the newspaper made him out to be a "pervert" and "sexual predator" with their "KING LEER" headline.

RELATED STORY: Rush files defamation suit over Daily Telegraph's 'demeaning claims'

The 66-year-old actor has launched defamation proceedings against the tabloid, with a statement of claim filed in the Federal Court on Friday.

The documents also allege that Rush was forced out of his role as the AACTA president, rather than voluntarily stepping aside, as he told the media last weekend.

Who is he suing?

The 2012 Australian of Year is suing the owner of The Daily Telegraph, Nationwide News Pty Limited, and the journalist who penned the articles, Jonathon Moran.

Moran is a reporter for the Confidential section of the newspaper which reports on entertainment news and celebrity gossip.

His reporting was on the front page of the print publication and widely distributed online when the stories were published.

What is he suing for?

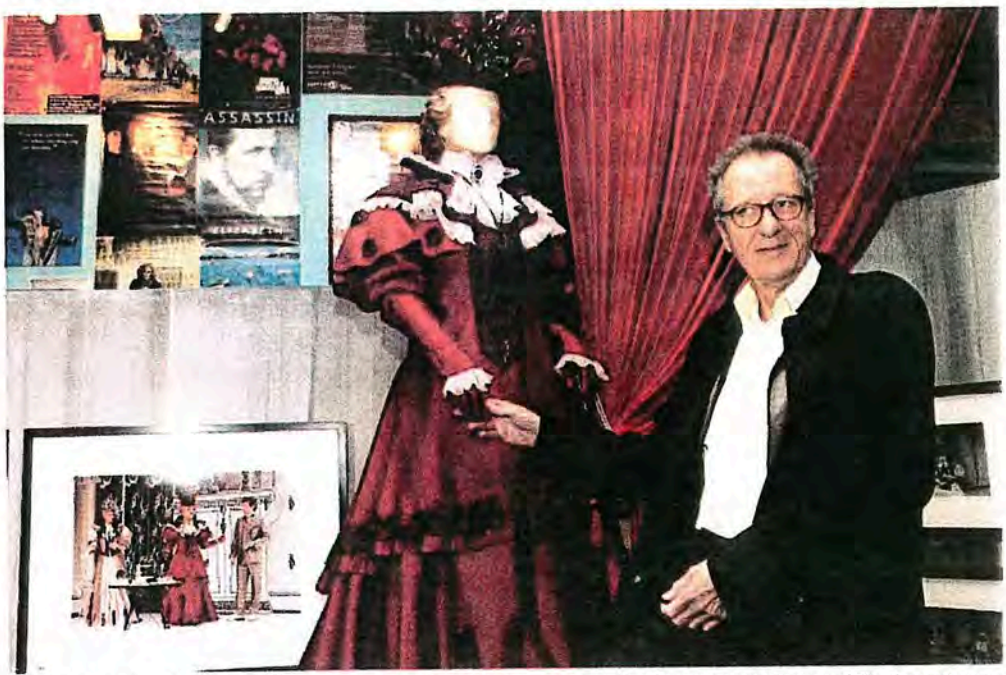


PHOTO: Geoffrey Rush with a costume he wore in a Melbourne Theatre Company production of The Importance of Being Earnest. (AAP: David Crosling)

The statement of claim lodged by Rush's lawyers takes aim at a series of articles, headlines and social media.

The first complaint is about the newspaper's billboard on November 30, a poster usually seen on the outside of newsagents, which said: "WORLD EXCLUSIVE: Geoffrey Rush in scandal claims, theatre company confirms 'inappropriate behaviour'."

The court documents allege the implication was that Rush had "engaged in scandalously inappropriate behaviour" and "inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature" in the theatre.

The next issue was about the article published that same day which was run with the front page headline: "KING LEER: World Exclusive Oscar-winner Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' during Sydney stage show."

The lawyers claim the article, billboard and headlines had defamatory meaning and made Rush out to be a "pervert" a "sexual predator" and had engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" against another person in the Sydney Theatre Company's 2015 production of King Lear.

The second article which Rush's lawyers raised as a problem was published on December 1 with the headline "WE'RE WITH YOU: Theatre cast back accuser as Rush denies 'touching'".

Rush's team argue the meaning that could be taken from this is he behaved as a "sexual predator", had "committed sexual assault", was " a pervert", had "inappropriately touched an actress" and his behaviour was so serious the STC "would never work with him again".

What else?

One of the further complaints is how Rush's allegations were linked to other high-profile reports in recent weeks of sexual harassment and assault in the screen and theatre worlds: namely producer Harvey Weinstein, actor Kevin Spacey and Australian television presenter Don Burke.

The legal team pointed out that The Daily Telegraph published in print the allegations about their famous client alongside an article "about allegations concerning alleged sexual predator and television personality Don Burke so as to falsely and unfairly associate the allegations against the applicant with the allegations against Mr Burke".

The damages section also claimed that the newspaper's labelling of Rush as "King Leer" and "Bard behaviour" ridiculed Rush and damaged his reputation.

Special damages alleged were that Rush would suffer "economic loss", his reputation would be "irreparably harmed" so that he would be "shunned by employers in future" and he was asked to quit as AACTA president.

How much money is involved?

The documents don't give Rush's defamation action a dollar figure.

Other recent high-profile defamation cases by celebrities against media outlets have some large dollar amounts attached to them.

Australian actor Rebel Wilson successfully sued Bauer Media for $4.5 million over a series of articles that appeared in Woman's Day, Women's Weekly, OK Magazine and New Weekly in 2015.

Bauer said they would be appealing the decision.

What is the newspaper's response?

The Daily Telegraph editor Chris Dore said they would defend the newspaper's reporting in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour," he said.

"We will defend our position in court."

The matter is expected to reach court early in 2018.

Topics: arts-and-entertainment, bullying, film-movies, actor, sydney-2000, melbourne-3000

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ENTERTAINMENT MOVIES

Geoffrey Rush to sue Murdoch's The Daily Telegraph

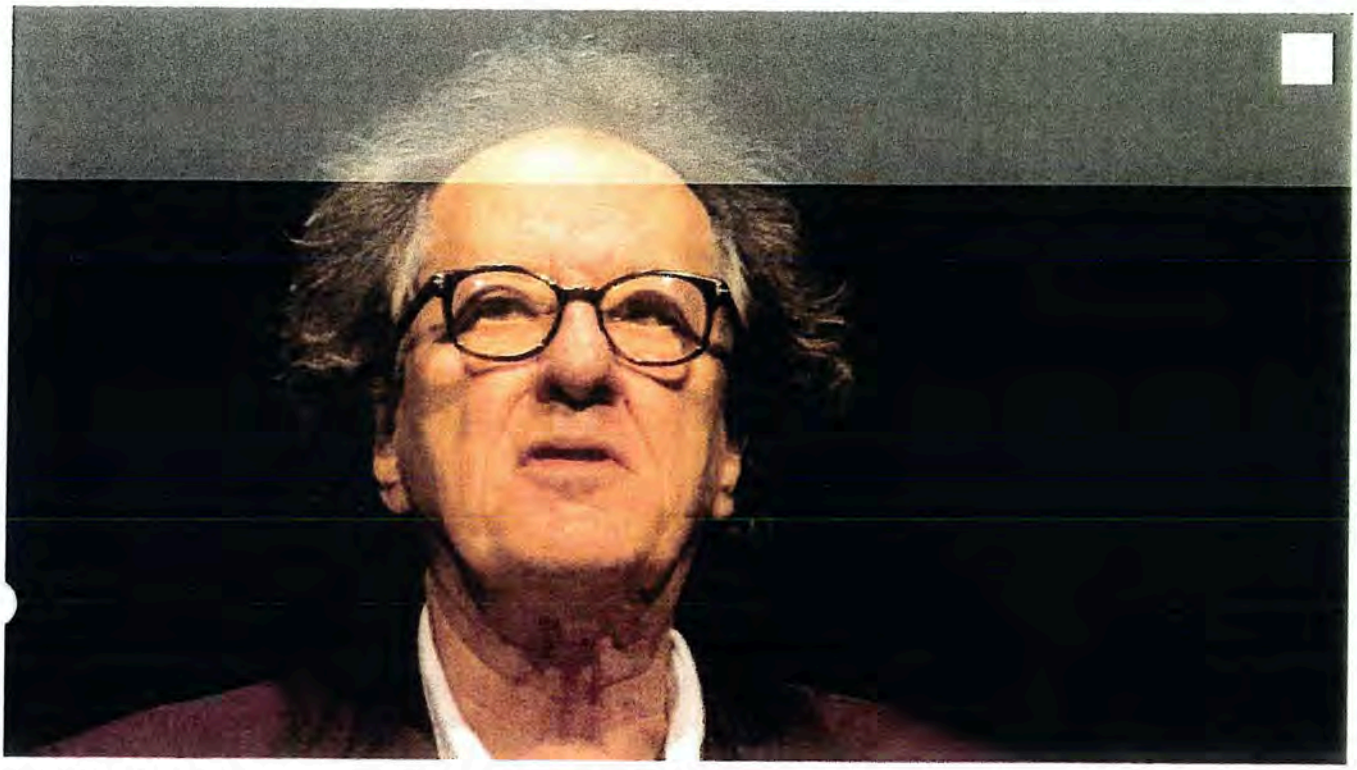
By Broede Carmody, Andrew Taylor
Updated 9 December 2017 — 1:13am, first published 8 December 2017 — 1:59pm

Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush is suing News Corp's Sydney masthead *The Daily Telegraph* over a series of allegations the publication has run in the past week.

Speaking at a press conference in Melbourne, the *Pirates of the Caribbean* star described claims made by the publication as "slurs" and "hyperbole".

"*The Daily Telegraph* has made false, pejorative and demeaning claims, splattering them with unrelenting bombasity on its front pages," he said.

"This has created irreparable damage to my reputation [and] been extremely hurtful to my wife, my daughter and my son. The situation is intolerable and I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts."



Geoffrey Rush has previously accused the Sydney Theatre Company of smearing his name.
Photo: Paul Jeffers

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In response, the newspaper's editor, Chris Dore, said: "*The Daily Telegraph* accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour. We will defend our position in court."

Last Thursday, *The Daily Telegraph* ran a "world exclusive" on its front page revealing the Sydney Theatre Company had received a complaint about Mr Rush's behaviour during 2015's production of *King Lear*.

The tabloid did not detail the specifics of the complaint and the former *King Lear* colleague did not speak on the record. The story quickly made headlines around the world, with Rush strongly denying any wrongdoing.

Since the news first broke, *The Daily Telegraph* has covered the story in print at least nine times. Melbourne's *Herald Sun* has only run the story in its print edition twice.

Last week, *Herald Sun* journalists were told not to tweet the *Telegraph's* story because it was "highly libellous". Fairfax Media understands the original story was due to appear on

the Melbourne paper's front page, but was dropped shortly before the newspaper was sent to print.

Mr Rush's lawyer, Nicholas Pullen from HWL Ebsworth, confirmed the proceedings were only against *The Daily Telegraph* and that his client was seeking damages.

He would not say whether he has requested the *Daily Telegraph* take the story down.

"The normal process in these type of proceedings is damages," he said.

Mr Rush declined to answer questions, but his statement of claim filed at the NSW registry of the Federal Court on Friday named *The Daily Telegraph*'s publisher and journalist Jonathon Moran as respondents.

Mr Rush's statement of claim alleges stories published by *The Daily Telegraph* are defamatory because they suggest the actor is a pervert and behaved as a sexual predator, committed sexual assault and inappropriately touched an actress while working on the production of *King Lear*.

The statement of claim also alleges that one story published by *The Daily Telegraph* was defamatory because it suggested the STC would never work again with Mr Rush because the claim he inappropriately touched an actress was so serious.

Mr Rush has also asked for aggravated damages because the newspaper and its journalist failed to verify the accusations prior to publication, ridiculed him with its "King Leer" and "Bard behaviour" headline, tweeted the front page of *The Daily Telegraph* containing the original story on social media and linked Mr Rush to Harvey Weinstein, Don Burke and Kevin Spacey.

Mr Rush has been defended by several people in the Australian arts world, including theatre director Neil Armfield and Rachel Griffiths.

"Geoffrey Rush is not Harvey Weinstein," the actress said at this week's AACTAs.

Melbourne Theatre Company has said it is "monitoring" the Rush allegation ahead of the 2018 run of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. It has confirmed it has not received any complaints about the Oscar-winning actor's behaviour on or off the stage.

In September, fellow Australian performer Rebel Wilson was awarded $4.56 million after successfully suing Bauer Media over a series of defamatory articles. However, the magazine giant has turned to the Court of Appeal in the hope of reducing the multimillion dollar payout.

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Broede Carmody

Broede Carmody is an entertainment reporter at Fairfax Media.



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Andrew Taylor is a Senior Reporter for The Sydney Morning Herald.

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Stephen Sewell denounces media witch-hunt against Geoffrey Rush

By Richard Phillips
9 December 2017

Dr Stephen Sewell is head of Writing for Performance at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in Sydney. The well-known screen writer, playwright, novelist and former chair of the Australian National Playwrights Centre is one of the few figures in the Australian film and movie industry who have publicly defended Geoffrey Rush.

Sewell has won numerous awards for his film and theatre work. His plays include *The Blind Giant is Dancing*, *It Just Stopped* and the highly awarded *Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America: A Drama in 30 Scenes*. He was a script editor for the film *Chopper* and won an Australian Film Industry award for his screen adaptation of *The Boys*.



Stephen Sewell

Sewell was outraged over the unsubstantiated "inappropriate behaviour" allegations against Rush and posted a comment on his Facebook page last week. He spoke with the WSWS yesterday, after reading "Acclaimed Australian actor Geoffrey Rush becomes the latest witch-hunt victim," published by the WSWS on December 2.

***

Stephen Sewell: I totally agree with your article. What has happened to Geoffrey is a frightening affront to any kind of idea of simple justice. To be put in a position where you're not sure what the accusation is, and your life and your livelihood are under threat as a direct result, is appalling.

Assuming that there was a complaint made [against Rush], there should be processes in place for it to be dealt with. The people I'm most suspicious of is the Murdoch press. I'm concerned that they have identified a really simple way of getting rid of some of the most progressive people in Australia.

It is a very, very easy thing to whip up anonymous sources to make these kinds of claims. And I know from the experience of one of my students that journalists are phoning people to ask if they've got a personal experience they would like to share. This is a very, very dangerous situation. I'm amazed and appalled.

Richard Phillips: The context of the attack on Rush is important. It's an international campaign and one that is being used to eviscerate basic democratic rights. The cultural atmosphere is being poisoned. We've ompared the operation against Rush and others to the McCarthy anti-communist witch-hunts in the US during the 1950s.

SS: I was trying to think my way through the analogy with the McCarthy commission and their interrogation method. At least at that time people could defy the interrogation and refuse to answer. But in this case there's no capacity for this. Who do you tell to get stuffed? Rumour has been given free reign.

I wrote on my Facebook page about how angry I am about all this and the majority of people who responded were supportive. I was just articulating what appears to me to be an elementary understanding of justice.

But there were a few people who were bitterly, bitterly opposed and regarded it as a piece of patriarchal, sexist bullshit and that I wasn't prepared to believe the so-called accusation. It is not the case that I don't believe it. My question is what is actually being said? What is actually "inappropriate behaviour?"

RP: As soon as you accept accusations as definite proof, then there's no legal process.

SS: That's right, it's all over.

RP: And this opens the door for anyone to be pilloried.

SS: There is another element in all of this and which has a kind of prudish or anti-sex side to it. If men and women can't be trusted together, or men can't be trusted with women, the logical conclusion is you may as well have apartheid. Men on one side of the fence and women on the other, and when they want it they can whistle.

All the joy of love and sex, the pleasure of company, seems to be under threat. It would be a terrible thing if the end result of this debate and argument brings us voluntarily into the world of the *Handmaid's Tale*. This would be a horrible outcome.

The author also recommends:

Australian actor Geoffrey Rush fights back, suing Daily Telegraph for defamation
[9 December 2017]

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liz_imp • 5 months ago
The Handmaid's Tale... Dystopian. □
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Steve · 5 months ago

How wonderful, Men versus Women, Apartheid. How much more reactionary would you like to get ??

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Greg · 5 months ago

"..the logical conclusion is you may as well have apartheid"

Economic apartheid leads to every kind of apartheid.

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David · 5 months ago

Thanks Stephen, you are very brave. A true writer. Nothing human is foreign to you. Wisdom matters to you. Everyone and everything matters to your art. And you speak for the human world and the human beings in it.

2 ^ v · Reply · Share ›

TonyVodvarka · 5 months ago

I wonder if the series of media-fabricated moral panics we have seen in the last year, Russian meddling, confederate monuments and the present "inappropriate behavior" panic originate in and are funded by right-wing foundations such as those of George Soros and his color revolutions. The Russian thing certainly is and I have read that BLM is also. These media campaigns smell like an extended PSYOP. Good on you, Mr. Sewell for refusing to be a self-serving coward and coming forward to do the right thing.

3 ^ v · Reply · Share ›

Joshua Cromarty · 5 months ago

Rational, considered defiance of which we need a whole lot more.

4 ^ v · Reply · Share ›

David · 5 months ago

Brilliant!

1 ^ v · Reply · Share ›

Ed Bergonzi · 5 months ago

Terrific! The first of many I hope.

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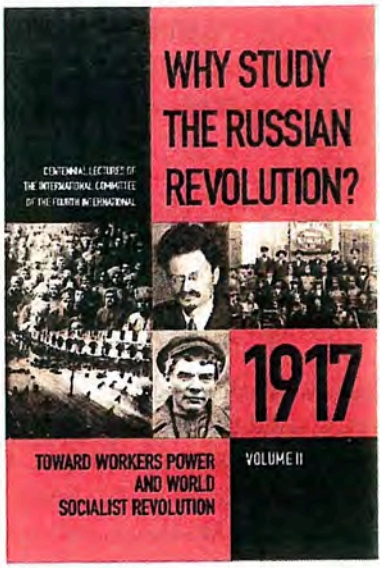
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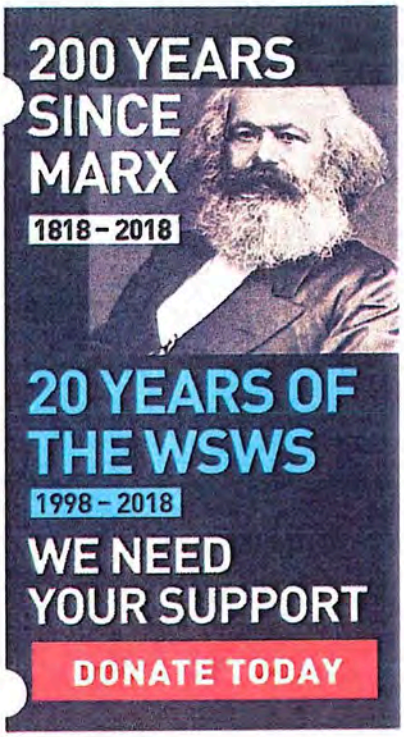
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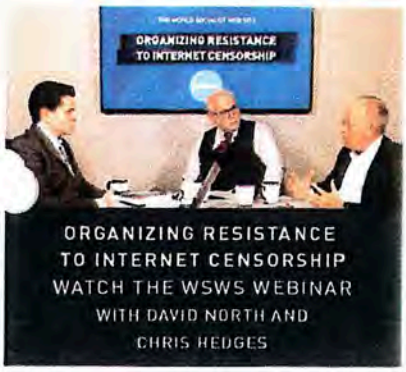


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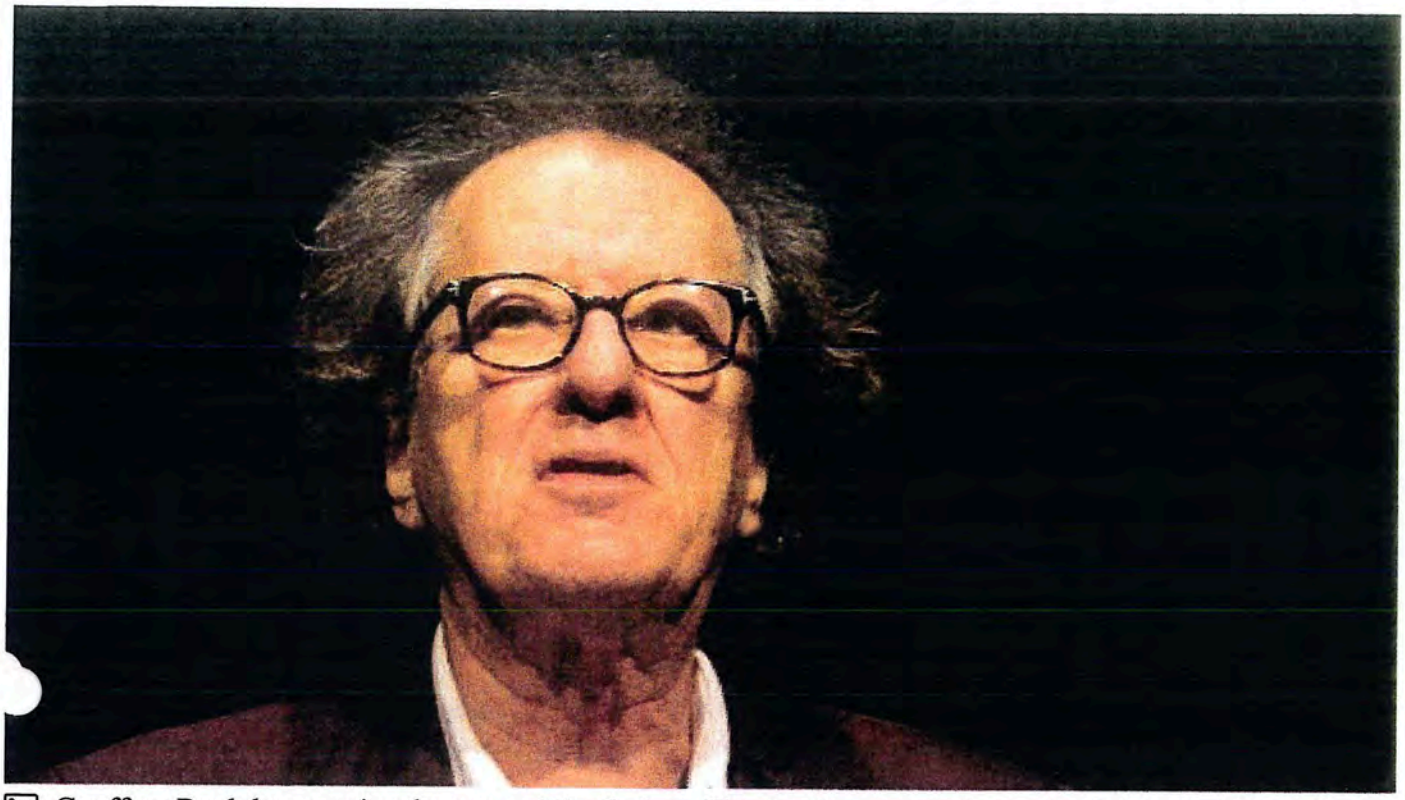
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December 9 2017 - 1:13AM

Rush to sue Murdoch's The Daily Telegraph

- **Broede Carmody, Andrew Taylor**



Geoffrey Rush has previously accused the Sydney Theatre Company of smearing his name. Photo: Paul Jeffers

Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush is suing News Corp's Sydney masthead *The Daily Telegraph* over a series of allegations the publication has run in the past week.

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Last Thursday, *The Daily Telegraph* ran a "world exclusive" on its front page revealing the Sydney Theatre Company had received a complaint about Mr Rush's behaviour during 2015's production of *King Lear*.

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In September, fellow Australian performer Rebel Wilson was awarded $4.56 million after successfully suing Bauer Media over a series of defamatory articles. However, the magazine giant has turned to the Court of Appeal in the hope of reducing the multimillion dollar payout.

This story Rush to sue Murdoch's The Daily Telegraph first appeared on The Sydney Morning Herald.

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NATIONAL OPINION

Politics, sexual harassment and why some women will never come forward

By Jenna Price
11 December 2017 — 2:39pm



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An acquaintance turned to me and asked: "Why is it taking so long? Maybe it doesn't happen as much here in Australia? Maybe we have a more open culture?"

This is how men – some men – respond to the sexual-harassment allegations in the wake of the "#MeToo" disclosures.

It's December, just a few months after Harvey Weinstein was outed a serial sexual predator. My inquisitor is wondering why the sole identity revealed by #MeToo in Australia is Don Burke, who, according to the man asking the questions, is a has-been. I'd argue that these events have comforted other women to know that they can now share their stories, too.

But it's also true that – as yet – the revelations about the celebrity gardener have not had any substantial impact on working women's lives, except perhaps relief that there is public acknowledgement.



Many women will never disclose the harm done to them.

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Crushingly, the men who stood by and allowed Burke to behave the way he did have acknowledged their shortcomings in failing to deal with the clear danger a predator had on their other employees, yet there has been no material impact on their careers.

I remind the questioner that the Weinstein story took nearly 18 months to consolidate; his response is as above. He's not the only man to be complicit in the sorry story of sexual harassment by Australian men of Australian women. They are all complicit. No wonder that word is word of the year.

Yes, instead of standing up and saying, "Yes, I witnessed it and I did nothing. I'm sorry. I won't let it happen again. I will step in," it's been, "Maybe it doesn't happen as much here in Australia." We have the lovely men who say they won't let it happen on their watch. We have the ugly men who have yet to take responsibility. Sorry is nothing.

To be very clear about this process, it took six weeks from the first disclosures about Burke's behaviour to the appearance of the story on national news; six weeks from the first ping into the emails of campaigner Tracey Spicer. It takes some time to investigate and corroborate allegations. There are reportedly 64 more men in the queue; 64 cases with several incidents against each of them.

But to accurately and responsibly report on these accusations requires effort and time. It requires seeking information from multiple sources. That's the only way #MeYoo will achieve change.

I note that *The Daily Telegraph* published a story about a noted actor in its haste to catch up with the stories by Fairfax and the ABC. I fear it may have done irreparable damage to the just cause of stopping sexual harassment and assault. Whatever the facts of the complaint made about Geoffrey Rush – he has called the newpaper's claims "false, pejorative and misleading" – *The Telegraph* has made it nigh impossible to report on the allegation. The publication's carelessness has two effects: it puts excruciating pressure on women and allows allegations to go unchecked. It wasn't fair and it wasn't good journalism.

But the worst crime is this: it makes it even harder for Australian women to speak up. They're already finding it hard enough. Who will leak the complaint? Who will protect them when it's done? How will they fare if the alleged perpetrator decides to sue? The answer is no one. No one. No one when you finally talk about it. And it can result in terrible punishment for the complainant.

This is not the United States. We don't have an unending pool of capital, jobs and opportunities. Someone knows someone who knows everyone else, and that's particularly true in media and entertainment.

"And if you are a man and you stood by, you stand shoulder to shoulder with the perpetrators."

Someone who counts himself as one of Rush's friends tells me he just can't believe the Oscar winner would ever behave like that. "How do we know about the integrity of the complainant?" he adds. I fear we might may never know now; any investigation has been contaminated.

The tiny array of career options in that field is about the same as in Australian politics. In the weeks before the New England by-election, I heard scandalous stories about Barnaby Joyce and other politicians, and was constantly berated on social media because journalists hadn't exposed this politician or that other politician.

We now know that Joyce has such serious marital problems that he and his sainted wife have separated. I don't know what else he has done and I don't know about other

politicians' behaviour. You can't write anything without evidence, and chit-chat on social media is not evidence of wrongdoing. (Oh, I love social media as much as the next gossip, but it's not proof of anything.)

Evidence is someone prepared to go on the public record. It could also be men prepared to go on the record about what they witnessed. It could be. Or I could wait for hell to freeze over.

But when it comes to sexual harassment and abuse in politics and related industries, I know this. There are many women, young and old, who work in such places, or in charities and not-for-profits, who will never, ever disclose the harm done to them, because they think the greater good of the cause for which they work or volunteer is more important than their individual well-being. Whether Liberal, Labor, Nationals or Greens, I've heard complaints about men's behaviour, some plainly appalling, others utterly terrifying.

Stop expecting women to do all the heavy lifting. Recognise they have already been violated and it's for them to decide how much pain they can bear.

And if you are a man and you've stood by and watched this happen, you stand shoulder to shoulder with the perpetrators. You stood by the man who unzipped and pressed and fondled, and you didn't a thing to stop it. Shame.

Jenna Price is a Fairfax columnist and an academic at the University of Technology Sydney.

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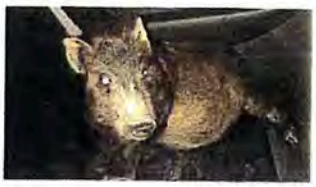
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December 12, 2017

Section: Opinion

Shame on those men who fail to call out predators

Jenna Price is a Fairfax Media columnist

An acquaintance turned to me and asked: "Why is it taking so long? Maybe it doesn't happen as much here in Australia? Maybe we have a more-open culture?"

This is how men - some men - respond to the sexual-harassment allegations in the wake of the "#MeToo" disclosures.

It's December, just a few months after Harvey Weinstein was outed a serial sexual predator. My inquisitor is wondering why the sole identity revealed by #MeToo in Australia is Don Burke, who, according to the man asking the questions, is a has-been. I'd argue that these events have comforted other women to know that they can now share their stories, too. But it's also true that - as yet - the revelations about the celebrity gardener have not had any substantial impact on working women's lives, except perhaps relief that there is public acknowledgement.

Crushingly, the men who stood by and allowed Burke to behave the way he did have acknowledged their shortcomings in failing to deal with the clear danger a predator had on their other employees, yet there has been no material impact on their careers.

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Yet, instead of standing up and saying, "Yes, I witnessed it and I did nothing. I'm sorry. I won't let it happen again. I will step in," it's been, "Maybe it doesn't happen as much here in Australia." We have the lovely men who say they won't let it happen on their watch. We have the ugly men who have yet to take responsibility. Sorry is nothing.

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But to accurately and responsibly report on these accusations requires effort and time. It requires seeking information from multiple sources.I note that The Daily Telegraph recently published a story about a noted actor. I fear it may have done irreparable damage to the just cause of stopping sexual harassment and assault. Whatever the facts of the

allegations made about Geoffrey Rush - note he has called the newspaper's claims "false, pejorative and misleading" - The Telegraph has made it nigh impossible to report on them.

The publication's carelessness has two effects: it puts excruciating pressure on women and allows allegations to go unchecked. It wasn't fair and it wasn't good journalism.

But the worst crime is this: it makes it even harder for Australian women to speak up. They're already finding it hard enough. Who will leak the complaint? Who will protect them when it's done? How will they fare if the alleged perpetrator decides to sue? The answer is no one. No one. No one when you finally talk about it. And it can result in terrible punishment for the complainant.

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Jenna Price is a Fairfax Media columnist.

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Region: (Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); Oceania (1OC40))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Geoffrey Rush; Don Burke; Tracey Spicer; Harvey Weinstein; Jenna Price)

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NATIONAL NSW COURTS

Court hears how Daily Telegraph prepared Geoffrey Rush story

By Georgina Mitchell
19 February 2018 — 3:09pm

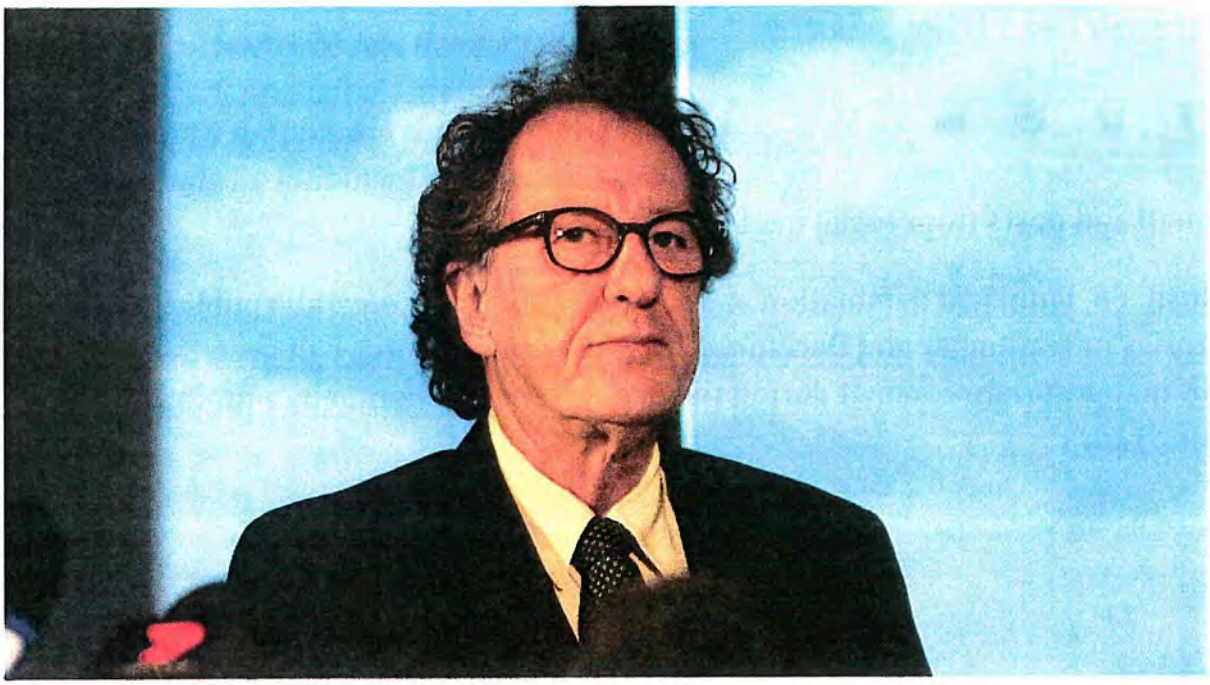
Two newspaper articles alleging actor Geoffrey Rush was involved in "inappropriate" behaviour during a Sydney theatre production were written using sources including an anonymous email and posts from social media, a court has heard.

Rush, 66, launched defamation action after *The Daily Telegraph* published stories in November and December 2017 alleging the actor had been investigated for inappropriate conduct during the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear.

The production ran for six weeks from November 2015 to January 2016.

Rush denied the allegations. In a statement of claim filed with the Federal Court in December, he said the publication of two articles and a poster outside a newsagent portrayed him as "a pervert" and "sexual predator" who had engaged in "scandalously inappropriate behaviour in the theatre".

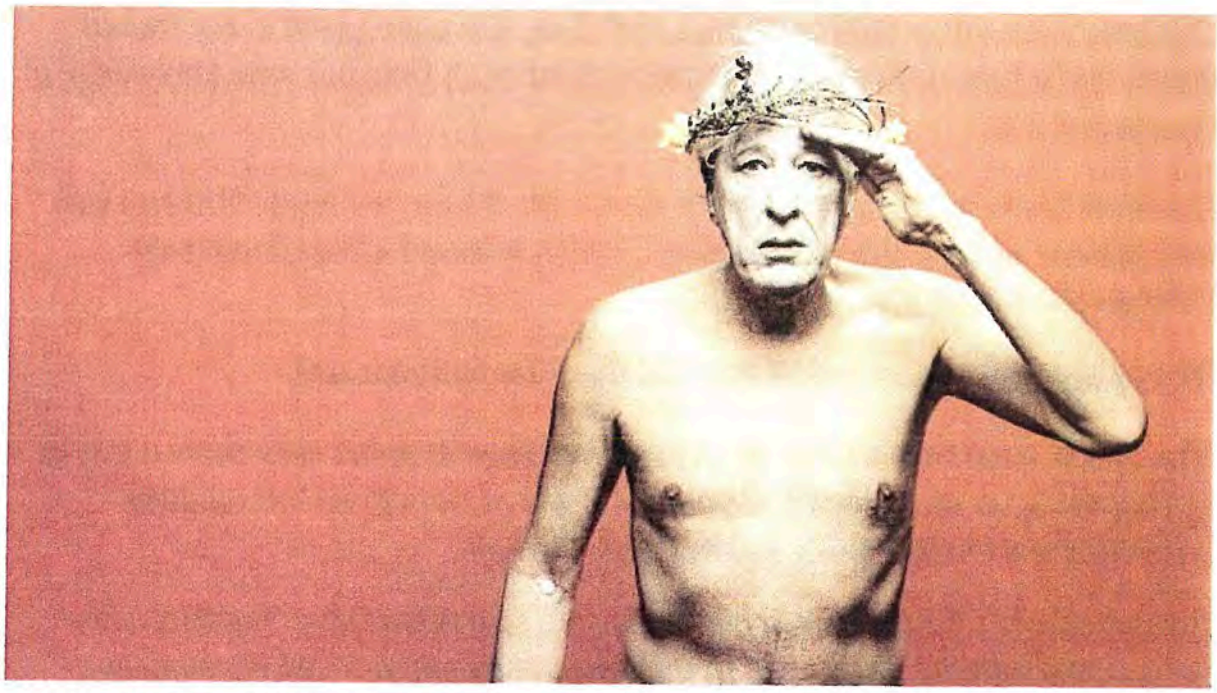
Nationwide News - the publisher of *The Daily Telegraph* - argued the stories were truthful. In their defence, they included details of how journalist Jonathon Moran prepared the stories and added detail of the allegations against Rush.



Geoffrey Rush speaking at a press conference on December 8 after the allegations were published.
Photo: Pat Scala

Rush's legal team argued earlier this month that publishing such details could further harm the actor's reputation, causing Justice Michael Wigney to order the defence to remain confidential until a hearing on Monday.

Rush's barrister Richard McHugh, SC, told the hearing a significant part of the defence should be struck out because it detailed vague incidents including a "touch" without saying when it happened or what made it inappropriate.



Geoffrey Rush in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear.
Photo: Supplied

One of the alleged incidents happened "on stage in front of presumably hundreds of people", Mr McHugh said, which made it "even more necessary to say what it is that made it inappropriate".

"First of all, what would Mr Rush say in the witness box about that? What evidence could he give about that, given the nature of it? It doesn't say what he did, that's the problem," Mr McHugh said.

"He gets in the witness box and says, 'I didn't do it. I don't know what it is that I've done, but I didn't do it'."

The court heard journalists from the *Telegraph* sent an email to Rush's agent to request comment at 5.06pm the night before the first story was published.

The story was also read out to a public relations worker from the Sydney Theatre Company.

"They didn't read it out to my client, instead they tried to contact him on the evening before it was published and put some cursory things to him," Mr McHugh said.

Parts of the *Telegraph*'s defence, read out by Mr McHugh, revealed the sources for the initial story and a second article published a day later.

They include at least three confidential sources, as well as the Sydney Theatre Company's executive director Patrick McIntyre, a woman based in the United States, and an anonymous email claiming to be from someone with knowledge of the production.

The court heard social media was the source for the second story, "Theatre cast back accuser as Rush denies 'touching'", which featured a large front-page photograph of actor Meyne Wyatt.

"They didn't talk to him before they did that," Mr McHugh said.

"The source from this, we see, is his Facebook page. It didn't slow them down in putting the actor on the front page of the paper as though he was publicly supporting the crusade being run by the *Telegraph*."

The newspaper's barrister Tom Blackburn, SC, said there was a "big difference" between the particulars detailed in the *Telegraph*'s defence and the evidence that would be called in support of them.

The hearing continues.

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Georgina Mitchell

Georgina Mitchell is a reporter for the Sydney Morning Herald.

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February 20, 2018

Section: News

Newspaper accused of 'a crusade' against Rush

Georgina Mitchell Courts

Actor **Geoffrey Rush** was allegedly told to stop touching a woman "inappropriately" during a production of King Lear but continued the behaviour she objected to for four days, a court has heard.

Rush, 66, launched defamation action against Sydney's The Daily Telegraph and its journalist Jonathon Moran in December after two stories and a newsagent poster detailing the allegations of inappropriate behaviour were published in November and December 2017.

The Telegraph alleged Rush touched a female cast member during the six-week production of the Shakespeare play, which was put on by the Sydney Theatre Company from November 2015. Rush has vehemently denied the allegations. In a statement of claim filed in the Federal Court, he said the allegations portray him as "a pervert" and "sexual predator" who engaged in "scandalously inappropriate behaviour in the theatre". The Telegraph is defending the claims on the basis of truth and qualified privilege.

In a hearing yesterday, to decide if part of the Telegraph's defence to the claims should be struck out, the newspaper's barrister Tom Blackburn, SC, said the alleged behaviour was inappropriate because the woman asked Rush to "stop it" and her request was "not complied with".

"Your honour, that's repeated conduct," Mr Blackburn said.

"It was inappropriate, and possibly also scandalously inappropriate, and it was repeated over a period of time ... four days, after being asked to stop."

Rush's barrister Richard McHugh, SC, said his client denied any wrongdoing and the allegations against him - particularly on the definition of "inappropriate" - were vague and weak.

Mr McHugh said Rush was required to carry the woman as part of the play, and there was never a conversation in which the actor was asked to "stop".

He said the Telegraph was on a "crusade" against his client and gave Rush only a "cursory" idea of the story against him when its journalist sent an email to Rush's agent at 5.06pm the night before the story was published.

WESTLAW

Mr McHugh said the newspaper's sources for the stories included an anonymous email claiming to be from someone with knowledge of the production, the Sydney Theatre Company's executive director Patrick McIntyre, a woman based in the United States who had no connection to the play and at least three confidential sources.

The second story - "Theatre cast back accuser as Rush denies 'touching'" - was sourced from social media and featured a photograph of actor Meyne Wyatt.

"They didn't talk to him before they did that," Mr McHugh said. "The source from this, we see, is his Facebook page. It didn't slow them down in putting the actor on the front page of the paper as though he was publicly supporting the crusade being run by the Telegraph."

Justice Michael Wigney overturned an interim confidentiality order on the Telegraph's defence, which had been sought by Rush's legal team in an attempt to prevent further damage to his reputation. He said the interest of open justice outweighed those considerations.

His judgment is reserved.

— Index References —

Company: Sydney Theatre C

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47))

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

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Other Indexing: (The Daily Telegraph) (Geoffrey Rush; Richard McHugh; Patrick McIntyre; Michael Wigney; Jonathon Moran; Meyne Wyatt; Tom Blackburn)

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February 21, 2018

Section: News

Actress told newspaper of allegations: documents

Georgina Mitchell

Georgina Mitchell

Allegations that actor **Geoffrey Rush** "inappropriately" touched a female colleague during a theatre production were brought to light by actress Sarah Monahan, according to court documents.

Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph's publisher Nationwide News and journalist Jonathon Moran after two stories and a newsagent poster published in late 2017 detailed allegations he had behaved "inappropriately" while appearing in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear.

The newspaper alleged a complaint had been made against Rush by an actress he worked with during the six-week season, which began in November 2015 and ended in January 2016.

Rush launched defamation proceedings in the Federal Court in December, saying the articles portrayed him as a "pervert" and "sexual predator" and carried the imputation he had engaged in "scandalously inappropriate behaviour" and "inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature" in the theatre.

The newspaper's defence, released by the Federal Court on Tuesday, argues the allegations are "substantially true" and the publications are subject to qualified privilege.

In particulars which detail why the newspaper believes the allegations are true, the Telegraph alleges Rush touched a younger female colleague "in a manner that made [her] feel uncomfortable" on January 5, 2016, while both were on stage performing.

"The touch ... occurred during a performance of the production and specifically during the final scene in which [Rush] walks on to the stage carrying the [woman] as she simulated the lifeless body of Cordelia, King Lear's daughter," the document alleges.

"The touch ... was not directed or scripted by any person or necessary for the purpose of the performance of the production."

WESTLAW

It is alleged by the Telegraph that the woman approached Rush after the performance and said words to the effect of "stop doing it", however the touch was repeated four times - on January 6, 7, 8 and 9, which left her upset.

A second incident alleged by the Telegraph unfolded on January 9 during the show's after party at Walsh Bay Kitchen, adjacent to the Roslyn Packer Theatre where the play had been showing. The newspaper alleges the woman went to a female bathroom in the lobby of the theatre and Rush walked in and stood outside her toilet cubicle.

The woman told Rush to "f--- off", the Telegraph alleges, and he walked out, however the incident left her "visibly upset".

In court on Monday, Rush's barrister Richard McHugh, SC, said his client strenuously denied the allegations against him and denied there had been a conversation where he was asked to "stop".

He sought to have the newspaper's entire truth defence struck out on the basis it was too vague about the incidents alleged.

"It still doesn't say what he's done. It doesn't say what he did, that's the problem," Mr McHugh said.

"None of this is said to be sexual. If it's not sexual, then in what sense can it be inappropriate?"

Documents tendered by the Telegraph to the Federal Court reveal Sarah Monahan told the newspaper "that a complaint had been made to the Sydney Theatre Company by [the woman] in substance that [Rush] had touched her genitals during the production of King Lear without her consent".

The genital allegation was not included in the published stories, which used the phrases "inappropriate behaviour" and "touched her inappropriately".

Monahan, who now lives in the US state of Florida, was the first to speak out against convicted child sex offender Robert Hughes and is a vocal critic of abuse in the entertainment industry.

In 2014, Hughes was sentenced to at least six years in jail for abusing Monahan and three other young girls. He had worked with Monahan on the sitcom Hey Dad! as her on-screen father.

Monahan later wrote she was emailed with stories of abuse from people all over Australia after revealing her own story.

— Index References —

Company: RUSH ENTERPRISES INC; Sydney Theatre C

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

Language: EN

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February 21, 2018

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Documents tendered by the Telegraph to the court reveal Sarah Monahan told the newspaper "that a complaint had been made to the Sydney Theatre Company by [the woman] in substance that [Rush] had touched her genitals during the production of King Lear without her consent".

The genital allegation was not included in the published stories.

Monahan, who now lives in the US, was the first to speak out against convicted child sex offender Robert Hughes and is a vocal critic of abuse in the entertainment industry.

— Index References —

Company: RUSH ENTERPRISES INC; Sydney Theatre C

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Geoffrey Rush; Richard McHugh; Robert Hughes; Jonathon Moran; Sarah Monahan)

Edition: First

Word Count: 452

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NewsRoom

Financial Review - afrrr.com

Mar 20 2018 at 11:00 PM
Updated Mar 21 2018 at 10:25 AM

Geoffrey Rush v Daily Telegraph: Why women won't rush to make harassment claims

by Katie Walsh Misa Han

The Geoffrey Rush defamation case against *The Daily Telegraph* could have a "chilling effect" on the #MeToo movement in Australia, defamation lawyers say.

The Oscar-winning actor is suing the tabloid newspaper for defamation, alleging its two front-page stories, one of which had the headline "King Leer", portrayed him as a "pervert" and a "sexual predator" during the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *King Lear*.

In a decision handed down on Tuesday, Justice Michael Wigney of the Federal Court threw out part of News Corp's defence against the defamation lawsuit, and dismissed News Corp's application to inspect a copy of the complaint made to The Sydney Theatre Company.

Justice Wigney said News Corp's "truth" defence suffered many deficiencies and raised many questions.

"What exactly was the 'scandalously inappropriate behaviour' or 'inappropriate behaviour' that Mr Rush was said to have engaged in?" Justice Wigney asked.

"What exactly had he done which was said to meet those descriptions? If the inappropriate behaviour was said to be the inappropriate touching, how exactly had Mr Rush 'inappropriately touched' the actress during the production of *King Lear*?

"Where had he touched her and in exactly what circumstances? Was it said that the touching was intentional? Why was the touching 'inappropriate' and 'so serious' that the Sydney Theatre Company 'would never work' with Mr Rush again?"

'Abuse of process'

He said asking The Sydney Theatre Company for a copy of the complaint would amount to "fishing" for News Corp's defence, and therefore an "abuse of process".

Corrs Chambers Westgarth special counsel Jim Micallef said the mass media "very rarely" enjoys success with a defence of qualified privilege, and there was a similar risk that it would be difficult to defend allegations of sexual misconduct on social media against defamation claims.

He said while the Rush case will have no impact on the interpretation of defamation laws in Australia, it could discourage people from speaking out about sexual harassment on social media.

"The practical reality is, though, that most people posting comments on social media don't go through the process of determining legal risk. They are more likely to think of risk in the context of what they know about what happens in the Rush case," he said.

"For this reason, in practical terms, I think the Rush case may well cause people to think twice about publishing allegations of sexual misconduct via the #MeToo movement and, accordingly, there is at least a possibility that the Rush case may have a chilling impact on the movement in Australia."

Onerous forensic burden

University of Sydney professor David Rolph said defamation cases could deter individuals from speaking out, with varying consequences.

"Defamation law notoriously has a chilling effect, which inhibits people from speaking or makes them speak very carefully. Sometimes that's a good thing, sometimes that's a bad thing," he said.

He said in Australia, once a person establishes the publication carries defamatory meaning, it falls to the publisher to defend the case.

In contrast, in a US defamation case, it was up to public figures to prove the facts were false and published with actual malice.

"The forensic burden is more onerous in Australia," he said.

NewsRoom

3/21/18 Sydney Morning Herald (Austl.) 12
2018 WLNR 8532008

Sydney Morning Herald, The (Australia)
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March 21, 2018

Section: News

Court deals major win to Rush in defamation case

Georgina Mitchell

Actor **Geoffrey Rush** has had a significant win in his defamation case against The Daily Telegraph, with a judge ruling part of the newspaper's defence must be struck out.

Rush, 66, sued the Telegraph's publisher Nationwide News and journalist Jonathon Moran in the Federal Court after the newspaper published two stories and a newsagent poster in late 2017 detailing allegations he had inappropriately touched an actress during the 2015-2016 production of King Lear in Sydney.

The Telegraph defended the claims on the basis of truth and qualified privilege, alleging in court that the "touching" happened repeatedly when Rush was carrying a female colleague across the stage, and the woman had asked him to "stop it".

However, Justice Michael Wigney yesterday ruled the entirety of the truth defence should be struck out because it was "vague and imprecise" and provided "inadequate and insufficient details ... about the alleged touching".

"What exactly distinguished the alleged touch from the contact that must otherwise have been made between Mr Rush and the actress during the scene? How and why did the alleged touch make the actress feel uncomfortable? Was the discomfort physical or emotional?" Justice Wigney asked.

"Because the particulars provided no meaningful details of the alleged touching, and how and why the touching made the actress feel uncomfortable, it could not be concluded that they were capable of proving the substantial truth of the statements that Mr Rush engaged in 'scandalously inappropriate' behaviour or 'inappropriately touched' the actress.

"The particulars ... and the justification defence itself must accordingly be struck out."

Justice Wigney also struck out three paragraphs of the qualified privilege defence, and set aside a Sydney Theatre Company subpoena the newspaper sought, saying the publisher was not allowed to undertake a "fishing expedition".

In a statement, Telegraph editor Chris Dore said the decision was "one stage of complex legal proceedings".

— Index References —

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

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

Language: EN

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

Edition: First

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Daily Examiner (Australia)
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March 21, 2018

Paper can't use truth defence

Wen Mar 21 00:00:00 2018

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, lawyers for the 66-year-old were successful in their preliminary application to have all of the paper's truth defence struck out. Justice Michael Wigney also ruled against a bid by the defence to subpoena the Sydney Theatre Company.

--- Index References ---

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Jonathon Moran; Michael Wigney)

Word Count: 99

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2018 WLNR 8531313

Australian Financial Review
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March 21, 2018

Section: News

Rush case could mute #MeToo in Oz

Katie Walsh and Misa Han

The **Geoffrey Rush** defamation case against The Daily Telegraph could have a "chilling effect" on the #MeToo movement in Australia, defamation lawyers say.

The Oscar-winning actor is suing the tabloid newspaper for defamation, alleging its two front-page stories, one of which had the headline "King Leer", portrayed him as a "pervert" and a "sexual predator" during the Sydney Theatre Company's production of King Lear.

In a decision handed down on Tuesday, Justice Michael Wigney of the Federal Court threw out part of News Corp's defence against the defamation lawsuit, and dismissed News Corp's application to inspect a copy of the complaint made to The Sydney Theatre Company.

Justice Wigney said News Corp's "truth" defence suffered many deficiencies and raised many questions.

"What exactly was the 'scandalously inappropriate behaviour' or 'inappropriate behaviour' that Mr Rush was said to have engaged in?" Justice Wigney asked.

"What exactly had he done which was said to meet those descriptions? If the inappropriate behaviour was said to be the inappropriate touching, how exactly had Mr Rush 'inappropriately touched' the actress during the production of King Lear?

"Where had he touched her and in exactly what circumstances? Was it said that the touching was intentional? Why was the touching 'inappropriate' and 'so serious' that the Sydney Theatre Company 'would never work' with Mr Rush again?"

He said asking The Sydney Theatre Company for a copy of the complaint would amount to "fishing" for News Corp's defence, and therefore an "abuse of process".

Corrs Chambers Westgarth partner Jim Micallef said the mass media "very rarely" enjoys success with a defence of qualified privilege, and there was a similar risk that it would be difficult to defend allegations of sexual misconduct on social media against defamation claims. He said while the Rush case will have no impact on the interpretation of defamation laws in Australia, it could discourage people from speaking out about sexual harassment on social media.

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"I think the Rush case may well cause people to think twice about publishing allegations of sexual misconduct via the #MeToo movement and, accordingly, there is at least a possibility that the Rush case may have a chilling impact on the movement in Australia."

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"Defamation law notoriously has a chilling effect, which inhibits people from speaking or makes them speak very carefully. Sometimes that's a good thing, sometimes that's a bad thing."

He said in Australia, once a person establishes the publication carries defamatory meaning, it falls to the publisher to defend the case. In a US defamation case, it was up to public figures to prove the facts were false and published with malice.

— Index References —

Company: CORRS CHAMBERS WESTGARTH; NEWS CORP

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Rush; David Rolph; Jim Micallef; Michael Wigney)

Edition: First

Word Count: 460

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ABC NEWS

Geoffrey Rush: Lawyers for Daily Telegraph maintain Oscar-winner engaged in 'inappropriate behaviour'

By Ashleigh Raper

Updated Tue 27 Mar 2018, 9:36pm

Sydney newspaper The Daily Telegraph has fired back in court against actor Geoffrey Rush, maintaining its articles alleging the Oscar-winner engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" were true.



PHOTO: Geoffrey Rush is one of Australia's best-known actors. (AAP: Alan Porritt)

The actor is suing the paper's publisher Nationwide News and its reporter Jonathon Moran over the articles that allege he was inappropriate while performing in the Sydney Theatre Company's 2015-16 production of King Lear.

Last week Rush had a significant win in the Federal Court when the judge ruled in his favour that parts of The Daily Telegraph's defence case should be struck out.

It means when the case goes to trial, The Daily Telegraph's use of the truth and qualified privilege defence could not be used.

But today in court, the newspaper's legal team stated it will appeal against part of that ruling.

Tom Blackburn SC told the court The Daily Telegraph "took care, great care that what was published was true".

"We don't believe there were any errors of fact," he said.

He also called for a halt to any pre-trial proceedings until the appeal was resolved.

Rush's legal team, who had been pushing for the trial to happen as soon as possible, called that a delaying tactic.

His lawyer Sue Chrysanthou told the court her client was an "international figure" and allegations were being "reported around the world".

Ms Chrysanthou said the case should proceed as planned in August so Rush can "vindicate his reputation".

The court also heard Rush intends to take the stand.

The Daily Telegraph's lawyer told the court that pushing ahead with that timeframe will place "unnecessary pressure and cost" on his clients.



PHOTO: The court heart Sydney's The Daily Telegraph 'took care' when publishing the articles. (ABC News: Dan Cox)

The case will return to court on April 9.

Topics: law-crime-and-justice, courts-and-trials, information-and-communication, print-media, sydney-2000

First posted Tue 27 Mar 2018, 11:50am

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March 27 2018 - 2:43PM

Rush wants early defamation hearing date

- **Margaret Scheikowski**

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Geoffrey Rush wants an early hearing to vindicate his reputation, a judge has been told (file).

Actor Geoffrey Rush is seeking the earliest possible hearing date for his defamation case so he can get in the witness box and "vindicate his reputation", a Federal Court judge has been told.

The Oscar winner's lawyer Sue Chrysanthous was resisting what she called a "delaying tactic" by The Daily Telegraph to set a timetable for the hearing of his defamation case against the Sydney tabloid and journalist Jonathon Moran.

The 66-year-old is suing over articles alleging he behaved inappropriately with a colleague during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear in 2015.

The Telegraph denies the articles made Rush out to be a pervert and a predator, submitting no allegations of a sexual nature were made.

stice Michael Wigney previously ruled in the actor's favour, striking out the defence of truth.

On Tuesday at a case management hearing, the newspaper's lawyer Tom Blackburn SC asked for a delay in setting the case timetable to enable an application for leave to be made to appeal against the judge's ruling to remove parts of its qualified privilege defence.

"We say The Daily Telegraph and Mr Moran took care and great care to ensure what was published was true," he said.

"We do not think Mr Rush can point to any factual errors in what was published ... what was published was in fact true."

The Telegraph also wants to bring a cross-claim against the theatre company, which would result in it becoming another defendant in the lawsuit.

"The Sydney Theatre Company did what they did in issuing statements and material which, as we see it, was plainly intended for publication," he said.

Ms Chrysanthous, who asked for an August hearing date, said the actor's lawyers would be alleging malice in that the articles were published with "the predominantly improper purpose to harm our client".

"These allegations are made around the world," she said.

"He is an international figure.

"He should be entitled to the earliest possible date to get into the witness box, which he intends to do, to vindicate his reputation."

The case will return to court on April 9 when Mr Blackburn will update the judge on the proposed appeal.

Australian Associated Press

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NEWS

Daily Telegraph seeks leave to appeal decision as Geoffrey Rush defamation battle continues

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March 27, 2018 11:16
by **STEVE JONES**

The Daily Telegraph lawyers have argued Geoffrey Rush "can't point to any factual errors" as the newspaper sought leave to appeal against a ruling which threw out parts of its defence in its ongoing defamation battle with the actor.



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Lawyers for News Corp subsidiary Nationwide News told Sydney's Federal Court this morning it wants to contest the decision to "strike out" three paragraphs of its qualified privilege defence.

Qualified privilege requires a publisher in defamation cases to prove that publishing a story was in the public interest and reasonable.

Tom Blackburn, representing The Daily Telegraph and journalist Jonathon Moran, argued that "great care" had been taken in ensuring what was published was true.

"We don't think Mr Rush can point to any factual errors that were published," he said.

Blackburn told the court that because of that "great care" and because what was published was true, "Mr Moran's conduct and the Daily Telegraph's conduct was eminently reasonable".

He also told the court that Nationwide News was making a cross-claim against Sydney Theatre Company on the grounds that it issued a statement to the newspaper that was "plainly intended for publication".

Addressing Justice Michael Wigney, Blackburn said there would be little point in continuing with pre-trial proceedings until the leave for appeal issue had been resolved.

Sue Chrysanthou, representing Rush, argued that the cross claim against the Sydney Theatre Company should

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have been lodged two months ago and accused The Daily Telegraph lawyers of "delaying tactics".

Blackburn, meanwhile, said the actor's lawyers were attempting to put pressure on the publisher by pressing for an early trial.

Chrysanthou described that claim as "quite ridiculous".

She argued that Rush had been portrayed as a "pervert" with headlines around the world damaging his reputation. The stories were "malicious" and intended to cause harm, she added.

Chrysanthou said her client wanted to stand in the witness box as soon as possible to "vindicate his reputation".

The case was adjourned until April 9.

Steve Jones

topics **GEOFFREY RUSH, JONATHON MORAN, SUE CHRYSTANTHOU, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, TOM BLACKBURN**

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3/28/18 Age (Austl. Full Text) 9
2018 WLNR 9298810

Age, The (Australia)
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March 28, 2018

Section: News

Paper appeals Rush ruling

Georgina Mitchell

Actor **Geoffrey Rush** plans to give evidence as soon as August that he did not behave "inappropriately" towards an actress during a production of King Lear in Sydney, a court has heard.

Rush, 66, is suing The Daily Telegraph's publisher, Nationwide News, and journalist Jonathon Moran for defamation in the Federal Court after the newspaper published two front-page stories and a newsagent poster late last year alleging Rush had been involved in "inappropriate behaviour" during the six-week production by the Sydney Theatre Company, which began in late 2015.

In a statement of claim, Rush said the newspaper portrayed him as a "pervert" and "sexual predator" who had engaged in "inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature".

Last week, Justice Michael Wigney ruled that part of the Telegraph's defence to the allegations - that they were true - should be struck out, also striking out part of its qualified privilege defence.

In a case management hearing yesterday, barrister Tom Blackburn, SC, told the court he would apply for leave to appeal the judgment, to reinstate part of the qualified privilege defence, and file an amended defence.

Mr Blackburn also outlined plans to file a cross-claim against Sydney Theatre Company, for issuing a statement in November 2017 that there had been a "complaint" against Rush alleging "inappropriate behaviour".

"The Sydney Theatre Company did what they did in issuing statements and material which, as we see it, was plainly intended for publication," Mr Blackburn said.

Rush's barrister, Sue Chrysanthou, asked for a trial date in August, labelling the appeal a "very narrow one indeed" which could not operate as "a stay of execution".

The matter will return to court in April.

--- Index References ---

WESTLAW

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Jonathon Moran; Sue Chrysanthou; Michael Wigney; Tom Blackburn)

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March 28, 2018

Section: News

Newspaper to appeal Rush case decisions

Georgina Mitchell | Courts

Actor **Geoffrey Rush** plans to give evidence as soon as August that he did not behave "inappropriately" towards an actress during a production of King Lear in Sydney, a court has heard.

Rush, 66, is suing The Daily Telegraph's publisher Nationwide News and journalist Jonathon Moran for defamation in the Federal Court after the newspaper published two front-page stories and a newsagent poster in late 2017 alleging Rush, pictured, had been involved in "inappropriate behaviour" during the six-week production by the Sydney Theatre Company, which began in late 2015.

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Mr Blackburn also outlined plans to file a cross-claim against the Sydney Theatre Company, for issuing a statement in November 2017 that there had been a "complaint" against Rush alleging "inappropriate behaviour".

"Your honour, the Sydney Theatre Company did what they did in issuing statements and material which, as we see it, was plainly intended for publication," Mr Blackburn said. Justice Wigney said if such a cross-claim was permitted, it would "obviously complicate the trial".

Rush's barrister Sue Chrysanthou asked for a trial date in August, labelling the appeal a "very narrow one indeed" which could not operate as "a stay of execution or a stay of proceedings".

"There seems no reason whatsoever, your honour, that my client's vindication - if that's what he comes to - will be delayed," Ms Chrysanthou said. "These respondents continue to write articles about my client, [they] continue to defame my client. These allegations are made around the world. He is an international figure. He should be entitled to the earliest available date to get into the witness box, which he intends to do, and to vindicate his reputation."

WESTLAW

Ms Chrysanthou said Mr Moran and the person who wrote the headlines would also have to give evidence to explain how they came to write "an article that accuses our client of sexual misconduct".

— Index References ----

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Michael Wigney; Jonathon Moran; Sue Chrysanthou; Tom Blackburn)

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April 7, 2018

Section: Perspective

OLD SHOW CAN'T GO ON

David Marin-Guzman

Theatre There are new rules around creative magic after #MeToo, writes David Marin-Guzman.

The industry at the forefront of dealing with sexual harassment in Australia also happens to be the one where questions about consent and power exist on multiple levels.

In a collective effort that observers say is unprecedented, major theatre companies, directors and unions have joined together to draft a new code of conduct for harassment in the live-performance industry.

The code follows allegations of inappropriate conduct against high-profile actors **Geoffrey Rush** and Craig McLachlan at shows produced by the Sydney Theatre Company and the Gordon Frost Organisation, including during performances. Both men deny the allegations.

Griffin Theatre artistic director Lee Lewis says the industry is "at the cutting edge" of dealing with sexual harassment because its work is so intimate.

She concedes that in the past there has been "an institutional failure to take care of the people who work for us, despite best intentions and words on paper".

"There are traditions in theatre that have led people to suck up behaviour that they shouldn't have to - things like 'the show must go on' or the idea that there are people who are protected by the star system because of the box office they pull."

How the industry deals with this change could be a model for other workplaces in the new era.

Lewis says theatres are dealing with the power structures that silence sexual harassment by reducing the reliance on a single show or actor for financial success. New sexual harassment insurance options for productions or even for the actors themselves are being considered.

"What I'm discussing with our board is how do we make sure the company is financially stable enough so that if I need to replace the biggest box office draw of the year I can do that without making the company collapse."

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Head of the Media and Entertainment and Arts Alliance's equity division, Zoe Angus, says theatre companies have been forced to deal with consent in the workplace on the most nuanced levels.

"There are additional risks inherent in the intimacy of the creative process itself, particularly where actors and actresses are performing intense scenes."

Traditionally Australian theatres have not been great at managing that risk. Now they want to learn.

At the inaugural Safe Theatres Forum in March, major theatre companies committed to send their artistic and assistant directors to what is called "intimacy training".

A so-called "intimacy coach" works to choreograph a scene much like a fight choreographer would a fight scene; working with performers to mark out the boundaries of consent and where participants touch each other or how they express affection.

The practice, common in Britain, the United States and New Zealand, can cover scenes of romantic interaction or affection between family members, but also extends to scenes where aggression runs high, where characters are screaming at each other, for example, and even to portrayals of sexual harassment itself.

An essential factor in managing what can sometimes be unseen is setting up channels for people to communicate when they're not feeling comfortable.

The industry is empowering a largely transient workforce to speak up by establishing investigative and complaint mechanisms where there have been none before. But it is also clarifying informal processes for complainants who don't want to trigger a formal investigation.

A so-called "safe conversation officer", represented by a trained delegate who is not from senior management, will now be present during productions for performers and crew to go and raise issues.

"You hope that people can deal with stuff at the coalface when it happens. If it can be dealt with in an efficient, quick, informal way - often these things can be resolved informally," says Evelyn Richardson, chief executive at the peak body for the live performance industry, Live Performance Australia.

The union backs informal communication channels too, as well as confidentiality, but has raised concerns that secrecy should not be overly burdensome on the complainant.

"Confidentiality can and should be required for a live complaint," Angus says. "But people have the right to talk to a support person and a family member. Employers shouldn't require confidentiality of a person their entire life."

Non-disclosure arrangements have attracted criticism in the US for hushing up much of the Harvey Weinstein allegations that preceded the #MeToo movement, allowing companies to keep genuine claims out of the public eye but doing nothing to deal with the perpetrator.

But the #MeToo social media juggernaut shattered traditional assumptions over confidentiality. Now allegations and complaints are not only increasing, they are increasingly becoming public.

The high profile of many involved in the #MeToo movement has grabbed the headlines but sexual harassment has of course not been limited to the creative arts.

A 2015 study by workplace consultant Rebecca Michalak of 800 white-collar professionals, including engineers, accountants, lawyers and consultants, found almost half had been exposed to some form of sexual harassment.

In the past, few have complained. This seems to be changing.

Employment lawyer Sarah Ralph, partner with Norton Rose Fulbright, says in the last six months complaints within the workplace have risen significantly, not just sexual harassment claims but all range of grievances and concerns.

"The #MeToo movement has certainly shown people around the world that by raising your voice you can seek to address issues.

"It's not necessarily translating to more legal claims, at least at this stage. But it is very much a workplace central area."

Behaviour that was acceptable in the past is now not. Businesses around the country are rewriting the rules about relationships in the workplace.

Few firms will own up to refining their policy as a response but experts say it is happening on a significant scale.

Facebook and Google were exposed through media leaks last year as having introduced "one strike" policies around office dating, where workers are given just one chance to ask out a romantic interest. Answers such as "I'm busy" and "I can't do that night" count as a no.

Such policies are not limited to the tech giants. Similar rules are spreading to other employers in Australia, both large and small.

Ralph says many employers are redefining consent.

"There's much more focus on what consent is - not just sexual consent but consent to participate in a relationship or a date."

In the past, sexual harassment policies often barred employees from repeatedly requesting dates from co-workers if they got a refusal. But more employers are changing consent definitions to require "vigorous agreement" and classifying ambivalent responses as refusals.

"It's quite a change in the way of thinking about when you have a green light from a workplace colleague to pursue them," Ralph says. Now, if you don't get agreement the first time, you probably shouldn't pursue it. It may be sexual harassment.P

— Index References —

Company: GOOGLE LLC; NORTON ROSE SERVICE COMPANY (DUBAI) LTD

News Subject: (Business Management (1BU42); Employment Law (1EM67); HR & Labor Management (1HR87); Workplace Harassment (1WO08))

Industry: (Dance (1DA68); Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85); Theater (1TH47))

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NewsRoom



Rushing To Judgement: The Daily Telegraph Versus Geoffrey Rush, Explained

By Hannah Marshall on April 8, 2018 Media & Culture

News Corporation is struggling to mount a legal defence to its allegations against actor Geoffrey Rush. And then there's the chilling effect on the #metoo campaign. Hannah Marshall from Marque Lawyers breaks it down.

Things are looking grim for the Daily Telegraph in its defence of Geoffrey Rush's defamation case. The story of the litigation has taken a very distinct turn in Rush's favour. That story is a courtroom drama and the protagonists are the barristers, lawyers and the judge.

Behind the story of the litigation is another story. One that we won't hear. That's the story of what actually happened during the production of King Lear. That's the one with Geoffrey Rush and Eryn Jean Norvill in it. Not the STC, not their co-stars, not the Tele. No-one else really, truly knows what happened. Only them.

By commencing this defamation action, Rush seeks vindication; proof that he did not commit the acts of which he was publicly accused. The legal system tries its very best to provide actual vindication and find actual truth. But often it can't. Cases like the Rush case make this painfully clear.



The judge will make his decision based on the pleadings, which document the parties' claims and defences, and the evidence presented by Rush and the Tele. That's the way our legal system works.

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Rushing To Judgement: The Daily Tele
Geoffrey Rush, Explained

The Days Of Blind Support For Israel A
Australian Jews Is Over

Malcolm Turnbull's Manufactured Nig
Inside Peter Dutton's Iron Cage

How Our Govt Help The Rich Get Rich
Poor Get Poorer

Australia's Real South African Disgrace
Nothing To Do With Cricket

Rush's claim says that the Tele articles broadly carried two kinds of defamatory imputations; non-sexual imputations that he behaved inappropriately, and then sexual imputations, that he was a sexual predator, sexually harassed an actress, and even engaged in sexual assault.

The Tele's defence says that none of those imputations arose from its articles. It also claimed it could prove the truth of the non-sexual imputations. Notably, the Tele did not claim it could prove the truth of the sexual imputations. Then it argued another defence called qualified privilege over all of the imputations. That can apply even if the Tele can't prove truth.

In a pre-trial hearing recently, the judge struck out all of the Tele's truth defence and part of the qualified privilege defence. That doesn't mean that the case is over. The Tele can still argue about whether the imputations arose and whether the qualified privilege defence will apply. And apparently the Tele intends to appeal the decision and try to re-plead its defence, so things could change again.



Australian actor Geoffrey Rush. (IMAGE: Eva Rinaldi, Flickr)

The reason that the Tele's truth defence was struck out was that it couldn't provide sufficient detail of what it alleged Rush actually did to Norvill. It claimed it could prove that he had a crush on her, and that he touched her inappropriately while on stage during performances of King Lear. It couldn't say how, or where he touched her. It couldn't say why it was inappropriate, or why it went beyond the degree of touching necessary for the play.

The Tele also claimed it could prove that Rush entered the women's bathroom while Norvill was inside a cubicle, that she told him to fuck off, and then he left. It couldn't say why he went in. It didn't, for example, claim that it could prove that he went in there to harass her.

The judge said the Tele's details weren't sufficient for Rush to be able to answer the allegations, and they weren't sufficient to prove that he had acted inappropriately.

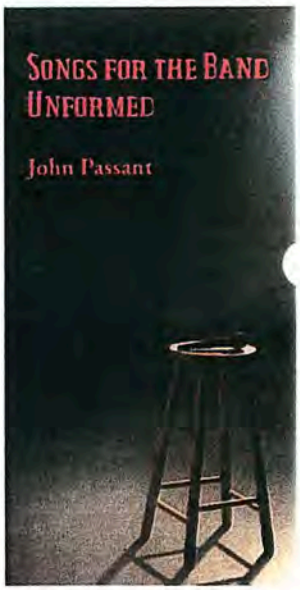
The most obvious reason that the Tele couldn't prove these things, and that it couldn't plead truth to the sexual imputations, has to be that Norvill is not a witness. If it had her testimony, it ought to be able to provide all the missing details that were fatal to its truth defence.

Elsewhere in its defence, the Tele describes some of its sources of information.

It claims that prior to publication it had information that Norvill had complained to the STC that Rush had touched her genitals during the King Lear production without her consent. But the Tele does not name Norvill as the source of that information. It names another actress in the production, Sarah Monahan, as the source.

The genital touching allegation didn't make it into the Tele's truth defence. Maybe Monahan didn't witness the touching; someone just told her about it. That would make it inadmissible as proof of the touching happening. It could only be used to show what information the Tele had when it published.

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There's also a notable absence of reference to the toilet allegations where the Tele describes the information that it had prior to publishing the stories. Reading between the lines, these allegations may not have been known to the Tele until later.

The point is that what's actually on trial in this case is the Tele; the words it published, the defences it pleaded and the evidence it can bring to court. Not Norvill. Not her complaint. Not whether Rush actually harassed or even assaulted her.



Without Norvill's account of what happened being put before the Court, the litigation is unlikely to shed any real light on what happened on the stage at the STC. Instead we'll see a courtroom drama focused on the words that the Tele published, their 'natural ordinary meaning', the public interest in #metoo allegations, and whether the Tele acted reasonably.

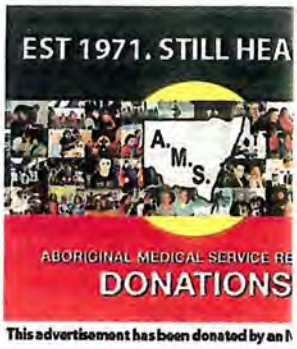
To be clear, Norvill's under no obligation whatsoever to participate in the proceedings. She didn't write the stories. She didn't give a statement to the Tele and she sought for her name to be withheld. It would be understandable if she didn't want to be a witness. The unfortunate truth though is that without her, the case has less meaning.

If Rush loses, it's not necessarily proof that he harassed Norvill or that he's a sexual predator. It might just be proof that the Tele's words didn't create those inferences. Or that there was such a great public interest in the story being told that it didn't matter if it wasn't completely accurate.

If Rush wins, it might prove that the Tele didn't investigate thoroughly enough before it published. That it should have chosen better words. That it shouldn't have published without an account from Norvill herself.

All that is actually, technically on trial is the Tele. Whether its evidence is good enough. Whether its defences hold up. That's the courtroom drama. It won't, and it can't, prove whether Rush assaulted Norvill.

That's another story altogether. We won't hear it. And because of the chilling effect of cases like this, there are probably a lot of other #metoo stories that we won't hear either. That's on the Tele.







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TAGS: daily telegraph eryn jean norvill geoffrey rush hannah marshall marque lawyers sarah monaghan

Hannah Marshall



Hannah Marshall is a partner with Sydney law firm Marque Lawyers, and a regular contributor to New Matilda.



Cambridge Analytica Part 2: The Lessons We Need To Learn About Social Media And Propaganda



Cambridge Analytica Part 1: They 'Got Trump Elected', We Should Worry About What Else They've Done



Free Your Mind, And Your Time: Step Away From Social Media

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Interlocutory April 9, 2018

Geoffrey Rush v Nationwide News and Jonathon Moran

print this article

More Rush ... Nationwide News seeks contribution and indemnity from the Sydney Theatre Company ... Affidavit about ongoing hurt to the applicant ... Confidential informant outed by the newspaper ... Cross-claim argument ... Justice Michael Wigney sets timetable for the case

Telegraph wants to sue its Geoffrey Rush source



Telegraph entertainment editor Jonathon Moran: sought comment from STC about Rush

Geoffrey Rush v Nationwide News Pty Ltd & Anor
Federal Court of Australia
Sydney
NSD 2179/2017
Justice Michael Wigney
April 9, 2018

Nationwide News is seeking to sue its source for the front page *King Leer* story that alleged actor **Geoffrey Rush** had engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" during a 2015-2016 production at **The Sydney Theatre Company**.

It has named Patrick McIntyre, the executive director of the STC, as a source of information it relied on in publishing stories about Rush.

The newspaper publisher wants contribution and indemnity from the theatre company in respect of any judgment given against it in the Rush defamation proceedings.

After entertainment editor Jonathon Moran made inquiries asking the STC to confirm or deny complaints had been made in relation to Rush, the company issued the following statement to the *Telegraph*:

> "Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour. The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended. The company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in the workplace.
>
> The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld. STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."

In its cross-claim, the newspaper says the theatre company knew the statement would be, or was likely to be, published in the *Daily Telegraph* and impliedly authorised its publication.

It was also confirmed to the newspaper that a senior manager at the STC had spoken to Rush about the complaint, without naming the complainant.

The cross-claim also says that further information was provided to the newspaper by Patrick McIntyre, including that Rush by then had been told the identity of the complainant, that the company's HR policies and practices had been changed and that the STC would never work with Rush again.

It's alleged in the cross-claim that McIntyre said this information could be published without attribution to him.

Nicholas Pullen, Rush's solicitor at HWL Ebsworth, in an affidavit filed on April 9, outlined what he said was the ongoing hurt experienced by his client, including being constantly associated with the #MeToo movement.

As a result of the continuing coverage of the matter, Rush:

- has been virtually housebound;
- feels uncomfortable in public;
- rarely attends public events;
- is full of anxiety in public believing that people are staring at him in a way that is frightening and unnerving;
- has lost his appetite;
- wakes up in the morning with a terrible sense of dread about his future career;
- is concerned about the ongoing effect on his wife and children;
- believes his worth to the theatre and film industry is irreparably damaged;
- suffers from lack of sleep and anxiety requiring medication; and
- lacks the necessary motivation to conduct his normal activities.

Pullen's affidavit details the first respondent's ongoing reports about the actor and the case, along with articles published around the world – in the UK, the USA, Canada, India, Ireland, France and Japan.

Sue Chrysanthou, for Rush, said that the plaintiff opposed the application for the cross-claim. She told Justice Michael Wigney in the Federal Court this morning (Monday, April 9), that the applicant in the main proceedings would like "these applications to be heard at the earliest opportunity ... At the moment these interlocutory applications are an excuse for these proceedings not to progress"

> "Your honour will see the devastating and significant effect of these proceedings on my client."

Chrysanthou said the decision to bring the cross-claim late in the piece "has been a purely tactical decision ... It is very unusual and doomed to fail".

She pointed out that here was a journalist ringing the STC and asking for information. There was no suggestion that the theatre company had instigated the story.

The STC complied with Moran's request for a comment and is now being sued. She said that News Corp had never before suggested that when it rings a person and asks for a comment it is then appropriate to sue that person.



Chrysanthou: cross-claim is a tactical decision

> "What we have is a newspaper bringing a spurious application for contribution against its own source."

What the STC put in its statement [to the reporter] was an allegation of "suspicion" whereas the publication was one that the applicant says is one that alleges "guilt"

Further, the newspaper knew that McIntyre had made it clear he did not want his statement to be attributed to him.

He was a confidential source, but "now they are using that comment to sue his employer".

Chrysanthou claimed that the respondents are treating the litigation "like a game" and are using the cross-claim to "delay proceedings".

She added that if the cross-claim proceeds the respondents, "will get their hands on STC documents" dealing with Rush.

Alec Leopold SC, for the respondents/cross-claimants, thought that what had been said in court about the confidential source gave rise to "serious allegations of professional misconduct against my instructing solicitors [Ashurst]".

> "It shouldn't have happened."

Justice Wigney said he intends to list the matter for hearing this year.

> "It's going to be heard sometime in December ... perhaps the first two weeks of December."

The application for leave to appeal against the earlier strike-out orders "is going to be determined this month. The respondents have filed additional particulars of their section 30 defence.

There'll be a further hearing on the cross-claim this Friday (April 13) at 10.15am.

See:

Further amended defence

Statement of cross-claim

Affidavit of Nicholas Pullen

Federal Court file: *Rush v Nationwide News*

Appearances:
Applicant: Sue Chrysanthou, instructed by Nicholas Pullen, HWL Ebsworth
Respondents, Cross-Applicants: Alec Leopold SC instructed by Robert Todd, Ashurst Australia

Reporters: Richard Ackland with Nick Bonyhady

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2018 WLNR 10646720

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April 10, 2018

Section: SN-News

In no Rush to leave house

Defending himself: Actor **Geoffrey Rush** speaks to the media during a press conference announcing his defamation suit against the Daily Telegraph in Dec...

AAPviaNewsReader

Defending himself: Actor **Geoffrey Rush** speaks to the media during a press conference announcing his defamation suit against the Daily Telegraph in December last year. Picture: AAP Image/Wayne Taylor

Actor **Geoffrey Rush** is virtually housebound, barely eats and wakes each morning with a ‘‘terrible sense of dread’’ since the publication of articles alleging inappropriate behaviour towards a colleague, according to a court document.

An affidavit tendered in the Federal Court in Sydney yesterday said the Oscar winner had suffered ‘‘tremendous emotional and social hardship’’ sinceThe Daily Telegraph published the articles last year.

Rush, 66, has lost his appetite, struggles to sleep and has rarely left his home, according to the affidavit by his solicitor Nicholas Pullen.

Rush is suing The Daily Telegraph ’s publisher Nationwide News and journalist Jonathon Moran for defamation over the articles alleging the Oscar winner behaved inappropriately towards a female co-star during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear in 2015.

He has denied the allegations.

The affidavit tendered said that when Rush did venture out in public he felt anxious as he believed people were staring at him in a challenging, frightening and unnerving way.

He woke up every morning with a ‘‘terrible sense of dread about his future career’’, and felt his worth to the theatre and film industry was irreparably damaged, the document said.

The Telegraph has denied the articles made Rush out to be a pervert and a predator, and submits no allegations of a sexual nature were made.

The Federal Court yesterday heard the Telegraph and Moran had applied to bring a cross-claim against the STC that would see it become another defendant in Rush’s lawsuit.

The application said the theatre company provided statements relating to a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by Rush knowing they would, or would likely, be re-published by the Telegraph .

The first story was read to a staffer in the STC’s publicity department before publication and she did not indicate that anything in the article was inaccurate, the application said.

But Rush’s lawyer, Sue Chrysanthou, said the decision to bring the ‘‘spurious’’ application appeared to be a tactical decision that would further delay proceedings.

‘‘The respondents are treating this litigation like a game,’’ she said.

Ms Chrysanthou said there was no suggestion the STC instigated the Telegraph ’s stories, with the theatre company providing a comment after a request from a journalist.

She said the respondents had given no explanation as to why they were naming a previously confidential source from the STC in court documents.

She suggested they had changed their stance on the source’s confidentiality so they could use the source’s position to sue his employer.

But the newspaper’s lawyer, Alec Leopold SC, said Ms Chrysanthou was making serious allegations of professional misconduct against instructing solicitors without a proper basis.

He said the defence was not trying to delay the proceedings.

The cross-claim application is scheduled to be heard on Friday.

Justice Michael Wigney, during yesterday’s case management hearing, said it was likely the trial would be heard in December.

— AAP

--- Index References ---

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Press Releases (1PR19))

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

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April 10, 2018

Section: News

Rush 'virtually housebound' and barely eats

Georgina Mitchell

Actor **Geoffrey Rush** has been "virtually housebound" since news stories were published detailing "inappropriate behaviour" by him, according to his lawyer.

In an affidavit filed yesterday with the Federal Court, Nicholas Pullen said Rush, 66, rarely left his home for three months after two stories and a newsagent poster were published by The Daily Telegraph late last year alleging he behaved inappropriately towards another cast member during a 2015-16 production of King Lear by the Sydney Theatre Company.

Mr Pullen, a partner at HWL Ebsworth, submitted to the court a folder of international articles which, he said, link Rush to the "#MeToo" movement against sexual misconduct.

He said that Rush has since lost his appetite and barely eats, is full of anxiety when he goes out in public, wakes up each morning with a terrible sense of dread about his future career, requires medication for lack of sleep and anxiety and believes his worth to the community is now "irreparably damaged".

"[He] is seriously concerned about the ongoing effect on his children and his wife," Mr Pullen said.

Rush launched defamation action against the Telegraph's publisher Nationwide News and journalist Jonathon Moran in December, saying the publications portrayed him as a "pervert" and "sexual predator".

The Telegraph has denied its articles were defamatory and says they were matters of proper and legitimate public interest.

In a hearing yesterday, the court heard the Telegraph has now named in court documents a previously "confidential" source who provided information about Rush.

The Sydney Theatre Company source, formerly labelled "confidential source 3", had already been named in the documents, attributing one published quote to them.

However, the newspaper's amended defence now links them to eight pieces of information told to the Telegraph.

Three additional sources remain confidential.

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The newspaper is attempting to file a cross-claim against the theatre company, alleging the STC sent out statements about Rush that were clearly intended for publication and did not point out any inaccuracies in the story when it was read to a publicist over the phone.

Rush's barrister Sue Chrysanthou said the cross-claim was "very unusual indeed" and "doomed to fail".

"What we have is a journalist ringing a person and asking for information for a story - there's no suggestion whatsoever in this cross-claim that the STC instigated the story," Ms Chrysanthou said.

"Mr Moran telephoned the STC and asked the STC to provide an official comment. The STC complied with that request, and now it is being sued.

"So what News Limited is saying - and I don't think News Limited has ever said this before, it's a novel claim - is when it rings a person and asks for information for a story, it's appropriate to sue that person for complying with that request."

Defence barrister Alec Leopold, SC, accused Ms Chrysanthou of using the court to "muckrake" when she said the Telegraph's legal team were "treating this litigation like a game".

The case is expected to go to trial in the first two weeks of December before Justice Michael Wigney.

It will return to court on Friday.

— Index References —

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Government Litigation (1GO18); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

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

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April 18, 2018

Being first with the news has its down side

LIFE AS I KNOW ITLESLEY APPS

Traditional media is battling it out online but the road to recovery might be an old one

Wen Apr 18 00:00:00 2018

IT'S always fraught with danger writing about your own industry but hey this column space isn't adverse to sticking its head up occasionally in an attempt to provoke thought and highlight inadequacies, so let's just hope the bosses see it that way.

Those clunky old beasts that were the traditional media platforms you grew up with, newspapers, radio and television - come on, you remember - are still gnashing away, the climate they once operated supremely in now unrecognisable.

But if you can't beat 'em, at least keep nipping at the heels until you can reinvent yourself for the new millennium and, at the moment, the traditional media is definitely in the thick of doing that.

But first, some reflection on the good ol' days.

It's hard to fathom how differently 9/11 would have unfolded had Twitter been around. Or if Monica Lewinsky had to deal with being slut-shamed on Facebook as well as the front page.

Now things happen so quickly, it's almost a requirement to break the news before it even happens. Fox News discovered the consequences of jumping that gun literally when they reported that a member of congress who was shot in the head had died. She didn't, but they wanted to be first and pre-empting what they considered her inevitable demise, for want of a better term, backfired mightily.

They were crucified by other media outlets but people still tune in to Fox anyhow.

It's a bit like those gossip magazines that doctor up photos of famous people that haven't seen each other in years. They make up stories on info provided by a "close source"'or "their inner circle"' to reveal that they're back together again and pregnant for the eighth time despite having never given birth, ever.

Being abducted by an alien is positively fathomable up against these cyclic doses of trite, but despite knowing most of the content is questionable, people must still be buying it in every sense of the term.

The pressure to get the scoop or exclusive also means the boundaries of good taste now sit in the lower intestinal tract somewhere. Texting a child for comment while they're trapped in the middle of the mass shooting is becoming common practice in the US. But Australia isn't immune to this practice.

Mike Munro got hammered for using an old-school landline to call the young hostages during the Cangai siege back in 1990s (later parodied by the satire Frontline) but what he was really doing was being prophetic.

The Daily Telegraph is in the thick of a potentially expensive law suit because it ran a piece on **Geoffrey Rush** that outed him as groping a female actor during the production of King Lear, the heading opportunity (King Leer) seemingly too good to pass up. It was midst #metoo revelations where Hollywood males were dropping like (their) flies so waiting for the concrete to set isn't an option when you're on a treadmill of tawdriness.

But you've got to give the customer what it wants, right? Even if they turn around and criticise (or sue) you later for it.

Perhaps the most famous case was of the late Princess Diana. People couldn't get enough of this royal enigma.

The media made a fortune off her back thanks to the public's insatiable desire to know every move she made. Ultimately this love/hate relationship cost her her life.

The world-wide grieving process that followed meant someone was to blame so between the evil paparazzi and her stone-faced Majesty at the time, the people had their sacrificial lambs in their sights. This was well before social media got its hooks into us.

This kind of angry mob mentality is what drives the media's dominant platform today, that of the social ilk.

Even young people can't get enough of the "news", real and fake, which is good in some ways because it means they're engaged with what's going on beyond their bedrooms, but they also don't have to leave those rooms to discover who's to blame for everything this week.

Navigating what's real and what's not is the latest challenge for traditional media to overcome.

It highlights the power of these platforms and companies devoted to producing it have. You can no longer dismiss it as the consequences are all-too-real. Like the 45th President of the United States.

The word media has never had a broader meaning than it does today. Everyone can get into the act now, hence the use of the term "social".

But with this unregulated version, comes a huge number of problems not just for traditional media outlets in producing content within it but for everyone who engages with it.

It's kind of amusing to see traditional media going back to its roots and investing in quality journalism in order to stand out in the sea of clickbait.

After having jumped in head-first and whaled around in the muck for a good few years with not much to show for it in paid subscriptions - and with Facebook being on the nose - being seen as a trusted news source has never been so vital.

Let's just hope people agree and are willing to pay for it.

LIFE AS I KNOW IT

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— Index References —

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April 21, 2018

Section: News

Court throws out legal bid against STC

RUSH DEFAMATION CASE

Georgina Mitchell

A Federal Court judge has thrown out an attempt by The Daily Telegraph to bring court action against the Sydney Theatre Company for issuing a quote about actor **Geoffrey Rush**.

The Telegraph's publisher, Nationwide News, and journalist Jonathon Moran are being sued for defamation by Rush, 66, after they published two stories and a newsagent poster in late 2017 alleging the actor engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" while starring in the play King Lear.

Rush (pictured) said the publications wrongly portray him as a "pervert" and "sexual predator" and have had a significant impact on his life, causing him to rarely leave the house and to take medication to help him sleep.

The Telegraph has argued its publications did not convey the meanings Rush complains of, and are defensible as reporting in the public interest.

Lawyers for the newspaper applied this month to bring a cross-claim against the Sydney Theatre Company, meaning the artistic organisation would have to contribute to paying damages if the Telegraph is found to have defamed Rush.

The Telegraph argued the company's publicist sent out an emailed statement which was clearly intended for publication, was later read the story over the phone and did not point out any errors, and another STC employee gave a quote that he did not wanted attributed to him.

Yesterday, Justice Michael Wigney said a newspaper attempting to sue its own source "is, to say the least, unusual".

He threw out the cross-claim and a proposed change to the newspaper's defence which reintroduced information previously struck out by the court, saying if the additions were permitted they would cause "delay and prejudice" to Rush, who has "continued to suffer tremendous emotional and social hardship" since the publications.

Justice Wigney said there were reasonable grounds to suspect the Telegraph's "zealous, if not desperate pursuit" of amendments to their defence was to justify issuing a subpoena to the Sydney Theatre Company, in the hope documents produced would help with their case.

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"The proposed changes simply do not raise anything that could reasonably be said to be relevant to Nationwide and Mr Moran's defence," he said.

At an earlier hearing, the entirety of the newspaper's truth defence was struck out, as well as several paragraphs of its qualified privilege defence.

Justice Wigney said the proposed cross-claim faced "a number of major legal and factual hurdles" which added to "other powerful discretionary reasons" for refusing the Telegraph's application. 'It is sufficient to say that the proposed cross-claim against the STC is very weak and tenuous," he said. "Its prospects of success are, at best, marginal." Justice Wigney ordered a trial date of September 3 and directed the parties to mediate.

--- Index References ---

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

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NewsRoom

The Guardian



Woman in Geoffrey Rush sexual allegations case agrees to testify for newspaper

The actor, who co-starred with Rush, will give evidence for the Daily Telegraph in its defamation battle

.chael McGowan

Fri 3 Aug 2018 12.43 AEST

The woman at the centre of allegations that Geoffrey Rush behaved inappropriately during a 2015 production of King Lear has agreed to appear as a witness for the Daily Telegraph in its defamation battle with the actor.

Lawyers for News Corp - the publisher of the Telegraph - are seeking to again amend their defence on the basis of a statement by the woman, who co-starred with Rush in the Sydney Theatre Company production.

Rush is suing the Telegraph over a series of articles published in November and December. He claims the articles defamed him by portraying him as a "pervert" and "sexual predator".

The woman has not spoken publicly since the Telegraph published the stories, but on Friday the federal court heard News would seek to argue truth in its defence on the basis of her statement.

Rush's lawyers are seeking to have the application thrown out on the basis that it is "too little too late".

In court on Friday Rush's barrister Sue Chrysanthou said Rush had witnesses who would "directly contradict" the woman's statement.

She also said there were inconsistencies in the woman's statement of what occurred and the claims made in the Telegraph's original defence.

News previously argued that Rush touched his cast-mate in a manner that made her feel uncomfortable on a number of occasions while carrying her on stage in front of an audience of hundreds of people.

It had also alleged that, during a party for cast and crew after the production ended, Rush "entered the female bathroom located in the foyer of the Roslyn Packer theatre, knowing [the woman] was in there, and stood outside a cubicle" she was in.

On Friday Chrysanthou said the woman's statement contradicted those claims.

"The complainant says she told [Rush] to stop and he did," she said.

"The original defence claimed he followed her into the toilet. The statement we now have, he didn't follow her into the toilet. What is my client to do with this?"

The Telegraph had been relying on the defence of qualified privilege after Justice Michael Wigney previously threw out the newspaper's truth defence. He has also refused to allow it to subpoena the theatre company.

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

But Rush's lawyers argue the Telegraph was motivated by "malice" and that the newspaper published the articles "predominantly for the improper motive of harming" Rush.

On Friday Chrysanthou said Rush intended to run a "substantial malice case" against the Telegraph.

Wigney will hear News's application to amend its defence next Thursday, describing it as a "significant application".

He said he would not make the woman's statement available to the public because he did not want a "trial by media".

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LIMELIGHT
AUSTRALIA'S CLASSICAL MUSIC AND ARTS MAGAZINE

Actor in Geoffrey Rush defamation case provides statement

The Daily Telegraph has applied to amend its defence in light of the statement, which Rush's barrister described as "too little, too late".

by *Angus McPherson* on August 6, 2018

6

In a new development in the Geoffrey Rush defamation case, the actor who made the original complaint about Rush to Sydney Theatre Company – alleging "inappropriate behaviour" by Rush, who has denied any wrong-doing – has provided a statement in defence of *The Daily Telegraph*, News.com.au reported.

Rush is suing the publisher of *The Daily Telegraph*, Nationwide News Pty Ltd, as well as journalist Jonathon Moran, over a series of articles relating to a complaint about "inappropriate behaviour" by Rush during STC's 2015/2016 *King Lear*.

Rush's *King Lear* co-star Eryn Jean Norvill, who made the complaint to STC, requested at the time that the complaint be dealt with confidentially and did not want Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

The Federal Court was told a new statement provided by Norvill – commenting on the case for the first time – will be used in an application by *The Daily Telegraph* to amend its defence to include the truth defence.

ıtice Michael Wigney threw out Nationwide News's original truth defence in March, describing it as "plainly deficient". Rush's barrister Sue ısanthou has called this new application "too little, too late" but Wigney described it as a "significant application" and will hear Nationwide News's ıcation to amend its defence on Thursday. Wigney said he would not release the statement publicly at this time, saying he did not want a "trial by media".

Rush, who has consistently denied any wrong-doing, recently withdrew from Melbourne Theatre Company's production of *Twelfth Night* citing "current circumstances and medical advice".





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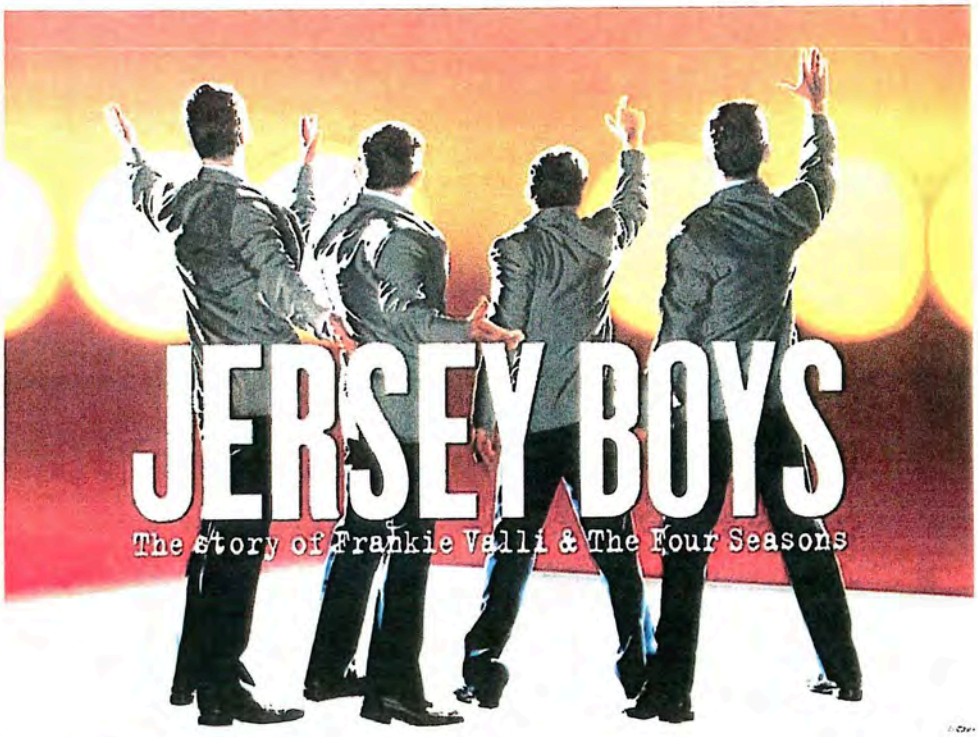
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Bega District News

August 9 2018 - 6:48PM

Actress provides statement in Rush case

- **Jodie Stephens**

National

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The actress at the centre of Geoffrey Rush's defamation case has alleged he traced his hand across the side of her breast and touched her lower back when they starred in a Sydney theatre production, according to court documents.

The Daily Telegraph and its reporter, Jonathon Moran, will attempt to prove a defence of truth when the case goes to trial in October now the actress has provided their lawyers with a statement.

Rush is suing the Telegraph's publisher and Moran over articles about allegations he behaved inappropriately towards a female colleague - later revealed to be Eryn Jean Norvill - during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear in 2015.

The 67-year-old actor denies the claims.

The Telegraph published the articles in 2017 without Norvill's co-operation and Rush's lawyer claims the STC begged Moran not to publish in an email which stated: "This is her story to tell."

But the Federal Court on Thursday heard Norvill had agreed to give her account more than seven months after the first article was published, providing a statement to the Telegraph's lawyers in July.

Their amended defence - based on her statement - includes allegations Rush's hand "traced across" the side of Norvill's breast during a preview performance, according to an outline of submissions filed by Rush's lawyers.

He's accused of touching her lower back under her shirt, making lewd gestures in her direction and making groping gestures in the air.

Six months after the production, Rush also allegedly sent Norvill a text message saying he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate".

Rush's lawyers in the document argue some of the allegations lack precision and there's no explanation why they vary starkly from claims previously made by the Telegraph in an earlier defence.

That defence was struck out by Justice Michael Wigney in March after he found its claims were "plainly deficient" and "vague and imprecise".

The new defence has forced the trial to be delayed by seven weeks and Rush's lawyer, Sue Chrysanthou, on Thursday said he would seek indemnity costs and aggravated damages.

"Mr Rush is suffering continuing trauma because of these proceedings and because of the allegations, so the delay of seven weeks is maybe not a big deal to News Limited, but it is a big deal to him," the lawyer said in the Federal Court.

She criticised the Telegraph for publishing the original articles without speaking to Norvill.

"They did publish two front page articles accusing my client of sexual misconduct when they had nothing," Ms Chrysanthou said.

"Now we know what they did have was rubbish."

The Telegraph's lawyer, Alec Leopold SC, said they were seeking witnesses to corroborate what Norvill said about Rush touching her breast and lower back.

He said the nature of the allegations and Rush's "position in the acting world" meant not everyone wanted to speak about the claims.

"There are people we know who can corroborate it," Mr Leopold said.

He rejected Ms Chrysanthou's claim that the STC had begged Moran not to publish.

Australian Associated Press

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WA NEWS

Geoffrey Rush allegedly 'touched actress' breasts, lower back', court hears

By Ashleigh Raper

Updated Thu 9 Aug 2018, 9:38pm

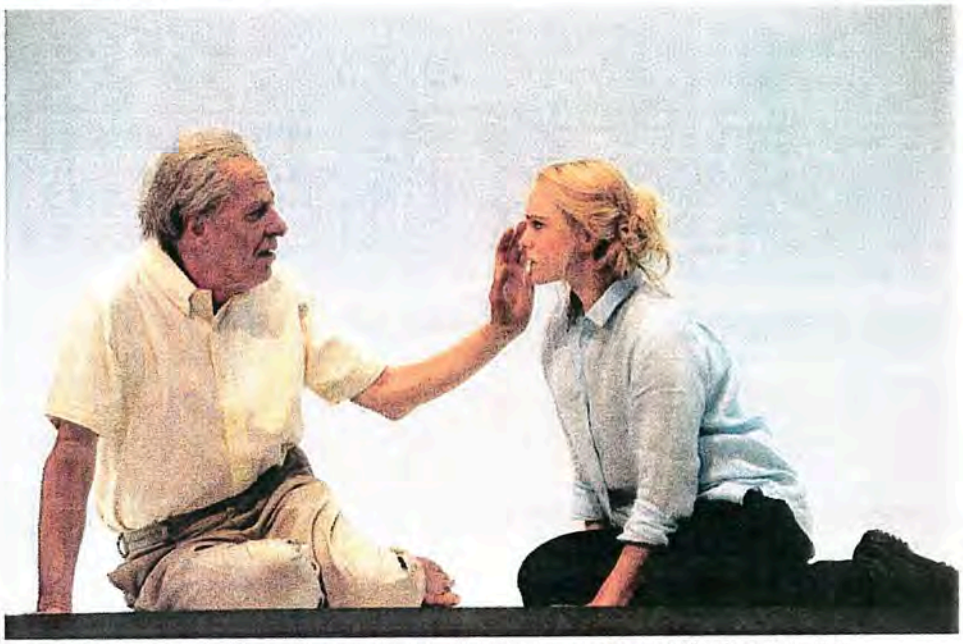


PHOTO: Geoffrey Rush on stage with Eryn-Jean Norvill during the production of King Lear. (Supplied)

The actress at the centre of Geoffrey Rush's defamation case against The Daily Telegraph claims the Oscar winner touched her breasts and back, a court has heard.

Rush is suing the newspaper's publisher Nationwide News and reporter Johnathan Moran over articles alleging he engaged in inappropriate behaviour while performing in a Sydney Theatre Company (STC) production of King Lear.

The trial was due to start next month, but has been delayed because Eryn-Jean Norvill — the actress at the centre of The Daily Telegraph's allegations — has been added to the newspaper's witness list.

A document submitted by Rush's legal team reveals for the first time the extent of the allegations against him.

Key points:

- The articles were published late last year
- Rush's co-star Eryn-Jean Norvill has been added to the newspaper's witness list
- Rush's lawyer said the newspaper had been "looking under stones for eight months"

The allegations include that in October 2015, during rehearsals, Rush "made groping gestures in the air about the complainant's torso" and made "comments ... which contained sexual innuendo" as well as "lewd gestures".

The documents allege that during a pre-performance the actor's "hand traced across the side of the complainant's right breast".

They also claimed he "touched the complainant's lower back under her shirt to her waistline".

When he allegedly did it again, on another occasion, "she told him to stop and he did", the document claimed.

Rush's legal team submitted that the allegations could not be considered "scandalously inappropriate".

"None of this material, at its highest, could be regarded as 'scandalously inappropriate' or amount to 'sexual assault'," the document said.

"It could also not result in a finding that [Rush] is a 'pervert' or a 'sexual predator'".

Norvill was Rush's co-star in a 2015-16 production of King Lear.

Her statement detailing Rush's alleged inappropriate behaviour was today tendered to the Federal Court, however it will not be made public.

Justice Michael Wigney questioned Norvill's decision to come forward at such a late stage, "after indicating for some months she didn't want to co-operate".

The newspaper's lawyer Alec Leopold SC argued Norvill was "relatively junior actor" who "would be reluctant to come out" against Rush who was a "very senior, indeed iconic, actor".

'They've been looking under stones'

Justice Wigney said when The Daily Telegraph had published the stories last year, it had "plainly not spoken to the actress" and "not secured her co-operation".

In response, the newspaper's lawyer, Alec Leopold SC, argued the media could operate on "hearsay" and was not bound by the same laws of evidence in a courtroom.

Rush's lawyer Sue Chrysanthou said it was completely inappropriate for The Daily Telegraph to publish the articles without Norvill's co-operation.

"She didn't want the article to proceed," Ms Chrysanthou said.

The actor's lawyer said her client was looking forward to the trial starting.

"Now we know what they did have was rubbish," Ms Chrysanthou said.

"They've been looking under stones for eight months."

The trial is now expected to start at the end of October.

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NATIONAL NSW COURTS

Geoffrey Rush 'touched actress on breast and lower back', court told

By Georgina Mitchell
9 August 2018 — 3:27pm

The actress at the centre of a defamation case involving Geoffrey Rush has alleged in a statement that he touched her on the breast and lower back and traced his finger across her lower back, a court has heard.

Rush, 67, is suing Nationwide News - publisher of *The Daily Telegraph* - and journalist Jonathon Moran over two front-page stories and a newsagent poster published in late 2017, which detailed allegations that Rush engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" during a theatre production of *King Lear*.



Geoffrey Rush outside court in Sydney last month.
Photo: AAP

Rush has vehemently denied the allegations.

Eryn Jean Norvill, who played Cordelia in the production, allegedly made a complaint to the Sydney Theatre Company but did not wish for it to be brought to the attention of Rush.

On Thursday, the Federal Court heard Ms Norvill did not speak to the *Telegraph* for its story and refused for months to become involved in the court case before she asked her lawyer to issue a statement to the newspaper's lawyers in July.

The *Telegraph's* barrister Alec Leopold, SC, said witnesses were expected to corroborate Ms Norvill's version of events.



Eryn Jean Norvill.
Photo: Supplied

Ad

Court documents detail allegations Rush made "groping gestures in the air" near Ms Norvill's torso during rehearsals in October 2015, made comments or jokes about her body that contained sexual innuendo, and made "lewd gestures" in her direction in late 2015.

Rush is also alleged to have "traced across" the side of her breast during a preview performance in November 2015, to have touched her lower back under her shirt to her waistline, and to have started to touch her lower back but stopped when she asked him to.

It is alleged Rush sent a text message to Ms Norvill in June 2016, six months after the production, that said he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate".

"Mr Rush denies the allegations," his barristers said in a written submission to the court.

"He intends to call witnesses from the cast and crew of *King Lear* to contradict the assertions
made."



Aussies Born Before 1968, Don't Pay Your Next Energy Bill Until You Read This

The newspaper has filed an amended defence based on Ms Norvill's statement, which now pleads a defence of truth instead of qualified privilege. Due to the new defence, the trial date has been pushed back to October 22 instead of September 3.

Ms Norvill is expected to give evidence at the trial.

Rush's barrister, Sue Chrysanthou, consented to the amended defence being filed but said the particulars within it were deficient and would be challenged at trial.

"The applicant in no way concedes that what is put forward is an adequate defence to the imputations pleaded," Ms Chrysanthou said.

The court heard journalists from the *Telegraph* made repeated attempts to contact Ms Norvill for comment before publication. However she did not speak to them and the stories proceeded with "secondhand information".

Ad

Mr Leopold said newspapers were not bound by rules of evidence like courts, and in the publishing world it was possible to operate on hearsay.

He said the newspaper's defence was amended when more precise information came to hand.

Justice Michael Wigney said the information the newspaper had at the time of publication seemed to be "quite unreliable and inaccurate" and though it was possible to operate on hearsay, "you can't use that as an excuse when it doesn't work out for you in the long run".

Ms Chrysanthou said the newspaper "had nothing" when it published articles without the co-operation of Ms Norvill, which was "completely inappropriate".

"They should never have been published," Ms Chrysanthou said.

Ad

Ms Chrysanthou said Ms Norvill was "hounded and hounded" to talk to the newspaper and the Sydney Theatre Company sent an email that "begged the journalist to not publish the article".

She said the seven-week delay to the trial was "intolerable" to Rush and she would be making an application for aggravated damages over the trial date being moved.

"It's been caused by their reckless journalism in printing two front-page stories when they had absolutely nothing," she said.

Mr Leopold denied the Sydney Theatre Company had "begged" the newspaper not to publish.

The case will return to court for a further pre-trial hearing in October.

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The Actor At The Centre Of Allegations Against Geoffrey Rush Will Testify In Court

The actor at the centre of the allegations against film star Geoffrey Rush, Eryn Jean Norvill, will testify at the defamation trial later this year.

Posted on August 9, 2018, at 1:26 p.m.



Lane Sainty
BuzzFeed News Reporter, Australia



Rich Fury

Geoffrey Rush.

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The Sydney Theatre Company (STC) begged a journalist not to publish an article alleging film star Geoffrey Rush had inappropriately touched actor Eryn Jean Norvill, saying to Daily Telegraph reporter Jonathon Moran in an email that it was "her story to tell", a court has heard.

But despite not participating in the original stories about Rush's alleged sexual misconduct

profile defamation case filed by Rush later this year.

Rush is suing publisher Nationwide News and Moran over articles published in The Daily Telegraph in November 2017 that alleged a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" had been made against Rush, and that he had "inappropriately touched" a female cast member during a 2015-16 STC production of *King Lear*.

Rush denies the allegations and claims the newspaper defamed him and painted him as a "sexual predator" and a "pervert".

At a hearing on Thursday morning Nationwide News lawyer Alec Leopold said the parties had now agreed for the publisher to file a new defence of truth.

Norvill will take the stand and witnesses will give evidence to corroborate allegations about Rush "touching her breast, touching her lower back, tracing his finger across her lower back", Leopold said.

In an argument about costs related to the new defence, Federal Court Justice Michael Wigney pointed out that Nationwide News had made "no attempt" to explain why it was only now that Norvill had agreed to give a statement and testify.

"At the end of the day the blame can be sheeted only to your clients because they chose to publish these articles in circumstances where they plainly had not spoken to the actress and have plainly not secured her cooperation," he said.

Leopold said the first defence filed by the newspaper was based on a secondhand version of events.

"It's not as if [Nationwide] News didn't have information at hand," he said.

"It's readily understandable that somebody in the acting world who's a relatively junior actor such as Miss Norvill, who is at the centre of allegations about a very senior, indeed iconic, figure in the acting world, would be reluctant to come out and speak."

Rush's lawyer Sue Chrysanthou said the stories "should never have been published".

"They published two front page articles accusing my client of sexual misconduct when they had nothing," she said. "What they did have was rubbish.

"Not only did they not have her cooperation, the STC begged the journalist to not publish the article in an email saying 'This is her story to tell'. Not only did they not have her cooperation, they had a message through the STC that she didn't want the article to proceed."

Chrysanthou said the seven-week trial delay caused by the new defence was "intolerable" to Rush, but he was tolerating it as he wanted the allegations dealt with.

Nationwide News has set aside its defence of qualified privilege, under which it had to prove it acted reasonably in publishing the stories, and will now rely on the new defence of truth.

The hearing was due to start on September 3 but has now been pushed back by seven weeks and is likely to start in late October.

The matter is back in court on October 3.

Lane Sainty is a reporter for BuzzFeed News and is based in Sydney, Australia.
Contact Lane Sainty at lane.sainty@buzzfeed.com.

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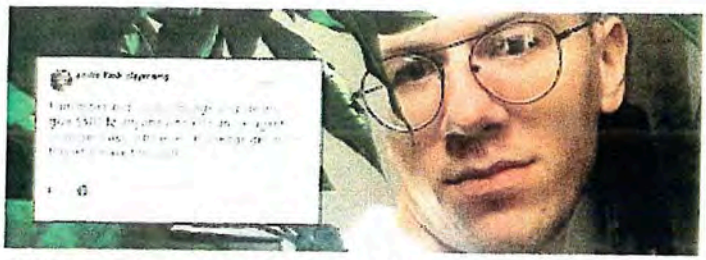
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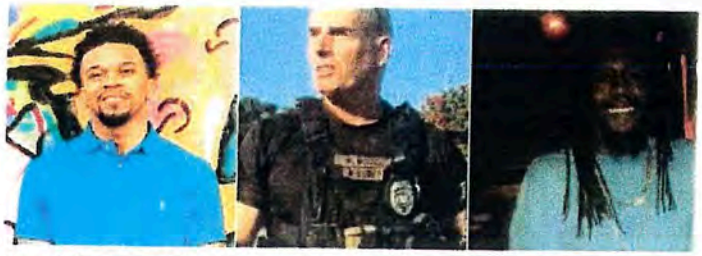
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August 10, 2018

Section: News

Actor says Rush made lewd gestures

Georgina Mitchell | Courts

The actor at the centre of a defamation case involving **Geoffrey Rush** has alleged in a statement that he touched her on the breast and lower back and traced his finger across her lower back, a court has heard.

Rush, 67, is suing Nationwide News - publisher of The Daily Telegraph - and journalist Jonathon Moran over two front-page stories and a newsagent poster published in late 2017, which detailed allegations that Rush engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" during a theatre production of King Lear.

Rush has vehemently denied the allegations.

Eryn Jean Norvill, who played Cordelia in the production, allegedly made a complaint to the Sydney Theatre Company but did not wish for it to be brought to the attention of Rush.

The Federal Court heard yesterday Norvill did not speak to the Telegraph for its story and refused for months to become involved in the court case before she asked her lawyer to issue a statement to the newspaper's lawyers last month.

The Telegraph's barrister Alec Leopold, SC, said witnesses were expected to corroborate Norvill's version of events.

Court documents detail allegations that Rush made "groping gestures in the air" near Norvill's torso during rehearsals in October 2015, made comments or jokes about her body that contained sexual innuendo, and made "lewd gestures" in her direction in late 2015.

Rush is also alleged to have "traced across" the side of her breast during a preview performance in November 2015, to have touched her lower back under her shirt to her waistline, and to have started to touch her lower back but stopped when she asked him to. It is alleged Rush sent a text message to Norvill in June 2016, six months after the production, that said he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate".

"Mr Rush denies the allegations," his barristers said in a written submission to the court. "He intends to call witnesses from the cast and crew of King Lear to contradict the assertions made."

The newspaper has filed an amended defence based on Norvill's statement, which now pleads a defence of truth instead of qualified privilege. Due to the new defence, the trial date has been pushed back to October 22 instead of September 3.

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Norvill is expected to give evidence at the trial.

Rush's barrister, Sue Chrysanthou, consented to the amended defence being filed but said the particulars within it were deficient and would be challenged at trial.

"The applicant in no way concedes that what is put forward is an adequate defence to the imputations pleaded," Ms Chrysanthou said.

The court heard journalists from the Telegraph made repeated attempts to contact Norvill for comment before publication. However she did not speak to them and the stories proceeded with "second-hand information".

Mr Leopold said newspapers were not bound by rules of evidence like courts, and in the publishing world it was possible to operate on hearsay.

He said the newspaper's defence was amended when more precise information came to hand.

Justice Michael Wigney said the information the newspaper had at the time of publication seemed to be "quite unreliable and inaccurate" and though it was possible to operate on hearsay, "you can't use that as an excuse when it doesn't work out for you in the long run".

Ms Chrysanthou said the newspaper "had nothing" when it published articles without the co-operation of Norvill, which was "completely inappropriate".

"They should never have been published," Ms Chrysanthou said.

Ms Chrysanthou said Norvill was "hounded and hounded" to talk to the newspaper and the Sydney Theatre Company sent an email that "begged the journalist to not publish the article".

Mr Leopold denied the Sydney Theatre Company had "begged" the newspaper not to publish.

The case will return to court for a further pre-trial hearing in October.

— Index References —

News Subject: (Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05))

Industry: (Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85))

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

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Jonathon Moran; Sue Chrysanthou; Alec Leopold; Jean Norvill)

Edition: First

Word Count: 628

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NewsRoom

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August 10, 2018

Section: News

Actress in Rush case details 'lewd gestures'

Georgina Mitchell

The actress at the centre of a defamation case involving **Geoffrey Rush** has alleged in a statement that he touched her on the breast and lower back and traced his finger across her lower back, a court has heard.

Rush, 67, is suing Nationwide News - publisher of The Daily Telegraph - and journalist Jonathon Moran over two front-page stories and a newsagent poster published in late 2017, which detailed allegations that Rush engaged in "inappropriate behaviour" during a theatre production of King Lear.

Rush has vehemently denied the allegations.

Eryn Jean Norvill, who played Cordelia in the production, allegedly made a complaint to the Sydney Theatre Company but did not wish for it to be brought to the attention of Rush.

Yesterday, the Federal Court heard Ms Norvill did not speak to the Telegraph for its story and refused for months to become involved in the court case before she asked her lawyer to issue a statement to the newspaper's lawyers in July.

The Telegraph's barrister, Alec Leopold, SC, said witnesses were expected to corroborate Ms Norvill's version of events.

Court documents detail allegations Rush made "groping gestures in the air" near Ms Norvill's torso during rehearsals in October 2015, made comments or jokes about her body that contained sexual innuendo, and made "lewd gestures" in her direction in late 2015.

Rush is also alleged to have "traced across" the side of her breast during a preview performance in November 2015, to have touched her lower back under her shirt to her waistline, and to have started to touch her lower back but stopped when she asked him to.

It is alleged Rush sent a text message to Ms Norvill in June 2016, six months after the production, that said he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate".

"Mr Rush denies the allegations," his barristers said in a written submission to the court.

"He intends to call witnesses from the cast and crew of King Lear to contradict the assertions made."

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The newspaper has filed an amended defence based on Ms Norvill's statement, which now pleads a defence of truth instead of qualified privilege. Due to the new defence, the trial date has been pushed back to October 22 instead of September 3.

Ms Norvill is expected to give evidence at the trial.

Rush's barrister, Sue Chrysanthou, consented to the amended defence being filed but said the particulars within it were deficient and would be challenged at trial.

— Index References —

News Subject: (Assault & Battery (1AS33); Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Violent Crime (1VI27))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Jonathon Moran; Sue Chrysanthou; Alec Leopold; Jean Norvill; Eryn Jean Norvill)

Edition: First

Word Count: 403

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Australian Financial Review
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August 10, 2018

Section: Boss Magazine

TRACEY SPICER
TRUE LEADERS 2018 | LIGHTING THE FUSE

Patrick Durkin

A tweet seeking stories about sexual harassment in the workplace was enough to ignite the #MeToo movement in Australia.

We are living through a social revolution not seen since the 1960s. The fragmentation of mass media, globalisation and the rise of social media has given the community a voice like never before.

The #MeToo movement epitomises that revolution, BOSS True Leaders judge Elizabeth Proust says.

"As a campaign [#MeToo] is going to make a big difference, not just to current and past generations but to future generations of women, this is enduring," Proust says.

Fellow judge Ming Long adds: "It is significant for both women and men. For the first time women are being believed. That's the groundbreaking difference [of #MeToo].

It is saying that even if men have power and position, women are believed. If men felt they could get away with [sexually harassing women], they no longer can."

A tweet posted by the local face of the #MeToo movement, Tracey Spicer, on October 18 last year asking people to "contact me privately to tell your stories" was pivotal in delivering the movement from the United States to our shores. The tweet sparked more than 2000 responses and lit a "tinderbox" that was ready to explode.

"A lot of women who perhaps would not have called up a newsroom in the past with a story or even sent a letter connected predominantly on Facebook PM [private message] and Twitter DM [direct message] because they felt there was an intimate connection through social media and someone they felt they knew," the former television presenter and media trainer tells AFR BOSS magazine.

"We know that storytelling changes hearts and minds and that's the basis of the #MeToo movement; people don't often change their opinions until they know someone who has been a victim or a survivor of wrongdoing."

WESTLAW

The term #MeToo dates back to 2006. It was coined by Tarana Burke, an African-American survivor of sexual assault who wanted to do something to help women and girls of colour who had also survived sexual violence.

The movement took on a life of its own last October when it was alleged that movie mogul Harvey Weinstein had sexually harassed women for decades. It set off a worldwide reckoning over sexual misconduct in the workplace.

In Australia, investigative journalists from the ABC and Fairfax Media, including reporter Kate McClymont, picked up the stories sent to Spicer and published accusations against Don Burke.

"We all knew about Don Burke for 30-odd years and people had touched on doing that story but it was seen as too difficult and there wasn't a desire to do the story," Spicer says.

Aside from politics and media, the business community has been hit hard with claims of sexual harassment, including at the big four accounting firms, as revealed by The Australian Financial Review's Edmund Tadros.

Revelations of affairs among AFL executives and relationships between chief executives and their assistants, including Seven West Media's Tim Worner and former QBE chief executive John Neal, have put companies and their boards on notice.

"We have only seen the tip of the iceberg with the business sector," Spicer says. "These cases are about to roll through the courts in the coming months. A lot of corporations are reviewing their policies, procedures and culture and, believe me, they have to because the stories that are going to come out will be shocking."

But it has not been an easy ride. The allegations require meticulous research by investigative journalists and there are defamation laws to contend with.

Actor **Geoffrey Rush** has sued The Daily Telegraph and journalist Jonathon Moran for defamation over articles alleging that he behaved inappropriately towards a colleague during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear in 2015.

Actor Craig McLachlan is suing Fairfax Media, publisher of BOSS, over unproven allegations of misconduct, which he denies.

The initial wave of support for #MeToo was followed by a backlash and Twitter was filled with attacks calling campaigners such as Spicer "green-left-feminazi" and branding the campaign a "man-hating witch-hunt", along with the ubiquitous #NotAllMen.

"The investigative journalism has happened a lot more slowly than I expected because we are restricted in Australia in terms of defamation laws and lack of first amendment protections like they have in the US but what has changed really quickly is the culture," Spicer says.

McClymont points to the difficulty in verifying allegations to the point where they can be published, adding: "Because of our defamation laws, it is incredibly difficult to publish names of men who have sexually harassed women, especially one on one."

Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins picked up the cause and began campaigning for an inquiry. In June, Jenkins launched an inquiry into sexual harassment in the workplace, the first of its kind in the world.

After Time's Up was founded by a group of Hollywood celebrities in the US in January to support and fund legal action against sexual assault and harassment in the workplace, local equivalent NOW Australia was born.

It is a coalition of unlikely bedfellows including Spicer, political movers and shakers, musicians, actors and celebrities. They have raised $150,000 through a crowd-funding campaign to set up a hotline, finance legal action and offer advocacy and support.

THE BOUNDARIES ARE CLEAR The revelations about misconduct in the workplace have also sparked a wider debate about the line for office affairs. Spicer argues that the line is clear and rejects moves such as Prime Minister MalcolmTurnbull's"bonk ban".

"I believe we are talking about two different things. I met my husband, a cameraman, at work. We were pretty much on the same power level and in a consensual relationship and ended up marrying. There is nothing wrong with that," she says.

"Where relationships in the workplace can become problematic is where there is a huge power imbalance and the perception there has been some kind of coercion or favouritism because of that sexual relationship."

The worst result would be if women stopped being invited to networking drinks and conferences because "men don't feel like they can trust themselves around women".

"We should be able to socialise and there is nothing wrong with flirting, particularly when they are at the same level in the workplace," Spicer says.

Part of the panacea is putting more women in leadership positions, she says, especially across the judiciary and police.

And stand by for the next stage of #MeToo: "The focus now is on lowpaid industries who have missed out on this movement so far," Spicer says.

— Index References —

Company: FAIRFAX MEDIA LTD; SEVEN WEST MEDIA LTD

News Subject: (Business Management (1BU42); Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Employment Law (1EM67); Gender Relations (1GE36); HR & Labor Management (1HR87); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Workplace Harassment (1WO08))

Region: (Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); Oceania (1OC40))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Kate Jenkins; Tracey Spicer; Timothy G. Worner; Tim Worner; John Neal; Elizabeth Proust; Edmund Tadros; Kate McClymont; Jonathon Moran; Don Burke; Ming Long; Harvey Weinstein; Craig McLachlan)

Edition: First

Word Count: 1102

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NewsRoom

Actor says Rush made lewd gestures

Source: Canberra Times
Publication Date: August 10, 2018
Country: Australia
Source Type: Newspaper

8/10/18 Canberra Times 12

News

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Section: News

Emma.KellyGeorgina Mitchell

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Rush has denied the allegations.

Eryn Jean Norvill, who played Cordelia in the production, allegedly made a complaint to the Sydney Theatre Company but did not wish for it to be brought to the attention of Rush. The Federal Court heard on Thursday Norvill did not speak to the Telegraph for its story and refused for months to become involved in the court case before she asked her lawyer to issue a statement to the newspaper's lawyers last month.

The Telegraph's barrister Alec Leopold, SC, said witnesses were expected to corroborate Norvill's version of events.

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"He intends to call witnesses from the cast and crew of King Lear to contradict the assertions made."

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The case will return to court for a further pre-trial hearing in October.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

NEWS SUBJECT: Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05)
INDUSTRY: Entertainment (1EN08); Live Entertainment (1LI85)
REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Jonathon Moran; Sue Chrysanthou; Alec Leopold; Jean Norvill; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill)
EDITION: First
WORD COUNT: 547

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Actress joins witness list in Geoffrey Rush lawsuit

August 10th, 2018 By David Knox Filed under: News (https://tvtonight.com.au/category/news), Comments off



(https://i0.wp.com/tvtonight.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018-08-10_0001.jpg)

Actress Eryn-Jean Norvill's name has been added to the witness list in Geoffrey Rush's defamation case against The Daily Telegraph.

Norvill had appeared in the Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear, alongside Rush.

Her statement alleging inappropriate behaviour was tendered to the Federal Court yesterday. Her inclusion is expected to dramatically change the high profile legal case.

The newspaper's lawyer Alec Leopold SC argued Norvill was "relatively junior actor" who "would be reluctant to come out" against Rush who was a "very senior, indeed iconic, actor".

But Justice Wigney said when The Daily Telegraph had published the stories last year, it had "plainly not spoken to the actress" and "not secured her co-operation".

Rush has denied all allegations.

The trial is expected to start at the end of October.

Source: ABC (http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-09/geoffrey-rush-touched-actress-breasts-court-hears/10093940)

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(https://tvtonight.com.au/2018/08/actress-joins-witness-list-in-geoffrey-rush-lawsuit.html?share=email&nb=1)

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Judge rules against "fishing expedition" in Geoffrey Rush lawsuit (https://tvtonight.com.au/2018/03/judge-rules-against-fishing-expedition-in-geoffrey-rush-lawsuit.html)
March 20, 2018 1:25 pm
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Judy Davis has won a defamation case against News Limited publications over an article on her attitude towards a proposal to upgrade lighting at a sports oval in
July 11, 2008 11:59 am
In "News"



(https://tvtonight.com.au/2017/12/geoffrey-rush-to-pursue-legal-action-against-daily-tele.html)
Geoffrey Rush to pursue legal action against Daily Tele (https://tvtonight.com.au/2017/12/geoffrey-rush-to-pursue-legal-action-against-daily-tele.html)
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Quiz: "The Brady Bunch"

Think you can pull your knowledge of "The Brady Bunch" to the top of your memory?

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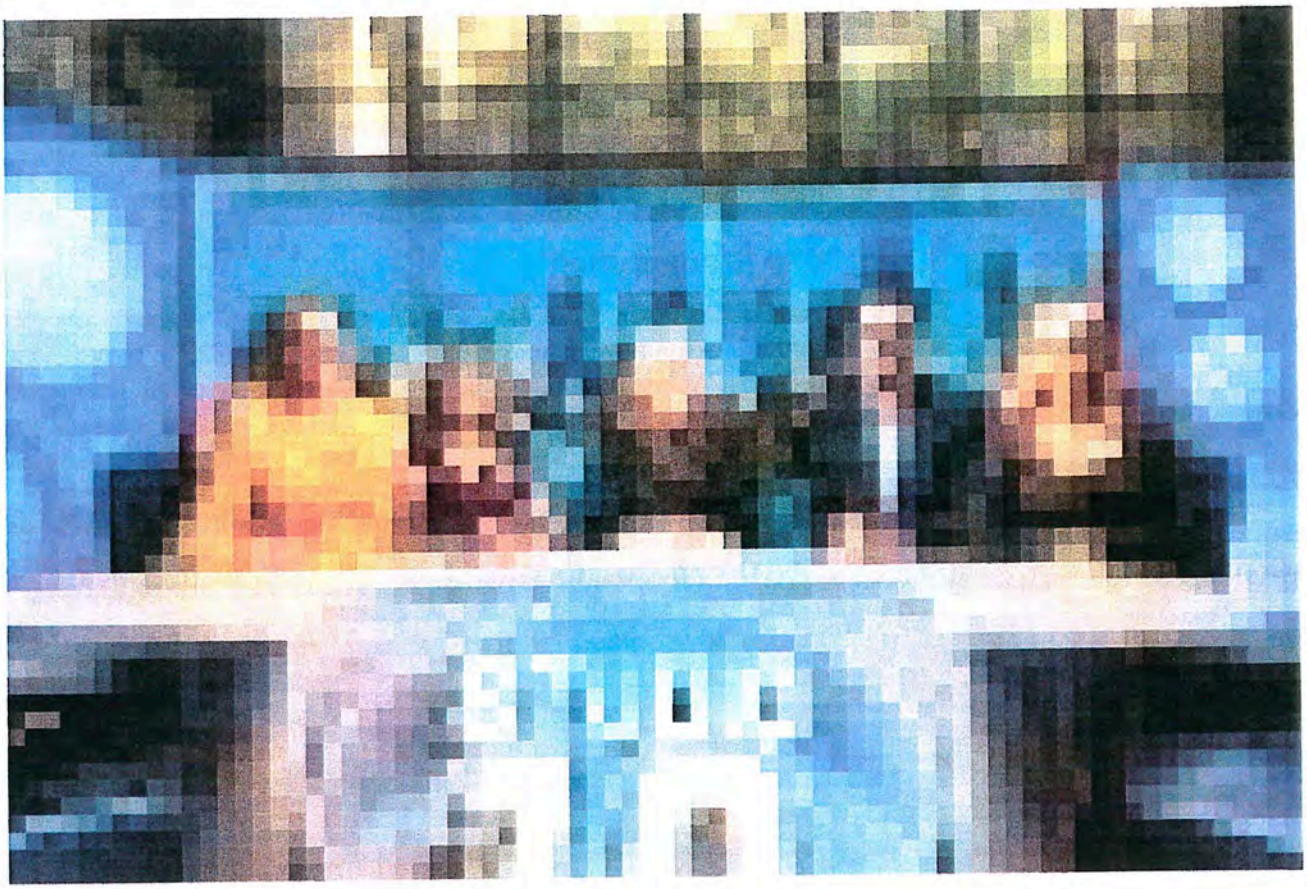
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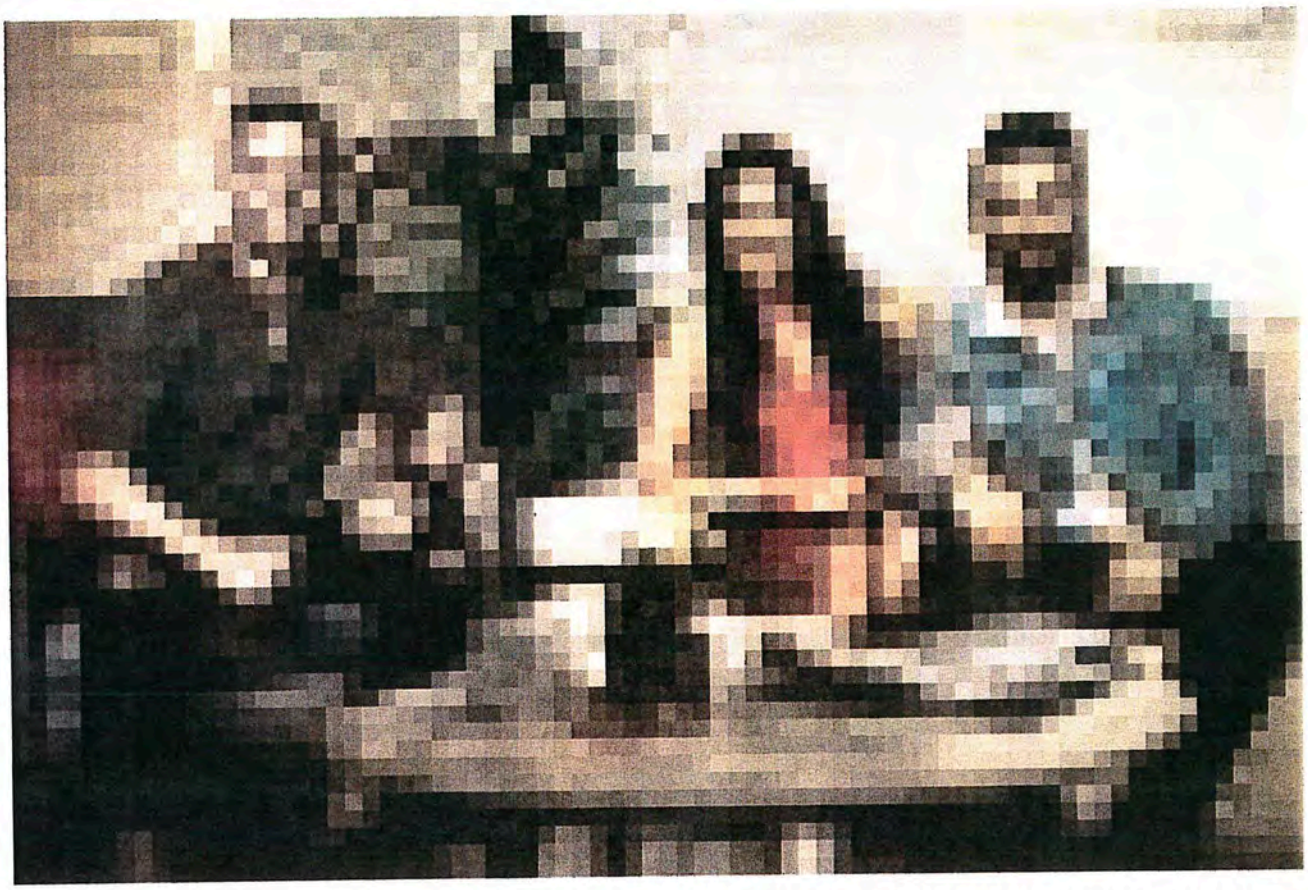
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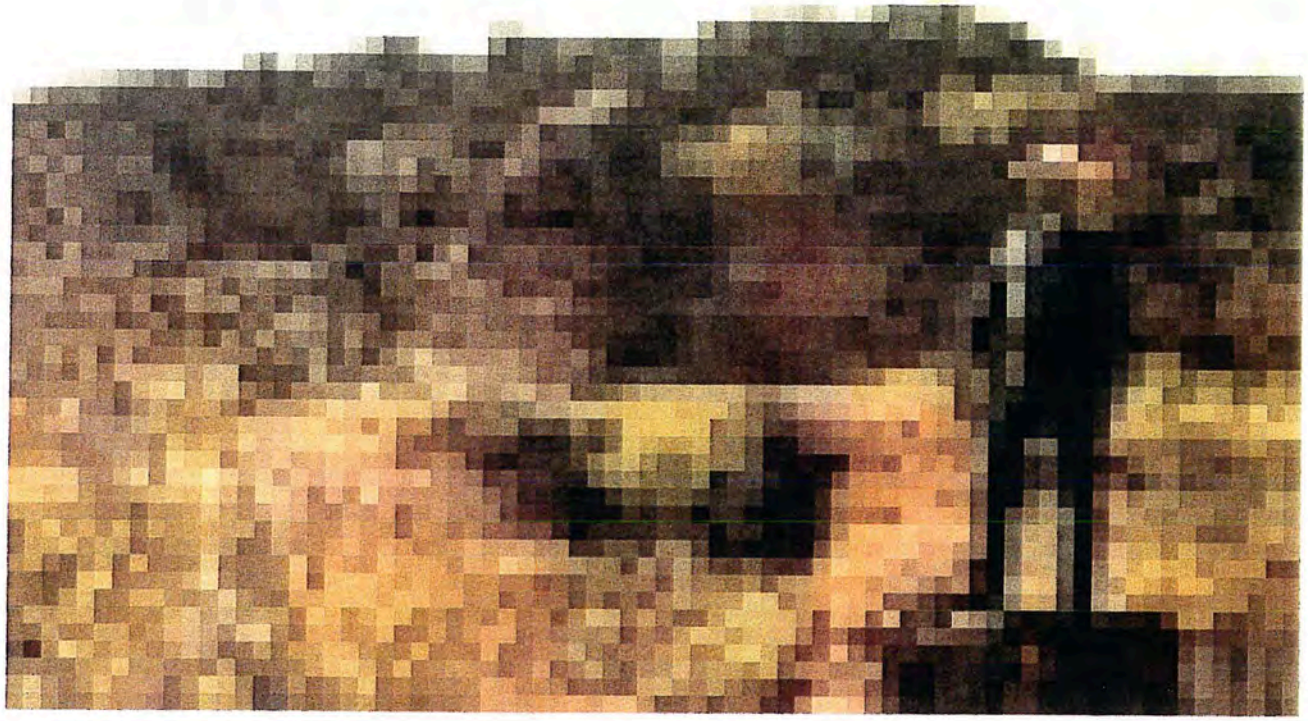
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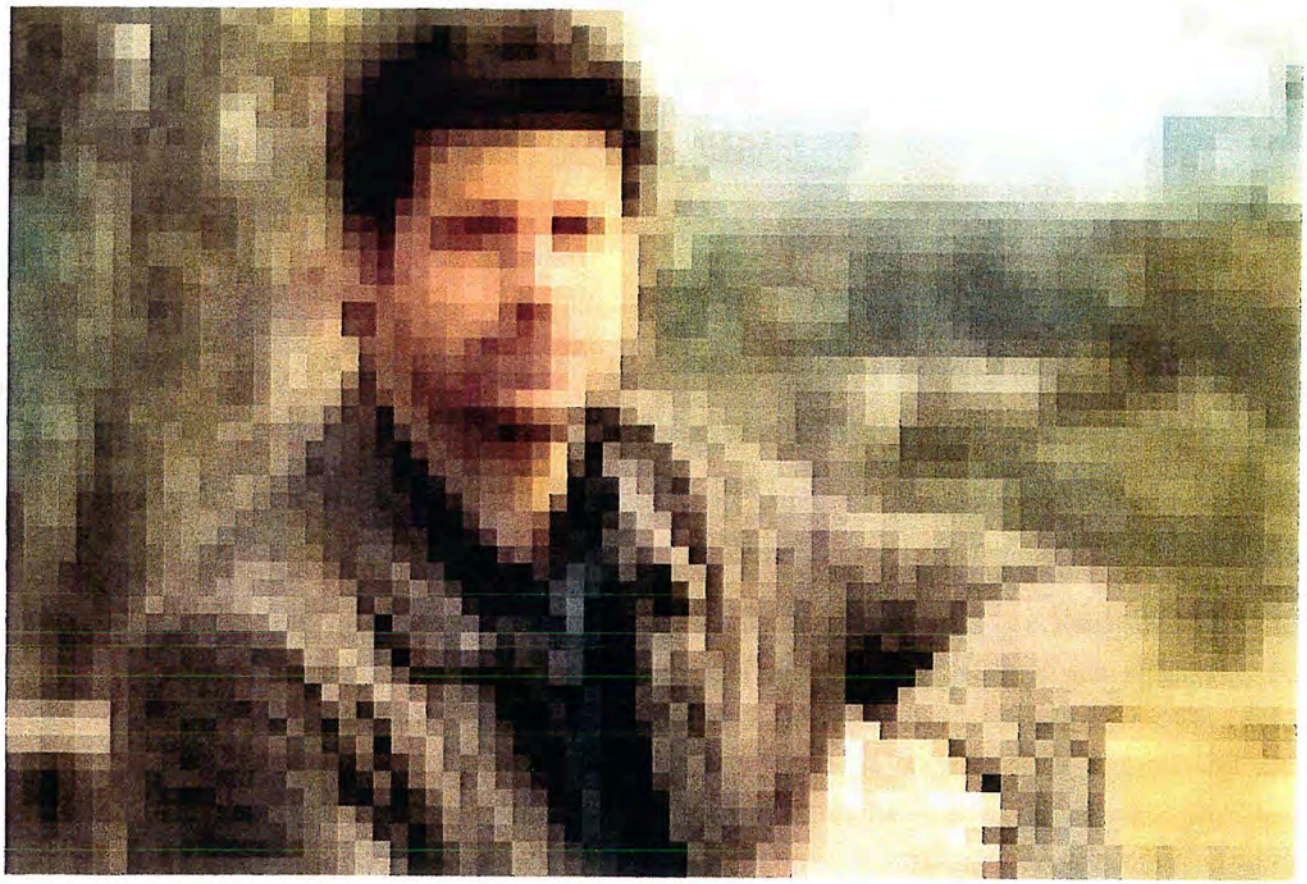


Bachelor, Gogglebox give TEN primary channel win. (https://tvtonight.com.au/2018/08/bachelor-gogglebox-give-ten-primary-channel-win.html)

Thursday 30 August 2018 (https://tvtonight.com.au/2018/08/thursday-30-august-2018.html)



AWGIE Awards 2018: winners (https://tvtonight.com.au/2018/08/awgie-awards-2018-winners.html)



What I've Been Watching: Ryan Johnson (https://tvtonight.com.au/2018/08/what-ive-been-watching-ryan-johnson.html)



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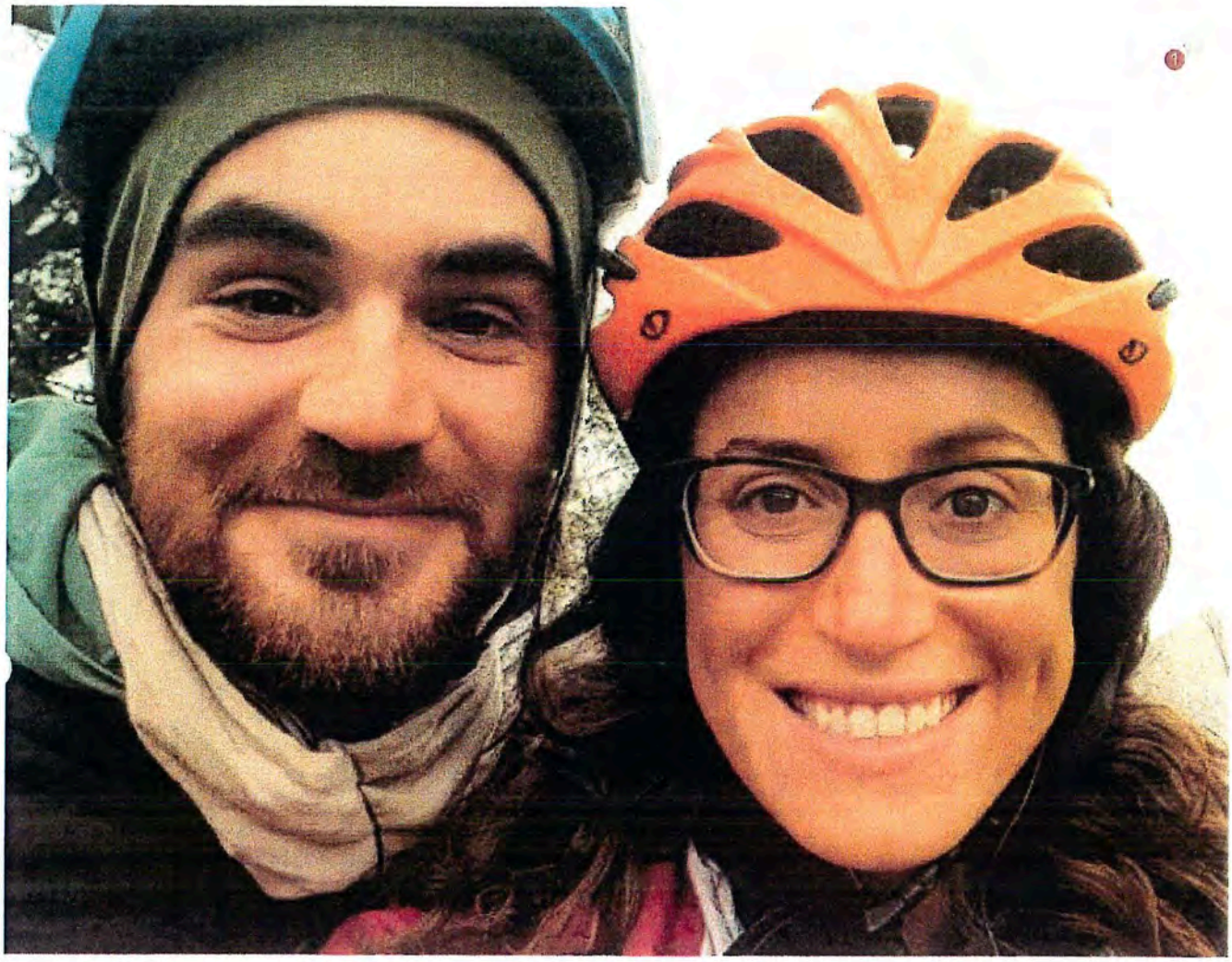
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News in 5: Couple killed on trip of a lifetime; Geoffrey Rush accuser; Third Lombok quake.



JESSICA CHAMBERS
Content Producer
August 10, 2018

DEBRIEF



– With AAP

1. This couple was on a trip of a lifetime. On day 369, their lives came to a harrowing end.

Last year Jay Austin and Lauren Geoghegan quit their office jobs to go on an adventure together. But just over a year in, their trip came to a sudden end when they were caught in a random ISIS attack.

The US couple, both 29, had been cycling around Africa, Europe – blogging their journey on Instagram as they went – but it was when they go to the Middle East that things took a dangerous turn.

On July 29 – day 369 of their open-ended trip – the pair were cycling with a group of other tourists along a road in Tajikistan – a central Asian nation bordered by Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, and known for its popular hiking mountains.

On that road a group of men in a car spotted them and decided to attack. Footage captured by a driver shows the car pass the cyclists then make a U-turn, driving back towards the cyclists, hitting the group, *The New York Times* reports.

Four of the cyclists were killed: Jay and Lauren, and two cyclists from Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Days later, Islamic State released a video that showed the five alleged attackers vowing to kill "disbelievers".

Jay and Lauren wrote often of the beauty they saw on their travels and the kindness they encountered on their blog, Simply Cycling.

"You're led to believe that the world is a big, scary place," Jay wrote in a post.

"'People,' the narrative goes, 'are not to be trusted. People are bad. People are evil.' I don't buy it."

2. Actress who accused Geoffrey Rush of sexual misconduct has been named as defamation case progresses.



The New Daily
@TheNewDailyAu

Geoffrey Rush allegedly 'touched actress' breasts, lower back', court hears: bit.ly/2OoAMc3

8:00 PM - Aug 9, 2018

See The New Daily's other Tweets

The actress at the centre of Geoffrey Rush's defamation case has alleged he traced his hand across the side of her breast and touched her lower back when they starred in a Sydney theatre production, according to court documents.

The Daily Telegraph and its reporter, Jonathon Moran, will attempt to prove a defence of truth when the case goes to trial in October now the actress has provided their lawyers with a statement.

Rush is suing the *Telegraph*'s publisher and Moran over articles about allegations he behaved inappropriately towards a female colleague – later revealed to be Eryn Jean Norvill – during a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear* in 2015.

The 67-year-old actor denies the claims.

The *Telegraph* published the articles in 2017 without Norvill's co-operation and Rush's lawyer claims the STC begged Moran not to publish in an email which stated: "This is her story to tell."

But the Federal Court on Thursday heard Norvill had agreed to give her account more than seven months after the first article was published, providing a statement to the *Telegraph*'s lawyers in July.

Their amended defence – based on her statement – includes allegations Rush's hand "traced across" the side of Norvill's breast

during a preview performance, according to an outline of submissions filed by Rush's lawyers.

He's accused of touching her lower back under her shirt, making lewd gestures in her direction and making groping gestures in the air.

Six months after the production, Rush also allegedly sent Norvill a text message saying he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate".

Rush's lawyers in the document argue some of the allegations lack precision and there's no explanation why they vary starkly from claims previously made by the *Telegraph* in an earlier defence.

3. Third earthquake in Lombok as death toll reaches 319.



Global's Newsroom
@GlobalsNewsroom

319 people have now died after Sunday's earthquake on Indonesia's island of Lombok.

The island was hit by another shock this morning - making it the third one in just over a week.

11:15 PM - Aug 9, 2018

See Global's Newsroom's other Tweets

The Indonesian island of Lombok has been shaken by a third big earthquake in little more than a week as the official death toll from the most powerful of the quakes reached 319.

Thursday's strong aftershock, measured at magnitude 5.9 by the US Geological Survey, caused panic, damage to buildings, landslides and injuries.

It was centred in the northwest of the island and didn't have the potential to cause a tsunami, said Indonesia's geological agency, which had earlier put its magnitude at 6.2.

Videos showed rubble strewn across streets and clouds of dust enveloping buildings.

In northern Lombok, some people leapt from their vehicles on a traffic jammed road while an elderly woman standing in the back of a pickup truck wailed "God is Great."

An Associated Press reporter in the provincial capital Mataram saw people injured by the tremor and a hospital moved patients outside.

The aftershock had caused more "trauma," said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

Wiranto, Indonesia's top security minister, told reporters the death toll from Sunday's magnitude 6.9 quake had risen to 319.

Grieving relatives were burying their dead and medics tended to people whose broken limbs hadn't yet been treated in the days since the quake.

The Red Cross said it was focusing relief efforts on an estimated 20,000 people yet to get any assistance.

4. Calls to raise Queensland's imprisonment age from 10 to 14 years old.

Image: iStock

Human rights, medical and legal experts have called on the Queensland government to increase the minimum age children can be locked behind bars for a criminal offence.

Each year around 150 children aged 10 to 13 are imprisoned in Queensland's children's prisons each year, Amnesty International says.

The human rights group says it's the highest incarceration rate of all states and territories and the Palaszczuk government should increase the age of criminal responsibility to 14.

Campaigner Belinda Lowe said too many childhoods are being lost in detention centres.

"We're not only taking away the lives of children now, we're taking away their futures," Ms Lowe said.

Ms Lowe said children arrested under the age of 14 are three times more likely to reoffend later in life than those arrested for the first time after they've turned 14.

Indigenous children account for 70 per cent of youth detainees across the state, with property and theft offences making up a majority of crimes committed by all children, Amnesty International said.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service chief executive Shane Duffy said the current approach to youth crime wasn't working.

"We've got a massive number of young people sitting on remand in police cells," he said.

Mr Duffy said families not being able to afford bail meant many children would remain on remand for periods stretching longer than the sentences they are later given.

5. Australian arrested with cocaine in Bali and now could face 20 years jail.

Daily Mail Australia
@DailyMailAU

Australian man and his Indonesian girlfriend are paraded in orange jumpsuits and balaclavas in Bali 'after being caught trafficking cocaine' dailym.ai/2MiRxrM
4:00 AM - Aug 10, 2018

Australian paraded in Bali 'after being caught trafficking cocai...
Johnson, who was staying in Kuta in Bali, could face 20 years in prison for allegedly using and trafficking cocaine on the resort island,
dailymail.co.uk

See Daily Mail Australia's other Tweets

An Australian man faces up to 20 years in prison in Indonesia after being arrested for allegedly possessing cocaine on the resort island of Bali.

The chief of Denpasar district police, Hadi Purnomo, said on Thursday that the 43-year-old man, whom he identified only as Brandon, was arrested with his Indonesian girlfriend at a rented room last Saturday in the tourist hotspot of Kuta.

He said police found 11.6 grams of cocaine packed into 13 plastic bags.

Purnomo told reporters that the man had been living in Bali for four years and was a designer or architect.

He faces between five and 20 years in prison if found guilty.

The man was identified by Indonesian news site Kumparan as Brandon Johnson but the ABC has reported the man is understood to be Brendon Luke Johnsson, who originally lived on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

A Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesperson said the department was "providing consular assistance to an Australian man detained in Bali".

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Rush v The Daily Telegraph, update

Actress Eryn Jean Norvill has agreed to testify in court

Broadcast: Mon 13 Aug 2018, 9:15pm
Published: Tue 14 Aug 2018, 8:19am

Transcript

plusminus

- And finally tonight, to the tabloid versus the Hollywood star.

  There has been a big development in the defamation case between The Daily Telegraph and one of Australia's most famous actors:

  > SALLY OBERMEDER: The actress at the centre of a sexual harassment complaint against actor Geoffrey Rush has agreed to testify in court.
  >
  > PETER FORD: … this is a massive game-changer in this case.
  >
  > — The Daily Edition, Channel Seven, 3 August, 2018

  Game changer it certainly is.

  Actress Eryn Jean Norvill complained to the Sydney Theatre Company that Rush touched her inappropriately during a production of King Lear in 2015.

  She also told the STC she didn't want Rush or anyone else to know.

  Then, last November, The Daily Telegraph splashed it on the front page.

  Rush sued, and the Tele's case was not looking good.

  Back in March, the paper had its truth defence thrown out, after the judge ruled it would be unable to substantiate the facts.

  But now that the Tele has Norvill in its corner, that has all changed:

  > ANN SANDERS: Her testimony, that the Hollywood actor touched her inappropriately, will now form the basis of the newspaper's defence after already having two arguments stood aside.
  >
  > — Afternoon News, Channel Seven, 9 August, 2018

  And judging by a preview of that testimony, heard in court on Thursday, it could be damaging to the actor's case:

  > ASHLEIGH RAPER: It's claimed Rush's hand traced across the side of the complainant's right breast and he touched the complainant's lower back under her shirt to her waistline …
  >
  > Six months after the production it's alleged Rush sent Norvill a text message stating he thought of her more than is socially appropriate.
  >
  > — ABC News, 9 August, 2018

Rush's lawyer said that doesn't amount to assault or justify the Telegraph's imputations of sleazy and predatory behaviour.

And that will be for the court to decide when the trial resumes in October.

But a case that looked like being a slam-dunk for the Hollywood actor now promises to be an ugly and protracted legal fight.

We'll keep you posted.

And there's more about tonight's stories on our Facebook page or our website, where you can read a full statement from Ben Roberts-Smith denying those allegations against him.

You can also catch us on iview

And don't forget Media Bites, on your favourite social media platform every Thursday.

But for now until next week, that's it from us. Goodbye.

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NSW: Rush told to be 'less creepy': court docs

Source: AAP Newswire
Publication Date: August 13, 2018
Country: Australia
Source Type: Newswire

8/13/18 AAP Newswire 13:24:42

News

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Geoffrey Rush was told by the director of King Lear to be more paternal when touching the body of his dead daughter in the play because the scene was "becoming creepy and unclear", new court documents in the actor's defamation case state.

An account of the incident is revealed in The Daily Telegraph's amended defence lodged in the Federal Court late last week and released publicly on Monday.

The document also includes fresh details about Rush's alleged conduct towards fellow cast member Eryn Jean Norvill who played King Lear's daughter, Cordelia, in the 2015 Sydney Theatre Company production.

The amended truth defence alleges Rush, now 67, during a preview performance "moved his hand so that it traced down the complainant's torso and across the side of her right breast" during a scene when King Lear was meant to be grieving his daughter's death.

AAP RTV

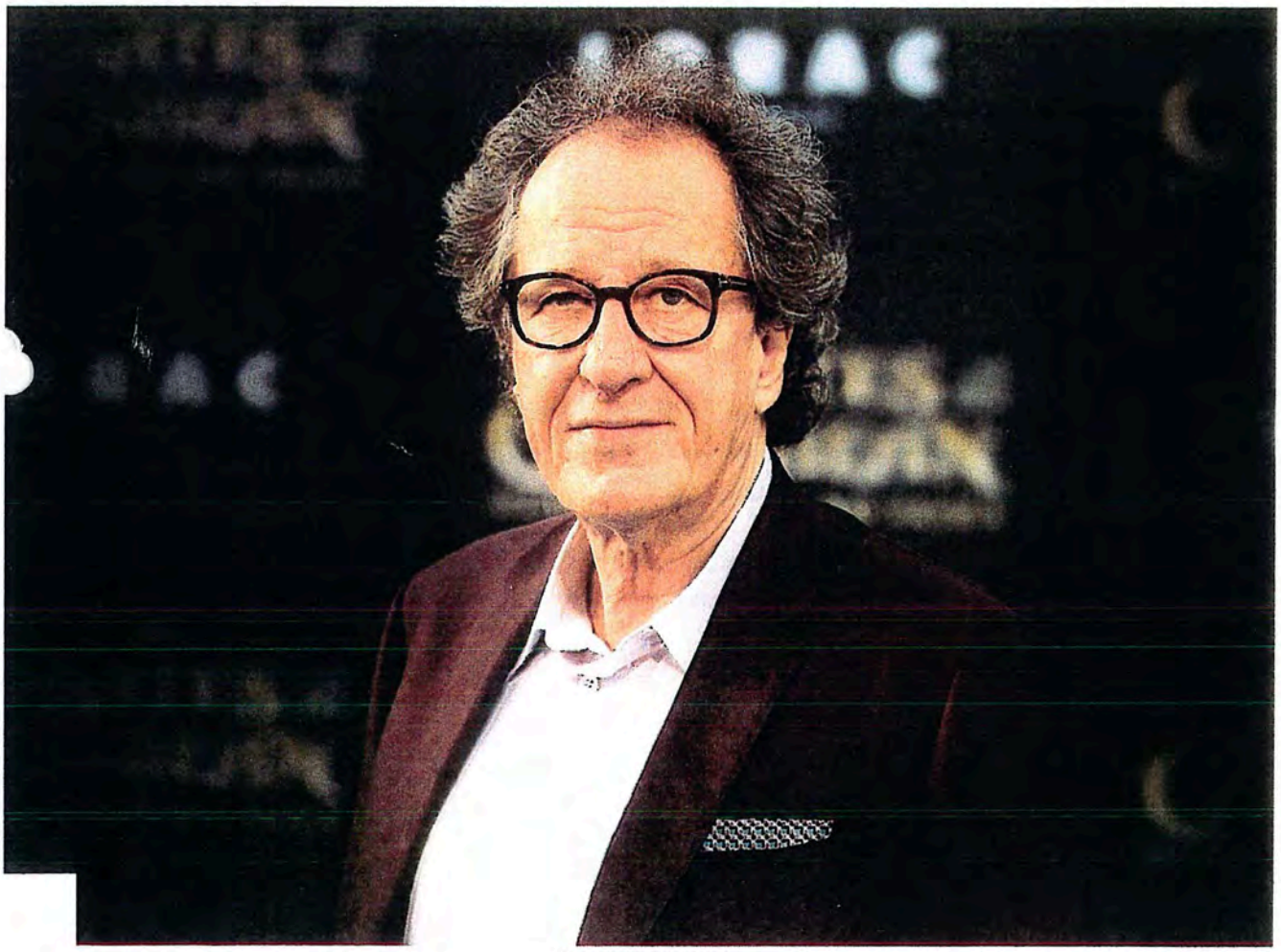
---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

LANGUAGE: English
NEWS SUBJECT: Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05)
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08)
REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
OTHER INDEXING: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Cordelia; Eryn Jean Norvill)

WORD COUNT: 143

Geoffrey Rush Denies Accusations of "Inappropriate Be Sydney Theatre Company

by MEG SWERTLOW | Wed., Nov. 29, 2017 8:06 PM



Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP

Australian actor and Oscar winner **Geoffrey Rush** vehemently "denies" allegations of

"inappropriate behavior" made against him, a lawyer for the actor has said in a statement obtained by E! News on Wednesday.

In a statement issued by Rush's legal team, HWL Ebsworth, the actor says that he "denies having been involved in any 'inappropriate behavior' whatsoever."

In a now-deleted *Daily Telegraph* article, the publication alleged earlier in the day that reports of inappropriate behavior had been made against the actor when he starred in the Sydney Theatre Company's (STC) production of *King Lear* in 2015 and 2016.

A rep for the theater company gave a statement to E! News on the matter: "Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behavior. The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended."

The company's statement continued, "The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimize the risk of future instances of the alleged behavior occurring in its workplace. The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld. STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."

Hollywood's Many Men Accused of Sexual Misconduct

Subsequently, the 66-year-old issued a lengthy statement to E! News, denying the claims and adding that he was still unaware of the specific allegations made against him, despite his best efforts to ascertain details.

The document stated, "To date, Mr Rush or any of his representatives have not received any representations from the STC or the complainant. In other words, there has been no provision of any details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to."

The statement, which goes on at length to say that Rush is still in the dark on the claims, continues, "It must be made clear from the outset that Mr Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

The statement also says, "It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way."

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

The document also includes a direct statement from the actor in which he expresses that he

tried to find out more information from STC but did not receive it.

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

The King's Speech actor says, "I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

The statement ends: "At this stage, Mr Rush can only reiterate his statement that he denies having been involved in any 'inappropriate behavior' whatsoever. Until there is the decency afforded to Mr Rush of what the 'inappropriate behavior' actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage.

A spokesperson for the Sydney Theatre Company issued a statement overnight, saying it "was asked by a News Ltd. journalist earlier this month whether it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behavior by Mr. Rush while he was employed by the company. STC responded truthfully that it had received such a complaint."

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr. Rush notified or involved in any investigation. STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare. As already stated, the Company received the complaint after Mr Rush's engagement had ended," the spokesperson said. "STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

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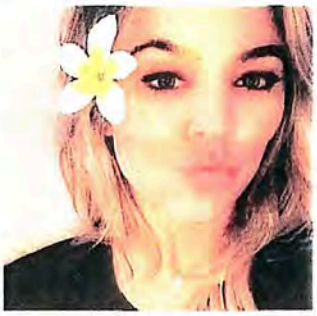
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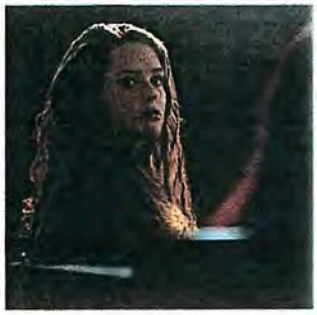
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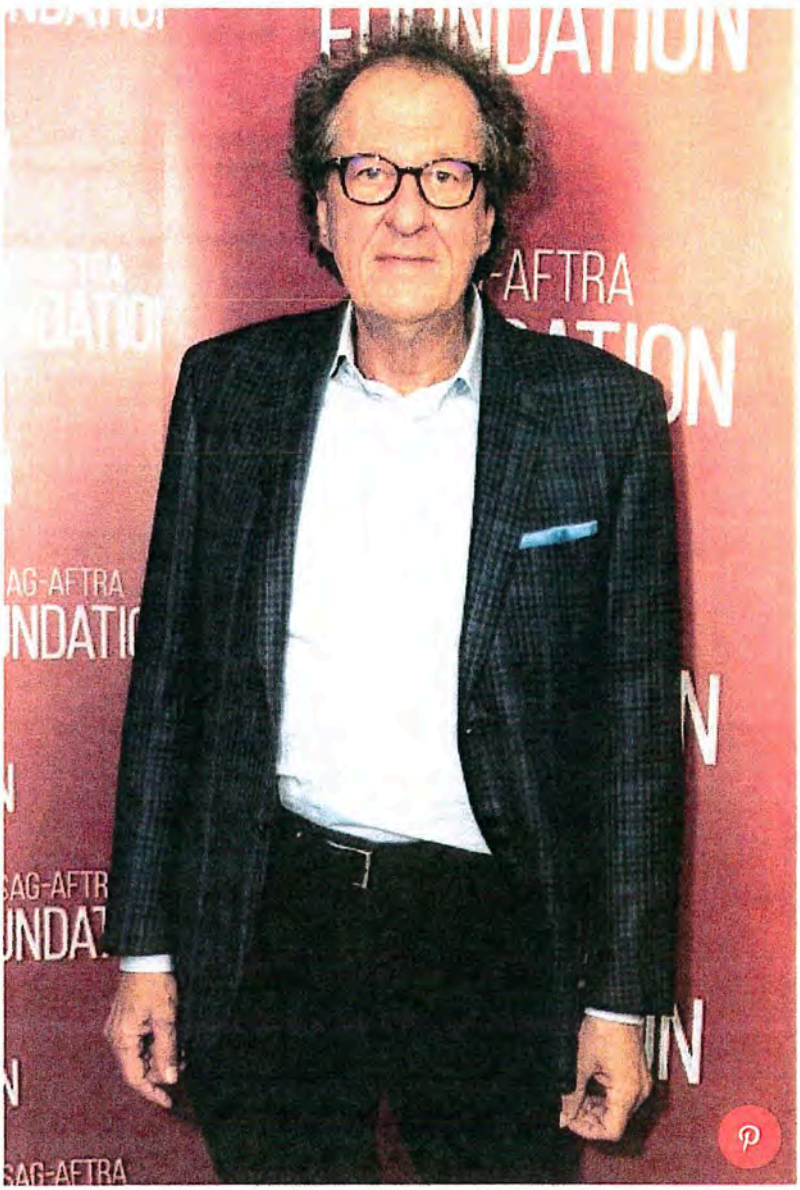
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Geoffrey Rush Denies 'Inappropriate Behavior' During Sydney Theatre Company Play



Geoffrey Rush Vincent Sandoval/Getty Images

MIKE MILLER November 29, 2017 09:31 PM

Geoffrey Rush is denying accusations of "inappropriate behavior" during his time with the Sydney Theatre Company (STC).

"The moment I became aware of rumors of a complaint I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company asking for

clarification about the details of the statement," the Academy Award said in a statement.

"They refused to illuminate me with the details. I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming," he added.

A Sydney Theatre Company spokeswoman reportedly said that they had "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behavior" after his "engagement with the company had ended," but did not elaborate on the nature of the complaint.

RELATED: Matt Lauer Allegedly Harassed Multiple Women, Exposed Himself: Reports

"The complainant has requested that their identity be withheld," the STC spokeswoman reportedly said, adding, "STC respects that request and for privacy reasons, will not be making any further comments."

PEOPLE has reached out for further comment from both the STC and Rush's representatives but has yet to receive a response.

Rush, 66, recently performed in a production of Shakespeare's *King Lear* between November 2015 and January 2016 at the STC.

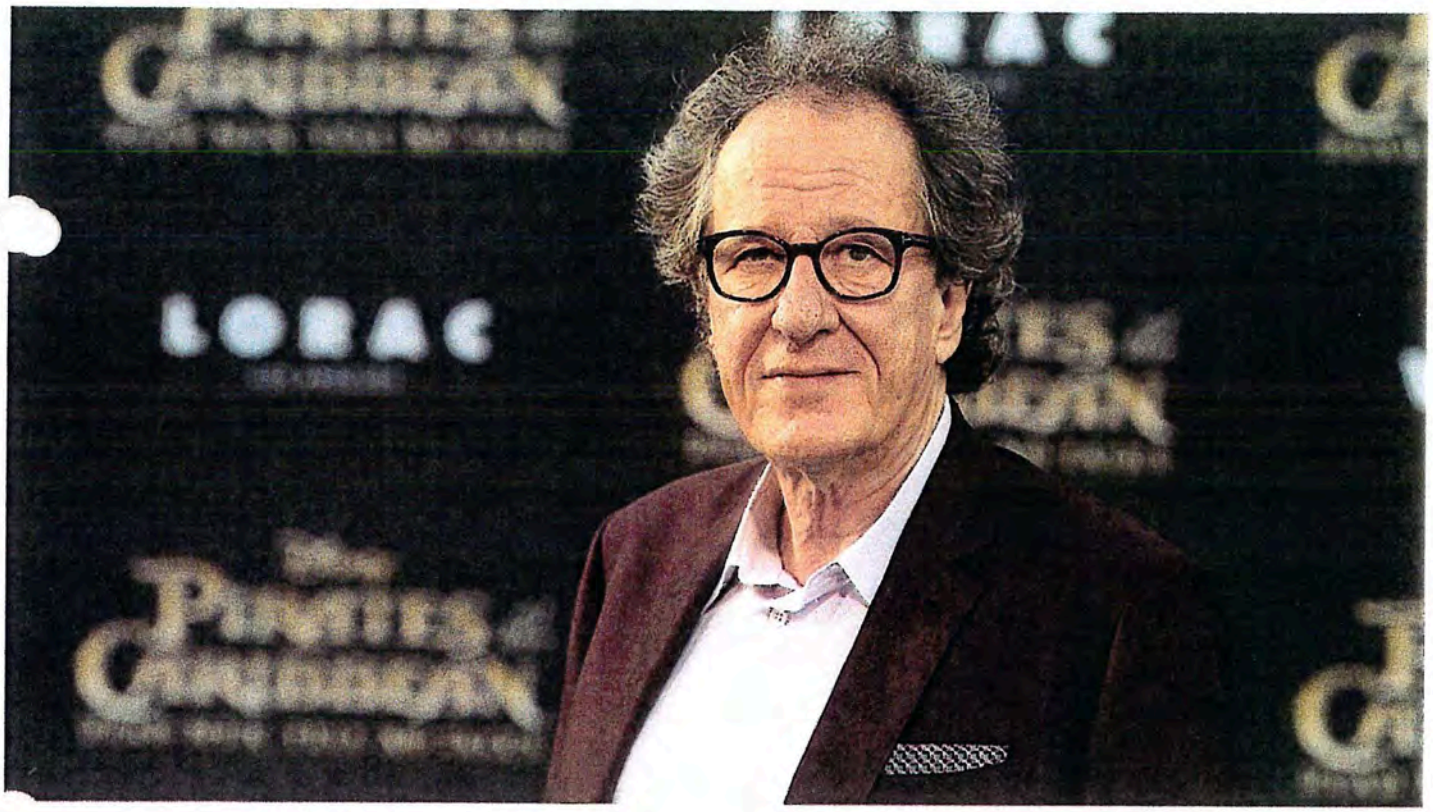
"It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," a representative for Rush said in a statement.

The Australian actor is known for his recurring role as Captain Barbossa in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise, and is among a small group of acclaimed actors who have won an Academy Award, Primetime Emmy Award and a Tony Award.

NOVEMBER 29, 2017 5:24PM PT

Geoffrey Rush Denies Allegation of 'Inappropriate Behavior' in 'King Lear' Production

By Alex Stedman



)IT: INVISION/AP/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Oscar-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has issued a statement denying that he engaged in "inappropriate behavior" during the Sydney Theatre Company's production of "King Lear."

Early on Wednesday, Australia's Daily Telegraph published a statement from the Sydney Theatre Company, which said it "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour." "The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended," the statement continued. "The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace."

Neither the Sydney Theatre Company nor Rush's statement through his lawyers at HWL Ebsworth detailed the nature of the allegation. Rush's statement maintains that the complaint was made 21 months ago, and says that Rush "abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

nor any
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"It is a great disappointment to Mr. Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," the statement continues. "Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates."

In a personal statement in the letter, Rush said he called senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company once he learned about the complaint, which the company allegedly "refused" to illuminate.

Rush starred in the local "King Lear" production from November 2015 to January 2016.

10

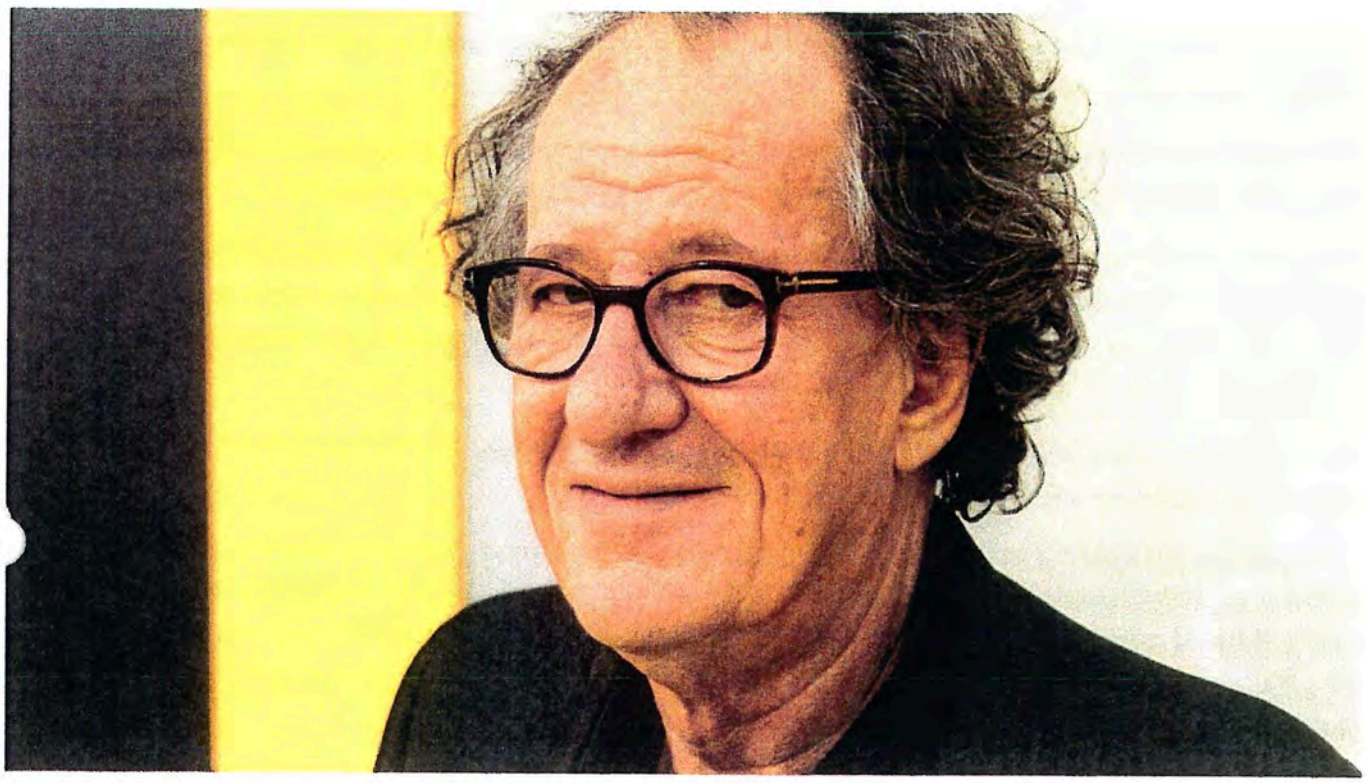
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Geoffrey Rush Denies Allegations of "Inappropriate Behavior"

3:05 PM PST 11/29/2017 by Pip Bulbeck



Earl Gibson III/Getty Images

The unspecified behavior allegedly occurred during the Sydney Theatre Company's production of 'King Lear' in 2015 and 2016.

Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has denied allegations of inappropriate behavior during his run starring in the Sydney Theatre Company's (STC) production of *King Lear* in 2015 and 2016, in a since-deleted report by the *Daily Telegraph*.

The *Telegraph* reported on Thursday (local time in Australia) that the STC had "received a complaint alleging that Mr. Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behavior," quoting an STC spokeswoman. The story did not detail what the alleged inappropriate behavior was and did not say that it was sexual in nature. Hours after its publication, the report was deleted from the *Telegraph*'s website and deleted all tweets associated with the story. *The Hollywood Reporter* has reached out to the *Daily Telegraph* for comment.

Rush vehemently denied the allegation in an initial statement issued by his law firm, HWL Ebsworth. "Mr. Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised," the letter reportedly states.

Quoting the legal statement, the report claimed Rush said he had never been involved in any "inappropriate behavior" and that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach."

"Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves," the statement reads. "In the circumstances, if such a statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least. Your 'understanding' of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded. It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue."

The STC said it is still working "with the complainant to minimize the risk of future instances of the alleged behavior occurring in its workplace." The complainant in question asked for their identity to be withheld.

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

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen added: "In this current environment, "inappropriate behavior" may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity. These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must be made clear from the outset that Mr. Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

The issue of harassment in the workplace has dominated the Australian news this week as allegations of indecent assault, sexual harassment and bullying against Don Burke, the host and producer of former top-rated Nine Network lifestyle program, *Burke's Backyard*, were detailed by former female employees. In total, over 200 women have come forward with complaints against Burke since Fairfax Media and the Australian Broadcasting Corp broke the story earlier in the week.

In what's been dubbed Australia's "Weinstein moment," Tracy Spicer, one of the journalists who uncovered the allegations against Burke, says she has a dossier that names 65 people working in the Australian media and entertainment industry as the subjects of over 500 complaints. It was not revealed if Rush is one of the those names.

"This is only the beginning of an investigation that will take years, until all workplaces are safe for those within their walls,' Spicer said.

Updated at 5.38PM PST *to reflect a new statement from Geoffrey Rush and that the Daily Telegraph had deleted its story from its website.*

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Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush, 66, denies a claim of 'inappropriate behaviour over months' on the set of King Lear theatre production in Sydney

- **Geoffrey Rush denies allegation of 'inappropriate behaviour' on King Lear set**
- **Misconduct allegedly went on for months of the Shakespeare play's 2015-16 run**
- **Alleged complaint received by Sydney Theatre Company after play's run ended**
- **Rush's lawyers have strenuously denied the claim against the Oscar-winning star**
- **Do you know more? Email tips@mailonline.com**

By NIC WHITE FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA
PUBLISHED: 23:53 AEST, 29 November 2017 | **UPDATED:** 15:40 AEST, 8 December 2017

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Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has strenuously denied a claim of 'inappropriate behaviour' during a production of Shakespeare play King Lear.

Sydney Theatre Company (STC) said it received a complaint after the play's run was over in January 2016, and that the alleged misconduct went on for months.

The Australian actor vigorously denied the claim, with his lawyers telling the Daily Telegraph he never heard of any alleged complaint from the Company or the complainant about the 'matter'.

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Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush (right) has strenuously denied a claim of 'inappropriate behaviour' during a production of Shakespeare play King Lear (pictured)

Rush vigorously denied the claim, through his lawyers, saying he never heard of any alleged complaint from the Company or the complainant



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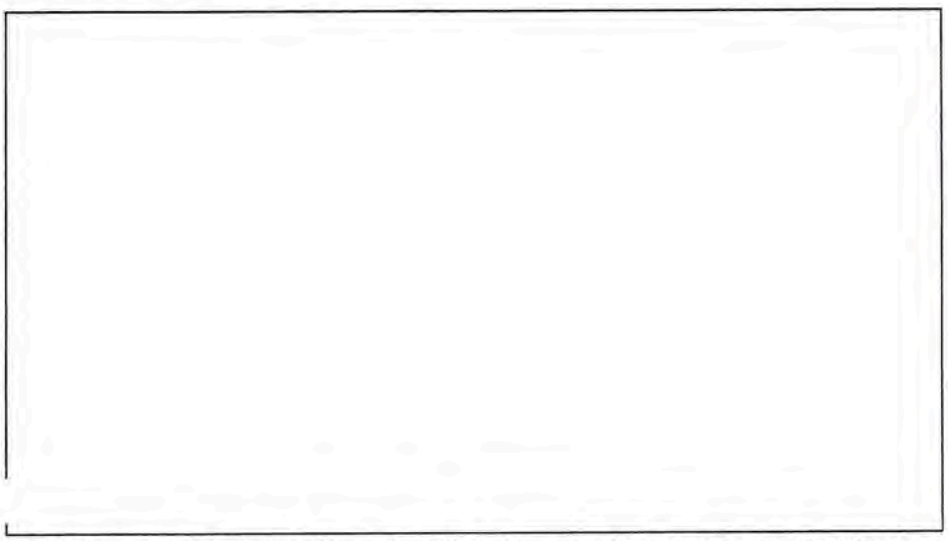
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STC said the alleged complainant requested to remain anonymous and it would thus not comment further.

The Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 in the Roslyn Packer Theatre starring Rush in the title role of King Lear.

Rush's lawyers HWL Ebsworth said the 66-year-old was not approached by either the STC or the complainant, or representatives thereof, about a complaint.



The Shakespeare play ran from November 2015 to January 2016 in the Roslyn Packer Theatre starring Rush (centre, sitting) in the title role of King Lear

'Further, he has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves,' they said.

'In the circumstances, if such statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least.

'Your understanding of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded.

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'It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue.'

Daily Mail Australia contacted STC and HWL Ebsworth for further comment.

'We couldn't have dreamt of a more perfect baby': Mummy blogger Constance Hall gives birth to son Raja Wolf after delivering him via C-section

'This man has completely rehabilitated himself. So sad': Kim Kardashian defends a man sent back to prison after serving 21 years

'He is devastated': Paul Hogan is 'left heartbroken as ex-wife Linda Kozlowski moves from LA to Morocco with new partner Moulay Hafid Baba'

Kylie Minogue poses naked with a diamond-encrusted guitar for sizzling birthday snap as she turns 50

'Dinner dates with this one': MAFS' Tracey Jewel enjoys time with daughter Grace... after revealing plans to move to the US while her little girl stays in Perth

Getting hot and heavy! MAFS' Davina Rankin shows off her generous cleavage as she packs on the PDA with new boyfriend Jaxon Manuel in the middle of street

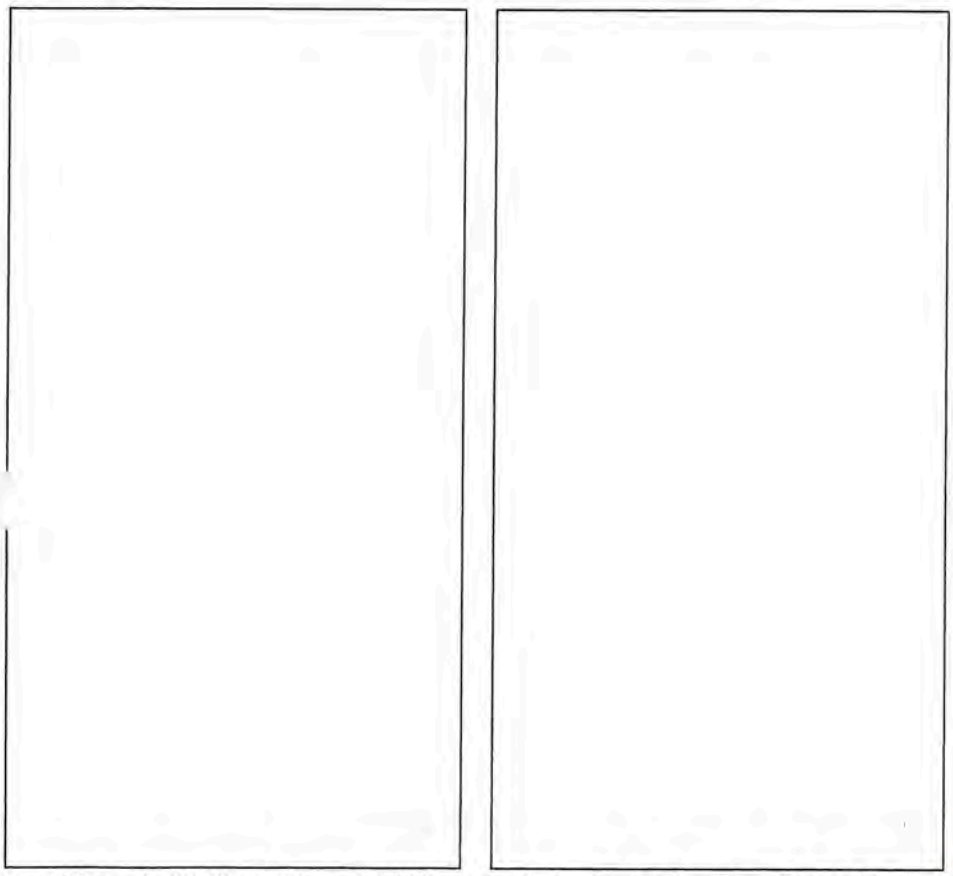
'I'm not strict and still enjoy life': Fitness star Emily Skye, 33, shares

Rush has been married to Jane Menelaus since 1988, with whom he has a daughter Angelica born in 1992, and a son James born in 1995.

He was named Australian of the Year in 2012 for his services to acting, having achieved the elusive 'triple crown' of winning an Oscar, Emmy and Tony award.

- transformation photo five months after giving birth
- Kourtney Kardashian, 39, struggles to keep up with her younger supermodel sister Kendall Jenner, 22, in dance class
- Bundle of joy! Former MAFS star Susan Rawlings reveals she has given birth to her first child, a baby boy called Ashton
- Morgan Freeman hides his face as he and girlfriend head to the set of his new film with a bodyguard in first sighting since sexual harassment scandal

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Rush (pictured with Nicole Kidman in 2015) was nominated for Academy Awards for roles in Shakespeare in Love, Quills, and most recently The King's Speech and won for Shine in 1996

Rush's performance in King Lear was praised by theatre critics even though they noted some flaws with the overall production.

'From the moment a bandy-legged, wobbly-limbed Rush ambles forward to utter theatre's most ill-fated demand – "Which of you shall we say doth love us most?" – he is neither too blustery or too brutish,' the Guardian wrote.

- 'You'll have to talk to her about it': 2Day FM's Grant Denyer dodges a question about 'toxic' co-host Em Rusciano... amid reports she will be sacked
- Mending a broken heart? Bachelor In Paradise star Leah Costa considers hypnotherapy after breaking up with Anthony Drew

His career started on stage with the Queensland Theatre Company when his talent was spotted while he was studying at the University of Queensland.

Rush's first play was Wrong Side of the Moon in 1971 and he regularly performed on stage even after his film career began in 1981.

He only appeared in five films before his breakout role in 1996 as David Helfgott in Shine, for which he won an Oscar for best actor.

The thespian was later nominated for Academy Awards for roles in Shakespeare in Love, Quills, and most recently The King's Speech.

He also won two Golden Globes with three nominations, three BAFTAs, one Tony, one Emmy, and two Helpmann stage awards.

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- From Ramsay Street to Love Island! Former Neighbours star Emma Harrison, 42, looks like she could be in her early twenties on the Gold Coast
- 'We can't judge... we both wore bikinis': Sophie Monk hits back at former Bachelorette Georgia Love after she blasted Love Island for its 'absolutely abhorrent' sexism
- 'I can give you 25 examples of what I've missed with my four kids and it kills me': MasterChef guest star Gordon Ramsay makes a startling confession
- 'I feel such a connection': Media personality Patti Newton, 73, reveals shock family death
- Booze-fueled brawl outside D.C. bar results in man's head being CRUSHED under a car at Amber Rose cookout party
- Game Of Thrones' Nathalie Emmanuel cuts a casual figure in black jeans and a white t-shirt at Argentina Comic-Con
- 'It's like a pop-up restaurant every night': MasterChef's Shannon Bennett reveals how he and wife Madeleine West feed their brood of six at dinner time
- 'It's absolutely abhorrent': Georgia Love leads the charge against Love Island with viewers blasting the show as a 'new low in Australian TV'

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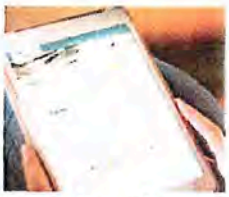
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'We get so worried about being pretty': Big Brother star Tully Smyth SLAMs Love Island Australia, claiming it emphasises superficial appearances

Suits star Patrick J. Adams frolics in the ocean with swimsuit-clad wife Troian Bellisario during sunshine break in Mykonos

Comedian Andy Richter reveals his parrot has claimed the family DOG as his 'new mate' this breeding season - and Twitter can't get enough of it

Is Love Island about to get even more X-rated? Cassidy, 23, is pictured accidentally flashing her breasts as she takes off her bikini top SPOILER ALERT

Blac Chyna, 30, wears busty top and Gucci belt as she holds beau YBN Almighty, 19, on bowling date

Hailey Baldwin endured 'weirdness' with Justin Bieber after split... but now they are 'friends' again

'Can't believe this was 22 years ago': Richard Wilkins shares epic throwback of Kylie Minogue in a heartfelt tribute on her 50th birthday

Spencer Pratt gets 'starstruck' meeting 'real legend' Ben Affleck

Chrissy Teigen proves daughter Luna is following in her father John Legend's footsteps as she sings in a video

Sienna Miller looks typically stylish in chic white shift dress for glitzy Louis Vuitton

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show in France

'I realised we're just as bad, I'm disgusting': Bachelor In Paradise's Megan Marx admits she was a hypocrite for slamming Love Island with boyfriend Jake Ellis

Pat Phelan was back in Weatherfield! A torture scene straight out of Pulp Fiction would have had Hilda Ogden or Jack and Vera turning in their graves on Coronation Street

Meet the A&E doctor who is taking eight weeks off to appear on Britain's reality TV show Love Island

Sofia Richie flaunts her figure in a barely there bikini on St Barts vacation with Scott Disick and his three kids

Putting the past behind them: Jessica Marais ends feud with ex James Stewart for daughter Scout's sixth birthday... as her romance with new beau heats up

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- Eminem and Nicki Minaj enjoy flirty exchange after he tells fans he wants to make joke romance real
- Suranne Jones strolls down the street in a top hat and tails as she films scenes as 'the first modern lesbian' for BBC's Gentleman Jack in Huddersfield
- Harry Styles is pictured in his dressing gown as he heads back to his hotel following world tour performance in Rio De Janeiro
- 'I love a hot cop': Former high-class escort Samantha X appears tired as she visits a police station in Sydney
- Are THESE eight rules the key to a tidy home? Experts share their fail-safe cleaning tips - including when to throw away leftovers and why you should ALWAYS follow a '15-minute' rule
- Emily Ratajkowski flashes a glimpse of her gym-honed abs in a form-fitting crop top as she touches down in Paris
- Love Island 2018: 11 singles are unveiled for the new season... including an air stewardess, a doctor, a nuclear engineer and Danny Dyer's daughter
- Britain's Got Talent: Declan Donnelly wows with The Greatest Showman-themed entrance... as he hosts first semi-final without Ant McPartlin
- Britain's Got Talent suffers major technical failure minutes into first live show... as Simon Cowell jokes Ant McPartlin is behind glitch
- Baldwin family torn apart by Trump: Hailey 'strongly disagrees' with supporter dad Stephen... after he fell out with SNL star Alec over views

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Justin Theroux, 46, attends same Louis Vuitton event as 'rumoured new love interest' Laura Harrier, 28, in France

- Emma Stone puts on a chic display in sequined trousers as she joins leggy Sophie Turner at star-studded Louis Vuitton show in France
- Leona Lewis flaunts her trim physique in a glittering lilac gown as she performs at star-studded National Memorial Day Concert
- Amy Schumer cheers on Boston Celtics game with husband Chris Fischer while enjoying fun vacation
- Khloe Kardashian holds True as she wishes fans Happy Memorial Day... after tweeting she doesn't want love 'advice'
- Enjoying the single life! Married At First Sight star Charlene Perera enjoys a solo trip to Europe after split from Patrick Miller
- Donatella Arpaia, 46, announces on Today she is pregnant with twins after SIX rounds of IVF (and a prediction from God)
- Jason Derulo promotes his world cup song at an ASDA in Watford... after wowing crowds with his performance at Radio 1's Biggest Weekend
- Ariana Grande teases Millie Bobby Brown, 14, on Instagram after she posts kissing pic with boyfriend
- Ant McPartlin 'made a little boy's day' by FaceTiming him when his mother stopped the TV presenter in the street

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- Kendra Wilkinson's 'dream' life shattered: Devastated star packs family photos into boxes amid divorce
- Cher Lloyd gives birth to baby girl as she shares sweet snap of

- first child Delilah-Rae on Instagram
- 'We can't solve inequality without half of society': Natalie Dormer praises 'feminist men' - insisting they can bring 'lasting change' to Hollywood
- Chloe Green's 'Hot Felon' beau Jeremy Meeks rubs her baby bump on dad's $130m superyacht in Monaco, as Kris Jenner and Corey Gamble join the family holiday
- Enrique Iglesias missing family 'like crazy' while on tour without Anna Kournikova and twins
- Hilary Duff proves she's a brainy beauty as she picks up summer reading material during solo outing in LA
- Georgina's new start: Harvey Weinstein's estranged wife buys a home in Westchester as her disgraced husband faces charges for rape and sexual misconduct
- Lady Gaga puts a kooky twist on pinstripe power suit as she steps out with fiancé in New York
- Brody Jenner enjoys pre-wedding fun in Bali with family... while his dad Caitlyn picks up fast food in Malibu
- Total Bellas: Nikki Bella gets her heart broken when John Cena suggests they 'not go through' with wedding

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- Jennifer Metcalfe reveals son Daye has made her and boyfriend Greg Lake even 'closer'... as she admits she's ready to return to Hollyoaks
- Making a sexy splash! Bikini-clad Ashley Graham holds her nose and jumps in the pool at Memorial Day weekend party

- Janet Jackson looks slim and flashes a huge smile while enjoying lunch with male companion
- 'I make money to do explorations!' Oscar-award winning director James Cameron reveals he only made Titanic to fund his dive to the wreck
- Katie Price makes a dig at estranged husband Kieran Hayler over Harvey's 16th birthday cake ... as she confirms he's moved out of her home
- Jessica Alba wears chic DVF wrap dress for fun kid-free tour around Beijing with husband and pals
- Paris Jackson puffs on a cigarette as she showcases her slender pins in denim hotpants in Venice
- Reese Witherspoon's look-alike daughter Ava Phillippe, 18, heads to her senior prom
- 'Why wouldn't I?' Three married men reveal why they were happy to take their WIVES' last names - even though they weren't asked to
- Nicki Minaj rushes to back Drake in angry tweet slamming rapper Pusha T for accusing him of using ghostwriter

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- 'I'm VERY metrosexual': MAFS groom Nasser Sultan denies gay rumours again... before jokingly asking another man out on a date
- 'I'm very old fashioned': Love Island Australia's Cassidy bursts into tears after fumbling under the covers with co-star Grant so early on in the show

'I've planned some Oprah style prizes!' PR queen Roxy Jacenko vows to give one lucky fan a $7,000 diamond ring for free at her Sydney seminar

Kerry Katona continues to parade her impressive weight loss as she lifts up her top to reveal her toned abs at charity football match

Rough night? Former Neighbours heartthrob Jason Donovan looks worse for wear at ex Kylie Minogue's 50th birthday in London as he emerges with stained jeans and his zip open

White hot! NRL WAG Terry Biviano, 43, cuts a youthful figure in a cleavage-baring frock on a yacht in Monaco

'He really believes he's the next Rock': Michelle Bridges' partner Steve 'Commando' Willis sets his sights on Hollywood after small role on Home and Away

Ashley Iaconetti and Jared Haibon re-create Bachelor In Paradise photo from three years ago as they enjoy Hawaii trip

Drew Barrymore reveals the 'must-have' beauty product she grows in her own yard - which banished a red spot from her face when even BLEACHING creams didn't

'You lied for years and that's where our daughter got it': Casey Anthony's mom storms off set during emotional interview about the death of baby Caylee after lashing out at husband

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Pamela Anderson, 50, shows off her famously eye-popping cleavage in an extreme plunging gold satin gown for Paris charity bash

Sarah Paulson, 43, goes makeup free after a gym session in LA after promoting Ocean's 8 in NY

Keeping the Blaze alive! The Block's Shaynna reveals the secret to her happy 18-year marriage with personal trainer

hubby Steve Vaughan

'It's 100 per cent a gender issue: The Thinkergirls radio duo Stacey June and Kristie Mercer blame their 2017 axing on 'sexism' and claim bosses 'couldn't handle' two women

Ramona Singer rear ends vehicle in her Maserati as she celebrates Memorial Day in The Hamptons

'Teeth under construction!' MAFS' Telv Williams flaunts his new veneers and follows in the footsteps of Tracey Jewel and Nick Furphy who all used the same dentist

Tulisa flashes a glimpse of her toned abs in a black crop top and denim shorts with trendy cut-out details during casual stroll in LA

Shoppers go wild for 'magical' Body Shop lotion that's less than HALF the price of Rihanna's $80shimmer cream

Eva Longoria displays her blossoming baby bump in a chic striped dress as she enjoys dinner with friends in LA

Anthony Hopkins defends his 'cold' remarks about his estranged daughter and insists it's 'fine' that they don't have a relationship

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Showing him what he's missing? Pop star ex-girlfriend of tennis ace Juan Martin del Potro celebrates her 31st birthday with VERY cheeky dance videos

Will Meghan and Harry honeymoon in Canada? Newlywed couple are said to be heading to 6,000 sq ft lodge dubbed 'The Royal Retreat' nestled in the Rockies

Abbey Clancy slips into sizzling white bikini as she teases her incredible post-baby

body in holiday selfies

That's a wrap! Queen Maxima of the Netherlands covers up in a chic shawl for a United Nations meeting in Delhi

Kourtney Kardashian sets pulses racing as she flaunts her incredibly toned physique in a ribbed black bikini for sizzling snap

Kimberley Garner parades her lean legs in a tiny button-front dress as she puts on a flirty display with her ex during scooter ride in London

'See you in a minute!' One Direction star Liam Payne reveals he's heading to Australia... after candidly revealing that being in the iconic band 'nearly killed him'

Tara Reid, 42, tops up her tan in a skimpy red bikini as she enjoys a sun-soaked girls getaway in the Dominican Republic

So sex DOESN'T sell? Love Island Australia premieres to dismal ratings with a measly 155,000 metro viewers tuning in trailing behind ABC's Bananas in Pyjamas

Vicky Pattison puts on a loved-up display with fiancé John Noble as they share a passionate smooch at Newcastle Airport

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Bachelorette Ali Oetjen puts on a brave face as she goes for lunch with her mother... amid reports Ten 'is holding crisis meetings about her future'

Another wife swap! MAFS' Nasser Sultan CONFIRMS Gabrielle Bartlett and Sean Donnelly are dating after failing to find love with other people

Game Of Thrones star Thor Bjornsson reveals he's been trolled over his girlfriend's petite height...as she says he

- has to PICK HER UP to kiss her
- Kelly Brook reveals she can go THREE days without brushing her teeth... and admits 'parenting' beau Jeremy Parisi will tell her if she's eating too much
- 'Her Majesty's cattle live a luxurious life!' Countryfile viewers are left astonished as Windsor special episode reveals the Queen's cows sleep on WATERBEDS to help them de-stress
- He moves fast! Married At First Sight's Patrick Miller is spotted getting cosy with a mystery brunette in Adelaide days after his romantic dinner with Steph Dixon
- 'This is my version of the shoey... it's a thongy!' Actor Shane Jacobson celebrates Australian racer Daniel Ricciardo's Formula One win by drinking beer from a sandal
- Is he going to quit? Claims Boy George 'is going to leave The Voice and has his eyes on a coaching position on the US franchise'
- Coleen Rooney displays her sensational post-baby body in skimpy navy bikini as she takes an adorable selfie with son Kit, two, during Barbados holiday
- Little Mix's Jesy Nelson looks worse-for-wear in a busty bikini top and Gucci trousers as she emerges from a London club BAREFOOT

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- Rebekah Vardy reveals she underwent her second boob job as her implants turned YELLOW due to a partial rupture
- Thomas the Tank Engine for the 21st century: Classic children's character leaves behind the island of Sodor to travel the world in new 'inclusive and gender balanced' movie revamp

'My eyelid was closed on one side, like I was winking to myself! ' Gold Logie nominee Andrew Winter recalls suffering a Bell's palsy episode

Missed opportunity? Comedian Wil Anderson reveals he TURNED DOWN the chance to replace Kyle and Jackie O... after he slammed his own Triple M Breakfast show as 'a f**king mess!'

Lottie Moss goes make-up free and shows off her slender pins in distressed denim shorts during low-key stroll in Ibiza

Lady Gaga commands attention in cobalt blue leather dress as she enjoys a night out with fiancé Christian Carino

Jacqueline Jossa reveals worrying hospital dash when she couldn't feel unborn baby moving as she discusses heartbreaking family cot death history

'Where did your manners go?' Taylor Swift's fans infuriated as Greg James tells her to take a SHOWER after she steps off stage in sweltering Swansea in a VERY awkward post-set interview

Wouldn't change a thing! As Kylie Minogue turns 50 - a look back at the pop star's most fabulous, shocking and cheeky fashion moments

'I will never get used to it': Julie Snook reveals she struggles with actor husband Hugo Johnstone-Burt kissing other women in films... after THAT Jacketgate incident

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'I'm so glad I'm not dating now': Kyle Sandilands says he's not impressed with the female cast of Nine's Love Island and takes aim at the men

'She's definitely the best catch': Bachelor In Paradise's Grant Kemp takes a swipe at ex Ali Oetjen, saying Lisa Hyde should be the new Bachelorette EXCLUSIVE

- Before she went under the knife! Love Island's Kim Harnett looks unrecognisable as a brunette in throwback snaps from 2013
- Ferne McCann denies claims she's back with ex Arthur Collins... as she reveals her romance with an older man 'fizzled out'
- Brittany Furlan, 31, reveals Beverly Hills 'wedding' to Motley Crüe drummer Tommy Lee, 55, was a JOKE
- Made in Chelsea's Lucy Watson flaunts her gym-honed frame in a skimpy monochrome bikini as she soaks up the sun in Barcelona
- Antony Cotton looks worse for wear as he tumbles into a taxi after Kylie Minogue's star-studded 50th birthday bash
- Jeff Goldblum and wife Emile Livingston treat son Charlie Ocean while out for stroll in Los Angeles
- Who's that Guy? Actor Pearce sports a quirky moustache as he arrives at former Neighbours co-star Kylie Minogue's 50th birthday bash in London
- PICTURE EXCLUSIVE: Kelly Brook's lacy white bikini barely contains her ample assets as she splashes in the surf make-up free with her hunky beau Jeremy Parisi on romantic getaway to Mykonos

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- Bachelorette bombshell! Network Ten is 'considering dumping' Ali Oetjen and replacing her with fan favourite Nikki Gogan
- 'Less crying over your ex and more getting day drunk!' Ruby Rose shares a funny breakup meme following her split with Jessica Origliasso
- 'Girls don't need surgery, they need a psychologist!' New Love Island contestant Elias Chigros slams boob jobs and 'fake faces'

- They're back together! Convicted drug smuggler Schapelle Corby reunites with her Balinese boyfriend Ben Panangian in Southeast Asia
- 'Dean got nominated for Biggest A**ehole!' MAFS' Ryan Gallagher 'congratulates' his former rival Dean Wells at the Logie Awards nomination party
- 'We don't want anything to do with you': MAFS' Nasser Sultan claims he was 'blacklisted' by Channel Nine as he rages against Dean and Ryan
- Coronation Street SPOILER: Michelle Connor 'fights for life' after being taken hostage and SHOT by villainous Pat Phelan on her wedding day
- 'I've had two boob jobs and get face fillers all the time!' Love Island's single mum Kim Hartnett, 22, boasts about her plastic surgery
- Something to smile about? MAFS' Jo McPharlin looks upbeat at charity function amid rumours she's set to return to the show
- Rhian Sugden shows off her ample bust as she posts sizzling topless snap during romantic Turkey break with fiancé Oliver Mellor
- 'He doesn't even hold a candle to James': MAFS' Sarah Roza SLAMS Telv Williams and says he's insecure about his height... after confirming her new relationship
- From turning 40 to getting her licence back and reuniting with her 'soulmate': Convicted drug trafficker Schapelle Corby's first year of freedom
- 'I know him, I dated him!' Love Island's Millie is left shocked as her ex Charlie arrives on the Spanish Island... but insists they 'didn't even have sex'
- Cardi B says unborn baby girl 'did her good' by giving her a new pair of boobs during pregnancy

- Remember me! Big Brother 2010 star John James Parton set to shake things up when he joins Love Island Australia as an intruder
- Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas send son Dylan off to senior prom in charming social share
- The death of her ex-boyfriend Michael Hutchence, a cancer battle and THOSE gold hotpants: The highs and lows of pop princess Kylie Minogue's career
- 'This is a f**king joke': Bachelor In Paradise's Jake Ellis and girlfriend Megan Marx slam Love Island and call the show 'disgusting'
- What about her daughter? MAFS' Tracey Jewel reveals plans to move to America within a YEAR... leaving her little girl Grace in Perth
- Chrissy Teigen flaunts her ample assets in darling 'first post-Miles' date night with John Legend
- Brie Larson spoons Thrifty pistachio ice cream straight from carton in vacation snap on Instagram
- 'That was hard, Mum dying': Magda Szubanski breaks down in an emotional preview of Andrew Denton's TV show interview...
- The Last Sharknado teaser shows Fin time traveling with sharks as ferris wheel breaks loose in city
- Demi Lovato's half-sister Madison attends Brighton Hall prom in black high-low dress and boots
- Pink gets a tender kiss from husband Carey Hart before flying to Las Vegas on Beautiful Trauma tour

Kylie Minogue shows off her youthful looks as she marks her 50th birthday with star-

studded bash... from which ex Jason Donovan makes a rather worse-for-wear exit

Khloe Kardashian fires back at critics 'giving advice' after Tristan Thompson cheating scandal

Chris Martin snags dinner for two before heading off in a deluxe golf cart to enjoy a cozy night in

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'She wants to move forward': Mariah Carey sells her $13.2million engagement ring from ex-fiancé James Packer for a fraction of the price

Kevin Hart takes wife Eniko Parrish and three children out for lunch and ice cream in Los Angeles

Christina Milian sports $195 HMN ALNS bodysuit on dinner date with French beau M. Pokora at Catch LA

- Westworld's Phase Space reveals Maeve reuniting with daughter as Bernard stumbles upon old friend
- Kelly Clarkson checks cell phone before singing national anthem in stars and stripes at Indy 500
- Champagne Charlene! Princess necks Daniel Ricciardo's fizz on the podium as he wins the Monaco Grand Prix (but she doesn't join him for a shoey!)
- 'The smirk on his face made me sick': Annabella Sciorra says she found 'no relief' from seeing her alleged rapist Harvey Weinstein arrested
- First Love Island hunk revealed as 'hot male model whose shirtless snaps have made him an Instagram star'
- Sophie Monk 'threw a tantrum after learning Love Island wouldn't be aired on Nine's main channel'... and seeing happy couples is 're-opening old wounds'
- Caitlyn Jenner, 68, escorts close gal pal Sophia Hutchins, 21, to Nobu Malibu in her $200K purple Porsche
- Former Bachelorette Georgia Love is accused of having 'double standards' after she described Love Island as 'absolutely abhorrent'
- Lady Gaga dons fierce leopard print coat and matching boots as she leaves recording studio in NYC
- Kim Kardashian shares tender family shot from Wyoming... as fans ask why she left out baby Chicago

Shia LaBeouf grabs breakfast in Los Angeles before heading to the barber for a fresh shave

- Facing the axe? Reports Real Housewives of Sydney 'will get the chop after US network rejects show because of its extreme cat fights'
- Lady in red! Pregnant Pippa Middleton keeps her blossoming bump under wraps in a stylish wrap dress as she enjoys the French Open with husband James
- Brody Jenner calls fiancée Kaitlynn Carter 'wifey' as he challenges her to drink from a shoe in Bali
- Love Island star's 'secret girlfriend' revealed! Charlie Taylor 'was seen at events with a lovely lady only three months ago' - so what went wrong?
- 'It's the perfect way to redeem his image': Reality 'love rat' Blake Garvey 'will get a second chance at love on Bachelor In Paradise season two'
- Mel C puts on a leggy display in fringed blazer as she arrives for Kylie Minogue's 50th birthday party
- Sofia Richie, 19, dons barely-there bikini as she joins beau Scott Disick, 35, and his kids on trip to St. Barts
- Amanda Holden, 47, shows off her legs in tiny floral mini dress as she hits Kylie Minogue's 50th birthday party
- Sofia Richie wishes her big brother Miles a happy 24th birthday with throwback snaps
- Love Island nude photo scandal: Hunky Josh Moss fears incriminating pictures could be circulated online... after he sent naked snaps to women

Karl who? Stefanovic, Lisa Wilkinson, Carrie

- Bickmore and Waleed Aly are all SNUBBED as they miss out on prestigious Gold Logie nominations
- Hugh Grant, 57, looks totally smitten with new wife Anna Eberstein, 39, at Monaco Grand Prix as they are seen for first time since low key wedding
- Ashley Graham offers home remedy for streaky spray tans before going to pool party in black bikini
- First look: The cast of Love Island flaunt their genetically-blessed bodies as they get acquainted inside their luxurious Spanish villa
- Miley Cyrus goes makeup free as she enjoys a date night with beau Liam Hemsworth in Malibu
- Bradley Cooper gives daughter Lea De Seine high-fives as she plays on a swing in NYC park
- Hunky Chris Hemsworth waves the flag at Indianapolis 500... before taking selfies with Bachelor stars Arie Luyendyk Jr. and Lauren Burnham
- Kylie Jenner flaunts her flat post-baby tummy... after showing off romantic neon artwork in her house
- Kieran Hayler shares a sweet tribute to Katie Price's son Harvey on his 16th birthday... after moving out of their family home following split
- Jodie Sweetin keeps it casual in striped shirt and denim as she shops at local farmer's market

Chantel Jeffries sizzles in blue bikini during wild weekend in Las Vegas with DJ Diplo and friends

- Hilary Duff showcases her gym-honed physique in Los Angeles... following angry row with NY neighbor
- Jessica Simpson rocks tiny denim shorts and Mickey Mouse shirt with sister Ashlee at Disneyland
- Solo: A Star Wars Story nabs No. 1 at box office with $83.3m, well below expectations for the prequel
- Hilaria Baldwin breastfeeds one-week-old son Romeo while updating fans on her pneumonia diagnosis
- April Love Geary dons hot pink bikini for bubble bath with adorable two-month-old daughter Mia
- Honeymoon Down Under? Meghan's Suits co-star Gabriel Macht and his Aussie wife Jacinda Barrett offer to host the Duchess and Prince Harry
- Steps' Claire Richards dazzles on stage in fuchsia leotard as band take their nationwide tour to Darlington
- Jessica Wright is spotted with mystery man during a night out in Soho with pal Ferne McCann... following split from Giovanni Pernice
- 'It could get messy': MAFS' Carly Bowyer reveals details about her 'first fight' with boyfriend Troy Delmege following split rumours
- Halle Berry, 51, goes makeup-free as she's sheltered from downpour at JFK

Selma Blair goes makeup-free and takes adorable son Arthur Bleick, six, to the

- farmers market
- Cindy Crawford flaunts her long legs in jeans shorts and camo shirt on holiday weekend in Nashville
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ENTERTAINMENT 30/11/2017 10:56 GMT

Geoffrey Rush Denies Allegation Of 'Inappropriate Behaviour'

The exact details of the alleged incident have not been revealed.

By Rachel McGrath

Actor Geoffrey Rush has denied an allegation of "inappropriate behaviour", following a complaint made to the a Sydney Theatre Company, regarding an incident that allegedly took place when he was starring in a production of 'King Lear'.

Rush's time in the Shakespeare production spanned from November 2015 to January 2016, and the exact details of the alleged incident - including whether it is a complaint about sexually inappropriate behavior - have not been revealed.



PAUL ARCHULETA VIA GETTY IMAGES

Geoffrey Rush

In a statement issued to the Guardian, Rush's lawyer stated that the actor is also unaware of exactly what he stands accused of, saying: "In this current environment, 'inappropriate behaviour' may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity.

"These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must be made clear from the outset that Mr Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

The 66-year-old actor added: "The moment I became aware of rumours of a complaint I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company asking for clarification about the details of the statement. They refused to illuminate me with the details.

"I also asked why this information was being withheld and why, according to standard theatre practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

On Wednesday (29 November), the STC confirmed the complaint, stating that they told a journalist the truth when asked about the matter earlier this month.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation," they said (via the Sydney Morning Herald). "STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."

Over the past 35 years, Rush has performed in a number of STC productions. His film credits include 'Shakespeare In Love', 'Quills' and 'Shine', which saw him win an Oscar for Best Actor.

He also played Captain Barbossa in Disney's 'Pirates Of The Caribbean' franchise and provided the voice for Nigel the pelican in 'Finding Nemo'.

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Rachel McGrath Entertainment Reporter

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offrey Rush nies Allegation Inappropriate navior' in 'King ` Production



Alex Stedman

Variety 30 November 2017

Oscar-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush has issued a statement denying that he engaged in "inappropriate behavior" during the Sydney Thea Company's production of "King Lear."

Early on Wednesday, Australia's Daily Telegrapl published a statement from the Sydney Theatre Company, which said it "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour." "The Company receiv the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with Company had ended," the statement continued. "The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace."

Neither the Sydney Theatre Company nor Rush statement through his lawyers at HWL Ebsworth detailed the nature of the allegation. Rush's statement maintains that the complaint was mac 21 months ago, and says that Rush "abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form.

"Mr. Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised," the strongly worded let obtained by *Variety*, reads. "In other words, ther

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has been no provision of any details, circumstar

"It is a great disappointment to Mr. Rush the ST[illegible] has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," the statement continues. "Not to afford a person their right to k[illegible] what has been alleged against them let alone n[illegible] inform them of it but release such information to public is both a denial of natural justice and is n[illegible] how our society operates."

In a personal statement in the letter, Rush said I called senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company once he learned about the complaint, which the company allegedly "refused" to illuminate.

Rush starred in the local "King Lear" production from November 2015 to January 2016.

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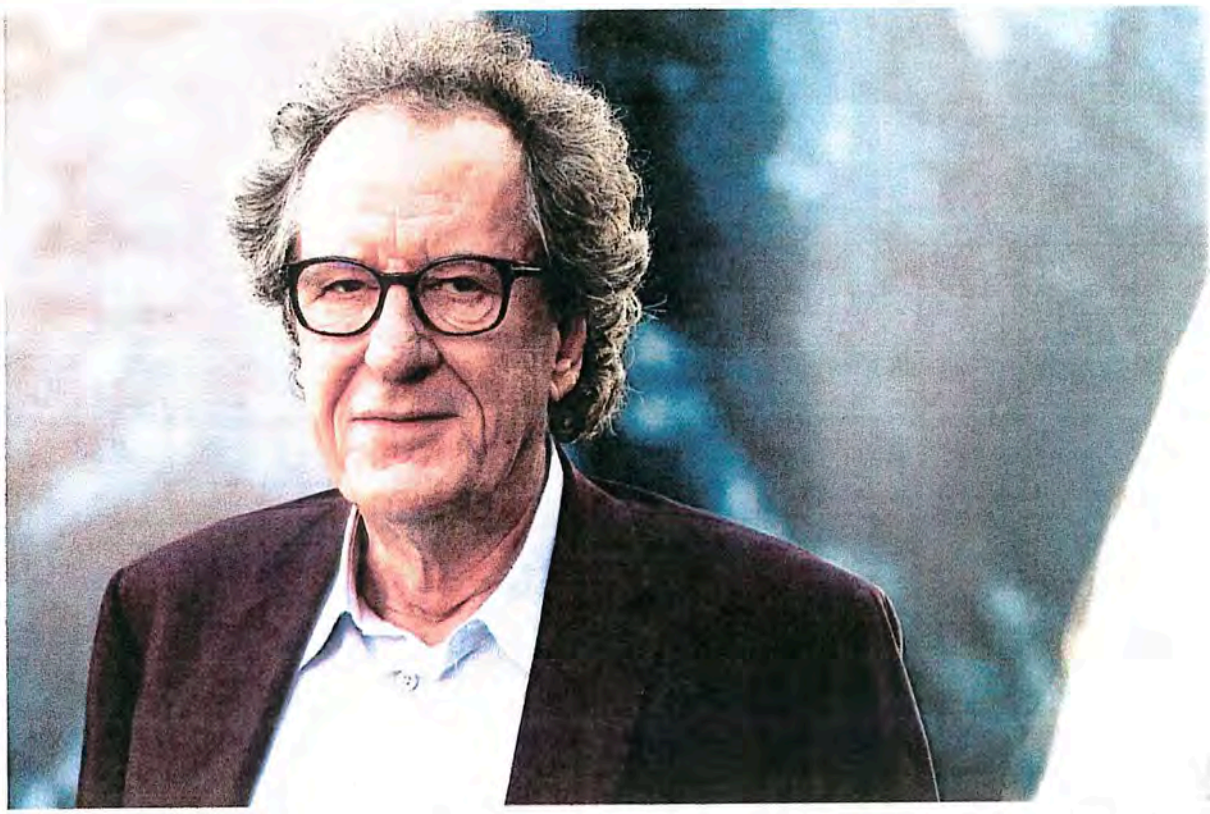
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Geoffrey Rush denies allegations of 'inappropriate behaviour' in play

Sydney Theatre Company confirmed it had received a complaint against the actor relating to his time starring in their production of King Lear

Clarisse Loughrey | @clarisselou | Thursday 30 November 2017 15:19 GMT



Geoffrey Rush has denied allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear*, after the company said it had received a complaint against him.

Rush's lawyer said in a statement that no direct notification of the allegation had been received by Rush or any of his representatives by either the STC or the complainant, neither was there any "provision of details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to".

The allegation was first reported by Australia's *The Daily Telegraph*, in which the STC confirmed that a complaint was made relating to Rush's time with the production that ran from November 2015 to January 2016.



Sydney Opera House lit up with art to celebrate world's oldest culture

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

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation. STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare. As already stated, the Company received the complaint after Mr Rush's engagement had ended."

"STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

The actor said that, as soon as he was made aware of rumours of a complaint, he immediately contacted senior management at STC to seek clarification on the nature of the allegation.

"They refused to illuminate me with the details," he continued. "I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

"In this current environment, 'inappropriate behaviour' may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity. These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion," Rush's lawyer said. "It must be made clear from the outset that Mr. Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

"His treatment of fellow colleagues and everyone he has worked with is always conducted with respect and the utmost propriety. Whether on a film set or in the theatre, Mr. Rush has always adhered to the finest professional principles in pursuit of his craft."

"It is a great disappointment to Mr. Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," his lawyer added.

"At this stage, Mr. Rush can only reiterate his statement that he denies having been involved in any 'inappropriate behaviour' whatsoever. Until there is decency afforded to Mr. Rush of what the 'inappropriate behaviour' actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage."

Rush won the Oscar for Best Actor for playing David Helfgott in *Shine* and was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for *Shakespeare in Love*; he is well-known for the role of Hector Barbossa in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films and has worked extensively in theatre. He previously worked with STC on multiple projects, including *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Government Inspector*.

More about: | Geoffrey Rush

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Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behavior' at theater

By: ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

Updated: Nov 30, 2017 - 10:52 PM

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) - A leading Australian theater company said Friday it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behavior" against Geoffrey Rush, an allegation lawyers for the Oscar winner denied.

The Sydney Theatre Company was not disclosing details of the allegations, which reports said dated from Rush's starring role in the theater's staging of "King Lear" two years ago.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr. Rush notified or involved in any investigation," a statement said. The theater company said it complied "in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."

Content Continues Below

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers did not respond to a request for comment Friday, but had issued an earlier statement denying Rush was involved in any inappropriate behavior.

"It is with great disappointment to Mr. Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," Thursday's statement said.

Rush has performed at the Sydney theater for 35 years. The 66-year-old Australian actor won the 1997 best actc Academy Award for "Shine" and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

Australian media reports say the allegation dated from the theater's production of William Shakespeare's "King Lear" from November 2015 to January 2016.

Sydney's The Daily Telegraph cited two unnamed theater sources in reporting Friday that an actress had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately. The sources told the newspaper the theater wouldn't work with Rush again.

The company said the complaint was made after Rush's employment had ended and it disclosed it when a journalist asked in early November. The company did not say what action it had taken and it did not respond to questions about whether it would work with Rush in the future.

Rush's lawyers said his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach." The actor had said Thursday he became aware of "rumors of a complaint" but the theater had refused to provide details at the time.

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Geoffrey Rush Denies 'Inappropriate Behavior' at Theater

Sydney's The Daily Telegraph also cited two unnamed theater sources in reporting Friday that an actress had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately

By Rod McGuirk

Published at 10:11 PM EST on Nov 30, 2017 | Updated at 12:04 AM EST on Dec 1, 2017



In this file photo, Geoffrey Rush arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" at the Dolby Theatre on Thursday, May 18, 2017. The Sydney Theatre Company says it received a complaint of "inappropriate behavior" against Rush, an allegation lawyers for the Oscar winner denied. The company wasn't disclosing details of the behavior alleged to have occurred while the 66-year-old Australian actor was an employee. Media reports say the allegation dated from the theater's production of "King Lear," about two years ago. His lawyers deny Rush was involved in inappropriate behavior.

A leading Australian theater company said Friday it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behavior" against Geoffrey Rush, an allegation lawyers for the Oscar winner denied.

The Sydney Theatre Company was not disclosing details of the allegations, which reports said dated from Rush's starring role in the theater's staging of "King Lear" two years ago.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr. Rush notified or involved in any investigation," a statement said. The theater company said it complied "in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers did not respond to a request for comment Friday, but had issued an earlier statement denying Rush was involved in any inappropriate behavior.

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Harvey Weinstein's ouster from the Weinstein Company in light of multiple sexual misconduct allegations against him is causing thousands of other women to speak up and speak out against powerful abusers in the workplace. (Published Monday, Dec. 11, 2017)

"It is with great disappointment to Mr. Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," Thursday's statement said.

Rush has performed at the Sydney theater for 35 years. The 66-year-old Australian actor won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for "Shine" and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

Australian media reports say the allegation dated from the theater's production of William Shakespeare's "King Lear" from November 2015 to January 2016.

'Today' Host Lauer Fired for 'Inappropriate Sexual Behavior'

Sydney's The Daily Telegraph cited two unnamed theater sources in reporting Friday that an actress had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately. The sources told the newspaper the theater wouldn't work with Rush again.

The company said the complaint was made after Rush's employment had ended and it disclosed it when a journalist asked in early November. The company did not say what action it had taken and it did not respond to questions about whether it would work with Rush in the future.

Rush's lawyers said his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach." The actor had said Thursday he became aware of "rumors of a complaint" but the theater had refused to provide details at the time.

Longtime "Today" show anchor Matt Lauer was fired from NBC News within days of a colleague reporting "inappropriate sexual behavior." (Published Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017)

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BUSINESS INSIDER

Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behavior' at theater

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NOV. 30, 2017, 9:41 PM

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — The Sydney Theatre Company says it received a complaint of "inappropriate behavior" against Geoffrey Rush, an allegation lawyers for the Oscar winner denied.

The company was not disclosing details of the behavior alleged to have occurred while the 66-year-old Australian actor was an employee.

ML Ebsworth Lawyers did not respond to a request for comment Friday, but had issued an earlier statement denying Rush was involved in any inappropriate behavior.

Australian media reports say the allegation dated from Rush's participation in the theater's production of William Shakespeare's "King Lear" from November 2015 to January 2016.

Sydney's The Daily Telegraph cited two unnamed theater sources in reporting Friday that an actress had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately. The sources told the newspaper the theater wouldn't work with Rush again.

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Geoffrey Rush Denies Allegation of 'Inappropriate Behavior' During 'King Lear' Production

The Oscar-winning Australian actor has been anonymously accused of "inappropriate behavior" while starring in the Sydney Theatre Company production.

Jude Dry
Nov 30, 2017 11:11 am
@jdry



Geoffrey Rush.
Richard Dobson/Newspix/REX/Shutterstock

Update (December 8, 2017): Geoffrey Rush has filed a defamation lawsuit against an Australian newspaper for publishing what he called false and "spurious" allegations against him, BBC news reports.

Earlier: Geoffrey Rush has issued a statement denying an allegation of "inappropriate behavior" while performing in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of "King Lear." Australia's The Daily Telegraph initially reported that it "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had

website, and all associated tweets deleted.

"The Company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the Company had ended," the STC said through a spokeswoman, according to Variety. "The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace."

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In a statement issued through his lawyers, Rush adamantly denied the allegation, saying he "abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

The statement continued:

> Mr. Rush has not been approached by the Sydney Theatre Company and the alleged complainant nor any representative of either of them concerning the matter you have raised. In other words, there has been no provision of any details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to.
>
> It is a great disappointment to Mr. Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way. Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates.

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Rush starred in the STC's "King Lear" production from November 2015 to January 2016.

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The film, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, will make its way to theaters later this year.



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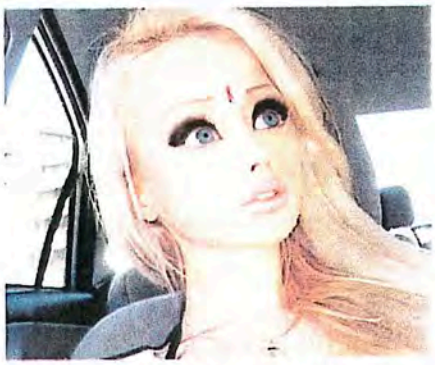
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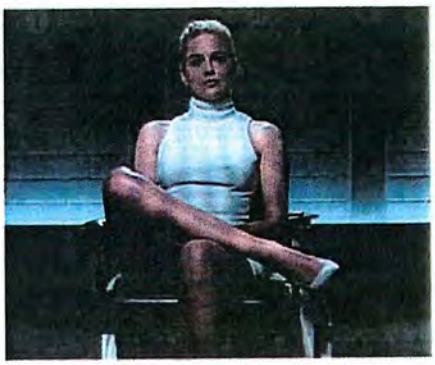
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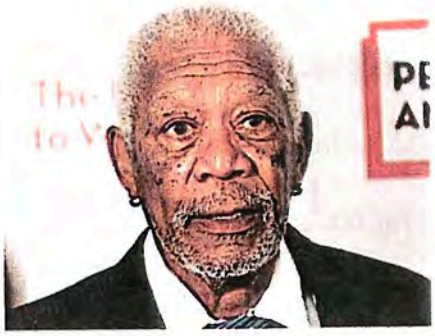
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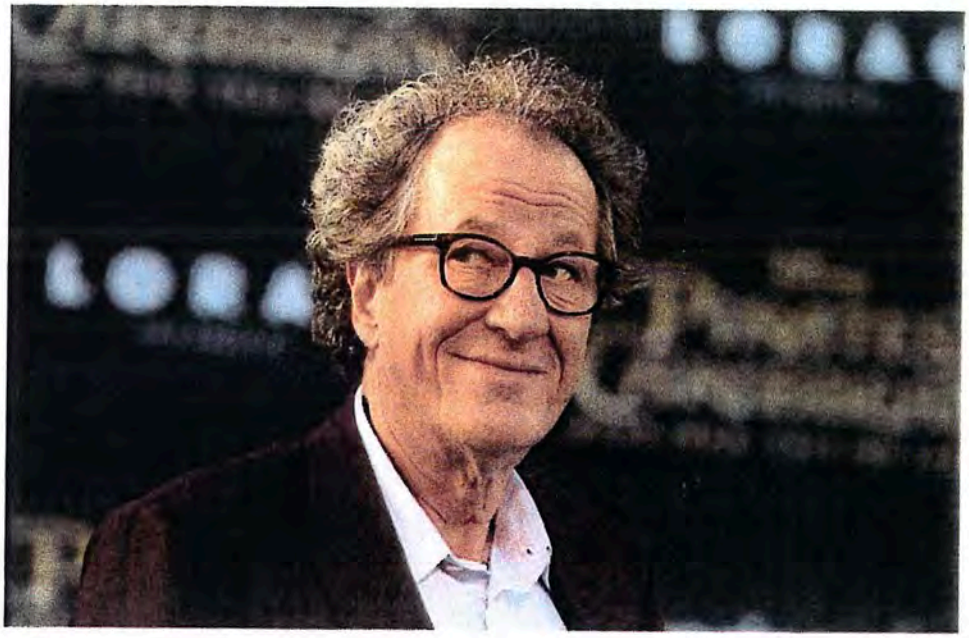
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CELEBRITY NEWS

Actor Geoffrey Rush denies allegations of 'inappropriate behavior'

Updated Nov 30, 2017;
Posted Nov 30, 2017



Geoffrey Rush arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" at the Dolby Theatre on Thursday, May 18, 2017. (Jordan Strauss | Invision | AP)

By Geoff Herbert, gherbert@syracuse.com,
syracuse.com

"Pirates of the Caribbean" star Geoffrey Rush is the latest in Hollywood to be accused of "inappropriate behavior."

The Daily Telegraph reports the Sydney Theatre Company (STC) said it received a complaint against the Oscar winner about alleged misconduct that had gone on for months. The alleged victim, who has not been identified, came forward after the Australia native finished a production of Shakespeare's "King Lear" in January 2016.

The 66-year-old actor's lawyers told the Australian publication that he never heard of any complaints about the "matter," and vigorously denied any allegations of misconduct.

"He has not been informed by them of the nature of the complaint and what it involves," Rush's representative said in a statement. "In the circumstances, if such statement has been issued by the STC it is both irresponsible and highly damaging to say the least... It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue."

STC told the Daily Mail that it would not comment further on the allegations, but vowed to "work with the complainant to minimize the risk of future instances of the alleged behavior occurring in its workplace."

Rush, who has also won Emmy and Tony awards, starred in the title role of "King Lear" at the Roslyn Packer Theatre in Sydney from Nov. 2015 to Jan. 2016. He may be best known for playing Captain Barbossa in Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies, but his notable film

credits also include "Shakespeare in Love," "House on Haunted Hill," "Les Miserables," "The King's Speech" and "Shine."

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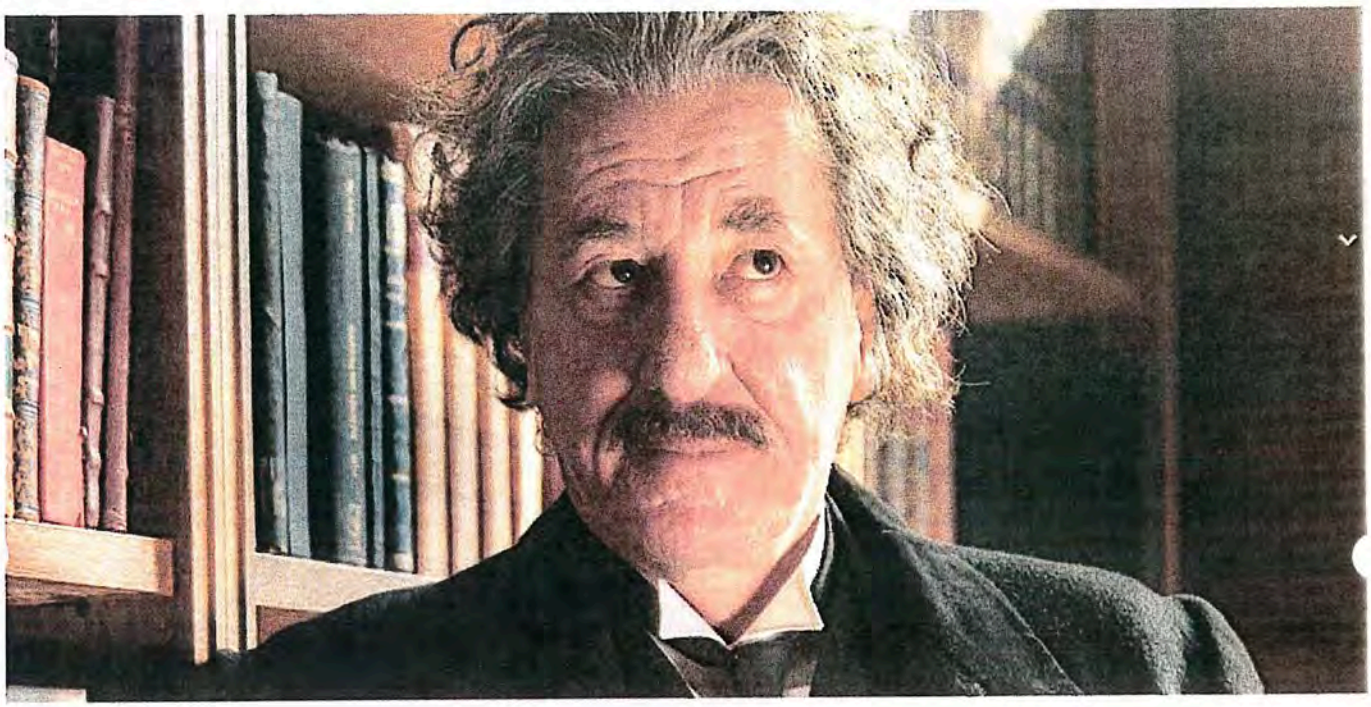
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Geoffrey Rush Denies 'Inappropriate Behavior' Allegations



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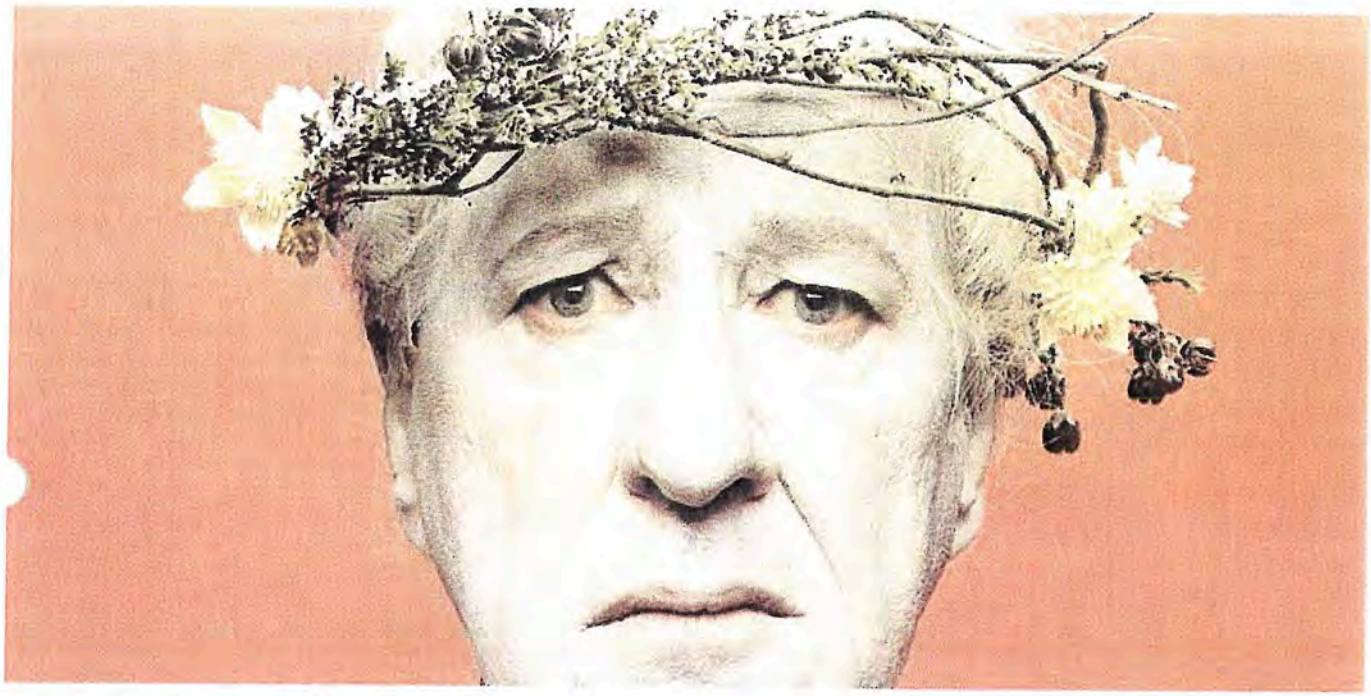
BY DANNY SALEMME - ON NOV 30, 2017 IN MOVIE NEWS

Amid the barrage of sexual harassment allegations over the past few months, Geoffrey Rush is the latest actor to be accused of inappropriate behavior. However, Rush denies the allegations. According to a statement made by Rush's lawyer, the accusation came from an actor with whom Rush shared the stage during a Sydney Theater Company production of *King Lear*. The accuser's identity currently remains undisclosed.

According to *The Guardian,* Rush personally spoke out about the accusation, saying:

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

'inappropriate behaviour*' may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity."* It also added, *"These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must be made clear from the outset that Mr. Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."*



The play in question had wrapped roughly two years ago, but following the accusation, the Sydney Theater Company removed its listing on their official website. A spokeswoman from the STC reached out to the *Daily Telegraph* in Sydney and explained that *"the company received the complaint when Mr. Rush's engagement with the company had ended,"* adding, *"STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."*

As of now, Rush vehemently denies the allegations. His lawyer added in the statement that *"the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation,"* adding that their decision to release information regarding the accusation to the public before informing Rush of the details *"is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates."*

Rush will next appear in the film *Storm Boy* alongside Jai Courtney, though it's unclear whether or not the the film will be released as planned on account of the allegations.

Source: *The Guardian*

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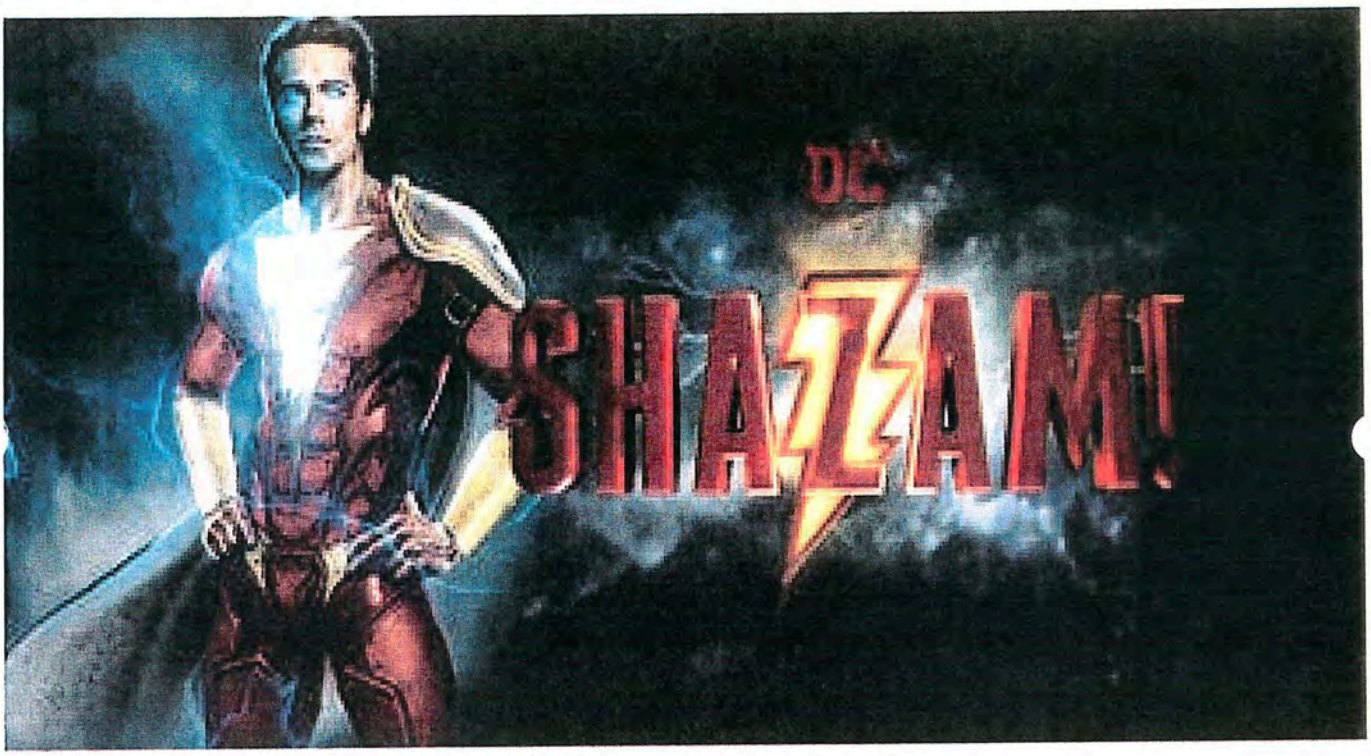


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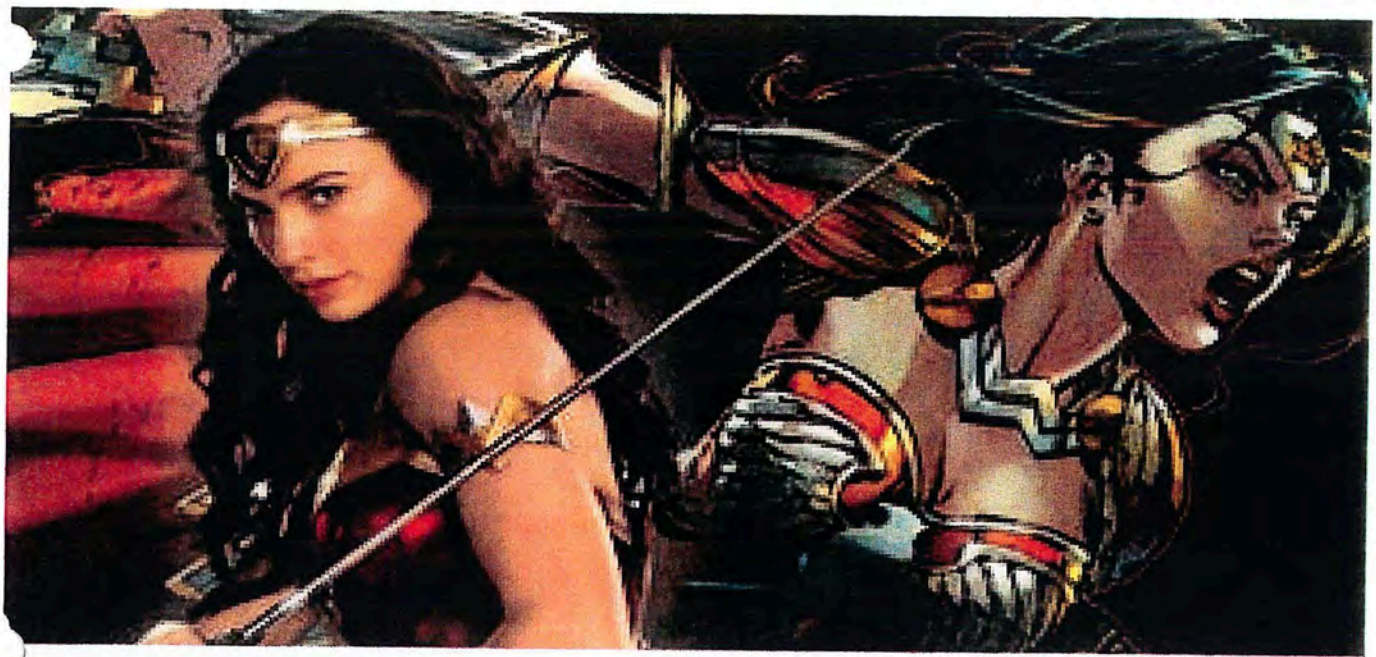
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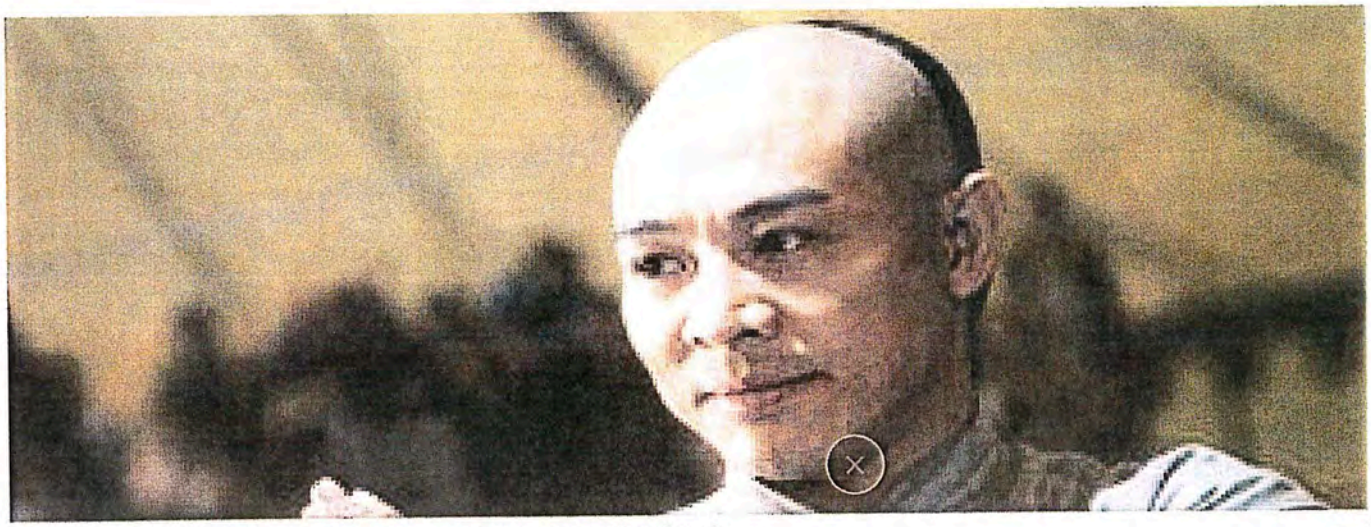
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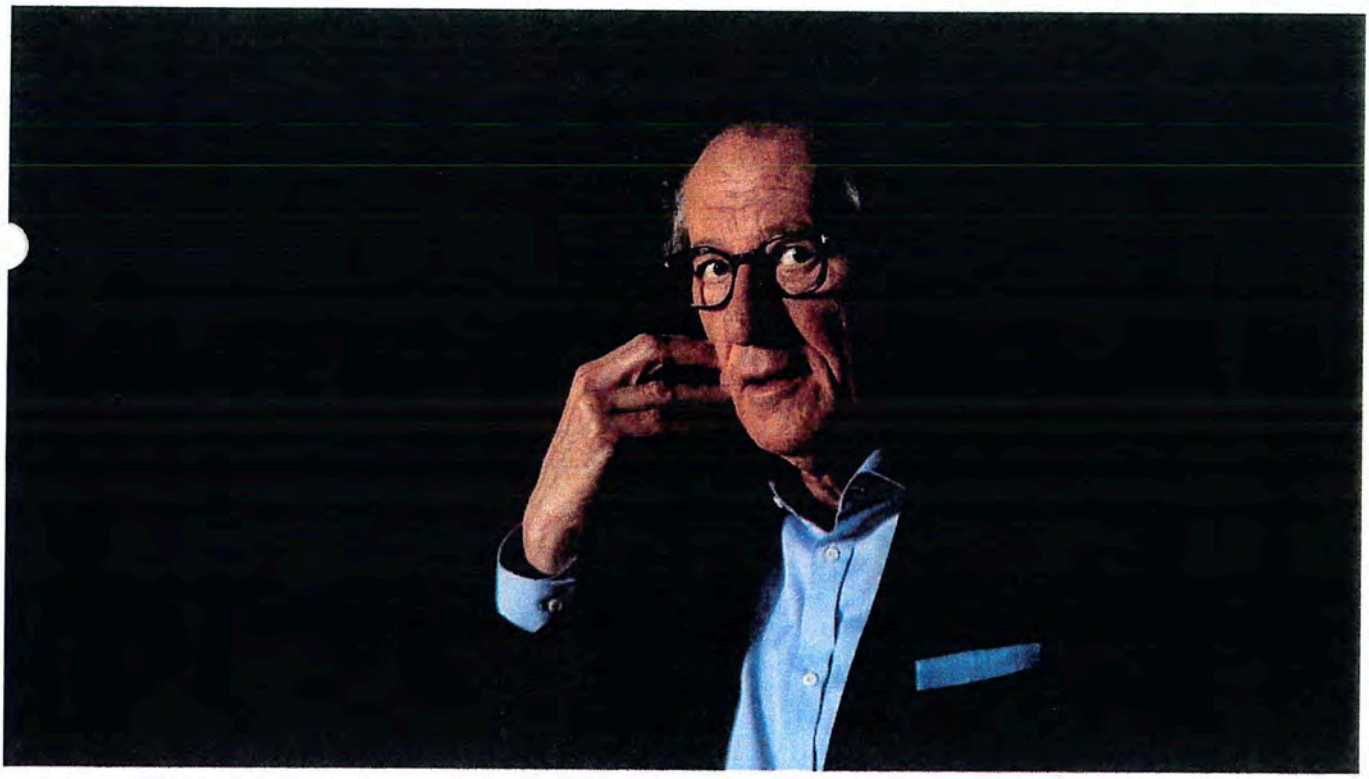


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CELEBRITY NEWS

Geoffrey Rush denies allegations of 'inappropriate behavior'

By **Katherine Lam | Fox News**



Geoffrey Rush denied on Wednesday the allegations of "inappropriate behavior" against him. (Reuters)

Geoffrey Rush denied allegations of "inappropriate behavior" against him and accused Sydney Theater Company (STC) of attempting to "smear his name."

Rush, 66, said in a statement to Fox News Thursday through his lawyers at HWL Ebsworth that the actor "denies" being involved in "inappropriate behavior" when he was in the STC production of "King Lear" in 2015.

"It is a great disappointment to Mr. Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," Rush's lawyers said. "Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them, let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates."

The allegations surfaced when The Daily Telegraph said in a now-deleted article STC received a complaint against the Oscar-winning actor. STC said in a statement to Fox News on Thursday there was "an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

"STC responded truthfully that it had received such a complaint," the theater company said. "At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr. Rush notified or involved in any investigation. STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."

The company added it received the complaint after Rush left the "King Lear" production.



Sydney Theater Company said it received a complaint against Rush after he had left "King Lear" production.

Rush said in his personal statement, released by his lawyers, that he "immediately" contacted STC when he was made aware of the allegation and asked "for clarification about the details of the statement."

"They refused to illuminate me with the details," the actor said. "I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

His lawyers reiterated that Rush "denies having been involved in any 'inappropriate behavior' whatsoever."

"Until there is the decency afforded to Mr. Rush of what the 'inappropriate behavior' actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage," his statement read.

Katherine Lam is a breaking and trending news digital producer for Fox News. Follow her on Twitter at @bykatherinelam

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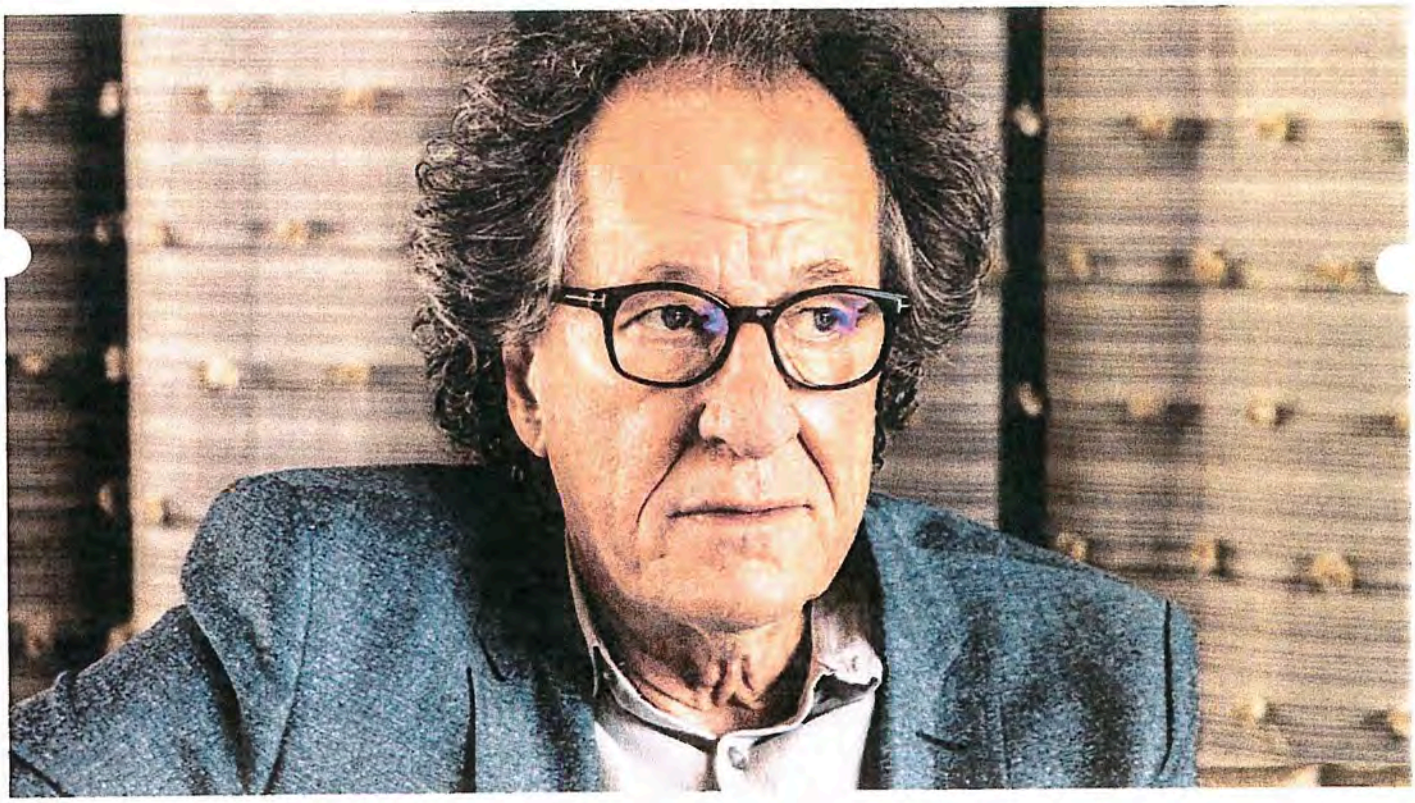
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Geoffrey Rush denies allegations of 'inappropriate behaviour' in play

Rush's lawyers said they understood the complaint was made "over 21 months ago".

WORLD (HTTPS://WWW.HINDUSTANTIMES.COM/WORLD-NEWS/) Updated: Nov 30, 2017 16:21 IST

The Guardian, London



File photo of Australian actor Geoffrey Rush in Los Angeles.(NYT)

The Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has denied allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear, after the company said it had received a complaint against him.

Rush's lawyer said in a statement that Rush had not been informed of the nature of the complaint by the complainant or the theatre company, either at the time the complaint was made 21 months ago or since.

"In this current environment, 'inappropriate behaviour' may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity," the statement said. "These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must be made clear from the outset that Mr Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form."

Rush, 66, who lives in Melbourne, said: "The moment I became aware of rumours of a complaint I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company asking for clarification about the details of the statement. They refused to illuminate me with the details.

"I also asked why this information was being withheld and why, according to standard theatre practice, the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

An STC spokeswoman told Sydney's the Daily Telegraph, where the claims were first published, that the company had "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour". She said the complainant had asked for their identity to be withheld.

"The company received the complaint when Mr Rush's engagement with the company had ended," she said.

On Thursday an STC spokeswoman said: "Sydney Theatre Company was asked by a News Ltd journalist earlier this month whether it had received a complaint alleging inappropriate behaviour by Mr Rush while he was employed by the company. STC responded truthfully that it had received such a complaint.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation. STC complied, acting in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare. As already stated, the Company received the complaint after Mr Rush's engagement had ended.

"STC has at all times been clear that this was an allegation made to (not by) STC and not a conclusion of impropriety."

Rush won an Academy Award for best actor in 1997 for the film Shine and was named Australian of the year in 2012.

He appeared in the STC's production of King Lear between November 2015 and January 2016 and has worked several times for the company.

On Thursday, the STC's online page listing of King Lear was taken down.

In their statement, Rush's lawyers said they understood the complaint was made "over 21 months ago" and that the STC had originally released its statement "some weeks ago".

Rush's lawyer said: "To date, Mr Rush or any of his representatives have not received any representations from the STC or the complainant. In other words, there has been no provision of any details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to."

Rush is the president of Aacta, the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts. In November, Aacta released a statement officially rescinding a historic award given to Harvey Weinstein in 2013.

"We recognise our role in working with our members in upholding standards in our industry that we n all be proud of, including the provision of a safe and respectful workplace," it said.

Rush's lawyer said: "It is a great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way. Not to afford a person their right to know what has been alleged against them, let alone not inform them of it but release such information to the public, is both a denial of natural justice and is not how our society operates.

"At this stage, Mr Rush can only reiterate his statement that he denies having been involved in any 'inappropriate behaviour' whatsoever. Until there is the decency afforded to Mr Rush of what the 'inappropriate behaviour' actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage.

"The public and the media need to note this is a highly stressful and frustrating time for Mr Rush and his family, especially when there are no details concerning the 'inappropriate behaviour'."

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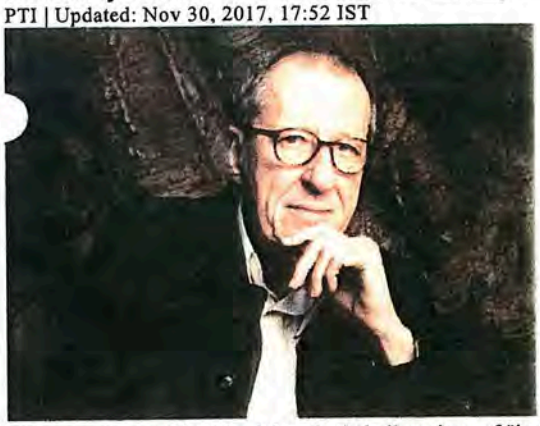
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Geoffrey Rush: Never involved in any 'inappropriate behavior'

PTI | Updated: Nov 30, 2017, 17:52 IST



Veteran actor Geoffrey Rush has denied allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" levelled against him, claiming his conduct has always been beyond reproach. A now deleted news report received a complaint against the Oscar-winner, who starred in the company's adaptation of King Lear in 2015, of misconduct.



Geoffrey Rush done with 'Pirates of the Caribbean' movies

Actor Geoffrey Rush said he is done with 'Pirates of the Caribbean' film franchise.The actor said that death of his character Captain Barbossa in 'Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales' is the end of the road for him.

According to sources, Rush's lawyers, in multiple statements, said, "In this current environment, 'inappropriate behaviour' may mean abuse, bullying or other forms of reprehensible activity. "These are matters that deserve forthright and objective levels of discussion. It must be made clear from the outset Mr Rush abhors any form of maltreatment of any person in any form," they added.

The statement also said that actor has not been made aware of the "nature of the complaint" against him. "Your 'understanding' of what has occurred is, with the greatest respect, simply fishing and unfounded. It does not warrant comment except that it is false and untrue," the statement read.

The King's Speech: Geoffrey Rush interview

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Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge

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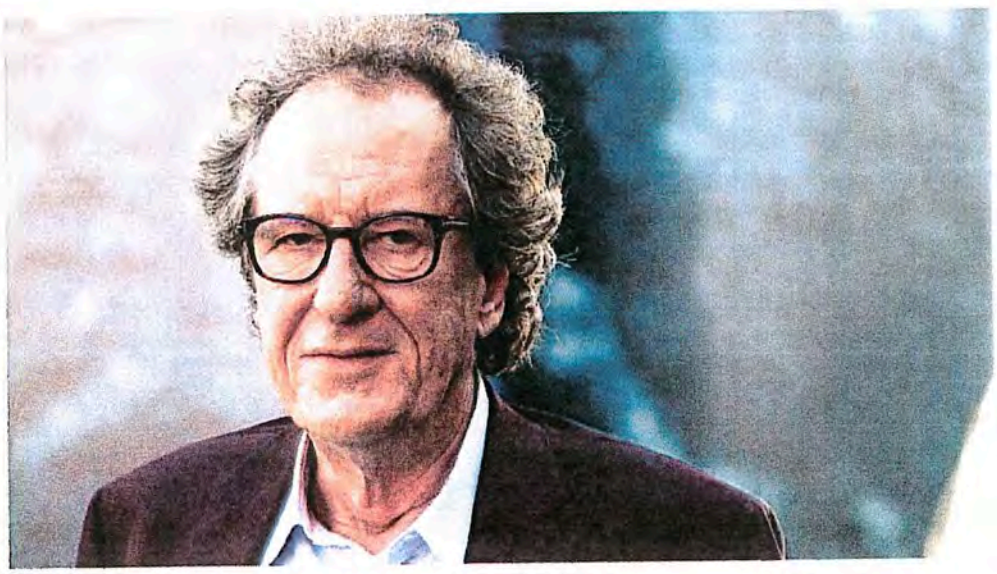
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Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behaviour' during King Lear production

Bernard Lagan, Sydney

December 1 2017, 12:00pm, The Times



Geoffrey Rush won the Oscar for best actor in 1997
RICH FURY/GETTY IMAGES

Geoffrey Rush, the Oscar-winning actor, has been accused of inappropriate behaviour with a fellow cast member during a

stage production.

The 66-year-old star of The King's Speech and the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films said that the allegations were false. His lawyers accused the Sydney Theatre Company of attempting to "smear his name".

Rush said that the company had never told him of concerns about his behaviour during the production of *King Lear* that ran from November 2015 to January 2016 at Roslyn Packer Theatre. "In this current environment, 'inappropriate behaviour' may

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Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behavior' at theater

By ROD McGUIRK
Associated Press

DECEMBER 1, 2017, 8:00 PM | CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

A leading Australian theater company said Friday it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behavior" against Geoffrey Rush, an allegation lawyers for the Oscar winner denied.

The Sydney Theatre Company was not disclosing details of the allegations, which reports said dated from Rush's starring role in the theater's staging of "King Lear" two years ago.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr. Rush notified or involved in any investigation," a statement said. The theater company said it complied "in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers did not respond to a request for comment Friday, but had issued an earlier statement denying Rush was involved in any inappropriate behavior.

"It is with great disappointment to Mr. Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," Thursday's statement said.

Rush has performed at the Sydney theater for 35 years. The 66-year-old Australian actor won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for "Shine" and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

Australian media reports say the allegation dated from the theater's production of William Shakespeare's "King Lear" from November 2015 to January 2016.

Sydney's The Daily Telegraph cited two unnamed theater sources in reporting Friday that an actress had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately. The sources told the newspaper the theater wouldn't work with Rush again.

The company said the complaint was made after Rush's employment had ended and it disclosed it when a journalist asked in early November. The company did not say what action it had taken and it did not respond to questions about whether it would work with Rush in the future.

Rush's lawyers said his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach." The actor had said Thursday he became aware of "rumors of a complaint" but the theater had refused to provide details at the time.

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This article is related to: Geoffrey Rush, William Shakespeare

Geoffrey Rush steps down from Australian film academy after 'inappropriate behavior' claim

Rod Mcguirk, Associated Press Published 3:15 a.m. ET Dec. 1, 2017 | **Updated 9:22 a.m. ET Dec. 2, 2017**



(Photo: Michael Sohn, AP)

CANBERRA, Australia — Geoffrey Rush announced Saturday he's stepping down as president of Australia's screen industry academy, days after a theater company revealed it had received a complaint against the Oscar-winning actor of "inappropriate behavior."

Rush has denied any inappropriate behavior at the Sydney Theatre Company. Media reports this week said the allegation dated from Rush's starring role in the leading Australian theater's staging of William Shakespeare's *King Lear* two years ago.

Rush said he stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts ahead of the academy's annual televised awards in Sydney on Wednesday.

More: Geoffrey Rush denies 'inappropriate behavior' at theater (/story/life/people/2017/12/01/geoffrey-rush-denies-inappropriate-behavior-theater/912469001/)

"Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my standing in the entertainment community. It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow associated with such allegations," Rush said in a statement to *The Associated Press* through his lawyer Nicholas Pullen.

"In the circumstances, I have decided to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of AACTA effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved," he said.

"This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned," he added.

AACTA said in a statement it accepted and respected Rush's decision to voluntarily step aside.

"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," said AACTA, adding it would not comment further.

The Sydney Theatre Company was not disclosing details of the allegation.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter be dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr. Rush notified or involved in any investigation," a statement said. The theater company said it complied "in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare."

Rush has performed at the Sydney theater for 35 years. The 66-year-old Australian actor won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for *Shine* and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films.

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Geoffrey Rush denies inappropriate behaviour at theatre

Australian theatre company said on Friday it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" against Geoffrey Rush. He is well known for playing Captain Barbossa in the Pirates of the Caribbean.

By: AP | Canberra | Published: December 1, 2017 4:56:03 pm

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Geoffrey Rush poses with his 'Berlinale Camera Award' wich he received prior to the screening of the ...n 'Final Portrait' (AP Photo/Michael Sohn, File)

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A leading Australian theatre company said on Friday it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" against Geoffrey Rush, an allegation lawyers for the Oscar winner denied. The Sydney Theatre Company was not disclosing details of the allegations, which reports said dated from Rush's starring role in the theatre's staging of King Lear two years ago.

"At the time the complaint was made, the complainant requested that the matter is dealt with confidentially, and did not want Mr Rush notified or involved in any investigation," a statement said. The theatre company said it complied "in the interest of the complainant's health and welfare." HWL Ebsworth Lawyers did not respond to a request for comment Friday but had issued an earlier statement denying Rush was involved in any inappropriate behaviour.

"It is with great disappointment to Mr Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," Thursday's statement said.

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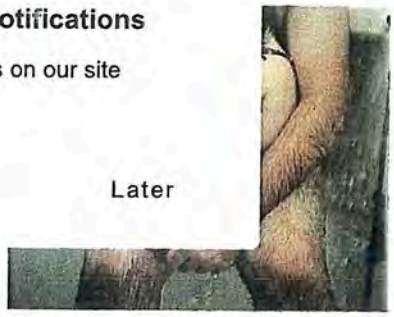
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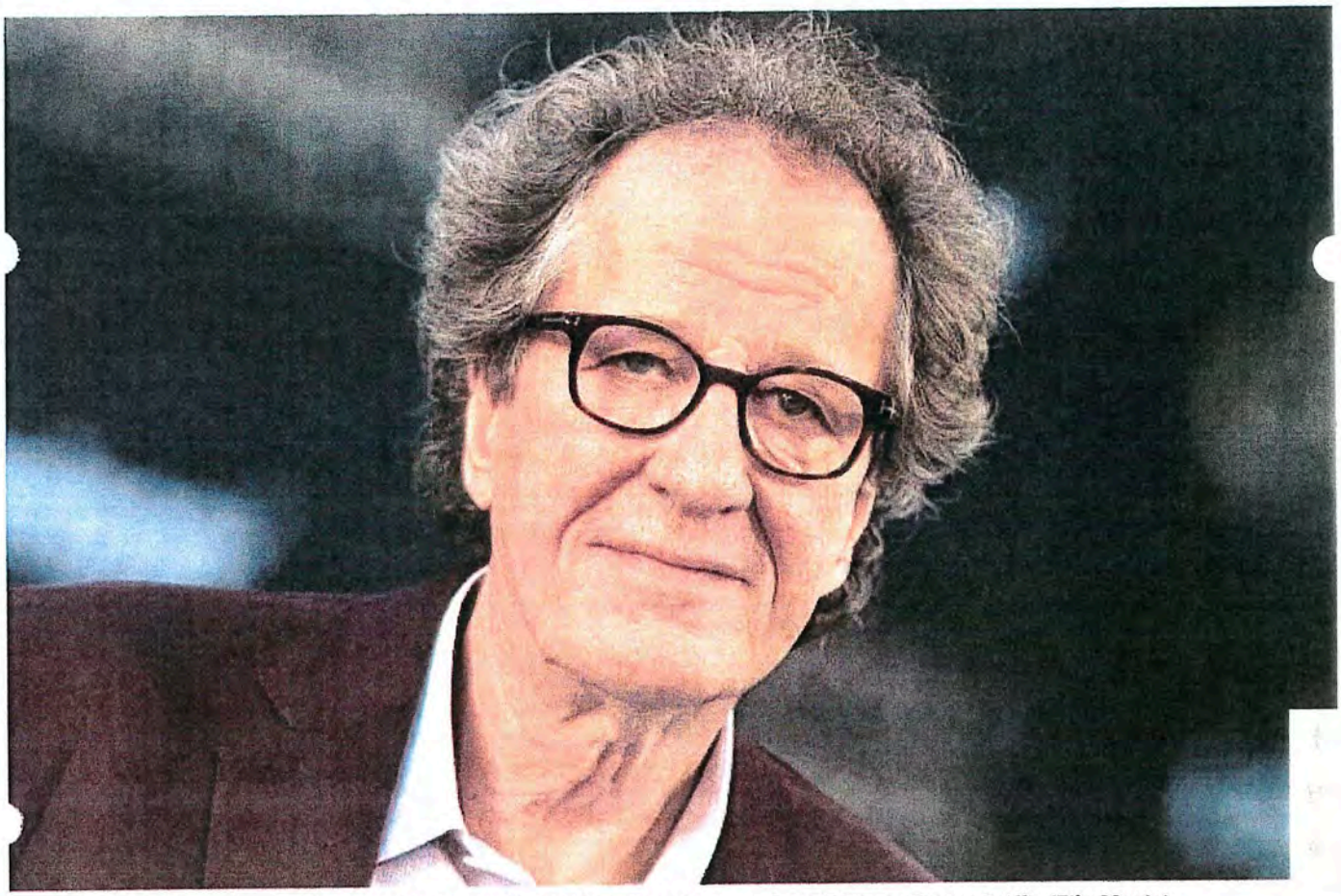
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Geoffrey Rush steps away from academy president role after allegations of 'inappropriate behaviour'

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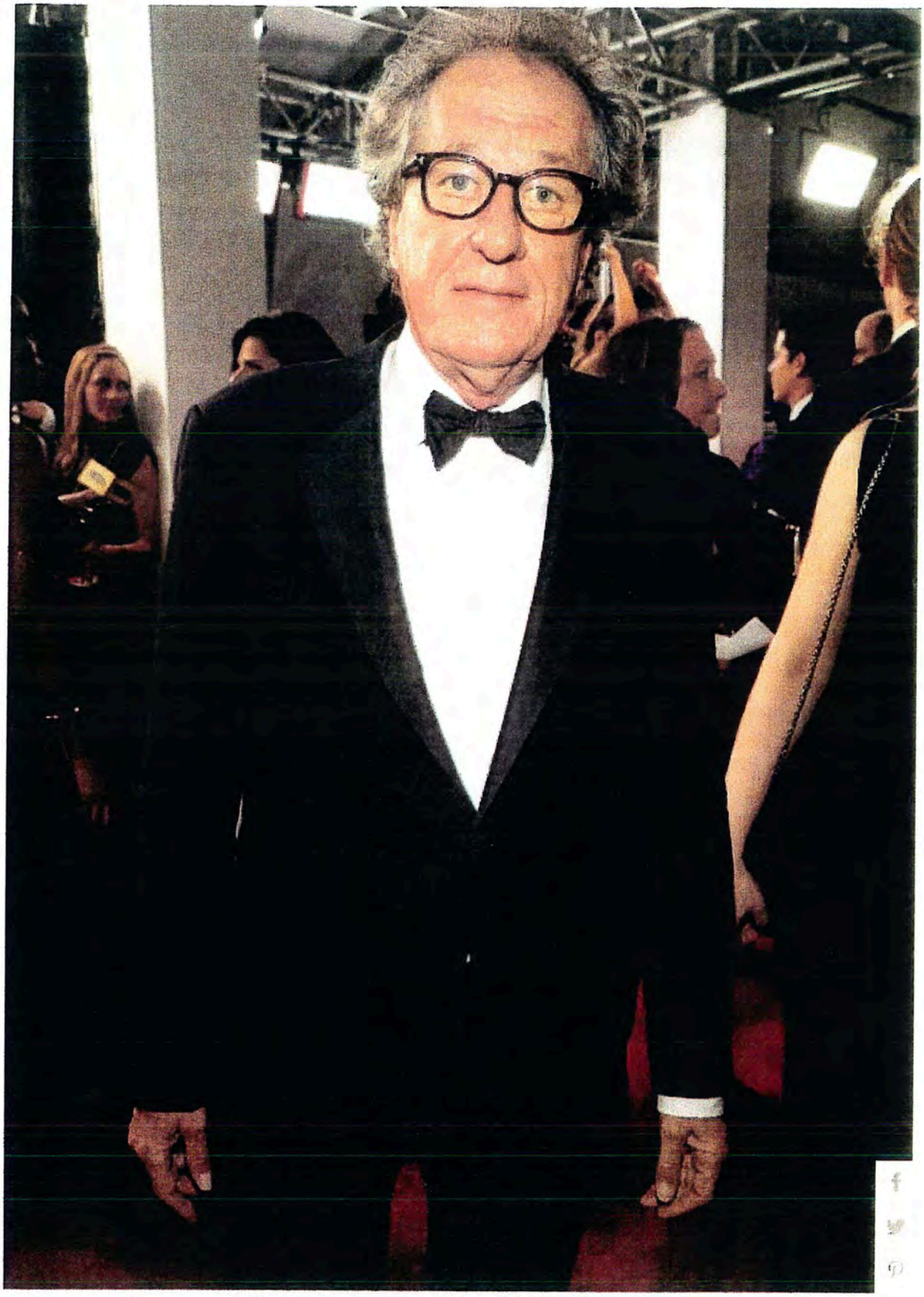
Geoffrey Rush has stepped down as Aacta president after allegations surface (Picture: Bauer-Griffin/FilmMagic)

Another day, another wave of disturbing allegations in Hollywood.

This time, it's the turn of Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush, who has stepped down as president of Australia's screen industry academy, just days after a theatre company revealed it had received a complaint that accused him of 'inappropriate behaviour'.

Media reports suggest that the allegation dates back to Rush's role in the Sydney Theatre Company's staging of William Shakespeare's King Lear two years ago, in which he played the lead. Rush has denied any wrongdoing.

The 66-year-old said this weekend he has stepped down as president of the Australian Academy



The actor has been accused of inappropriate behaviour (Picture: Getty Images)

'Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my standing in the entertainment community. It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow

'In the circumstances, I have decided to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of Aacta effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved.

'This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned.'

The 66-year-old actor was president of Aacta (Picture: AP Photo)

Aacta said in a statement it respects Geoffrey's decision to step aside at this time.

'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 academy said.

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Geoffrey Rush quits screen industry post over 'inappropriate behaviour' claim



Geoffrey Rush faces allegations dating back to his starring role in the leading Australian theater's staging of William Shakespeare's "King Lear" two years ago CREDIT: AP

By Helen Nianias

2 DECEMBER 2017 • 8:34AM

The allegation is reported to have dated from Mr Rush's starring role in Sydney Theatre Company's 2015 production of King Lear. Mr Rush, 66, has denied any inappropriate behaviour at the Sydney Theatre Company.

Mr Rush, who plays Captain Barbossa in the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise and won an Oscar for his performance in 1997 film Shine, stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) in advance of its annual televised awards ceremony on Wednesday.

"Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my standing in the entertainment community. It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow associated with such allegations," he in a statement released through his lawyer.

"In the circumstances, I have decided to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of AACTA effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved," he said.

"This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned," he added.

AACTA said it respected and accepted Mr Rush's decision.

"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," AACTA said in a statement.

.ıe Sydney Theatre Company has declined to disclose details of the allegation, and said the complainant requested that it be dealt with confidentially, without Mr Rush's involvement.

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Geoffrey Rush quits industry post over 'inappropriate behaviour' claim

Oscar winner steps down as Aacta president over allegation dating to his performance for the Sydney Theatre Company two years ago

Associated Press

Sat 2 Dec 2017 16.52 AEDT

Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has stepped down as president of Australia's screen industry academy, days after a theatre company revealed it had received a complaint against him of "inappropriate behaviour".

Rush has denied any inappropriate behaviour at the Sydney Theatre Company. Media reports this week said the allegation dated from Rush's starring role in the leading Australian company's staging of William Shakespeare's King Lear two years ago.

Rush said on Saturday he stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts ahead of the academy's annual televised awards in Sydney on Wednesday.

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Aacta said in a statement it accepted and respected Rush's decision to voluntarily step aside.

"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," Aacta said, adding it would not comment further.

The Sydney Theatre Company has not disclosed details of the allegation. It said the complainant asked that the allegation be dealt with confidentially and did not want Rush notified or involved in any investigation.

Rush has performed at the company for 35 years. The 66-year-old won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for Shine and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the Pirates of the Caribbean films.

Australian media reports say the allegation dated from the company's production of King Lear from November 2015 to January 2016.

Sydney's the Daily Telegraph newspaper cited two unnamed theatre sources on Friday that an actor had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately.

The company said the complaint was made after Rush's employment had ended and it disclosed it when a journalist asked in early November. The company did not say what action it had taken and it did not respond to questions about whether it would work with Rush in the future.

Rush's lawyers said his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

The actor said on Thursday he became aware of "rumours of a complaint", but the theatre company had refused to provide details at the time.

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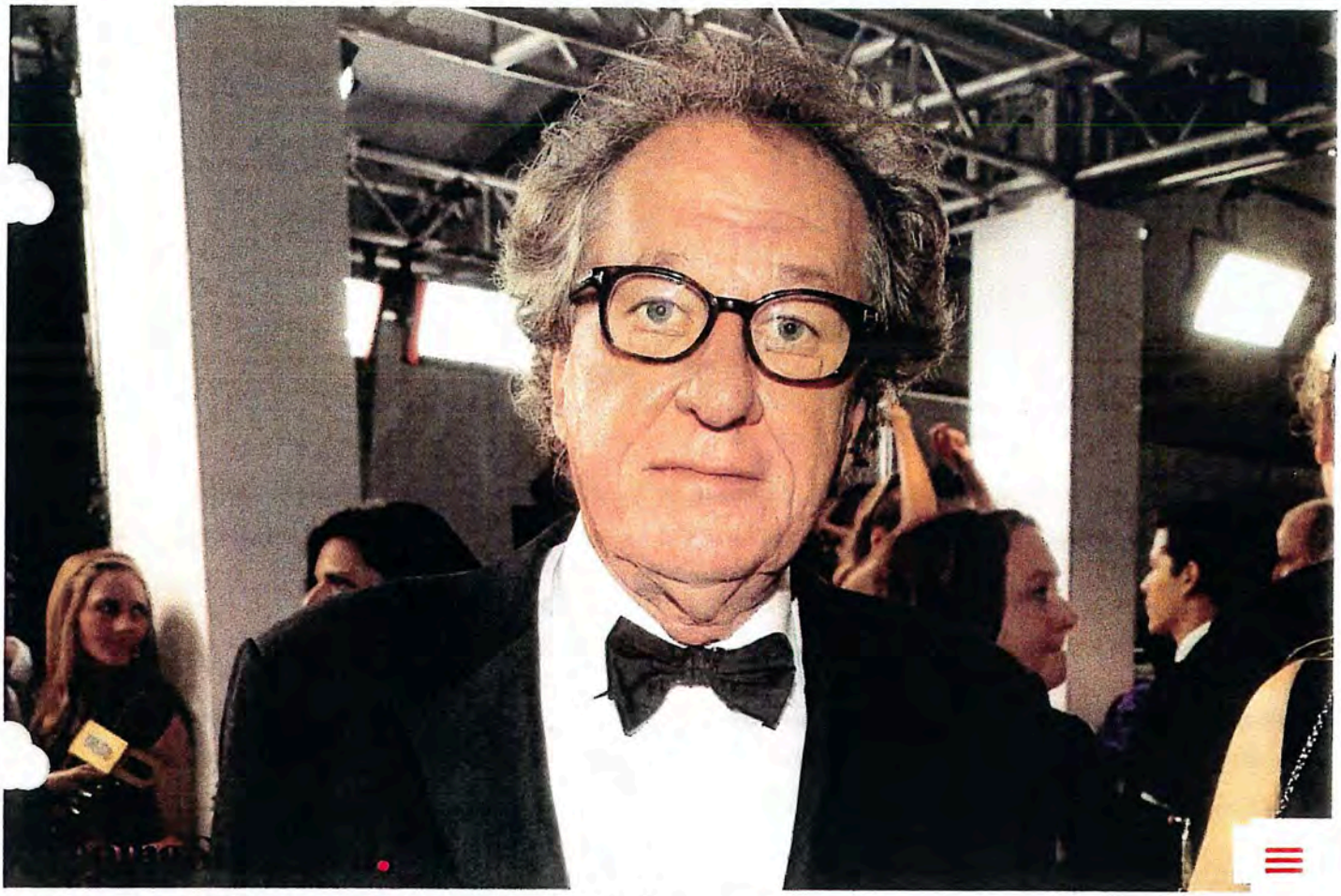
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Geoffrey Rush quits as president of Australian screen academy after claim of 'inappropriate behaviour'

FRANCESCA GILLETT | Saturday 2 December 2017 21:20 0 comments

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Actor Geoffrey Rush in LA in September 2017. *(Getty Images for IMDb)*

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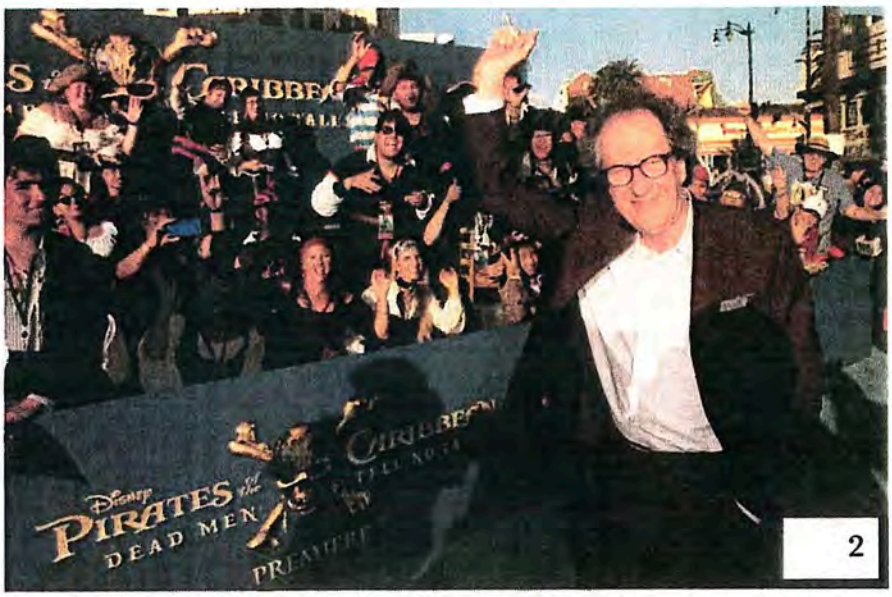
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Actor Geoffrey Rush has quit as president of Australia's screen industry academy after a theatre company said it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour".

The Oscar-winning star denied the accusation at the Sydney Theatre Company, which reportedly dates from his role in the staging of King Lear two years ago.

"It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow associated with such allegations.

"In the circumstances, I have decided to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved.

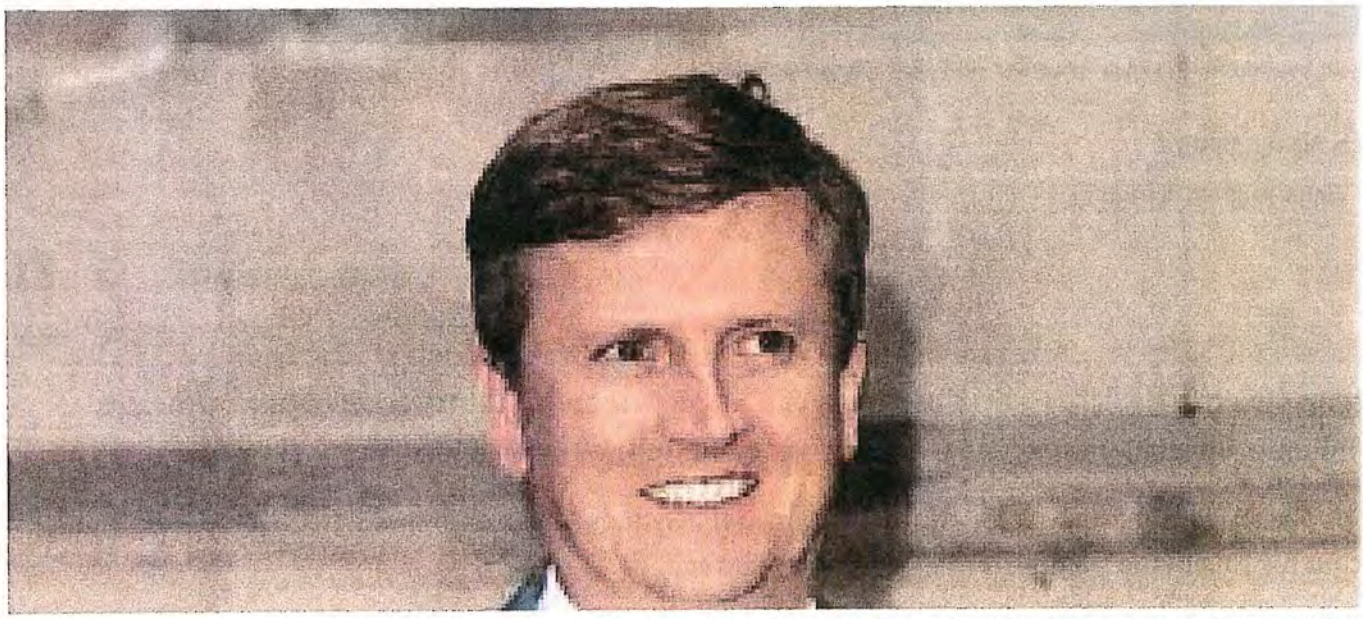


Actor Geoffrey Rush in California in May. (Getty Images for Disney)

"This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned."

The AACTA said it accepted Rush's decision to step down.

"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," it said.





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The Sydney Theatre Company has not disclosed details of the allegation and said the complainant requested it was dealt with confidentially.

Sydney's The Daily Telegraph cited two unnamed sources who said an actress had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately.

The allegation was reportedly made after Rush's employment had ended.

`ush's lawyers said his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

Reporting by Press Association.

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December 2, 2017 2:23 pm

Geoffrey Rush Resigns From Academy Presidency, Blaming 'Unjustifiable' Reports About Inappropriate Behavior

By **Devon Ivie** @devonsaysrelax

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Earlier this week, Geoffrey Rush became the latest prominent man in Hollywood to be embroiled in the post–Harvey Weinstein reckoning — an unknown person or group of people at the Sydney Theatre Company filed a complaint stating Rush engaged in "inappropriate behavior" after his "engagement with the company had ended." (Rush played the lead in the company's *King Lear* in 2015 and 2016.) Now, owing to the claim lodged against him, Rush has chosen to resign from his presidential post at Australia's screen-industry academy, known as the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts. And although the academy has accepted his voluntary resignation, Rush doesn't seem particularly happy about the series of events that have led to this — specifically, how the media reported on the allegations.

"Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my standing in the entertainment community. It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow associated with such allegations," Rush said in a statement through his lawyer, according to *The Guardian*. "This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned."

Rush took on a similar tone when denying the claim earlier this week, stating that the Sydney Theater Company refused to offer him information or clarification about the nature of his alleged inappropriate behavior. "They refused to illuminate me with the details," Rush said. "[N]o response was forthcoming." The theater company has yet to release an additional statement about the claim.

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Geoffrey Rush resigns from the Australian Academy over accusations of "inappropriate behavior"

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William Hughes
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(Photo: Rich Fury/Getty Images)

Actor Geoffrey Rush resigned his position as the president of the Australian Academy Of Cinema And Television Arts last night, amid accusations of "inappropriate behavior" during a stint with the Sydney Theater Company in 2015. Details about the complaint against Rush have been kept largely silent—all we literally know is that some*one* said some*thing*—but the Oscar-winner has accused the organization of "smearing [his] name" by making the complaint public.

The Australian actor's disdain for the accusations against him is pretty clear in the statement he made about leaving his role with the AACTA today, writing, "Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my standing in the entertainment community. It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow associated with such allegations... In the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned." The AACTA swiftly accepted his resignation, issuing a statement on its website that reads, "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 organization's annual awards show is generally seen as the Australian equivalent to the Oscars in America, or the BAFTAs in the U.K. The ceremony is scheduled for late (from our perspective, anyway) tomorrow night.

[via *Variety*]

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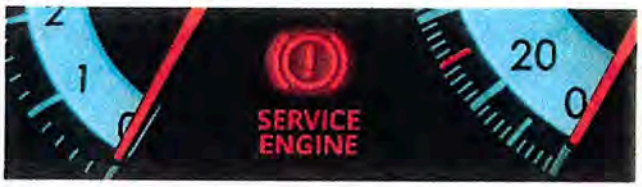
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Geoffrey Rush quits industry job after 'inappropriate behavior' claim

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SYDNEY, Australia - Academy award-winning actor Geoffrey Rush resigned as head of an Australian film industry body Saturday after allegations surfaced against him of "inappropriate behavior".

8-450

Rush, who has denied any wrongdoing, stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), which he had led for several years, the organization said in a statement.

"AACTA acknowledges the decision today of Geoffrey Rush to voluntarily step aside as president of AACTA and accepts and respects his decision to do so," it said.

"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," it added, declining further comment.

Rush, 66, took the step after the Sydney Theatre Company revealed last week that it had received a complaint alleging that the veteran Australian actor had engaged in "inappropriate behavior" when working with the company.

No further information about the nature of the behavior or the identity of the person who made the complaint was revealed, but Australian media reports said the allegations related to Rush's time playing King Lear for the company in 2015 and 2016.

In a statement to public broadcaster ABC, Rush said he was unaware of the details of the allegations against him.

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

Neil Armfield, a theatre and film director who worked with Rush on King Lear, told the ABC he did not believe the allegations.

"It's not correct, there's no basis... I absolutely do not believe it," he was quoted as saying.

Rush's lawyer, Nicholas Pullen, told the broadcaster that it was "a great disappointment" to Rush that the theatre company "has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way".

Rush won the Best Actor Academy Award in 1997 for his role in "Shine" and is one of the few actors to have also won a primetime Emmy and a Tony Award.

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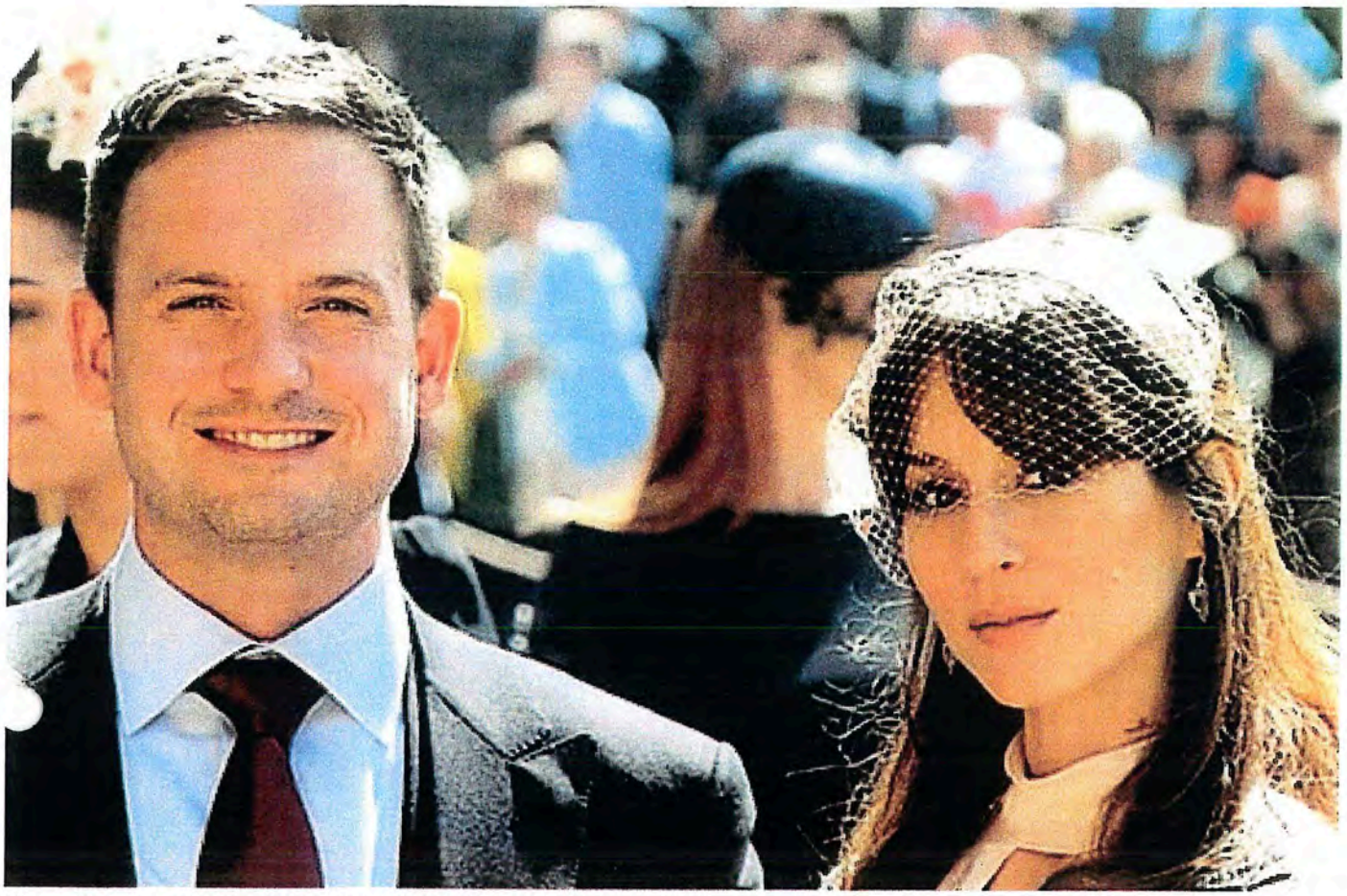
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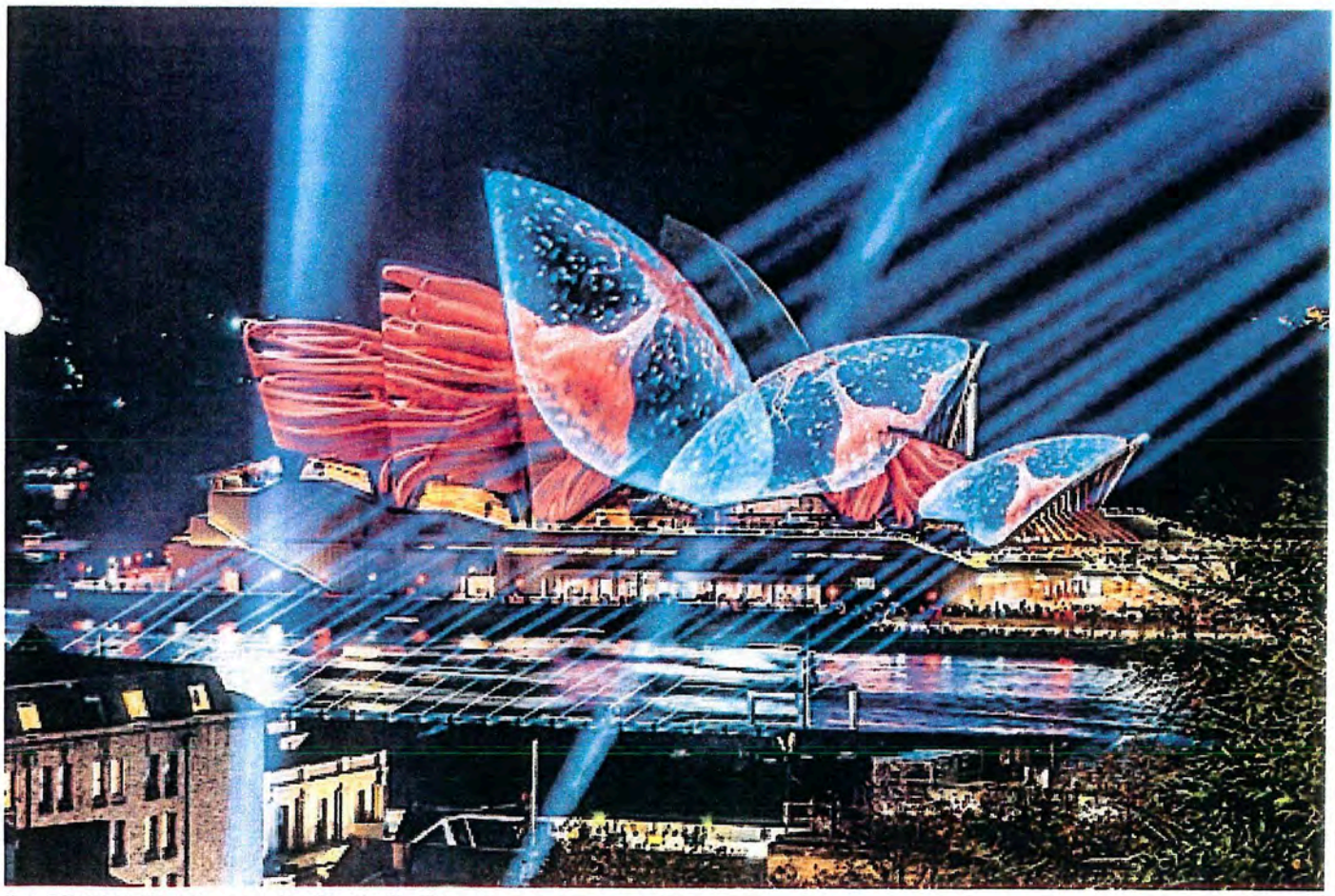
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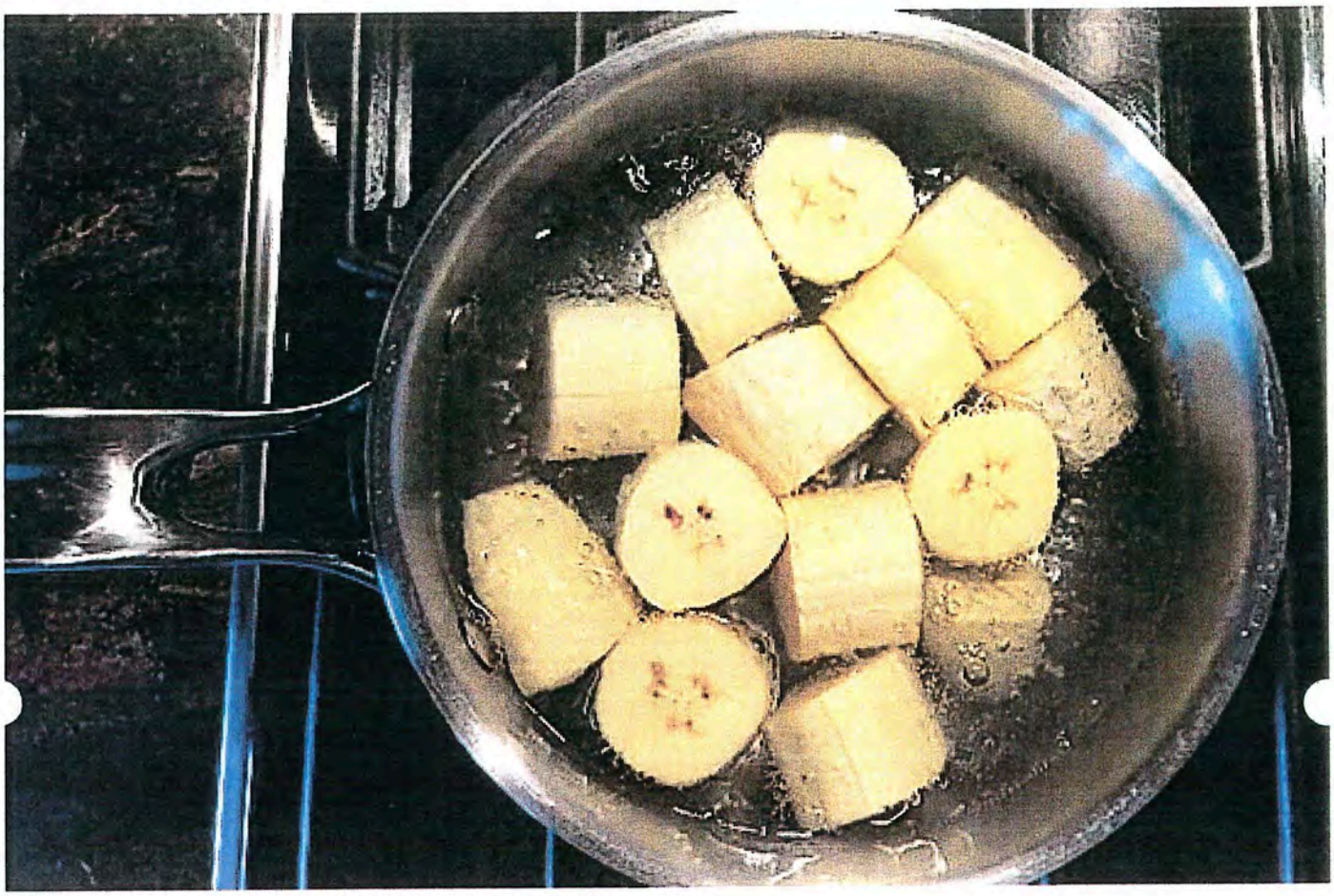
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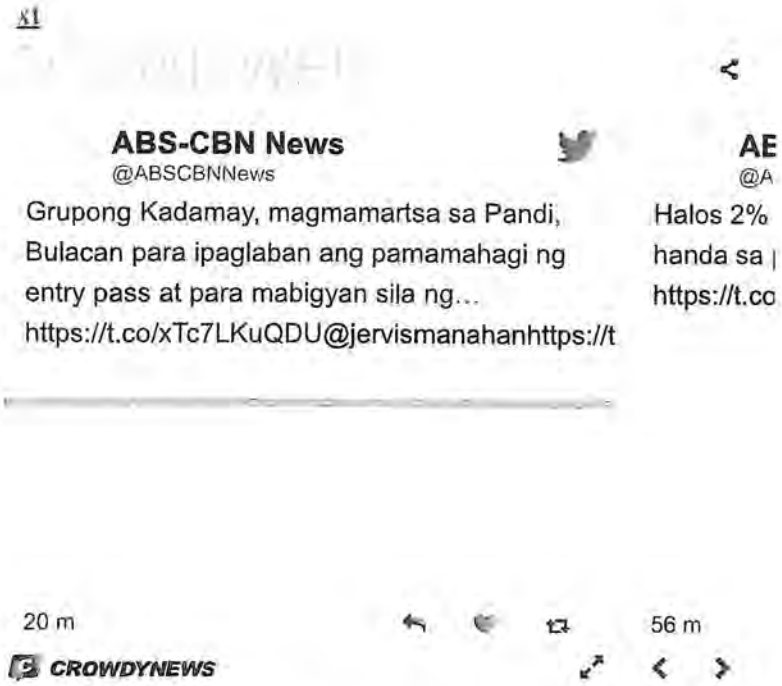


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Geoffrey Rush Steps Down As President Of Australian Academy After Allegations Of 'Improper Behaviour' While Performing With Theatre Company

By BRENT FURDYK. 2 Dec 2017 10:32 AM



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Geoffrey Rush has "voluntarily" stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts following allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" while he starred in a Sydney theatre production of Shakespeare's "King Lear".

"AACTA acknowledges the decision today of Geoffrey Rush to voluntarily step aside as President of AACTA and accepts and respects his decision to do so," said the AACTA in a statement, **reports Deadline (http://deadline.com/2017/12/geoffrey-rush-steps-down-as-president-of-australian-academy-of-cinema-and-television-1202218856/)**. "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,"

Rush, who has vehemently denied the allegations, confirms stepping down in a statement issued via his lawyer, Nicholas Pullen, explaining his decision. "Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my standing in

entertainment community. It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues ld be somehow associated with such allegations," says Rush in his statement.

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"In the circumstances, I have decided to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of AACTA effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved," he added. "This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned."

According to **Australia's ABC News (http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-30/geoffrey-rush-denies-allegations-of-innapropriate-behaviour/9210196)**, a spokesperson for the Sydney Theatre Company issued a statement that the company — for which Rush had performed in several productions over the years — "received a complaint alleging that Mr. Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour."

In response, Pullen issued a statement declaring that Rush immediately contacted the theatre upon learning of the allegation, but was not given any information about the complaint (which was reportedly lodged approximately 21 months earlier after he starred in an STC production of Shakespeare's "King Lear").

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"The moment I became aware of rumours of a complaint I immediately phoned and spoke to senior management at the Sydney Theatre Company asking for clarification about the details of the statement," said Rush, who has been inated for four Oscars and won Best Actor honours for his performance in 1997's "Shine".

"They refused to illuminate me with the details," added Rush, 66. "I also asked why this information was being withheld, and why, according to standard theatre practice the issue had not been raised with me during the production via stage management, the director, my fellow actors or anyone at management level. However, no response was forthcoming."

According to the STC spokesperson, "The company received the complaint when Mr. Rush's engagement with the company had ended," adding that the complainant had wished to remain anonymous.

Rush's lawyer, however, is blasting the theatre for its handling of the allegation, stating it gives Rush no way to respond while a cloud of suspicion hangs over his head.

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"It is a great disappointment to Mr. Rush the STC has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way," said Tillen in the statement.

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

"Until there is the decency afforded to Mr. Rush of what the 'inappropriate behaviour' actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage," he added. "The public and the media need to note this is a highly stressful and frustrating time for Mr. Rush and his family, especially when there are no details concerning the 'inappropriate behaviour'."

Below is the statement from Rush's attorney in its entirety:

> Statement from academy award winning actor Geoffrey Rush's lawyer after allegation of "inappropriate behaviour". Full story: https://t.co/B40FjjNmtu (https://t.co/B40FjjNmtu) pic.twitter.com/El9C1KqpXM (https://t.co/El9C1KqpXM)
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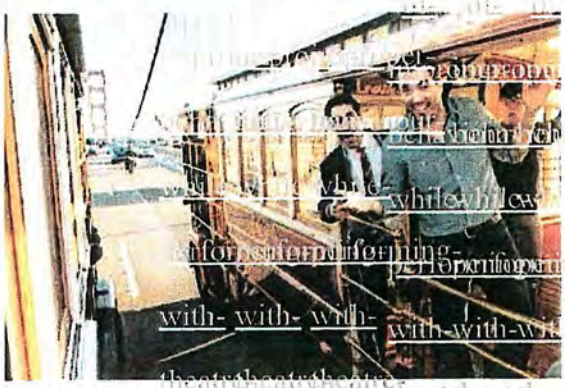
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I'm not familiar enough with Rush to comment one way or the other on his character, but even if he ranks up there with Weinstein, Spacey, Franken, and Clinton, he does deserve the oportunity to address the accusations.
STC has an obligation to investigate the complaint in house at the very least. And if they aren't going to give the man a chance to defend himself, they should never have released anything at all.

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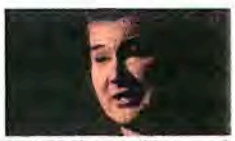
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• Geoffrey Rush quits industry post over 'inappropriate behaviour' claim (video)

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Brief : Oscar winner steps down as Aacta president over allegation dating to his performance for the Sydney Theatre Company two years agoOscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has stepped down as president of Australia's screen industry academy, days after a theatre company revealed it had received a complaint against him of "inappropriate behaviour".Rush has denied any inappropriate behaviour at the Sydney Theatre Company. Media reports this week said the allegation dated from Rush's starring role in the leading Australian company's staging of William Shakespeare's King Lear two years ago. Continue reading...

For more details : Find the hole article on theguardian.com

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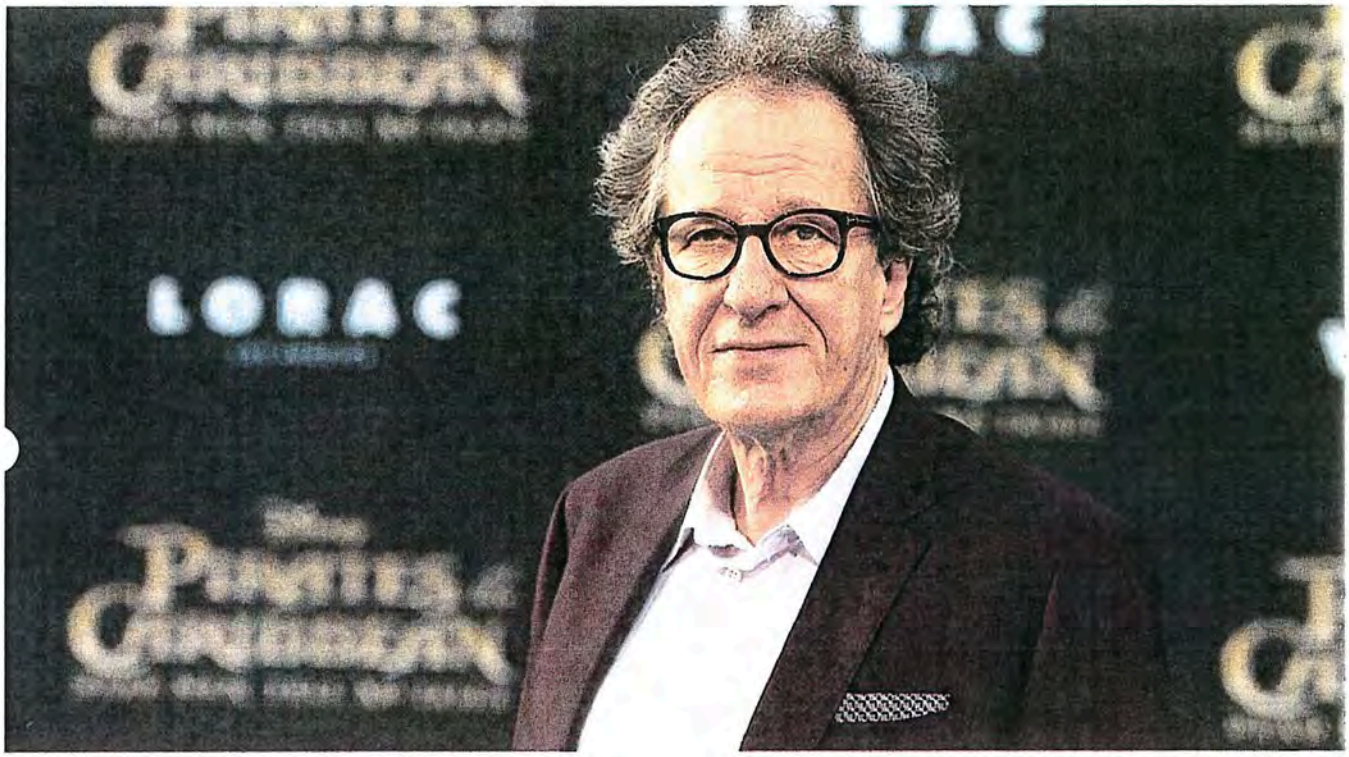
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Geoffrey Rush quits industry job after 'inappropriate behavior' claim

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Geoffrey Rush

SYDNEY - Academy award-winning actor Geoffrey Rush resigned as head of an Australian film industry body Saturday after allegations surfaced against him of "inappropriate behavior".

Rush, who has denied any wrongdoing, stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), which he had led for several years, the organization said in a statement.

"AACTA acknowledges the decision today of Geoffrey Rush to voluntarily step aside as president of AACTA and accepts and respects his decision to do so," it said.

"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," it added, declining

further comment.

Rush, 66, took the step after the Sydney Theatre Company revealed last week that it had received a complaint alleging that the veteran Australian actor had engaged in "inappropriate behavior" when working with the company.

No further information about the nature of the behavior or the identity of the person who made the complaint was revealed, but Australian media reports said the allegations related to Rush's time playing King Lear for the company in 2015 and 2016.

Rush won the Best Actor Academy Award in 1997 for his role in "Shine" and is one of the few actors to have also won a primetime Emmy and a Tony Award. - AFP

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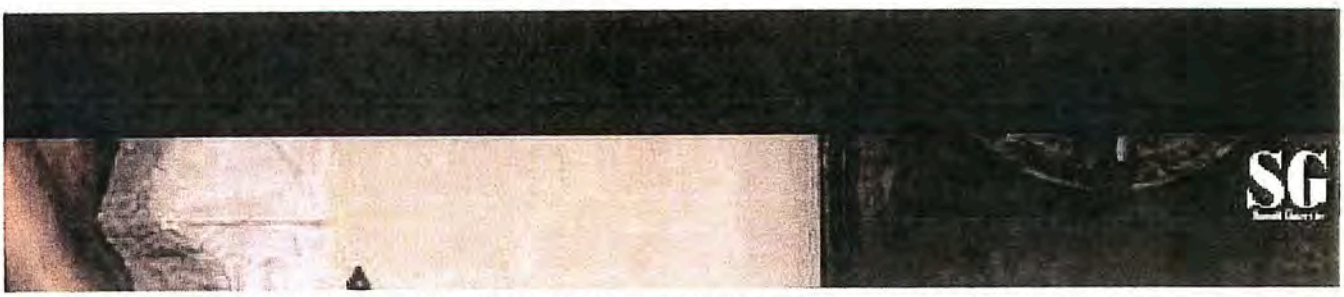
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By ANGELA WEISS

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Geoffrey Rush quits as president of film academy after allegation of sexual harassment

The 66-year-old has denied the allegations against him

By Ben Leo
3rd December 2017, 3:11 am Updated: 3rd December 2017, 4:07 am

OSCAR winner Geoffrey Rush has quit as president of a movie academy in a sex harassment row.

An actress reportedly accused the Shine star, 66, of touching her inappropriately.



The actor has starred in big productions such as The Pirates of the Caribbean

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The allegations stem from an a 2015 theatre role in Sydney

He denied the "unten-able allegations" — said to stem from a 2015 theatre role in Sydney.

But the Aussie said: "In the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, making a clean break to clear the air is best for all."

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He added that he was leaving his role at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts "until these issues have been resolved".

The academy accepted his exit and said: "We've been deeply concerned."

The theatre did not detail the claim and said the complainant wanted it handled confidentially.

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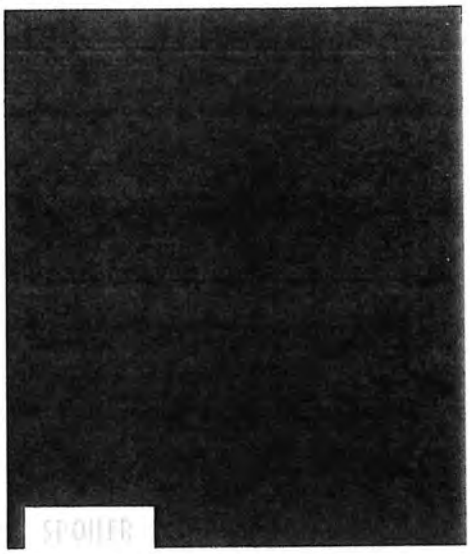
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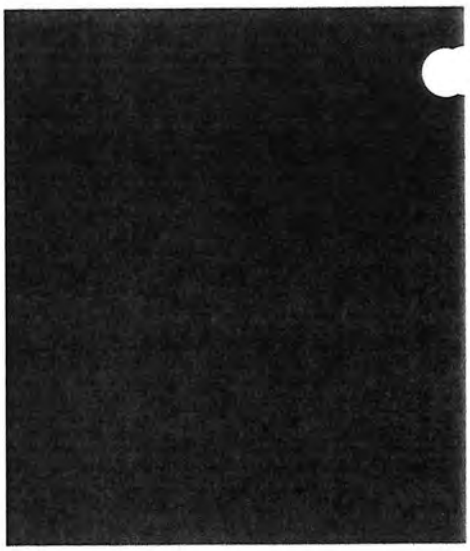
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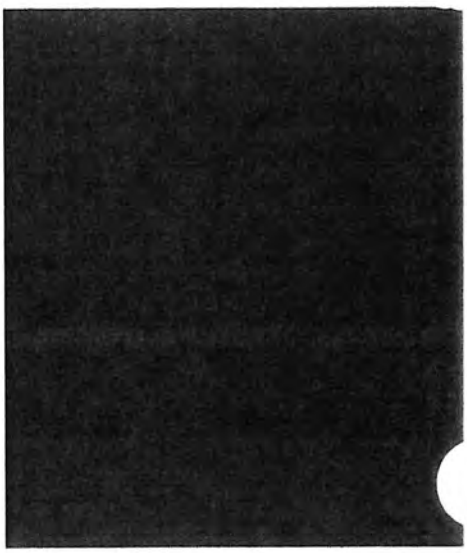
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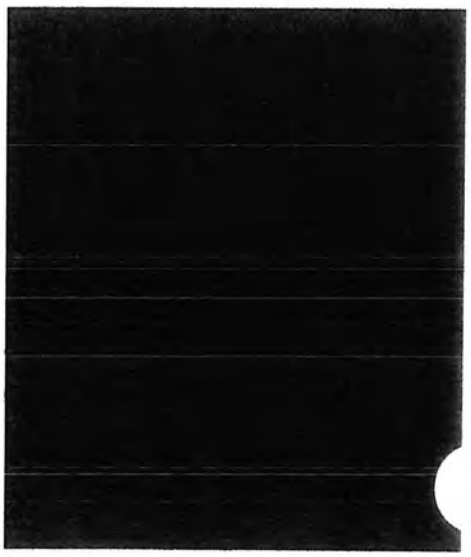
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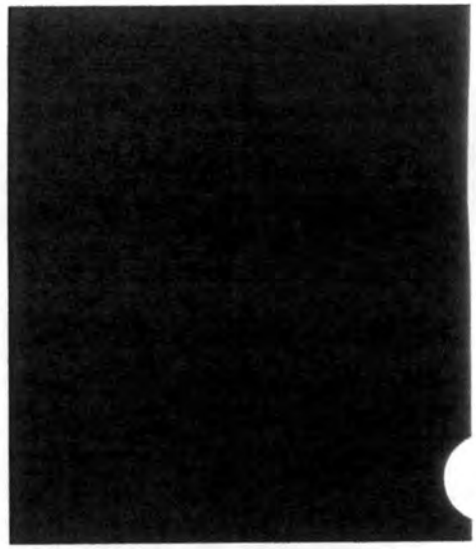
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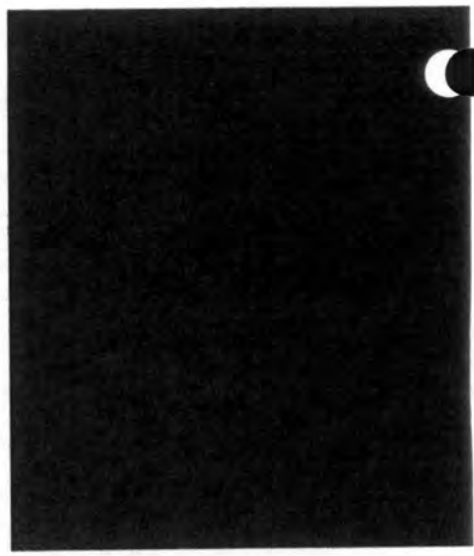
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Geoffrey Rush resigns from Australian film body

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"In the circumstances, I have chose to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved".

In a statement, AACTA said: "AACTA acknowledges the decision today of Geoffrey Rush to voluntarily step aside as President of AACTA and accepts and respects his decision to do so".

"There has been no provision of any details, circumstances, allegations or events that can be meaningfully responded to", the rep said in a statement.

Rush, 66, took the step after the Sydney Theatre Company revealed last week that it had received a complaint alleging that the veteran Australian actor had engaged in "inappropriate behavior" when working with the company.

"In the circumstances, I have made a decision to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of Aacta effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved". And although the academy has accepted his voluntary resignation, **Rush** doesn't seem particularly happy about the series of events that lead to this - specifically, how the media reported on the allegation.

'This decision has not been made lightly.

Rush has been working with the company for 35 years.

Rush won the Best Actor Academy Award in 1997 for his role in *Shine* and is one of the few actors to have also won a primetime Emmy and a Tony Award.

The *Pirates of the Caribbean* actor, denies the allegations of improper conduct.

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Australian media reports say the allegation dated from the company's production of *King Lear* from November 2015 to January 2016.

The claims against the Oscar-winning actor first emerged in a story by Sydney's Daily Telegraph on Thursday.

They dismissed the allegations adding that his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

"Until there is the decency afforded to **Mr. Rush** of what the "inappropriate behavior" actually is then there is nothing more that can be said at this stage", they continued.

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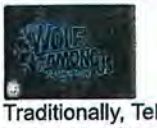
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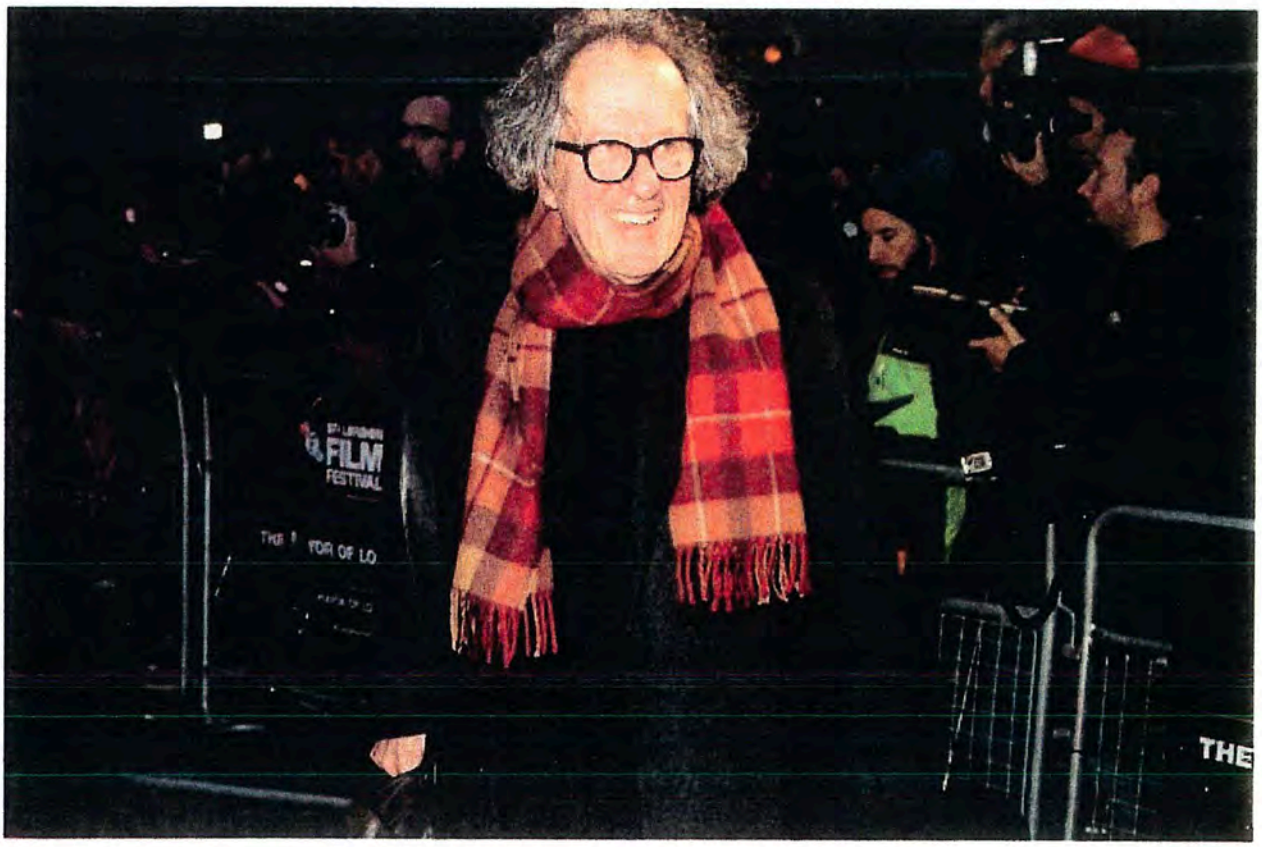
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Geoffrey Rush steps down from Australian screen academy following allegation

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Geoffrey Rush said the decision 'has not been made lightly' (Ian West/PA)

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Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has quit as president of Australia's screen industry academy after a theatre company said it had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour".

The star of screen and stage denied the accusation at the Sydney Theatre Company, with the allegation reportedly dating from his role in the staging of King Lear two years ago.



Geoffrey

In a statement through his lawyer to the Associated Press, the 66-year-old said: "Certain recent media reports have made untenable allegations concerning my standing in the entertainment community.

It is unreasonable that my professional colleagues should be somehow associated with such allegations.

"In the circumstances, I have decided to step aside in my ambassadorial role as president of AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) effective immediately and until these issues have been resolved.

"This decision has not been made lightly. However, in the current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting, I believe the decision to make a clean break to clear the air is the best for all concerned."

The AACTA said it accepted Rush's decision to step down.

"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," it said.

The Sydney Theatre Company has not disclosed details of the allegation and said the complainant requested it was dealt with confidentially.

Sydney's The Daily Telegraph cited two unnamed sources who said an actress had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately.

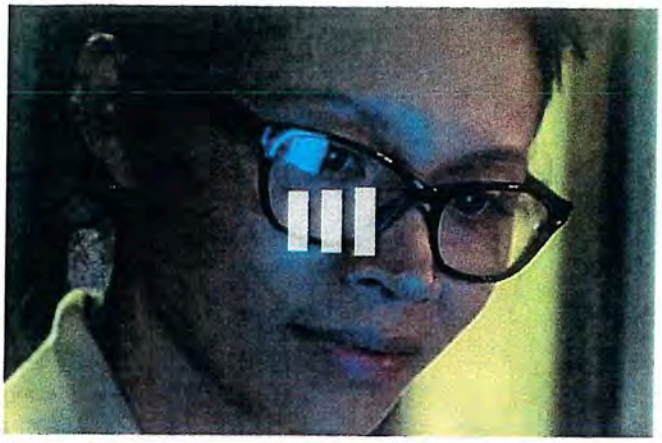
The allegation was reportedly made after Rush's employment had ended.

Rush's lawyers said his "regard, actions and treatment of all the people he has worked with has been impeccable beyond reproach".

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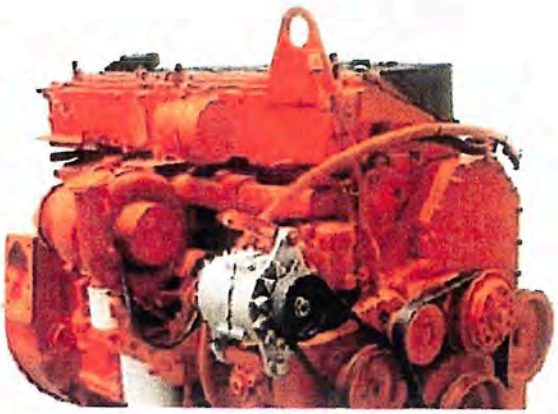
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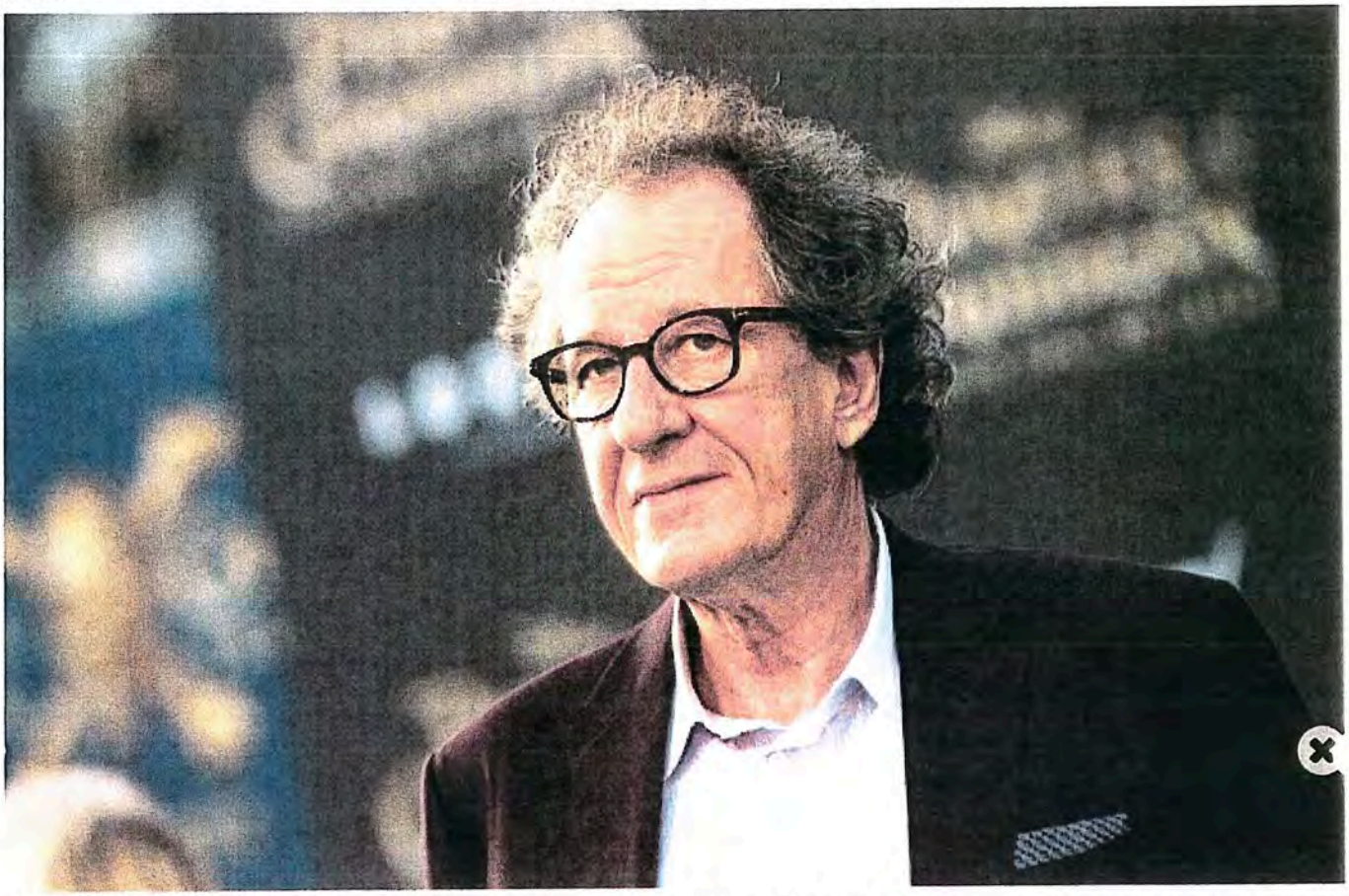
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Geoffrey Rush quits industry job after 'inappropriate behavior' claim

The actor steps down from his role as the resident of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts

Agence France-Presse

Published 11:16 AM, December 03, 2017
Updated 11:16 AM, December 03, 2017



INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR. Actor Geoffrey Rush has stepped down from his position as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts, following accusations of 'inappropriate behavior.' File photo by Valerie Macon/ AFP

SYDNEY, Australia – Academy award-winning actor Geoffrey Rush resigned as head of an Australian film industry body Saturday after allegations surfaced against him of "inappropriate behavior".

Rush, who has denied any wrongdoing, stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), which he had led for several years, the organization said in a statement.

"AACTA acknowledges the decision today of Geoffrey Rush to voluntarily step aside as president of AACTA and accepts and respects his decision to do so," it said.

"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," it added, declining further comment.

Rush, 66, took the step after the Sydney Theatre Company revealed last week that it had received a complaint alleging that the veteran Australian actor had engaged in "inappropriate behavior" when working with the company.

No further information about the nature of the behavior or the identity of the person who made the complaint was revealed, but Australian media reports said the allegations related to Rush's time playing King Lear for the company in 2015 and 2016.

In a statement to public broadcaster ABC, Rush said he was unaware of the details of the allegations against him.

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

Neil Armfield, a theatre and film director who worked with Rush on *King Lear*, told the ABC he did not believe the allegations.

"It's not correct, there's no basis... I absolutely do not believe it," he was quoted as saying.

Rush's lawyer, Nicholas Pullen, told the broadcaster that it was "a great disappointment" to Rush that the theatre company "has chosen to smear his name and unjustifiably damage his reputation in this way".

Rush won the Best Actor Academy Award in 1997 for his role in *Shine* and is one of the few actors to have also won a primetime Emmy and a Tony Award. **– Rappler.com**

Geoffrey Rush 'virtually housebound' in defamation case

The 66-year-old actor is suing Sydney's 'Daily Telegraph' on allegations he engaged in inappropriate behavior while working at the Sydney Theatre Company

gence France-Presse

Published 5:03 PM, April 09, 2018
Updated 5:03 PM, April 09, 2018

DEFAMATION CASE. Geoffrey Rush sues Sydney's 'Daily Telegraph' for defamation after the newspaper reported he engaged in inappropriate behavior. Photo by Rich Fury/Getty Images for THR/AFP

SYDNEY, Australia – Oscar-winner Geoffrey Rush is "virtually housebound" and "barely eats" after a Sydney newspaper claimed he engaged in inappropriate behavior at a theatre, his lawyer said Monday, April 9, during a defamation case.

The 66-year-old actor is suing Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* after a front-page story in November reported that the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint about him when he was working there. (READ: Geoffrey Rush quits industry job after inappropriate behavior claim)

The veteran Australian star has denied any wrongdoing and his lawyer Nicholas Pullen said in an affidavit Monday that Rush has "continued to suffer tremendous emotional and social hardship".

The legal document said he was "virtually housebound" and in the first 3 months after the publication "rarely left his home".

It added that he "feels uncomfortable when in public and will rarely attend public events", "barely eats" and "wakes up every morning with a terrible sense of dread about his future career".

The affidavit said that as a direct result of the report, which received international coverage, Rush found he was "constantly associated" locally and overseas with the global #MeToo movement against sexual harassment.

Rush in December resigned as head of film industry body the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts, which he had led for several years.

He won the Best Actor Academy Award in 1997 for his role in *Shine* and is one of the few stars to have also won a primetime Emmy and a Tony Award.

The Telegraph has said previously it had accurately reported the alleged complaint against Rush and would defend the case in court. –Rappler.com

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Today in Entertainment: America Ferrera is pregnant with first child; New Justin Timberlake album coming Feb. 2

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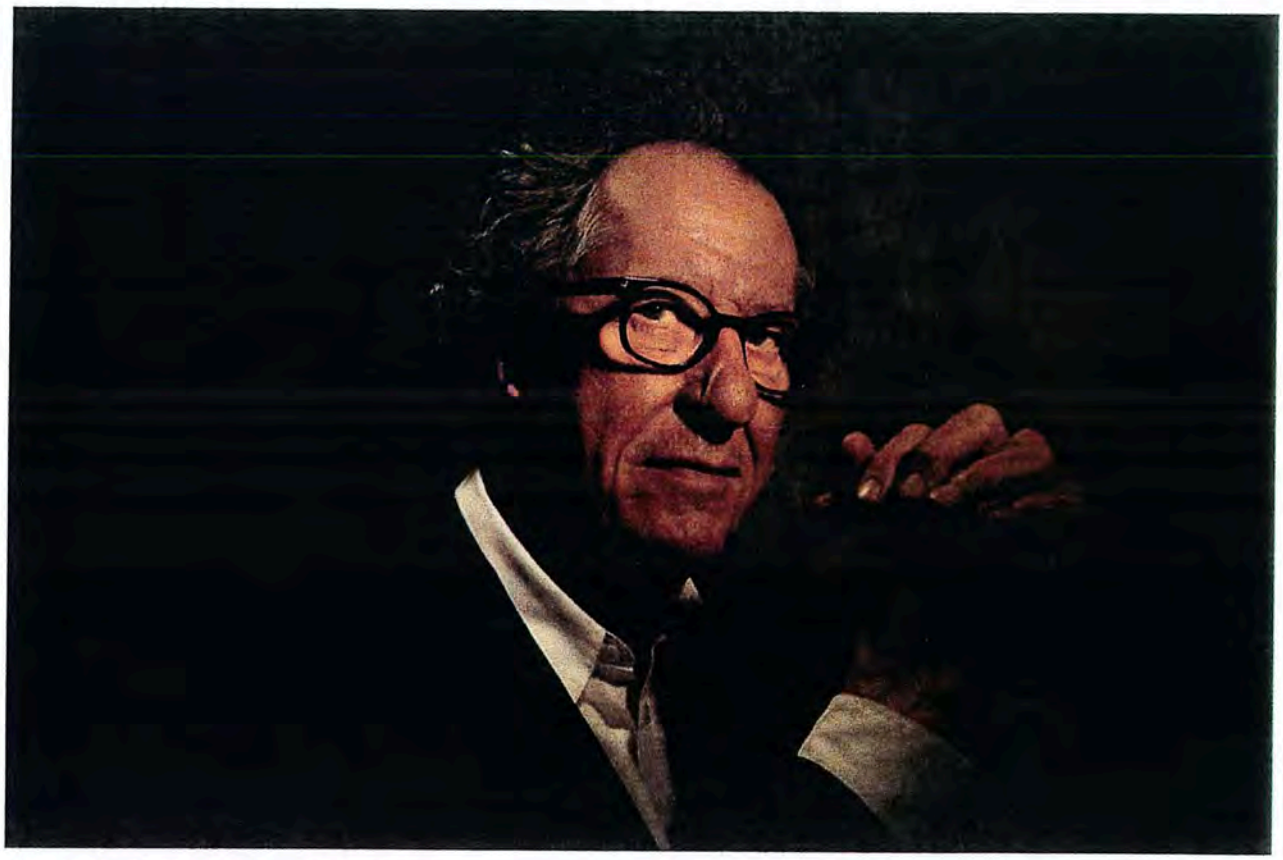
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New Justin Timberlake album coming Feb. 2 ahead of Super Bowl performance

Dec. 4, 2017, 12:14 p.m.

MOVIES

By MARK OLSEN

Geoffrey Rush steps down as Australian Academy president amid allegations of inappropriate behavior



(Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times)

Actor Geoffrey Rush, an Oscar and Golden Globe winner, resigned over the weekend from his position as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts following allegations of inappropriate behavior while working on a 2015 production of "King Lear" at the Sydney Theater Company.

In a statement posted to its website, the AACTA said it accepted Rush's decision to step aside.

"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."

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Dec. 4, 2017, 11:59 a.m.

CELEBRITY

By CHRISTIE D'ZURILLA

Elton John 'in shock' over death of his mom, Sheila Farebrother



Elton John and his mother, Sheila Farebrother, in 2003. (KMazur / WireImage)

Elton John's mom, Sheila Farebrother, has died, the singer announced Monday on social media.

"So sad to say that my mother passed away this morning. I only saw her last Monday and I am in shock. Travel safe Mum. Thank you for everything. I will miss you so much," John wrote.

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MOVIES

By MARK OLSEN

Let it go: Disney is stripping 'Olaf's Frozen Adventure' from 'Coco' screenings

"Olaf's Frozen Adventure" (Disney Pixar)

Even as the animated film "Coco" has led the box office for the last two weekends, there have been complaints about the short film that precedes it, "Olaf's Frozen Adventure." The short will leave theaters after Thursday.

A representative for Disney confirmed that the short was always intended for a limited run.

A "Frozen" spin-off featuring the voices of Josh Gad, Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel and

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Dec. 4, 2017, 10:24 a.m.

By LIBBY HILL

Patty Jenkins, Colin Kaepernick and, yes, Donald Trump on Time 'Person of the Year' shortlist

(Alex Brandon / Associated Press)

After all the free publicity President Trump has generated for Time magazine's 2017 Person of the Year title, it's little wonder that he ended up on the list of 10 finalists for the honor.

The magazine announced its shortlist on NBC's "Today" on Monday morning, its choices representing a wide swath of individuals and issues that defined the year.

Battling the president for the title are Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, the undocumented immigrants known as "Dreamers," "Wonder Woman" director Patty Jenkins, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, former San Francisco 49ers quarterback and activist Colin Kaepernick, the #MeToo movement, special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Chinese President Xi

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Dec. 4, 2017, 9:51 a.m.

By CHRISTIE D'ZURILLA

Billy Bush on Trump and 'Access Hollywood' tape: 'Of course he said it'

(Richard Shotwell / Associated Press)

Billy Bush is back.

He might not have a media job (yet?), but he stepped up Sunday with an essay confirming that no matter what the president might say now, it was indeed Donald Trump speaking on the "Access Hollywood" tape that leaked more than a year ago.

"Of course he said it. And we laughed along, without a single doubt that this was hypothetical hot air from America's highest-rated bloviator," the former NBC star

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MUSIC

By RANDY LEWIS

English singer Jorja Smith to receive Brit Awards Critics' Choice prize

Jorja Smith, right, will receive the Brit Awards 2018 Critics Choice Award given for "future British recording talent." (Andrew Benge)

English R&B singer Jorja Smith has won the Brit Awards 2018 Critics' Choice award, putting her in the rarefied company of previous honorees Adele, Sam Smith and Ellie Goulding.

The annual award singles out "future British recording talent." It caps growing buzz for Smith, who also has been recognized by Canadian rapper and producer Drake, who included her on his "More Life" mixtape and brought her onstage earlier this year when he played London's O2 Arena.

"It's been an unforgettable 2017, during which I've fulfilled so many of my dreams," the 20-year-old singer said after it was announced that she will pick up the award,

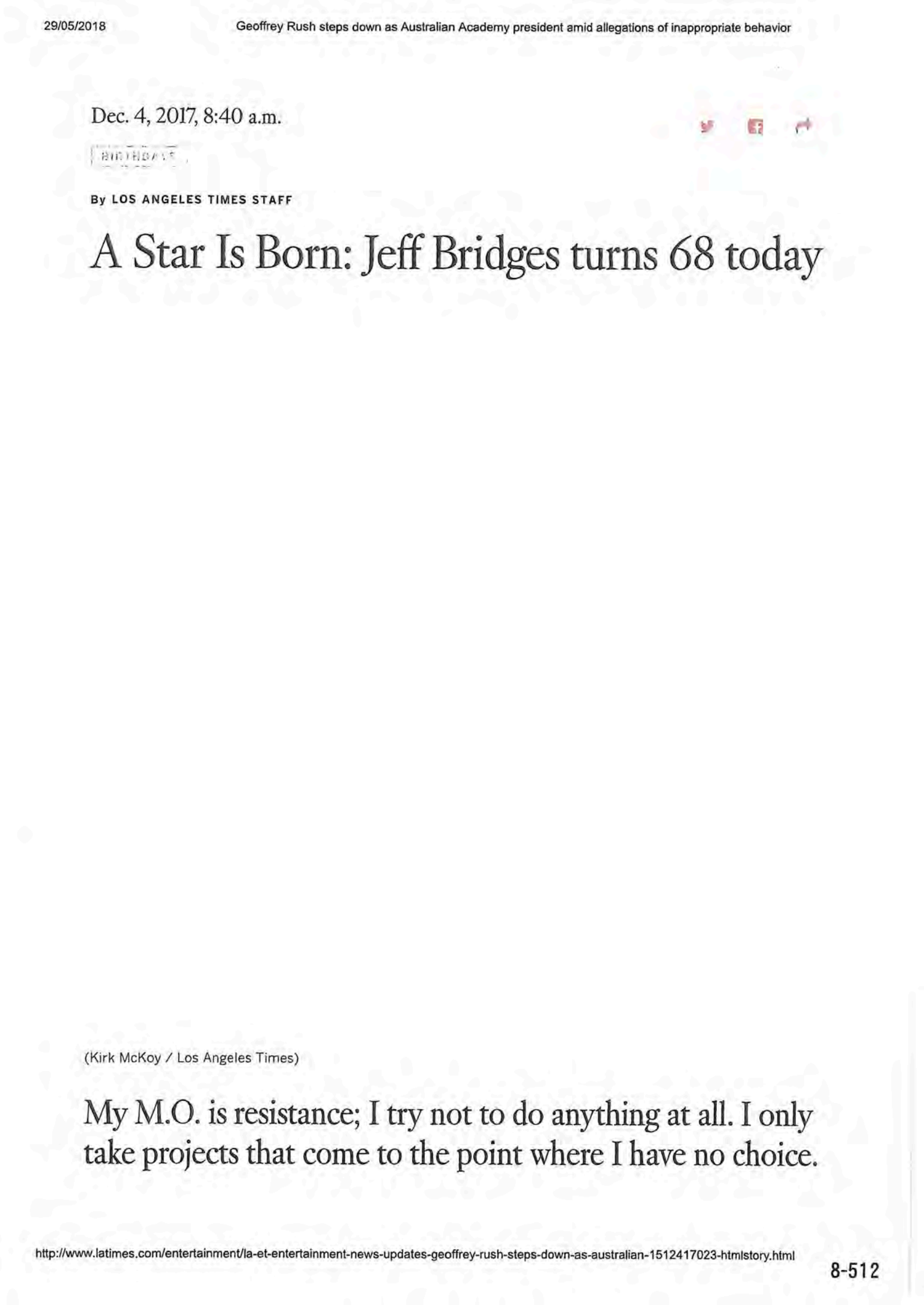
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BIRTHDAYS

By LOS ANGELES TIMES STAFF

A Star Is Born: Jeff Bridges turns 68 today



(Kirk McKoy / Los Angeles Times)

My M.O. is resistance; I try not to do anything at all. I only take projects that come to the point where I have no choice.

Whatever sucks me in, whatever beats my resistance, those are the ones I did.

— JEFF BRIDGES, 2009

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Jeff Bridges, psychic warrior

Dec. 3, 2017, 6:37 p.m.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Met Opera suspends conductor James Levine as investigation continues into sexual misconduct allegations

Conductor James Levine at Tanglewood in 2006. (Michael Dwyer / Associated Press)

New York's Metropolitan Opera on Sunday said it was suspending its relationship with longtime conductor James Levine pending an investigation into multiple allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

"Mr. Levine will not be involved in any Met activities, including conducting scheduled performances at the Met this season," the Met said in a statement.

The Met also said it has appointed Robert J. Cleary, a former U.S. attorney and the

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Dec. 3, 2017, 1:34 p.m.

By SONAIYA KELLEY

'Call Me by Your Name' and 'Shape of Water' pile up awards from L.A. Film Critics Assn.

Richard Jenkins and Sally Hawkins in "The Shape of Water" (Fox Searchlight Pictures)

The Los Angeles Film Critics Assn. had lots of love for Luca Guadagnino's "Call Me by Your Name" and Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water" during its annual

awards deliberations on Sunday.

Guadagnino's coming-of-age story about a 17-year-old American boy who falls in love with his father's assistant played by Armie Hammer won best picture. And Timothée Chalamet was named best actor for his performance as the young American in Italy.

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Dec. 3, 2017, 10:16 a.m.

LATE-NIGHT

By SONAIYA KELLEY

Alec Baldwin's Trump on 'SNL' gets a 'Christmas Carol'-style haunting by Michael Flynn and Hillary Clinton



Alec Baldwin reprised his role as President Trump on "Saturday Night Live" in a cold open inspired by "A Christmas Carol."

In the sketch, Baldwin as Trump is visited by "the ghost of witness flipped" Michael Flynn, the president's fired national security advisor (played by Mikey Day), appearing in chains in the style of Charles Dickens' doomed ghost Jacob Marley.

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Geoffrey Rush Sues Australia's Daily Telegraph for 'False, Pejorative and Demeaning Claims'

Last month, the paper published an accusation of "inappropriate behavior" by Oscar-winning actor

Beatrice Verhoeven | Last Updated: December 8, 2017 @ 7:44 AM



Getty Images

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for publishing what he called "false, pejorative and demeaning claims.

"Today I have filed defamation proceedings against The Daily Telegraph in the Federal Court of Australia," the actor said in a statement obtained by TheWrap. "It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and greater community."

The Oscar-winning actor added, "The Daily Telegraph has made false, pejorative and demeaning claims — splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages... The situation is intolerable and I must now seek vindication of my good name through the courts."

Also Read:
Geoffrey Rush Denies 'Inappropriate Behavior' During 2015 'King Lear' at Australian Theater

Last month, Australia's Daily Telegraph published a statement from the Sydney Theatre Company, which said it had "received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behaviour."

The complaint came in after the production had ended, the statement said, adding, "The Company continues to work with the complainant to minimise the risk of future instances of the alleged behaviour occurring in its workplace."

The complaint was received 21 months ago, Rush's statement read, relating to Rush's time on a production of "King Lear" that ran from November 2015 to January 2016. The accuser asked to remain anonymous and didn't want Rush to be informed or involved in any investigation, according to the Telegraph.

Also Read:
Geoffrey Rush Steps Aside as President of Australian Academy After Misconduct Accusation

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and has denied any wrongdoing. Last week, the actor announced he would "step aside" as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts in the wake of the unspecified accusations.

A representative for The Daily Telegraph has not yet responded to TheWrap's request for comment, but according to the BBC, Daily Telegraph editor Chris Dore said the newspaper would defend itself in court.

"The Daily Telegraph accurately reported the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint alleging that Mr Geoffrey Rush had engaged in inappropriate behavior," he said.

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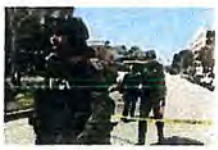
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At Glitzy Promo, Saudi Arabia Invites Hollywood to Join Its $80 Billion Leap Into Entertainment

"In some of the entertainment areas, we're starting from scratch," says Faisal Bafarat, CEO of Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority

Trey Williams | April 4, 2018 @ 7:21 PM

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EDWIN SANTIAGO PHOTOGRAPHY

The Saudi Arabian government rolled out the red carpet for Hollywood on Wednesday at a glitzy event promoting its plans to invest more than $70 billion in entertainment infrastructure, and another $8 billion in spending with private sector entertainment companies.

At an event where digital media doyenne Arianna Huffington led two panel discussions, Faisal Bafarat, the CEO of the General Entertainment Authority, told a packed room at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles in Beverly Hills: "In some of the entertainment areas, we're starting from scratch. In cinema,we're starting from scratch."

He said, however, that entertainment has already begun to be a lucrative industry for the country.

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Saudi Arabia's New Movie Theaters 'Will Not Be Segregated' by Gender, AMC CEO Says

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Saudi Arabia has already announced investment plans in entertainment.

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small and medium -sized businesses.

The Saudi Government has audacious plans to build out a massive entertainment industry, and hosted the event as part of the crown prince Mohammad bin Salman's visit meant to educate and excite Hollywood companies about the growing market.

The Four Seasons ballroom where it was held was full of power brokers from across the entertainment industry, including AMC Chief Executive Adam Aron, Patrick Corcoran from the National Association of Theatre Owners, Raine Managing Director Erik Hodge and Roy Salters, a senior advisor at FTI Consulting.

MbS, as the crown prince is often called, has met this week with Hollywood moguls ranging from Rupert Murdoch and Brian Grazer to Haim Saban, in what one insider called a combination "learning and promotion" offensive.

Also Read:
Saudi Crown Prince Charms Haim Saban, Jonathan Nelson, Dan Senor at Private Dinner (Exclusive)

AMC also announced plans to open the country's first cinema chain, earlier on Wednesday.

"I don't see any challenges for us. I see it as an opportunity that people need to grab," said Loai Bafaqeeh, the head of Saudi Arabia's Quality of Life program, about the country's plans to have a massive entertainment industry by 2030.

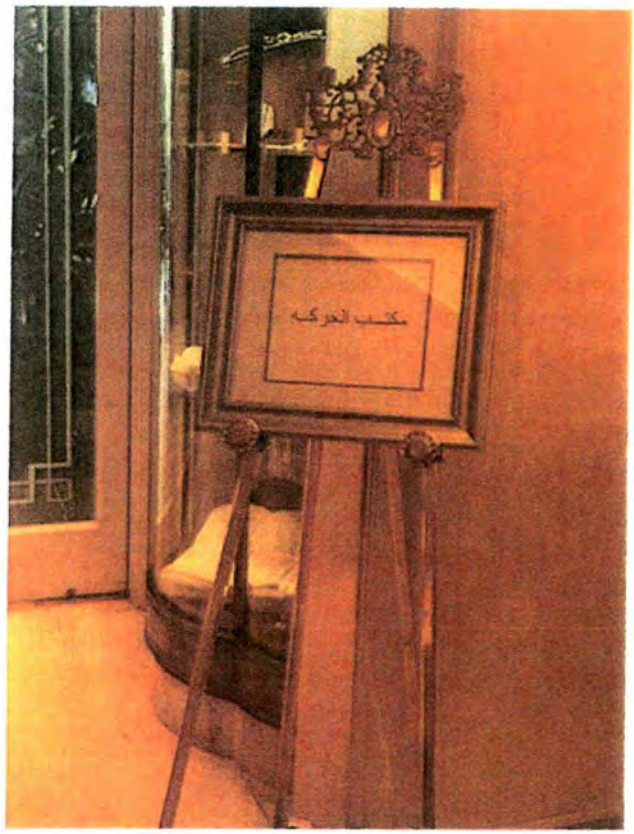
"The only challenge for us now is how to capitalize on the existing opportunity," he continued.

Along with the more than $70 billion Saudi Arabia is investing in infrastructure, they are also looking to offer nearly $8 billion in investment partnerships with mid- and- small-tier companies interested in doing business in the country.

The General Entertainment Authority of Saudi Arabia has already signed deals with Cirque du Soleil, Feld Entertainment, IMG Artist, The Marvel Experience and

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Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman Buys Out Four Seasons Hotel for Hollywood Visit (Exclusive)



1 of 1

Royal heir also rents out additional 40 rooms at L'Ermitage, where rooms start off at $359 a night

Saudi Arabian crown prince Mohammad bin Salman will have plenty of room to unwind after his meetings this week with Hollywood executives – he's rented out the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills for the duration of his visit. That should buy him respite from the honking horns of Los Angeles, and from the feminist protesters who object to his government's treatment of women Â The royal heir, also known by the abbreviation MBS, is in Hollywood to meet with such executives as Rupert Murdoch, Brian Grazer, WME boss Ari Emanuel, Disney CEO Bob Iger and Oprah Winfrey. "The expense of a short term buyout is mesmerizing," an insider with knowledge of the situation told TheWrap. "Not only do they have to convince a hotel to shut down their operation – but also, to relocate high-end guests who already made reservations. That is not something you see every day in Beverly Hills."

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These stars have moved beyond the entertainment realm

When you're raking in those big showbiz paychecks, you have to find a place to invest your cash. And for these Hollywood celebs, moonlighting as tech entrepreneurs is a serious business.

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By Jeremy Fuster | April 4, 2018 @ 9:43 AM

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By Jeremy Fuster | September 26, 2017 @ 2:24 PM

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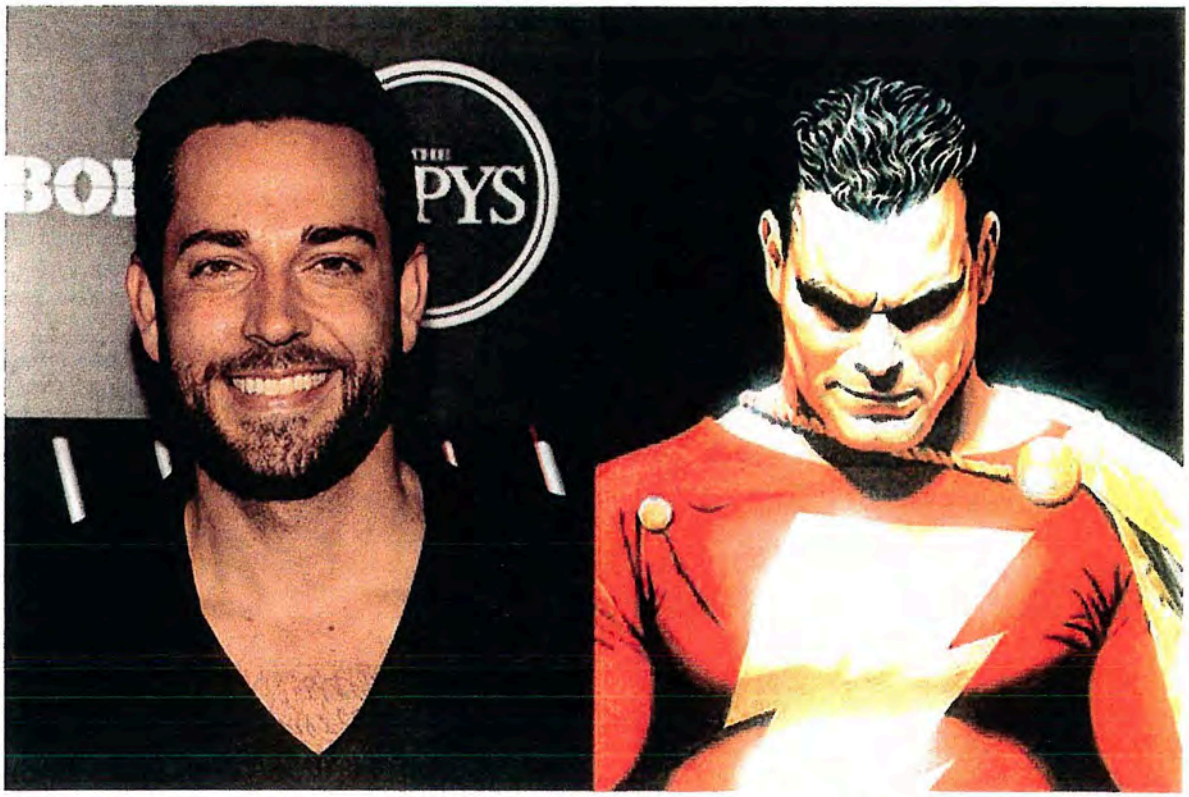
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Geoffrey Rush sues Sydney newspaper over sexual-predator allegations

Rod Mcguirk, Associated Press Published 4:27 a.m. ET Dec. 8, 2017 | Updated 7:00 a.m. ET Dec. 8, 2017



(Photo: WAYNE TAYLOR, EPA-EFE)

CANBERRA, Australia – Geoffrey Rush is suing a Sydney newspaper for allegedly portraying him as a sexual predator in its reporting of an actress's complaint of "inappropriate behavior" against the Oscar-winning actor.

The *Daily Telegraph's* reporting and advertising over the past week carried the defamatory meanings that the 66-year-old Australian actor was a "pervert" and a "sexual predator" while starring in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of "King Lear" two years ago, according to documents filed in the Australian Federal Court on Friday.

The case cites headlines including "King Leer" and "Star's Bard Behavior" plus an advertising poster: "Geoffrey Rush in Scandal Claims."

The News Corp. masthead broke the story last week that the Sydney Theatre Company had confirmed receiving the complaint. The company has released no details of the complaint other than to say the allegation involved "inappropriate behavior" while Rush was an employee and was not raised until after he had left. Rush has denied any misconduct.

Rush told a news conference at his lawyer's Melbourne office that the newspaper's reporting had damaged his reputation and hurt his family and colleagues. He did not take questions.

More: Geoffrey Rush steps down from Australian film academy (/story/life/people/2017/12/01/geoffrey-rush-denies-inappropriate-behavior-theater/912469001/)

"It is an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo and hyperbole that they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and in the greater community," Rush read from a prepared statement.

The Daily Telegraph editor Chris Dore said in a statement that his newspaper had accurately reported that the theater had received the complaint.

"We will defend our position in court," Dore said.

Rush's lawyer Nicholas Pullen did not specify the damages that Rush was seeking.

"It is certainly the desire of Mr. Rush to have this matter heard as quickly as possible in order to vindicate his name," Pullen said.

Last weekend, Rush stepped down as president of the Australian screen academy over media reports that he described as containing "untenable allegations."

His court documents reveal that he had been asked to step aside ahead of the academy's annual awards this week.

The defamatory meanings listed in the court action include that Rush had inappropriately touched an actress in "King Lear" and that his behavior was so serious that the company would never work with him again.

Rush has performed at the Sydney Theatre Company for 35 years. He won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for "Shine" and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

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Golden Globes: How Sexual Harassment Scandals Shaped the Nominees

8:21 AM PST 12/11/2017 by Kimberly Nordyke

Christopher Plummer was nominated for 'All the Money in the World' after replacing Kevin Spacey in the dramatic thriller.

The sexual harassment allegations that have rocked Hollywood in recent months inevitably shaped some of the Golden Globe nominations announced Monday by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

For stepping in and serving as a last-minute replacement for Kevin Spacey in *All the Money in the World*, Christopher Plummer was nominated for a Golden Globe for best supporting actor for his role as billionaire J. Paul Getty in Ridley Scott's film, which recounts the infamous 1973 kidnapping of Getty's grandson, 16-year-old John Paul Getty III.

Spacey originally played the iconic financier in the dramatic thriller, but was replaced just last month after he was accused of multiple accounts of alleged sexual harassment and assault.

In an ambitious move, Scott reshot portions of the movie that had starred Spacey. Plummer shot for roughly eight days, and many of his scenes were performed solo. For those that weren't, co-stars Mark Wahlberg and Michelle Williams were called back to work on the reshoots.

Williams also earned a best actress nom for her performance as the kidnapped boy's distraught mother, while Scott was nominated for best director.

From the time the recasting was announced, Scott was steadfast in his assertion he could still make the film's Dec. 22 release in theaters. He stuck to that plan, although Sony now plans to release the film three days later, on Dec. 25.

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Golden Globes: 'Shape of Water,' 'Big Little Lies' Top Nominations

The animated feature *Coco* scored two nominations, including one for best animated film, despite the film's release coming on the heels of Pixar chief creative officer John Lasseter's recent decision to take a leave of absence amid allegations of misconduct. The situation was bittersweet for *Coco* director Lee Unkrich, who told *The Hollywood Reporter* on Monday morning that "with all this happiness, I'm also heartbroken for John, who has been my friend," adding that women have "come forward to tell their stories; it's a complicated issue."

"We tried so hard to create a supportive and safe environment," he said, adding, "I think that's why [*Coco*] was embraced by so many diverse voices."

Meanwhile, a TV series recently affected by a similar situation also received a Golden Globe nom: Pamela Adlon is up for best actress in a comedy series for *Better Things.* The show, until last month, counted Louis C.K. as an active executive producer and writer until FX severed all ties with the comedian after he admitted to sexual misconduct with multiple women.

C.K. and Adlon collaborated for more than a decade, working together on multiple projects. In 2006, she starred as his wife on the short-lived HBO sitcom *Lucky Louie*. Adlon also appeared on C.K.'s FX comedy *Louie*, where she served as a writer and producer.

In addressing C.K.'s behavior, Adlon said in a brief statement: "Hi. I'm here. I have to say something. It's so important. My family and I are devastated and in shock after the admission of abhorrent behavior by my friend and partner, Louis C.K. I feel deep sorrow and empathy for the women who have come forward. I am asking for privacy at this time for myself and my family. I am processing and grieving and hope to say more as soon as I am able."

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Golden Globes: Nominations by Film, Studio, Series, Network

Geoffrey Rush was nominated for *Genius,* in which he plays Albert Einstein, in the category of best actor in a limited series or TV movie. The Oscar-winning actor was recently accused of inappropriate behavior during his run starring in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *King Lear* in 2015 and 2016 in a since-deleted report by the *Sydney Daily Telegraph.*

Rush has emphatically denied those allegations and is suing the paper in what he called "an action I am taking in order to redress the slurs, innuendo, and hyperbole they have created around my standing in the entertainment industry and greater community. The *Daily Telegraph* has made false, pejorative, and demeaning claim — splattering them with unrelenting bombast on its front pages."

Reacting to his nomination, Rush issued a statement, saying, "This is good news for Albert Einstein. I believe in science. I also believe in the complexity of humankind. I am honored to be in the company

of fellow nominees, who, with their artistry, have strived to define the multiplicity of dimensions in the male experience."

Other series recently rocked by sexual harassment scandals didn't fare as well. *Transparent* did not receive any nominations on the heels of star Jeffrey Tambor's exit from the Amazon series following sexual harassment allegations against the actor.

Netflix's *House of Cards,* from which Spacey was fired, also was shut out.

And the film *The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected)* was snubbed following sexual harassment allegations against star Dustin Hoffman.

Carolyn Giardina and Pamela McClintock contributed to this report.

VIEW *THR*'S COMPLETE COVERAGE

Golden Globes 2018



Want to know if you're watching something made by an alleged sexual harasser? Check this database.

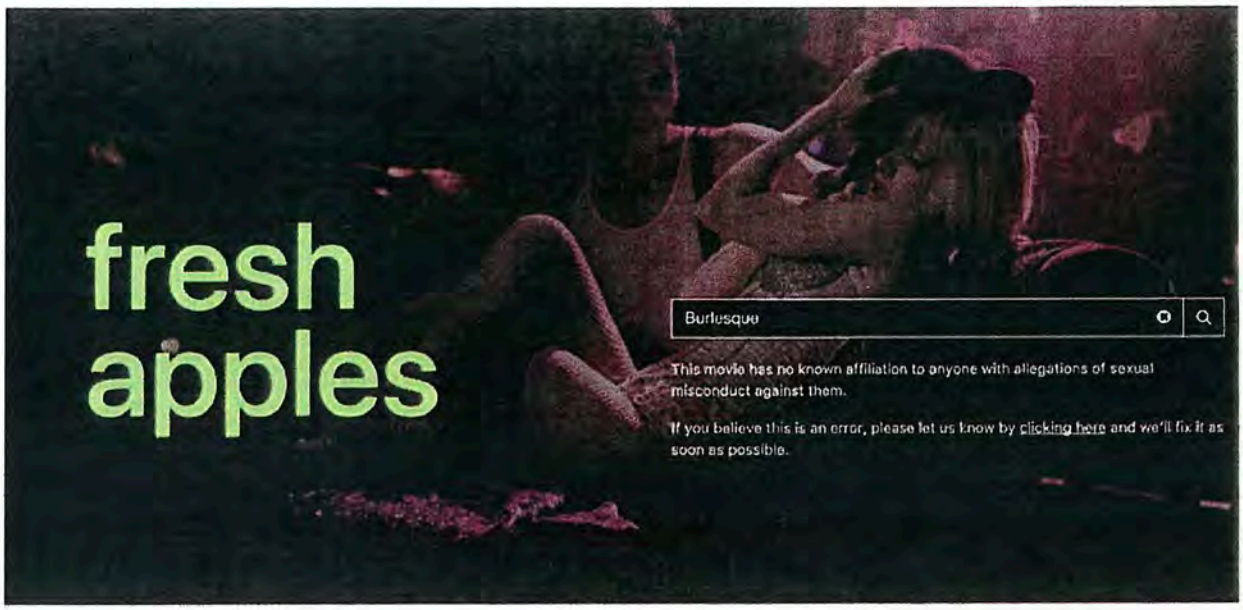
By **Tim Mulkerin** | Dec. 14, 2017

Every day, it seems like yet another powerful figure in Hollywood is accused of sexual misconduct. These accusations pervade just about every level of Hollywood, and include those made toward chefs-turned-reality-TV stars, like Johnny Iuzzini, and industry-shaping behemoths, like Harvey Weinstein.

We all like to think we can make smart, ethical, informed decisions when

allegations brought against them.

That's where a new site, called Rotten Apples, comes in.



'Burlesque' on the site Rotten Apples Rotten Apples

Rotten Apples functions as a sort of database, allowing users to search for a film or television show to see whether someone accused of sexual misconduct was involved in its creation. According to the site, it only tracks relatively high-profile positions: actors, screenwriters, executive producers and directors.

"The goal of this site is to further drive awareness of just how pervasive sexual misconduct in film and television is and to help make ethical media consumption easier," Rotten Apples' site states. "By no means is this site meant to serve as a condemnation of an entire project."

In an emailed statement, a spokesperson for Rotten Apples said it was made by a team of four — Tal Wagman, Annie Johnston, Justice Erolin and Bekah Nutt — who work together at Zambezi, an advertising firm in Los Angeles.

advertising industry, which is a message-making business, a business that informs consumers. That's our skillset. So we created what we believe is a tool that communicates a message about the issue and informs people."

For example, if you search for *Shakespeare in Love*, you'll see bright red text that says "rotten apples," informing you that at least one person accused of sexual misconduct was involved in the creation of that particular movie. In the case of *Shakespeare in Love*, it lists Ben Affleck, Harvey Weinstein and Bob Weinstein. Each person's name is a hyperlink that'll take you to an article to show you what they've been accused of.

[**Editor's note:** Though Rotten Apples had included Geoffrey Rush in its database, after this article was published, Rotten Apples removed Rush from the database. An email from Rush's lawyers said the connection of Rush to sexual misconduct allegations is "grossly incorrect." This article has been updated to reflect his removal.]

It's worth noting, however, that the site is not entirely comprehensive. For example, if you search *Frida* — the 2002 Frida Kahlo biopic starring Salma Hayek — it shows the message, "This movie has no known affiliation to anyone with allegations of sexual misconduct against them," despite the fact that Harvey Weinstein's company, Miramax, produced it. In fact, in a recent *New York Times* article, Hayek accused Weinstein of harassing her throughout *Frida*'s creation. (To help keep things as up-to-date as possible, Rotten Apples said it hopes users will flag any holes through its site or via its Twitter.)

Of course, despite Weinstein's involvement in *Frida*, that might not be reason enough to call off a *Frida* watch party with your friends. As Hayek noted in her aforementioned *Times* piece, *Frida* was a movie Hayek worked tirelessly to make, and it's clear that she feels strongly about its value.

reminder that we all play a part in effecting change.

Dec. 20, 2017, 7:36 p.m.: This story has been updated.

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By **Tim Mulkerin**
Reporter, Hype
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▶ 3:18 min | May 23, 2018

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79 Hollywood and Media Heavyweights Accused of Sexual Misconduct Since Harvey Weinstein

From Brett Ratner, Kevin Spacey, Mark Halperin, James Toback to Louis CK

Brian Welk | January 5, 2018 @ 12:25 PM

Last Updated: February 13, 2018 @ 7:57 AM



Getty Images

In the wake of the Harvey Weinstein sexual misconduct scandal, women and men alike have been more vocal about speaking out against unwanted sexual advances and contact.

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Getty Images

Brett Ratner Six women have accused the director and producer of sexual misconduct, including Olivia Munn and Natasha Henstridge. Ratner's lawyer says no woman has ever requested or received any financial settlement from Ratner. **Fallout**: Ratner chose to personally step away from all Warner Bros. related activities, and Playboy put Ratner's biopic about Hugh Hefner on hold. Ratner has filed a libel lawsuit against one of his accusers, Melanie Kohler.

search...



Getty Images

James Toback Hundreds of women contacted an LA Times reporter to accuse Toback of sexual harassment and assault, including Selma Blair, Rachel McAdams, Julianne Moore and Caterina Scorsone. **Fallout**: Just before the LA Times story broke, Toback told Rolling Stone that anyone who has accused him, "is a lying c---sucker or c--- or both." Toback and Harvey Weinstein are both under investigation by the Beverly Hills police department.

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Fallout: NBC News terminated Halperin's contract as a special contributor, Showtime, which airs Halperin's show "The Circus," cut ties with the journalist, and CAA dropped him from their client list. Halperin issued a lengthy public apology.

Getty Images

Kevin Spacey Actor Anthony Rapp told Buzzfeed that Spacey made a sexual advance on him three decades ago when Rapp was 14. More than a dozen other individuals subsequently came forward with claims of sexual harassment or assault, including an anonymous former actor who said Spacey tried to rape him when he was 14. **Fallout:** Spacey apologized to Rapp and also came out as gay, which was widely criticized. Netflix since announced that "House of Cards" would end and halted production on the sixth and final season. The Old Vic theater in London, where Spacey was artistic director, also

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Getty Images

Louis C.K. Five women accused C.K. of masturbating in front of them or requesting to in a New York Times report. The comedian later admitted the allegations were true in a statement, stopping short of apologizing for the behavior. **Fallout:** HBO, Netflix, FX and TBS all cut ties with the comedian, dropping his projects from their networks. The premiere of his film "I Love You, Daddy" was canceled, and he was cut from "The Secret Life of Pets 2." His publicist, manager and touring agent all dropped him as a client.

search...

while on set. **Fallout**: Hoffman issued an apology, saying it was "not reflective of who I am." Later that same day, a second woman accused him of sexual harassment.

Getty Images

Michael Oreskes Two women told The Washington Post Oreskes made unwanted sexual contact towards them while he was Washington bureau chief of The New York Times. **Fallout**: Oreskes was forced to resign as Senior Vice President of News and Editorial Director at NPR.

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Getty Images

Jeremy Piven Actress Ariane Bellamar, a former Playboy Playmate, tweeted that Piven groped her on the set of "Entourage" and at the Playboy Mansion, twice cornering and fondling her. Actress Cassidy Freeman later accused Piven of "predatory behavior." **Fallout:** CBS is looking into the situation, and Piven has "unequivocally" denied the allegations and offered to take a polygraph test to prove his innocence.

search...

napping at his house. Westwick denied the allegations, calling them "provably untrue." **Fallout:** Westwick said he was "cooperating with the authorities" on an investigation to clear his name. Westwick was replaced on the BBC series "Ordeal by Innocence" after originally pulling it from its schedule.

Getty Images

Andy Dick Sources close to the production "Raising Buchanan" told The Hollywood Reporter Dick's misconduct on set included kissing, licking, groping and making lewd propositions toward at least four members of the production. **Fallout**: Dick was fired from the production of "Raising Buchanan" and from the film "Vampire Dad." Dick denied the groping claims but said it was "possible" he licked people.

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Getty Images

Roy Price Amazon Studios head Price allegedly told "The Man in the High Castle" producer Isa Hackett, "You'll love my dick," during a cab ride. **Fallout:** Amazon placed Price on a leave of absence.

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Getty Images

Chris Savino Several female employees at Nickelodeon accused "The Loud House" showrunner of sexual assault, with 12 other women accusing him of sexual misconduct and threats of being blacklisted. Fallout: Nickelodeon fired Savino, but will continue to air and produce the show. Savino has since apologized.

search...

Ken Baker Three women anonymously spoke with TheWrap claiming Baker, an E! News correspondent, sent inappropriate text messages and in one instance groped a woman at a party. **Fallout:** E! is investigating the accusations and Baker will not appear on air during the investigation. Baker said in a statement to TheWrap that the "anonymous allegations are simply not true, and, frankly, are heartbreaking to hear."

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Ben Affleck Affleck grabbed actress Hilarie Burton's left breast while on air during an appearance together on MTV's "Total Request Live." **Fallout**: Affleck wrote on Twitter, "I acted inappropriately toward Ms. Burton and I sincerely apologize."

Getty Images

Andy Signore Several women alleged sexual misconduct against Signore, the creator of the YouTube series "Honest Trailers." Signore was accused of sexual assault, sending inappropriate messages and making lewd comments to employees. **Fallout**: His employers at Defy Media and Screen Junkies fired Signore following an investigation.

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Fox

Bill O'Reilly After being fired from Fox News earlier in April, it was reported in October by the New York Times that O'Reilly paid $32 million to settle sexual harassment claims from a coworker. **Fallout**: O'Reilly told Matt Lauer he'd done "absolutely nothing wrong" and that this was "a political and financial hit job."

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the agency, and Grasham was fired.

Getty Images

Rick Najera Najera, director of the CBS Diversity Sketch Comedy Showcase, made inappropriate and lewd comments to coworkers in multiple instances. Actress Rachel Bloom sent an email to participants warning of his behavior. **Fallout:** Najera resigned from his role and issued a statement saying he was "heartbroken and confounded by deliberate and cruel defamations."

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David Corn Mother Jones' Washington Bureau Chief was investigated for the second time in three years for claims of inappropriate physical conduct and "rape jokes" in light of two emails from former staffers in 2014 and 2015, according to Politico. **Fallout**: Mother Jones' CEO said that in the initial investigation, they determined there was "no misconduct." Corn denied the allegations but said it was possible his past actions had been misinterpreted.

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was 18. **Fallout**: Webster will step down from his company Webster Public Relations and the company's name will be changed.

David Guillod Actress Jessica Barth told TheWrap she was drugged and sexually assaulted by Guillod, the co-CEO of talent and literary management company Primary Wave Entertainment, back in 2012. Three additional women later accused Guillod of rape. **Fallout**: Guillod announced he would take an immediate leave of absence from the company. Barth also approached the LAPD to revive her attempt to bring criminal charges.

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Getty Images

Hamilton Fish Several female employees at The New Republic, where Fish is president and publisher, came forward about workplace interactions that have made "an uncomfortable environment," according to the New York Times. **Fallout**: The magazine's owner Win McCormack asked Fish to remain on a leave of absence, pending an investigation.

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Getty Images

Adam Venit Actor Terry Crews disclosed on Twitter that a Hollywood executive "groped his privates," and he named Venit and described in detail to Good Morning America his accusation. **Fallout**: Crews departed WME and has filed a lawsuit against Venit. The agency stripped him of his position as head of the motion picture group but has kept him as an agent.

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of my colleagues in the past I offer a shaken apology and ask for their forgiveness."
Fallout: The financial backer of a culture magazine Wieseltier had planned to launch announced that the magazine was suspended.

Jann Wenner Rolling Stone founder Jann Wenner was accused of offering to trade sex for work by freelance journalist Ben Ryan. Wenner acknowledged the incident but denied any instance of quid pro quo.

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NBC Universal

Matt Zimmerman NBC Universal Senior Vice President for Booking, News & Entertainment Matt Zimmerman "engaged in inappropriate conduct with more than one woman at NBCU," a company spokesperson told TheWrap. **Fallout:** Zimmerman has been fired for sexual misconduct from NBCU.

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Getty Images

Andrew Kreisberg Kreisberg, the co-creator and executive producer of "Arrow," "The Flash" and "Supergirl," is accused of sexual harassment and inappropriate physical contact with 15 women and four men over a number of years, many of whom worked on shows Kreisberg produced, according to Variety. **Fallout**: Warner Bros. Television fired Kreisberg. "Supergirl" star Melissa Benoist along with other co-stars called for change in Hollywood following the allegations.

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alone together late at night. **Fallout:** Weiner denied the accusation through a spokesperson, saying, "He does not remember saying this comment nor does it reflect a comment he would say to any colleague."

Getty Images

Jeffrey Tambor Van Barnes, a transgender actress and former assistant to Tambor, posted a private accusation to her social media but had no additional comment for the media. Trace Lysette, another "Transparent" actress, also came forward claiming Tambor sexually harassed her. **Fallout:** Amazon is conducting an investigation. Following reports that the show was exploring options to write Tambor's character out of the show, Tambor issued a statement stepping away from the show, though Amazon and Tambor have not come to an official decision to part ways.

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Getty Images

Richard Dreyfuss Following Dreyfuss coming out in support of his son Harry's accusations against Kevin Spacey, writer Jessica Teich told Vulture that while working together, Dreyfuss exposed himself to her, made numerous advances over months and created an unsafe work environment. **Fallout:** Dreyfuss "emphatically" denied exposing himself but said he "became an a--hole" in the late '70s and "flirted with all the women."

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Getty Images

Gary Goddard Actor Anthony Edwards said producer and director Goddard molested him when he was a child and raped his friend over the course of several years. In 2014, Goddard was named in a lawsuit that was later dropped by Michael Egan, alongside "X-Men" director Bryan Singer and two other executives, accusing them of sexually abusing him as a teenager. **Fallout**: Goddard has taken a leave of absence amid the allegations. Goddard's publicist Sam Singer "unequivocally" denied the accusation and said Goddard was a "mentor, teacher and a friend" to Edwards.

search...

George Takei Model Scott R. Brunton told THR that after two drinks with Takei, he passed out and awoke with his pants down around his ankles and Takei was "groping my crotch and trying to get my underwear off." **Fallout**: Takei said he was "shocked and bewildered" by the claims. A recent clip from the Howard Stern Show in which the host and Takei talk about grabbing men's genitals has since gone viral.

Billboard

Stephen Blackwell Former intern Amy Rose Spiegel accused Blackwell, Billboard's Chief Strategy Officer, of sexually harassing her when she was 19, along with other women who reported directly to him. **Fallout:** Blackwell resigned from his position with Billboard.

search...

MSNBC

Glenn Thrush New York Times political reporter Glenn Thrush was accused of sexual misconduct by several female journalists. Vox had obtained text messages between Thrush and a 23-year-old journalist in a larger report alleging unwanted groping and kissing. **Fallout:** The Times suspended Thrush, but he will for now remain an MSNBC correspondent as they await the outcome of the Times investigation. Thrush issued a full statement he's never offered mentorship or advice with an expectation of something in return.

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Getty Images

Al Franken Radio host Leeann Tweeden said sitting U.S. Senator Al Franken groped and kissed her without her consent during a 2006 USO tour. A second woman also came forward accusing Franken of inappropriately grabbing her. Six women in all came forward. **Fallout:** Franken resigned from the Senate on December 7 after Democratic senators called on him to step down after a sixth accuser stepped forward to accuse him of an unwanted kiss. Franken also apologized to Tweeden though he denied the specifics of some of the accusations against him.

search...

Murray Miller Actress Aurora Perrineau filed a police report accusing "Girls" writer and executive producer Murray Miller of raping her when she was underage. **Fallout:** Miller's attorney said he "categorically and vehemently denies Ms. Perrineau's outrageous claims." "Girls" creators Lena Dunham and Jenni Konner initially defended Miller, saying this was "one of the 3% of assault cases that are misreported every year." She has retracted that statement.

ABC

Ryan Seacrest Ryan Seacrest was accused by an "E! News" wardrobe stylist of inappropriate behavior. The accusations have not been made public. **Fallout:** E! opened an investigation and Seacrest denied the allegations.

search...

Cameron Mitchell The CAA agent was accused of sexual harassment and assault by actress Demi Mann. **Fallout:** CAA fired Mitchell following an internal investigation. Mitchell "emphatically" denied Mann's accusations in a press statement.

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Getty Images

Mark Schwahn "One Tree Hill" star Hilarie Burton said showrunner Mark Schwahn forced himself on her on multiple occasions and issued a joint statement with the other women of the cast and crew. **Fallout:** Schwahn was suspended by E! as the showrunner for "The Royals."

Getty Images

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accusations followed model Keri Claussen Khalighi saying in an L.A. Times article that Simmons sexually assaulted her in 1991 when she was 17 and that Brett Ratner watched. Screenwriter Jenny Lumet also came forward with an accusation saying Simmons forced himself into her home and intimidated her. **Fallout:** Simmons confirmed that he and Khalighi had met but said everything that happened was "completely consensual." Since the Lumet accusation, Simmons has stepped aside from his companies and his name has been removed from HBO's "All Def Comedy."

Getty Images

Charlie Rose Eight women told the Washington Post that veteran newsman Charlie Rose engaged in a variety of unwanted sexual ways, including groping, making unwanted sexual advances and walking in front of them nude. **Fallout:** Rose issued an apology; CBS, Bloomberg and PBS have cut ties with him.

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Getty Images

John Lasseter Former Pixar employees said in a Hollywood Reporter article that Oscar-winning animation boss John Lasseter made a habit of "grabbing, kissing, making comments about physical attributes" of women at the company. **Fallout:** Lasseter announced he would take a six-month sabbatical from Disney and Pixar and apologized for "missteps" with staffers.

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Getty Images

Nick Carter Melissa Schuman, a member of the all-girl pop group Dream, wrote in a blog post that Backstreet Boys singer Nick Carter raped her in his Santa Monica apartment in 2002. She wrote she was 18 and a virgin at the time. **Fallout**: Carter denied the allegations.

Getty Images

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accusations: "I am outraged and hurt by the recent statements made by Alice about me and our prior relationship," he said. "Her story is pure fiction and I am consulting my lawyers as to my legal options. Fortunately, there are many witnesses who can and will confirm that I was never abusive to Alice."

Getty Images

Benny Medina Actor Jason Dottley accused manager Benny Medina, whose clients include Jennifer Lopez and Mariah Carey, of attempting to rape him in 2008 in Medina's Los Angeles home. **Fallout**: Medina's attorney's told The Advocate he "categorically denies the allegation of attempted rape."

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Getty Images

Twiggy Ramirez (right) Jessicka Addams, a singer for band Jack Off Jill, accused the former bandmate of Marilyn Manson, Twiggy Ramirez (real name Jeordie White), of raping her while they were dating. **Fallout:** Manson said on Twitter that he would be parting ways with Ramirez.

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Getty Images

Terry Richardson Celebrity photographer Terry Richardson was accused by model Emma J. Appleton of offering a photo shoot in exchange for sex. **Fallout:** Vogue said they will no longer work with Richardson, and he has been blacklisted from Condé Nast International.

Getty Images

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Getty Images

Sylvester Stallone A Daily Mail article said a police report had accused Sylvester Stallone of sexual assault against a 16-year-old girl back in 1986. It went on to say that the unnamed teen was "intimidated" into having sex with Stallone and his bodyguard, Michael De Luca.
Fallout: Stallone's publicist said the report was a "ridiculous, categorically false story," and Stallone's spokesperson said, "at no time was Mr. Stallone ever contacted by any authorities or anyone else regarding this matter."

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Getty Images

Tom Sizemore According to The Hollywood Reporter, actor Tom Sizemore was told to leave a film set in 2003 after an 11-year-old actress told her mother Sizemore had touched her genitals. He returned to the set for reshoots after the child's parents declined to press charges. A dozen cast and crew members confirmed to THR that Sizemore was sent home. **Fallout**: Sizemore denied the allegations at the time and the actress, now 26, declined to comment to THR.

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Getty Images

Bob Weinstein (left) Bob Weinstein, brother to Harvey, was accused of sexual harassment by TV producer Amanda Segel, who said Weinstein repeatedly invited her to his home and hotel room over the course of a three-month period. **Fallout**: Spike TV told the Associated Press they are investigating the claims.

Getty Images

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"sexual coercion." Hall wrote that he "monumentally misread the situation" and "caused someone I care about deep emotional pain and I'm so sorry." **Fallout**: Pinegrove has cancelled their upcoming tour.

Getty Images

Matt Lauer The long-time "Today" show host was accused of "inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace." A staffer issued NBC News chairman a "detailed complaint." **Fallout**: Lauer was fired from "Today."

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David Sweeney Three female journalists at NPR filed complaints of sexual harassment against NPR Chief News Editor David Sweeney, including Sweeney attempting to give unexpected and unwanted kisses and gifts. **Fallout**: Sweeney departed NPR following an internal review of his conduct.

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Getty Images

Geraldo Rivera Bette Midler said that Geraldo Rivera and an unnamed producer once groped her, shoved her into a bathroom and forced poppers under her nose. Midler detailed the account in a 1991 interview with Barbara Walters that has gone viral. **Fallout:** Rivera issued an apology to Midler and other women named in his "tawdry" memoir. Fox News issued a statement saying that a series of Rivera's tweets criticizing Matt Lauer "do not reflect the views of Fox News or its management."

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in inappropriate behavior" during a 2015 production of "King Lear" -- after the paper reported that an unnamed actress had accused Rush of touching her inappropriately. **Fallout:** Rush denied the unspecified accusations. Rush announced he would "step aside" from his duties as President of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts and sued he Australia newspaper that reported them. A lawyer for Rush wrote to TheWrap, "Mr Rush has not been the subject of any sexual misconduct allegations as implied by your article."

Getty Images

Paul Haggis In a civil suit filed in December 2017, publicist Haleigh Breest accused the Oscar-winning director of "Crash" was accused of rape. Subsequently, three more women came forward with accusations of sexual misconduct, including one other case of assault. **Fallout:** Haggis denied the first rape allegation in a counter-suit. And his lawyer responded to the second wave of accusations by saying, "He didn't rape anybody."

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Getty Images

Andy Rubin Android creator Andy Rubin was investigated by Google for an "inappropriate relationship with a subordinate" during his time at the tech giant, according to The Information. **Fallout:** Rubin is taking a one-month leave of absence from his role as CEO of the smartphone company Essential for "personal reasons." The Google investigation found Rubin's "behavior was improper and showed bad judgement."

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Getty Images

Israel Horovitz Nine women came forward in a New York Times report to accuse playwright Israel Horovitz of sexual misconduct, including one woman who said Horovitz pressed her against a wall and forcefully kissed her when she was 16. Another woman says she was raped by Horovitz when she was 19. **Fallout:** Horovitz said he has a different memory of these events and apologized. His son, Adam Horovitz, said in his own statement: "I believe the allegations against my father are true, and I stand behind the women that made them." The Times adds that the Gloucester Stage Company, where he served as a founding artistic director, has cut ties with Horovitz.

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Getty Images

Garrison Keillor Garrison Keillor, the former host of "A Prairie Home Companion," was accused of "inappropriate behavior." **Fallout:** Keillor was fired by Minnesota Public Radio. "A Prairie Home Companion" will continue under a new title and with a new host, and MPR will no longer broadcast old episodes of the show. Keillor says he was fired for touching a "woman's bare back."

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Levine masturbated in front of two of the men and sexually abused another. **Fallout**: The Met has suspended Levine, canceled his upcoming performance dates and hired an outside law firm to investigate the allegations.

Getty Images

Robert Knepper A former costume designer accused "Prison Break" actor Robert Knepper of sexual assault in 1991, telling The Hollywood Reporter he shoved her against the wall, reached under her dress and grabbed her crotch. Four more women have since come forward accusing Knepper of sexual misconduct, including one who says Knepper forced oral sex on him in 2010. **Fallout**: Knepper will remain as a series regular on the CW series "iZombie" after an internal investigation by Warner Bros. TV found no evidence of wrongdoing on set for the show. Knepper said in a statement to THR the accusations against him are false.

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MSNBC

Harold Ford Jr. Harold Ford Jr., a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley and an on-air contributor at MSNBC, was accused of grabbing a female reporter he had a professional relationship with and routinely harassing her. **Fallout**: Morgan Stanley fired Ford from his position with the company. Ford said in a statement, "This simply did not happen," adding that he would sue both the accuser and Morgan Stanley.

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suspended Heely from his position. Heely pleaded not guilty to the charges at an arraignment.

Getty Images

Mario Batali Four women accused celebrity chef Mario Batali of sexual misconduct and groping over two decades. **Fallout**: ABC removed Batali from the show "The Chew," and Batali said he would step away from the day-to-day management of his Batali & Bastianich Hospitality Group.

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PBS - Frontline

Ryan Lizza The New Yorker found in an investigation that contributor Ryan Lizza had "engaged in what we believe was improper sexual conduct." **Fallout:** The New Yorker fired Lizza and CNN, where he is also an on-air contributor, said Lizza won't be allowed on- air as they look into the matter. Lizza issued a statement saying his firing was "a terrible mistake" and involved a "respectful relationship with a woman" Lizza was dating.

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Getty Images

Tavis Smiley An investigation conducted by PBS found that TV personality Smiley engaged in sexual relationships with his subordinates following reports by 10 male and female witnesses, several of them former employees. **Fallout:** PBS "indefinitely" suspended Smiley's talk show program following the accusations. Smiley criticized PBS's investigation and said he was not provided due process or informed of the investigation. "This has gone too far," he said.

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time at the Manhattan restaurant Jean-Georges. According to a report in Mic, the women described being touched, licked and groped by Iuzzini without their permission. **Fallout:** ABC pulled the show from their schedule after airing just one episode. Iuzzini denied some of the accusations.

Getty Images

Peter Martins According to the New York Times, five dancers in the New York City Ballet accused the ballet's leader Peter Martins of physical and verbal abuse. He was also accused of sexual harassment. **Fallout:** Martins denies the accusations but announced in January 2018 that he would retire.

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Getty Images

Dan Harmon Dan Harmon admitted to past misconduct after Megan Ganz, a former writer on Harmon's show "Community," called him out on Twitter, but did not specify his behavior. **Fallout**: Harmon apologized to Ganz, saying he was "disgusted and sorry that I stained our show and your talent with my selfish, childish s---," earning a sharp response from Ganz in return.

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Soulpepper

Albert Schultz Four actresses -- Patricia Fagan, Kristin Booth, Diana Bentley and Hannah Miller -- have filed separate civil lawsuits accusing Schultz, an actor on "Alias Grace" and the artistic director of Canada's Soulpepper Theatre Company, of repeatedly groping and kissing women without permission and exposing himself on stage. The lawsuits allege the misbehavior extends 16 years. **Fallout**: The women are seeking 3.6 million Canadian dollars in damages from Schultz and 4.3 million Canadian dollars from the theater company. Schultz agreed to step aside while Soulpepper conducts an investigation but said he would "vehemently defend" himself.

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Getty Images

Bruce Weber According to the Los Angeles Times, male model Jason Boyce filed a complaint against fashion photographer Bruce Weber of forcing him to rub his genitals during a 2014 photo shoot. Several others also accused Weber of sexual misconduct. **Fallout:** Vanity Fair canceled an event planned for Weber. Weber denied the claims and said he would "vigorously defend myself."

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with Butts, who joined the company in 2012.

CBS

Steve Chaggaris CBS News found in an investigation that its Washington, D.C.-based political director Steve Chaggaris had engaged in "inappropriate behavior" that violated company policy, but did not specify the nature or extent of his actions. **Fallout:** CBS News has severed ties with Chaggaris (who could not be reached for comment).

search...

Miss America

Sam Haskell Miss America Organization CEO Sam Haskell was found to have sent disparaging emails about the contest's 2013 winner ,Mallory Hagan, mocking her weight and purported sex life. Haskell also referred to other contestants as "c--ts." **Fallout:** Haskell, President and COO Josh Randle, Board Chair Lynn Weidner and board member Tammy Haddad all resigned. Dick Clark Productions has also cut ties with the organization.

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was naked, pressed his erect penis on their bodies and pressured them to perform oral sex. **Fallout**: Vereen apologized for his "inappropriate conduct."

Fox News

James Rosen Fox News reporter James Rosen was accused by multiple female employees of sending racy messages to his former co-workers, aggressively pursuing sexual relationships with colleagues, and groping or forcibly kissing female Fox News employees. **Fallout:** Rosen left the network in December, but no reason was initially given for his departure. In January it was reported he was ousted following an investigation into his workplace behavior.

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Getty Images

James Franco Five women, including four students at the shuttered Studio 4, and one who considered him a mentor, accused actor James Franco of sexually exploitative behavior. Sarah Tither-Kaplan told the Los Angeles Times Franco asked women on a production to perform an orgy scene in which he would simulate oral sex on the women, but removed a protective plastic guard over their vaginas. A fifth accuser, Violet Paley, claims she was pressured to perform oral sex on Franco when she began a romantic relationship with him in 2016. **Fallout:** Franco's attorney disputed the allegations to the Times and pointed to his recent comments on "The Late Show." The New York Times also cancelled a recent panel event for Franco's film "The Disaster Artist" citing "the controversy surrounding recent allegations."

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After Weinstein: More than 100 high-powered men accused of sexual misconduct

Editors, USA TODAY Published 4:13 p.m. ET Nov. 22, 2017 | Updated 9:25 a.m. ET Jan. 30, 2018



(Photo: AP, Getty Images)

Corrections & Clarifications: Former CNN producer Teddy Davis has been removed from this list. He was accused of inappropriate behavior, according to CNN.

Since the allegations of sexual abuse by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein surfaced on Oct. 5, women have been stepping forward to publicly share their stories of sexual misconduct.

Although many of the accusations originally focused on Hollywood, more than 100 high-profile men across industries — including tech, business, politics and media — have since faced claims ranging from sexual harassment to rape (/story/news/nation/2017/11/17/americans-agree-sexual-harassment-problem-they-just-dont-always-agree-what/864621001/).

INTERACTIVE CALENDAR: The near daily onslaught of men accused (/pages/interactives/life/the-harvey-weinstein-effect/)

Below is a list (organized alphabetically) of powerful men who have been accused since the Weinstein scandal broke: (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

Ben Affleck

The actor and director was accused of groping (/story/life/movies/2017/10/10/rose-mcgowan-calls-out-ben-affleck-his-harvey-weinstein-statement-you-lie/752025001/) MTV host Hilarie Burton during a 2003 appearance on *Total Request Live*. He issued an apology on Oct. 11, tweeting (https://twitter.com/BenAffleck/status/918166049501208576), "I acted inappropriately toward Ms. Burton and I sincerely apologize." His apology came a day after he condemned Weinstein's behavior.

Tom Ashbrook

The host of National Public Radio program *On Point* was suspended following allegations (/story/life/2017/12/11/veteran-npr-host-tom-ashbrook-suspended-alleged-sexual-misconduct/940903001/) including he engaged in "creepy" sex talks and gave unwanted hugs, neck and back rubs to 11 mostly young women and men who worked on the show. In a statement, Ashbrook said he is sure "once the facts come out that people will see me for who I am — flawed but caring and decent in all my dealings with others."

Gavin Baker

The technology fund manager at Fidelity Investments was accused by multiple employees of harassment, most notably a female equity-research associate who claims she was sexually harassed by Baker and filed a complaint, reports *The Wall Street Journal* (https://www.wsj.com/articles/star-fidelity-manager-gavin-baker-fired-over-sexual-harassment-allegations-1507841061). An attorney for the woman claimed Baker was fired by Fidelity, but Baker — who said in a statement he "strenuously" denies any allegations — claims he left the company "amicably."

Ken Baker

The E! News correspondent has been accused by two women of harassment, including an intern who claims he kissed her without consent in 2011, reports *The Wrap* (https://www.thewrap.com/ken-baker-e-news-sexual-harassment-from-an-unwanted-kiss-to-a-text-about-a-sex-toy/). E! News said Baker will remain off the air while it investigates. "I am very disturbed by these anonymous allegations, which make my heart ache. I take them very seriously," said Baker in a statement to *The Wrap*.

Mario Batali

The renowned chef said he was stepping down from his company and TV show indefinitely (/story/money/2017/12/11/mario-batali-sexual-harassment/939785001/) following accusations of sexual harassment by mutiple women. "I take full responsibility and am deeply sorry for any pain, humiliation or discomfort I have caused to my peers, employees, customers, friends and family," said Batali in a statement.

Randy Baumgardner

A former legislative intern told NPR affiliate KUNC (http://www.kunc.org/post/colorado-senators-baumgardner-and-tate-named-allegations-sexual-harassment) of multiple uncomfortable encounters with Republican Colorado state Sen. Randy Baumgardner during the 2016 legislative session. She has filed a formal complaint. The report also cites six unnamed lobbyists and staffers who say they avoid the senator while at work. Baumgardner denied wrongdoing.

RELATED: At least 40 state lawmakers accused of sexual misconduct in past year, USA TODAY Network investigation finds (/story/news/nation-now/2017/11/20/sexual-harassment-statehouses/882874001/)

Eddie Berganza

Four women accused the DC Comics editor of sexual harassment in a piece published on *Buzzfeed* (https://www.buzzfeed.com/jtes/dc-comics-editor-eddie-berganza-sexual-harassment?utm_term=.ayyE6LdGq#.klOPMgLqK). Days later, Warner Bros. and DC Comics fired him, reports *Entertainment Weekly* (http://ew.com/books/2017/11/13/dc-comics-fires-editor-eddie-berganza-over-sexual-harassment-accusations/).

John Besh



Chef John Besh attends the Supper to benefit the Global Fund to fight AIDS in New York. Besh is stepping down from the restaurant group that bears his name after a newspaper reported that 25 current or former employees of the business said they were victims of sexual harassment. *(Photo: Brad Barket/Invision/AP)*

Twenty-five women have said they were sexually harassed (by John Besh or other male employees) while working at one of the celebrity chef's (http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2017/10/john_besh_restaurants_fostered.html#incart_special-report) restaurants. Besh stepped down from Besh Restaurant Group (http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2017/10/john_besh_restaurants_fostered.html#incart_special-report) on Oct. 23. "I have been seeking to rebuild my marriage and come to terms with my reckless actions," he wrote in a statement (http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2017/10/statements_by_john_besh_and_hi.html). "I also regret any harm this may have caused to my second family at the restaurant group, and sincerely apologize to anyone past and present who has worked for me who found my behavior as unacceptable as I do."

Stephen Bittel

Florida Democratic Party Chairman Stephen Bittel has been accused of sexually inappropriate comments and behavior toward a number of women. Bittel resigned.

Stephen Blackwell

Billboard magazine executive Stephen Blackwell was accused of sexual harassment by one woman. He has resigned from the magazine.

David Blaine

In a piece published by *The Daily Beast (https://www.thedailybeast.com/exclusive-former-model-accuses-david-blaine-of-rape)*, model Natasha Prince claims the magician raped her in 2004 shortly after her 21st birthday. Prince reported the incident to London police, and investigators contacted Blaine's lawyer, Marty Singer, to return to the United Kingdom for an interview, said the report. In a statement to *The Daily Beast* and ABC News (https://twitter.com/DanLinden/status/921119602872082432), Blaine's attorney denied the allegations (/story/life/people/2017/10/20/david-blaine-denies-allegation-he-raped-model-2004-natasha-prince/783294001/).

Sepp Blatter



Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter gives an interview to news agencies on April 21. *(Photo: Michael Buholzer, AFP/Getty Images)*

Hope Solo, the former goalkeeper for the U.S. women's national soccer team, accused the former FIFA president (/story/sports/soccer/2017/11/11/hope-solo-says-blatter-grabbed-her-he-calls-it-ridiculous/107577500/) of grabbing her rear during a soccer ceremony. Blatter told the AP the accusation is "ridiculous."

Raul Bocanegra

The California assemblyman announced Nov. 20 he will not seek re-election following accusations of harassment from six women, reports the *Los Angeles Times* (http://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-updates-assemblyman-raul-bocanegra-announces-he-1511198136-htmlstory.html). Bocanegra cited "persistent rumors and speculation" in his decision not to serve another term.

George H.W. Bush

Former Republican president George H.W. Bush has been accused by seven women (/story/news/politics/2017/11/16/report-seventh-woman-accuses-george-h-w-bush-groping-her-during-re-election-campaign/871793001/) of grabbing their butts. One of the women says she was 16 at the time (/story/news/politics/2017/11/13/george-h-w-bush-apologizes-after-woman-accuses-him-groping-her-when-she-16/858476001/). After the initial report Oct. 25, a Bush spokesman issued a statement of apology, saying "on occasion, he has patted women's rears (/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2017/10/25/president-george-h-w-bush-apologizes-actress-who-alleged-improper-touching/797846001/)" and it was never meant to cause offense.

Louis C.K. (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

The actor and comedian was accused of sexual misconduct by five woman in an exposé published by *The New York Times* (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/09/arts/television/louis-ck-sexual-misconduct.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Farts&action=click&contentCollection=arts&region=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=1 on Nov. 9. Among the claims, comedian Dana Min Goodman alleged C.K. exposed himself and started masturbating in front of her and fellow comedian Julia Wolov in his hotel room during a comedy festival in 2002. C.K. admitted to committing the acts described in the *Times* piece. "These stories are true," he wrote in a statement released by his publicist, Lewis Kay, on Nov. 10. C.K. has since lost a host of jobs, including his gig with the upcoming *Secret Life of Pets* sequel.

Nick Carter

Melissa Schuman, formerly of the pop group Dream, accused Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter on Nov. 2 of raping her (/story/life/people/2017/11/22/nick-carter-denies-melissa-schuman-rape-allegations/888800001/) when she was 18. Carter denies the allegations.

Giuseppe Castellano

Penguin Random House art director Giuseppe Castellano was accused by one woman of sexual harassment. Penguin Random House is investigating. Castellano has not commented.

John Conyers

Facing a rising chorus of voices demanding he step down because of sexual harassment claims, Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., retired on Dec. 5 (/story/news/politics/2017/12/05/john-conyers-announcement/922417001/) from the seat he has held for more than five decades, a swift and crushing fall from grace for a civil rights icon and the longest-serving active member of Congress. Conyers has been accused of sexual harassment toward staffers in his office and has settled at least one claim. He has denied the allegations, even the one he settled. Conyers said, "They're not accurate, they're not true and they're something I can't explain where they came from."

David Copperfield

The illusionist was accused by Brittney Lewis (/story/life/people/2018/01/24/david-copperfield-calls-metoo-movement-crucial-but-warns-new-allegations/1064051001/) of drugging and sexually assaulting her when she was 17. Lewis told The Wrap the incident happened after she competed in a modeling contest where Copperfield, then 32, was a judge. Before the story published, Copperfield released a statement saying he supports the Me Too movement but cautioned against rushing to judgment about false allegations.

Tony Cornish

Minnesota Republican state Rep. Tony Cornish announced on Nov. 21 that he would resign after being accused of inappropriate behavior by female lobbyist Sarah Walker and Rep. Erin Maye Quade. Cornish said in a statement he had reached an agreement in principle with Walker, who told Minnesota Public Radio News (https://www.minnpost.com/politics-policy/2017/11/amid-sexual-harassment-allegations-sen-dan-schoen-and-rep-tony-cornish-resig) that Cornish had propositioned her for sex dozens of times and once forced her into a wall in an attempt to kiss her. Cornish said the agreement calls for him to apologize and resign. Quade produced texts in which Cornish makes inappropriate comments about her appearance.

Eric Davis

he former NFL player was suspended by ESPN (/story/sports/nfl/2017/12/12/donovan-mcnabb-eric-davis-suspended-espn-investigates-sexual-harassment-allegations-nfl-network/943898001/) after he was named in a sexual misconduct lawsuit over claims while he was employed by NFL Network. Davis has yet to comment on the claims.

Andy Dick



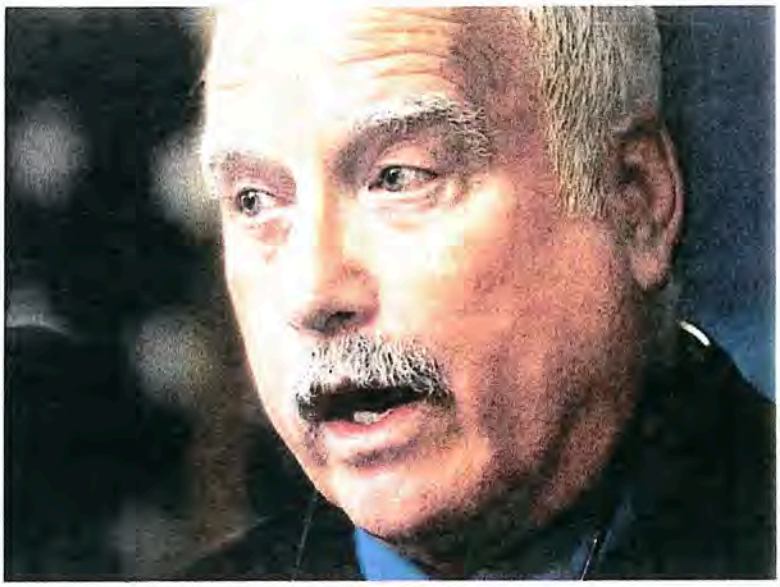
Actor and comedian Andy Dick has been fired from his role in the film 'Raising Buchanan' after he was accused of "groping people's genitals, unwanted kissing/licking and sexual propositions of at least four members of the production on the set," according to 'The Hollywood Reporter.' Dick denied groping claims, but admitted to licking and propositioning people. *(Photo: Kevork Djansezian, Getty Images)*

The actor and comedian (*Road Trip*), was accused of "groping people's genitals, unwanted kissing/licking and sexual propositions of at least four members of the production," on the set of the independent feature film *Raising Buchanan*, according to a report from *The Hollywood Reporter* (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/rambling-reporter/andy-dick-fired-movie-sexual-harassment-claims-1053162). In an interview with the news outlet Oct. 30, Dick denied the groping claims, but admitted to licking and propositioning people. He has since been fired from his role in *Buchanan*, and was let go from a separate film (http://www.vulture.com/2017/11/andy-dick-fired-from-another-film-for-groping-and-harassment.html) for similar behavior.

Michael Douglas

Author and journalist Susan Braudy claims the actor harassed her (/story/life/people/2018/01/19/michael-douglas-accused-sexual-misconduct-writer-susan-braudy-appalled/1047226001/) while she worked at his production company, Stonebridge Productions. Braudy told *The Hollywood Reporter* (https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/features/michael-douglas-alleged-harassment-media-metoo-moment-1075609) Douglas made sexually charged comments and masturbated in front of her during a private script meeting. Last month, Douglas gave a preemptive interview (/story/life/people/2018/01/10/michael-douglas-denies-sexually-harassing-blackballing-former-employee-complete-lie/1019810001/) denying ever harassing any employees after *THR* contacted him about the story.

Richard Dreyfuss



A writer who worked for actor and political activist Richard Dreyfuss said he sexually harassed her for years and exposed himself to her in a studio lot trailer when she worked for him in the '80s. Jessica Teich told the 'New York Magazine' that the actor made continual, overt and lewd comments and invitations after they met at a theater where she worked and Dreyfuss appeared. Dreyfuss denied the actor ever exposed himself to Teich but acknowledged to other encounters he now realizes were inappropriate. *(Photo: Manuel Balce Ceneta, AP)*

Actor Richard Dreyfuss (/story/life/people/2017/11/10/days-after-his-sons-sexual-assault-reveal-richard-dreyfuss-denies-harassing-l-a-writer/854122001/) (*Jaws*, *Mr. Holland's Opus*) was accused on Nov. 10 of sexual harassment by writer Jessica Teich, who said Dreyfuss showed her his penis. Dreyfuss denies exposing himself, but admitted that "at the height of my fame in the late 1970s I became an asshole — the kind of performative masculine man my father had modeled for me to be. I lived by the motto, 'If you don't flirt, you die.' And flirt I did ... But I am not an assaulter."

Charles Dutoit

The artistic director and principal conductor of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra has been accused by four people (/story/life/people/2017/12/21/famed-conductor-charles-dutoit-accused-sexual-misconduct/972882001/) of sexual misconduct. Dutoit has yet to respond to the claims.

Heath Evans

The former pro football player was suspended as an analyst (/story/sports/nfl/2017/12/12/nfl-network-suspends-analysts-over-sexual-misconduct-suit/108532946/) by the NFL Network after a former wardrobe stylist accused him of misconduct in a lawsuit. He has yet to respond to the claim.

Michael Fallon

British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon was accused of inappropriate advances on two women. The Conservative resigned. Sexual harassment and assault allegations have also emerged against a number of other U.K. political figures.

Blake Farenthold

The Texas state representative plans to withdraw from the Republican primary (/story/news/local/texas/state-bureau/2017/12/14/report-farenthold-withdraw-race/951287001/) on March 6 after details emerged he settled a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by a former aide with $84,000 in taxpayers' money.

Marshall Faulk

The former pro football player was suspended as an analyst (/story/sports/nfl/2017/12/12/nfl-network-suspends-analysts-over-sexual-misconduct-suit/108532946/) by the NFL Network after a former wardrobe stylist accused him of misconduct in a lawsuit. He has yet to respond to the claim.

Adam Fields

Film producer Adam Fields has been accused of offering a promotion to a woman at his former employer, Relativity Media, in exchange for sex. He has denied the allegations.

Hamilton Fish

The president and publisher of *The New Republic* magazine resigned on Nov. 3 following a report from *The New York Times* (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/03/business/media/hamilton-fish-new-republic-resignation.html) of an investigation into allegations of inappropriate conduct by female employees. In an email to New Republic owner Win McCormack, Fish expressed "deep dismay" at the claims. "Women have longstanding and profound concerns with respect to their treatment in the workplace," he wrote. "Many men have a lot to learn in this regard. I know I do, and I hope for and encourage that new direction."

Harold Ford Jr.

The former Tennessee congressman Harold Ford Jr. was fired by Morgan Stanley (/story/money/nation-now/2017/12/07/report-former-rep-harold-ford-jr-fired-alleged-misconduct/931897001/) after accusations of misconduct. Ford denied the allegations and said he would bring legal action against the woman and his former employer.

Al Franken

The Democratic U.S. Senator from Minnesota and *Saturday Night Live* alum was accused by TV host and broadcaster Leeann Tweeden (/story/news/politics/2017/11/16/sen-al-franken-accused-kissing-and-groping-sportscaster-leeann-tweeden-without-her-consent/870097001/) of kissing and groping her without her consent while on a USO tour in the Middle East in 2006. A second woman has stepped forward claiming Franken inappropriately touched her. While Congressional leaders seek a review of the claims, Franken apologized for the Tweeden incident (/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2017/11/16/read-al-frankens-apology-broadcaster-leeann-tweeden/870913001/). "I respect women," he said. "I don't respect men who don't. And the fact that my own actions have given people a good reason to doubt that makes me feel ashamed." Franken resigned on Dec. 7 (/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2017/12/07/sen-al-franken-takes-dig-trump-moore-resignation-speech/930997001/) after more than a half dozen women stepped forward with misconduct allegations.

Trent Franks

The Arizona representative said he would resign immediately (/story/news/politics/2017/12/08/rep-trent-franks-says-he-resign-immediately-citing-wifes-illnessa-day-after-announcing-he-would-step/935858001/), citing his wife's illness. Franks originally planned to step down in January after an aide claimed he repeatedly asked her to serve as a surrogate.

Alex Gilady

International Olympic Committee member Alex Gilady has been accused by two women of rape and by two others of inappropriate conduct (/story/sports/olympics/2017/11/09/olympic-ethics-panel-to-study-allegations-against-gilady/107494366/). Gilady denied the rape accusations, said he didn't recall one of the other allegations, but acknowledged a claim he'd propositioned a woman during a job interview 25 years ago was "mainly correct." He stepped down as president of an Israeli broadcasting company he founded. The IOC has said it is looking into the allegations.

Gary Goddard

The producer and writer (*Masters of the Universe*), was accused by *ER* actor Anthony Edwards of molesting him in an essay (https://medium.com/@anthonyedwards/yes-mom-there-is-something-wrong-f2bcf56434b9) published Nov. 10 on Medium. Edwards says he first met Goddard when he was 12, and served as a leader for Edwards' group of friends. "Everyone has the need to bond, and I was no exception," Edwards wrote. "My vulnerability was exploited. I was molested by Goddard, my best friend was raped by him — and this went on for years. The group of us, the gang, stayed quiet." Goddard's press representative Sam Singer put out a statement on Nov. 10 "unequivocally" denying Edward's charges. Since then, eight more former child actors have stepped forward (/story/life/people/2017/12/20/8-former-child-actors-accuse-producer-gary-goddard-sexual-misconduct/969095001/) to accuse Goddard of sexual harassment.

David Gomberg

Oregon state Rep. David Gomberg told The Oregonian/OregonLive (http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/10/oregon_lawmaker_accused_of_ina.html) that two women's complaints against him involved "inappropriate humor or inappropriate touching," invasion of "personal space" and hugging. The Democratic representative has publicly apologized (https://www.thenewsguard.com/news/report-rep-gomberg-accused-of-inappropriate-behavior-responds/article_554063ee-bbfa-11e7-924b-1707c7ce98b7.html).

Brian Gosch

The former House Majority Leader in South Dakota was accused by former state lawmaker (/story/news/politics/2017/10/13/former-state-lawmaker-lobbyist-tell-sexual-harassment-rape-pierre/762566001/) and lobbyist Angie Buhl O'Donnell of asking for a hug and making comments about her breasts. Gosch said the comments were made in jest and not meant to make her feel uncomfortable.

Tyler Grasham

The Hollywood agent was fired from the Agency of the Performing Arts after a former actor accused him of sexual assault more than a decade ago while he was in his teens, reports *The Wrap* (https://www.thewrap.com/blaise-godbe-lipman-tyler-grasham-apa-hollywood-agent-fed-me-alcohol-sexually-assaulted-me/). Filmmaker Blaise Godbe Lipman claims Grasham gave him alcohol while underage and sexually assaulted. Actor Tyler Cornell also filed a police report against Grasham, alleging "a sodomy crime," according to *Variety* (http://variety.com/2017/biz/news/tyler-grasham-lapd-investigation-apa-agent-sexual-assault-sodomy-1202601993/). At least five men (http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/31/agent-sexual-assault-tyler-grasham/) have accused him of sexual misconduct.

Jon Grissom

Former child star Corey Feldman identified former actor Jon Grissom (/story/life/people/2017/11/02/corey-feldman-identifies-man-he-says-molested-him/828210001/) as one of the men who molested him when he was a young teen in Hollywood. Feldman identified Grissom to *Dr. Oz* on Nov. 2, but not on air. Feldman called on victims to speak out and abusers to turn themselves in: "If you do not, we're coming for you."

David Guillod

The manager, producer and co-CEO of Primary Wave Entertainment (*Atomic Blonde*), was accused by actress Jessica Barth of drugging and sexually assaulting her in 2012 when he was working as her manager, she confirmed to *The Wrap* (https://www.thewrap.com/david-guillod-jessica-barth-ted-atomic-blonde-producer-drugged-assaulted-exclusive/) on Nov. 2. Barth said she reported the incident to the LAPD after it happened. She then said that Guillod threatened her with a lawsuit to keep her from pressing charges. Following the allegations, Guillod's attorney said charges were fully investigated at the time, but he has taken a leave of absence from the company, reports *Deadline* (http://deadline.com/2017/11/david-guillod-leave-of-absence-primary-wave-sexual-assault-accusation-jessica-barth-1202201162/) and *The Hollywood Reporter* (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/primary-wave-ceo-david-guillod-takes-leave-absence-sexual-assault-claims-1054750).

Mark Halperin



NBC News ended its contract with political commentator Mark Halperin after he was accused of sexual harassment. *(Photo: Richard Shotwell, AP)*

The MSNBC political analyst was accused by five women of sexual harassment (http://money.cnn.com/2017/10/25/media/mark-halperin-sexual-harassment-allegations/index.html), including forcible kissing. One woman claims Halperin grabbed her breasts. NBC News terminated his contract (/story/money/nation-now/2017/10/30/nbc-terminates-mark-halperins-contract-over-sexual-harassment-allegations-reports-say/812885001/), and he lost both a book deal and HBO project (https://preview.usatoday.com/story/money/nation-now/2017/10/26/5-accuse-nbc-analyst-mark-halperin-sexual-harassment/801982001/). In a statement to CNN, Halperin said he would take a step back to deal with the situation. "I now understand from these accounts that my behavior was inappropriate and caused others pain," he said. "For that, I am deeply sorry and I apologize."

Andy Henry

Casting employee Andy Henry admitted to urging women to take off their clothes during coaching sessions in 2008 while working on the "CSI" series. He was fired by his current employer.

Cliff Hite

The former Ohio senator resigned over claims (/story/news/politics/2017/10/28/yformer-ohio-senator-cliff-hite-repeatedly-sought-sex-legislative-employee-despite-refusals-memo-say/809267001/) he repeatedly asked a female legislative employee for sex. According to a memo obtained from the woman's employer, she refused his advances eight or nine times. "I sometimes asked her for hugs and talked with her in a way that was not appropriate for a married man, father and grandfather like myself," said Hite in a statement.

Dustin Hoffman



Anna Graham Hunter alleges that Oscar-winning actor Dustin Hoffman groped her and talked about sex in front of her while she was a 17-year-old intern on the set of his 1985 TV-movie adaptation of 'Death of a Salesman.' Hoffman apologized in a statement to the 'Associated Press,' saying, "I have the utmost respect for women and feel terrible that anything I might have done could have put her in an uncomfortable situation... It is not reflective of who I am." The following day, a second accuser, Wendy Riss Gatsiounis told 'Variety' the actor made verbal advances and tried to convince her to go to a hotel. *(Photo: Jordan Strauss, Invision/AP)*

The Oscar-winning actor known for *Rain Man* and *The Graduate*, was accused of sexual harassment by Anna Graham Hunter in an article published by *The Hollywood Reporter* (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/features/dustin-hoffman-sexually-harassed-me-i-was-17-guest-column-1053466) on Nov. 1. Hunter alleges talked about sex in front of her while she was a 17-year-old intern on the set of his 1985 TV-movie adaptation of *Death of a Salesman*. Hoffman apologized in a statement to the Associated Press (/story/life/people/2017/11/01/dustin-hoffman-apologizes-alleged-1985-sexual-harassment-incident/821209001/), saying, "I have the utmost respect for women and feel terrible that anything I might have done could have put her in an uncomfortable situation... It is not reflective of who I am." The following day, a second accuser (/story/life/people/2017/11/02/dustin-hoffman-second-woman-accuses-oscar-winner-sexual-harassment/825099001/), Wendy Riss Gatsiounis, told *Variety* he made verbal advances and tried to convince her to go to a nearby hotel when she was a playwright in her 20s.

Jeff Hoover

.entucky House Speaker Jeff Hoover stepped down as speaker after news surfaced that the Republican had settled a sexual harassment claim from a GOP caucus staffer. Hoover denied the harassment allegation but said he sent consensual yet inappropriate text messages. He remains in the Legislature.

Israel Horovitz



Nine women have accused playwright Israel Horovitz of sexual misconduct and his son, Beastie Boys' Adam Horovitz, says he believes the accusers. *(Photo: Andy Kropa, Andy Kropa /Invision/AP)*

Nine women who have accused award-winning playwright Israel Horowitz of sexual misconduct have the support of his son, Adam Horovitz of the Beastie Boys (/story/life/people/2017/11/30/beastie-boys-adam-horovitz-father-sexual-abuse-allegations/912229001/). The women detailed their allegations against Horovitz in a story Nov. 30 in The New York Times. Some were in the teens and others were in their 20s when they say the incidents occurred. The alleged abuse by Horovitz includes forced kissing, sexual touching and rape.

Dylan Howard

Dylan Howard, the top editor for the *National Enquirer* (/story/money/business/2017/12/05/ap-exclusive-top-gossip-editor-accused-sexual-misconduct/924783001/), *Us Weekly* and other major gossip publications openly described his sexual partners in the newsroom, discussed female employees' sex lives and forced women to watch or listen to pornographic material, former employees told The Associated Press.

Jesse Jackson

The civil rights activist was accused by The Root writer Danielle Young (https://www.theroot.com/don-t-let-the-smile-fool-you-i-m-cringing-on-the-insid-1819987586) of inappropriate touching following a keynote speech he gave. She said colleagues witnessed him grab her thigh. In a statement given to The Root, a representative for Jackson said he does not recall the incident but "profoundly and sincerely regrets any pain Ms. Young may have experienced."

Fullscreen

The Rev. Jesse Jackson through the years

Danny Jordaan

Former South African soccer association president Danny Jordaan (/story/news/world/2017/11/14/weinstein-effect-goes-global-powerful-men-confronted/862353001/) has been accused by former member of parliament Jennifer Ferguson of raping her in 1993. Jordaan denies the accusatic

Ethan Kath



Ethan Kath (Claudio Palmieri), 34, a songwriter and producer of Canadian music group Crystal Castles. *(Photo: C Flanigan, FilmMagic)*

The songwriter and producer of Canadian music group Crystal Castles was accused of rape on Oct. 24 by former bandmate Alice Glass in a lengthy letter posted on her website, *Vulture* (http://www.vulture.com/2017/10/alice-glass-accuses-crystal-castless-ethan-kath-of-rape.html) and *The Huffington Post* (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/alice-glass-crystal-castles-abuse_us_59f090f0e4b0e064db7e0d20) report. She claims the abuse lasted for almost 10 years, starting when she was 15 years old, and that this was the reason she left the band, which she co-founded with Kath, in 2014. In a statement to Pitchfork (https://pitchfork.com/news/alice-glass-accuses-crystal-castles-co-founder-ethan-kath-of-rape-and-assault/) via his attorney, Kath — whose real name is Claudio Palmieri — denied the allegations. "I am outraged and hurt by the recent statements made by Alice about me and our prior relationship," the statement reads. "Fortunately, there are many witnesses who can and will confirm that I was never abusive to Alice."

Garrison Keillor

The veteran radio host confirmed he was fired by Minnesota Public Radio (/story/life/people/2017/11/29/garrison-keillor-fired-alleged-improper-behavior-minnesota-public-radio/905491001/) for accusations of improper behavior. In a follow-up statement, Keillor told The Associated Press he was dismissed over "a story that I think is more interesting and more complicated than the version MPR heard." MPR said it is ending its business relationship with Keillor, which includes rebroadcasts of *The Best of A Prairie Home Companion*.

Ruben Kihuen



Rep. Ruben Kihuen, D-Nev., speaks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington on Nov. 14, 2016. *(Photo: Cliff Owen, AP)*

U.S. Rep. Ruben Kihuen, D-Nev., is alleged to have touched the thighs of a campaign aide as well as asked her out on dates and commented on her appearance, according to a Dec. 1 report by Buzzfeed News (https://www.buzzfeed.com/katenocera/she-says-she-quit-her-campaign-job-after-he-harassed-her?utm_term=.fxOxmVkZw#.gr89bK2EY). Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee chairman Rep. Ben Ray Lujan called on Kihuen to resign. Kihuen's office released a statement, including: "I sincerely apologize for anything that I may have said or done that made her feel uncomfortable."

Robert Knepper

Actor Robert Knepper, star of *Prison Break* and *iZombie*, has been accused by one woman of sexual assault. He denies the allegations.

Andrew Kreisberg

The creator of CW superhero series *Arrow*, *The Flash*, *Supergirl* and *Legends of Tomorrow*, was fired by Warner Bros (/story/life/tv/2017/11/29/supergirl-:oducer-andrew-kreisberg-fired-after-sexual-misconduct-investigation/905716001/)., spokesperson Tammy Golihew confirmed to USA TODAY, after *Variety (http://variety.com/2017/tv/news/warner-bros-sexual-harassment-andrew-kreisberg-1202612522/)*published a story in which 15 women and four men alleged sexual harassment and inappropriate physical contact. He told the trade magazine that he denied any inappropriate touching or massages, saying "I have made comments on women's appearances and clothes in my capacity as an executive producer, but they were not sexualized. Like many people, I have given someone a non-sexual hug or kiss on the cheek."

Jeff Kruse

Two Oregon lawmakers filed formal complaints (http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/11/second_oregon_state_senator_pu.html) against the Republican state Sen. Jeff Kruse for sexual harassment and inappropriate touching. Kruse denied the allegations in an interview with *The Oregonian* (http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/11/second_oregon_state_senator_pu.html).

Knight Landesman

The publisher of Artforum has been accused by multiple women of sexual harassment. According to *The New York Times* (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/25/nyregion/knight-landesman-artforum-sexual-harassment-lawsuit.html), nine women filed a lawsuit in New York claiming he sexually harassed them. Landesman has resigned from the magazine.

John Lasseter

The chief creative officer of Pixar and Walt Disney Animation Studios, will take a six-month leave of absence (/story/life/movies/2017/11/21/disney-pixar-head-john-lasseter-takes-leave-absence-after-missteps/886425001/) following what he called "missteps" in a memo obtained by USA TODAY on Nov. 21. The news broke as *The Hollywood Reporter* was compiling a report into alleged sexual misconduct, which published later that day citing sources who remain unnamed "out of fear that their careers in the tight-knit animation community would be damaged." The insiders told the industry publication that his behavior went beyond hugging to "grabbing, kissing, making comments about physical attributes."

Jack Latvala

Florida Republican state Sen. Jack Latvala is being investigated by the Senate over allegations of harassment and groping. Latvala has denied the allegations.

Matt Lauer

NBC News announced it fired the Today show co-host (/story/life/2017/11/29/matt-lauer-fired-nbc-inappropriate-workplace-behavior/904340001/) for "inappropriate workplace behavior." According to a memo from NBC News chairman Andrew Lack, Lauer's dismissal was sparked by "a detailed complaint from a colleague about inappropriate sexual behavior" in the workplace. The memo also said while this is the first formal complaint against Lauer during his NBC tenure, "we were also presented with reason to believe this may not have been an isolated incident."

Steve Lebsock

The Colorado state representative has been accused of harassment (/story/news/local/colorado/2017/11/11/accused-harassment-colorado-rep-lebsock-apologizes-causing-pain/855762001/) including inappropriate comments. Lebsock later apologized (https://www.stevelebsockforcolorado.com/press-release-1/#pressreleases) for "the pain I have caused."

James Levine

New York's Metropolitan Opera suspended its relationship with longtime conductor James Levine (/story/life/people/2017/12/03/metropolitan-opera-suspects-conductor-james-lesexual-abuse-accusations-against-conductor-james-levin/917728001/%20%C2%A0) Dec. 3 pending an investigation into multiple allegations of sexual misconduct against him. Several of the men accusing him say they were underage (/story/life/music/2017/12/05/metropolitan-opera-waited-year-to-act-on-accusation-against-conductor-james-levine/108325956/) when the incidents took place.

Corey Lewandowski

President Trump's former campaign manager was accused of sexual assault after a singer and potential congressional candidate claimed he hit her twice on her buttocks during a Washington gathering in November. According to the Associated Press (/story/news/politics/2017/12/27/singer-says-she-filed-sex-assault-complaint-against-former-trump-aide-corey-lewandowski/983672001/), Lewandowski did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Ivan Lewis

U.K. Labour Party member Ivan Lewis has been suspended over an allegation of sexual misconduct; Lewis disputed the account but apologized if his behavior had been "unwelcome or inappropriate."

Ryan Lizza

The reporter was fired from *The New Yorker* on Dec. 11 (/story/money/business/2017/12/11/new-yorker-fires-reporter-ryan-lizza-over-alleged-sexual-misconduct/942412001/) for an incident of "improper sexual conduct." CNN later suspended him as an on-air contributor. "I am dismayed that *The New Yorker* has decided to characterize a respectful relationship with a woman I dated as somehow inappropriate," said Lizza in a statement.

Peter Martins

Peter Martins (/story/life/people/2017/12/05/new-york-city-ballet-peter-martins-under-investigation-sexual-harassment/108326006/), who has led New York City Ballet since the 1980s, has been removed from teaching his weekly class at the School of American Ballet while the two organizations jointly investigate an accusation of sexual harassment against him, it was announced Dec. 4. On January 1, Martins announced he would retire, reports *The New York Times* (https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/01/arts/dance/peter-martins-resigns-ballet.html?smid=tw-nytimes&smtyp=cur).

Danny Masterson



Actor Danny Masterson has been ousted from the Netflix series 'The Ranch' amid multiple sexual assault allegations. Revisit Masterson's Hollywood career in photos, from 'That '70s Show' to his more current projects. *(Photo: Annie I. Bang, Annie I. Bang/Invision/AP)*

Netflix yanked the actor from the series *The Ranch*following a series of sexual assault allegations (/story/life/people/2017/12/05/danny-masterson-fired-netflixs-amid-allegations/922500001/). In March, Los Angeles police said they started investigating Masterson after three women reported being sexually assaulted by him in the early 2000s. Masterson denies the allegations. "Law enforcement investigated these claims more than 15 years ago and determined them to be without merit," he said in the statement. "I have never been charged with a crime, let alone convicted of one."

Donovan McNabb

The former NFL quarterback was suspended by ESPN (/story/sports/nfl/2017/12/12/donovan-mcnabb-eric-davis-suspended-espn-investigates-sexual-harassment-allegations-nfl-network/943898001/) after he was named in a sexual misconduct lawsuit over claims while he was employed by NFL Network. McNabb has yet to comment on the claims.

Benny Medina

The manager who currently represents Jennifer Lopez was accused of attempted rape by *Sordid Lives* star Jason Dottley in an interview published by *The Advocate* (https://www.advocate.com/crime/2017/11/10/sordid-lives-actor-alleges-mogul-benny-medina-tried-rape-him) on Nov. 10. After throwing Dottley onto a bed in Medina's Los Angeles mansion in 2008, Medina "stuck his tongue down my mouth," Dottley alleges in the interview. A statement from Medina's lawyers Howard Weitzman and Shawn Holley to USA TODAY said Medina "categorically denies the allegation of attempted rape."

Tony Mendoza

Three women have accused California state Sen. Tony Mendoza of sexual harassment, the *Los Angeles Times* (http://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-updates-senate-panel-on-sen-tony-mendoza-from-1511802516-htmlstory.html) and *Sacramento Bee* (http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article185133028.html) report. The Democrat was booted from leadership positions pending an investigation. He has denied wrongdoing.

Murray Miller

The screenwriter best known for the hit TV series *Girls* was accused of sexual assault by actress Aurora Perrineau, according to a. Nov. 20 report from *The Wrap* (https://www.thewrap.com/girls-murray-miller-aurora-perrineau-harold-perrineau-lost-oz/). Perrineau, who alleges the incident occurred in 2012 when she was 17, filed a report at the West Hollywood station of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Sgt. Nelson Rios confirmed to USA TODAY. Miller's attorney, Matthew B. Walerstein, sent USA TODAY a statement (/story/life/tv/2017/11/18/report-actress-aurora-perrineau-accuses-girls-writer-murray-miller-sexual-assault/876665001/) in which his client denied Perrineau's allegations. *Girls* creator and star Lena Dunham and executive producer Jenni Konner issued a statement Friday in support of Miller, which she later apologized for (/story/life/people/2017/11/19/lena-dunham-sorry-timing-statement-backing-girls-writer-accused-sexual-assault/878606001/) after receiving criticism. (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

T.J. Miller

The actor denied claims reported in The Daily Beast (/story/life/people/2017/12/19/actor-t-j-miller-denies-accusations-sexual-assault-physical-violence/964492001/) from an anonymous alleged victim who said he punched and sexually assaulted her.

Roy Moore

The Republican candidate for U.S. Senator in Alabama was accused by eight women of a range of inappropriate conduct, ranging from unwanted attention to sexual misconduct and assault. Most of the incidents took place when Moore was assistant district attorney in Gadsden from 1977 to 1982. One woman, Leigh Corfman, said she was 14 when Moore, then 32, took her to his home, undressed her and guided her hand over his crotch. The legal age of consent, then and now, is 16. Moore calls the allegations "completely false," (/story/news/nation-now/2017/11/15/roy-moore-attorney-demands-accusers-yearbook/868848001/) and plans to continue his Senate campaign.

Rick Najera

The writer and producer was fired by CBS from his role as director of the network's annual diversity showcase after claims surfaced he made inappropriate comments to performers, reports *Variety* (http://variety.com/2017/tv/news/cbs-diversity-showcase-1202601412/). In a statement to *Variety*, Najera said he was "shocked" by the allegations. "Anyone who has been slammed by libelous deceptions knows exactly how we feel."

Larry Nassar

Longtime USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar has been accused of sexual abuse by more than 120 women (/story/sports/olympics/2017/11/21/larry-nassar-usa-gymnastics-expected-plead-guilty-sexual-assault/886906001/) since the *Indianapolis Star* (/story/news/2016/09/12/former-usa-gymnastics-doctor-accused-abuse/89995734/) first reported on assault allegations in September 2016. Since the #metoo movement, three members of the Fierce Five – the U.S. women's gymnastics team that won all-around gold at the 2012 London Olympics – have said he abused them, too: McKayla Maroney (/story/sports/olympics/2017/10/18/olympic-gold-medalist-mckayla-maroney-says-she-victim-sexual-abuse/774970001/), Aly Raisman (/story/sports/olympics/2017/11/12/aly-raisman-60-minutes-interview-larry-nassar/857203001/) and Gabby Douglas (/story/sports/olympics/2017/11/21/gabby-douglas-says-she-was-abused-former-usa-gymnastics-doctor-larry-nassar/886447001/). On Dec. 7, Nassar was sentenced to 60 years (/story/news/local/2017/12/07/larry-nassar-sentenced-60-years-federal-child-pornography-case/908838001/) in federal prison for child pornography.

Nelly

The rapper has been sued by a woman (/story/life/music/2017/12/21/woman-sues-rapper-nelly-claiming-sexual-assault-defamation/972283001/) claiming he sexually assaulted her on his tour bus and later damaged her reputation by refuting her account. Nelly's attorney says the lawsuit is financially motivated and a countersuit is planned.

Michael Oreskes



Mike Oreskes resigned as NPR's senior vice president for news after two women accused him of kissing them while discussing job prospects when he worked for the New York Times in Washington, D.C. *(Photo: Chuck Zoeller, AP)*

The senior vice president for news at National Public Radio resigned on Nov. 1 (http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/11/01/561363158/nprs-head-of-news-resigns-following-harassment-allegations) after multiple women accused him of inappropriate conduct. Two women claimed (/story/money/media/2017/11/01/npr-news-chief-michael-oreskes-resigns-after-sexual-harassment-accusations/821405001/) Oreskes abruptly kissed them on the lips and stuck his tongue in their mouths while discussing job prospects, according to *The Washington Post*. The incidents took place while he was *The New York Times'* Washington D.C. bureau chief in the 1990s. A third woman filed a complaint at NPR accusing him of harassment in October 2015. "I am deeply sorry to the people I hurt," Oreskes said in a statement. "My behavior was wrong and inexcusable, and I accept full responsibility."

Shervin Pishevar

Less than a week after being hit with claims that he sexually harassed six women, Virgin Hyperloop One co-founder Shervin Pishevar (/story/tech/2017/12/05/hyperloop-cofounder-pishevar-takes-leaves-after-harassment-allegations/923730001/) said Dec. 5 he was taking a leave of absence from his businesses to focus on a lawsuit against a research firm that he believes is behind a smear campaign. A Bloomberg report charged that the venture capitalist and early Uber investor groped Uber employee Austin Geidt at a 2014 Uber party, citing unnamed witnesses.

Jeremy Piven

The actor on the TV series *Entourage*, was accused by actress and reality star Ariane Bellamar of groping her on two occasions. In her tweets (https://twitter.com/ArianeBellamar/status/925104391748837377) published Oct. 30, she alleges one encounter took place in Piven's trailer on the *Entourage* set, when he allegedly grabbed her breasts and bottom, and the other occurred at the Playboy Mansion. Piven denied the allegations in a statement sent to USA TODAY (/story/life/2017/10/31/cbs-investigating-harassment-allegations-against-jeremy-piven/819607001/) by his rep, Jennifer Allen: "I unequivocally deny the appalling allegations being peddled about me." CBS, which airs Piven's new series, *Wisdom of the Crowd*, said in a statement, "We are aware of the media reports and are looking into the matter." (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

Roy Price



In August, producer Isa Hackett accused Amazon Studios chief Roy Price of making unwanted sexual remarks. It wasn't until after the Weinstein scandal broke that Price was forced out of his high-profile job. *(Photo: Barry Brecheisen, AP)*

The Amazon Studios programming chief resigned in October after Isa Hackett, a producer of Amazon Studios' series *The Man in the High Castle*, accused him of insistently and repeatedly propositioning her (/story/tech/2017/10/17/amazon-studios-head-roy-price-steps-down-amid-harassment-claims/773801001/) in 2015. Two of Price's lieutenants, Joe Lewis and Conrad Riggs, were also let go shortly after his departure. Price has yet to issue a statement on the allegation.

Brett Ratner

The producer and director (*Rush Hour, X-Men: The Last Stand*), was accused of sexually harassing six women, including actresses Olivia Munn and Natasha Henstridge, in a Nov. 1 report from the *Los Angeles Times* (http://www.latimes.com/business/hollywood/la-fi-ct-brett-ratner-allegations-20171101-htmlstory.html). In an Facebook post, Melanie Kohler claimed Ratner "was a rapist at least one night in Hollywood about 12 years ago" and that he "preyed on me as a drunk girl (and) forced himself on me." Ratner is suing Kohler for libel, and is no longer working on projects at Warner Bros.

Twiggy Ramirez

The former bassist and guitarist of the band Marilyn Manson was accused of rape Oct. 20 by Jack Off Jill singer Jessicka Addams, who shared in a Facebook post (https://www.facebook.com/MissJessickaAddams/posts/10155413298828005) that White — whose real name is Jeordie White — physically and sexually assaulted her while they were dating. On Oct. 24, Marilyn Manson shared in a Twitter statement that he decided to "part ways with Jeordie White as a member of Marilyn Manson." (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

Jerry Richardson

The owner of the NFL's Carolina Panthers faces an NFL investigation into alleged sexual misconduct (/story/sports/nfl/2017/12/17/nfl-taking-over-investigation-of-richardson-allegations/108698472/) following a Sports Illustrated report claiming he made sexually suggestive comments to women. Although he did not address allegations, Richardson said hours after the report surfaced he planned to sell the team.

Terry Richardson

The fashion photographer faces multiple allegations since 2010 (/story/life/2017/10/24/sexually-explicit-fashion-photographer-terry-richardson-banned-british-vogue/795390001/), when some models began going public, describing episodes of graphic abuse, inappropriate touching and sexual harassment during photo shoots. Condé Nast International discontinued working with Richardson Oct. 24 and banned him from future assignments. "He is an artist who has been known for his sexually explicit work so many of his professional interactions with subjects were sexual and explicit in nature but all of the subjects of his work participated consensually," said a representative for Richardson in a statement to BuzzFeed (https://www.buzzfeed.com/markdistefano/conde-nast-terry-richardson?utm_term=.gpXNMwy88#.qj7ZBegzz). (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

Rich Rodriguez

The University of Arizona fired the football coach on Jan. 2 (/story/sports/ncaaf/pac12/2018/01/02/arizona-fires-football-coach-rich-rodriguez/998676001/) amidst an investigation into an off-the-field allegation of sexual harassment. The university said in a letter although the claims from a former athletic department employee could not be substantiated, they became aware of information causing concerns over the direction of the football program.

Charlie Rose

The longtime TV journalist was accused by eight women of sexual harassment (/story/life/tv/2017/11/21/cbs-morning-addresses-charlie-rose-scandal-charlie-does-not-get-pass-here/884102001/) in a report from *The Washington Post*. The women claim Rose made unwanted sexual advances toward them, including lewd phone calls and walking around naked in their presence. In a separate report, three CBS employees accused Rose of harassment during his tenure. CBS fired Rose, while PBS revealed it would no longer carry his long-running interview show.

Paul Rosenthal

The Colorado state representative was accused of inappropriately touching (/story/news/local/colorado/2017/11/15/second-colorado-lawmaker-accused-sexual-harassment/869220001/) a political organizer during a fundraiser in 2012. Rosenthal denies the claim.

Gilbert Rozon

Comedy festival organizer Gilbert Rozon has been accused by at least nine women of sexually harassing or sexually assaulting them. Rozon stepped down as president of Montreal's renowned "Just for Laughs" festival and apologized "to all those I have offended during my life."

Geoffrey Rush

The Sydney Theatre Company announced that an actress accused Geoffrey Rush (/story/life/people/2017/12/01/geoffrey-rush-denies-inappropriate-behavior-theater/912469001/), the Oscar-winning actor and a star of the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise, of inappropriate touching. Rush denies it, but announced Dec. 2 that he stepped down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts amid the "current climate of innuendo and unjustifiable reporting."

Carl Sargeant

British Labour Party legislator Carl Sargeant is believed to have taken his own life after harassment allegations cost him his post as the Welsh government's Cabinet secretary for communities and children. He had asked for an independent inquiry to clear his name.

Chris Savino

An animator and writer best known for creating *The Loud House* was fired from Nickelodeon after multiple women lodged complaints against him, the network confirmed in a statement to *The Hollywood Reporter* (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/live-feed/nickelodeon-fires-loud-house-creator-sexual-harassment-allegations-1050485). On Oct. 23, Savino posted an apology to his Facebook page, writing he is "deeply sorry" that his words and actions "created an uncomfortable environment," CBS News (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/chris-savino-ex-nickelodeon-producer-sexual-harassment-allegations/) and *The Hollywood Reporter* (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/live-feed/fired-nickelodeon-showrunner-apologizes-sexual-harassment-allegations-surface-1051107) report. (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

Dan Schoen

Minnesota state legislator Dan Schoen announced his resignation in November after being accused of sexual misconduct. The Democratic first-term senator was accused of making unwanted advances against several women and sexually assaulting one of them. Schoen, 42, was accused by a Democratic candidate for office of grabbing her buttocks in 2015. Another candidate who is now a fellow Democratic lawmaker said he sent her a string of

suggestive texts, and a Senate employee said he texted her a picture of male genitalia.

Mark Schwahn

A screenwriter best known for creating the popular TV series *One Tree Hill*, was accused of "traumatizing" sexual harassment by 18 cast and crew members of the show, including Sophia Bush and Hilarie Burton, in a letter published in *Variety* on Nov. 13 (http://variety.com/2017/tv/news/one-tree-hill-3-1202614198/). The letter was penned in support of former *Tree Hill* writer Audrey Wauchope, who detailed in a series of tweets (https://twitter.com/audreyalison/status/929504940254359552?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.usatoday.com%2Fstory%2Flife%2Fpeople%2F2017%2F11%2F14%2Fone-tree-hill-cast-unite-accuse-creator-mark-schwahn-sexual-harassment%2F861180001%2F) the treatment female crew endured on the show. On Dec. 21, Schwahn was fired by Lionsgate (/story/life/tv/2017/12/21/royals-creator-mark-schwahn-fired-after-sexual-misconduct-probe/975015001/).

Robert Scoble

The tech consultant and blogger was accused of sexual harassment by two women (/story/tech/2017/10/22/robert-scoble-resigns-transformation-group-after-sexual-harassment-allegations/789071001/). A third woman claimed Scoble verbally harassed her. On Oct. 22, Scoble's friend and partner said Scoble had agreed to step down from their business consulting firm Transformation Group. After initially apologizing for doing things "that are really, really hurtful to women," he said he's not guilty of sexual harassment (https://scobleizer.blog/) because he had no power to "make or break" the careers of women who made allegations against him. "Sexual Harassment requires that I have such power," he wrote.

Steven Seagal

The actor and producer (*Under Siege, Above the Law*), was accused of sexual harassment by Portia de Rossi (/story/life/people/2017/11/08/portia-de-ossi-claims-steven-seagal-unzipped-his-leather-pants-during-office-audition/846985001/), who claims he unzipped his pants during a private office audition. *ER* actress Julianna Margulies also revealed an incident she had with Seagal in an interview with *SiriusXM*'s Jenny Hutt (/story/life/2017/11/03/harvey-weinstein-news-criminal-investigations-updates-sexual-assault-harassment/828432001/) on Nov. 4. She claims the producer requested to go over a scene with her in his hotel room when she was 23, and once she arrived, the female assistant who said she would be there with her was gone.

Don Shooter

Eight women have accused Arizona state representative Don Shooter (/story/news/politics/legislature/2017/11/13/another-woman-accuses-arizona-rep-don-shooter-sexual-misconduct/860893001/) of misconduct, including inappropriate touching and comments. The Arizona House of Representatives has launched multiple investigations into the claims. Shooter has declined comment.

Andy Signore

The creator of entertainment site Screen Junkies and the YouTube series Honest Trailers was fired following several accusations from women on social media. One woman claimed (http://variety.com/2017/digital/news/honest-trailers-creator-andy-signore-fired-for-egregious-and-intolerable-sexual-behavior-1202583996/) Signore tried to sexually assault her and threatened to fire her boyfriend if she went public. In a statement posted to Twitter (https://twitter.com/defymedia/status/917199853658169345) on October 8, employer Defy Media called his behavior "egregious" and "intolerable." The *New York Times* (https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/11/10/us/men-accused-sexual-misconduct-weinstein.html), *Variety* (http://variety.com/2017/digital/news/honest-trailers-creator-andy-signore-fired-for-egregious-and-intolerable-sexual-behavior-1202583996/)and IndieWire (http://www.indiewire.com/2017/10/andy-signore-suspended-screen-junkies-honest-trailers-1201884692/)reported on the fallout.

Gene Simmons

The member of rock group Kiss was named in a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, according to the San Bernardino Sun (http://www.sbsun.com/2017/12/15/kiss-bassist-gene-simmons-facing-lawsuit-alleging-sexual-battery-during-socal-interview/). Simmons is accused of making unwarranted sexual advances at an on-air radio personality during an interview at a restaurant he co-owns with bandmate Paul Stanley. Simmons denies the accusations (/story/life/people/2017/12/17/kiss-frontman-gene-simmons-denies-accusations-sexual-misconduct/959583001/).

Bryan Singer

A lawsuit filed in Washington state claims (/story/life/movies/2017/12/07/new-lawsuit-alleges-director-bryan-singer-raped-17-year-old-boy/933265001/) the director behind the *X-Men* films sexually assaulted a 17-year-old boy. In a statement to Variety, Singer denies the allegations. The lawsuit landed the same week Singer was fire from directing the Queen biopic *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Ira Silverstein

Illinois state Sen. Ira Silverstein has been accused by activist Denise Rotheimer of "mind games" and commenting on her appearance, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times (https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/leadership-post-stripped-for-senator-named-at-harassment-hearing/)*. She said he did not proposition her or initiate physical contact, the *Chicago Tribune (http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/zorn/ct-perspec-zorn-silverstein-rotheim-*

papers-1108-20171107-story.html) reports.

Russell Simmons

The music mogul was accused of assault by model Keri Claussen Khalighi when she was 17, according to a report in *The Los Angeles Times* (http://www.latimes.com/business/hollywood/la-fi-brett-ratner-russell-simmons-20171119-htmlstory.html). Khalighi claims Simmons assaulted her and coerced her to perform oral sex while director Brett Ratner — then a music video producer — was present. In a statement (/story/life/people/2017/11/19/russell-simmons-accusations-terry-crews-brett-ratner/878856001/), Simmons said he "completely and unequivocally" denies the claims.

John Singleton

Director John Singleton was accused by The Root author Danielle Young (https://www.theroot.com/don-t-let-the-smile-fool-you-i-m-cringing-on-the-insid-1819987586) of making sexual advances while interviewing him about his new show *Snowfall*. She says others witnessed it. Singleton has yet to comment on the incident.

Tom Sizemore



An 11-year-old actress on the set of crime thriller Born Killers (shot as Piggy Banks) in 2003, according to a report from The Hollywood Reporter published Nov. 13, alleges that Tom Sizemore touched her genitals during a photo shoot for the film. His agent Stephen Rice, told the industry trade paper, "Our position is 'no comment.'" *(Photo: Jordan Strauss, Invision/AP)*

The actor known for *Saving Private Ryan,* was accused of molesting an 11-year-old actress on the set of crime thriller *Born Killers* (shot as *Piggy Banks*) in 2003, according to a report from (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/tom-sizemore-was-removed-movie-set-allegedly-violating-11-year-old-girl-1057629)*The Hollywood Reporter (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/tom-sizemore-was-removed-movie-set-allegedly-violating-11-year-old-girl-1057629)*published Nov. 13. The child actress allegedly told her mother that Sizemore touched her genitals during a photo shoot for the film. According to *THR*, her parents declined to press charges and months later, Sizemore returned for reshoots in Malibu. His agent, Stephen Rice, told the industry trade paper, "Our position is 'no comment.'"

Tavis Smiley

PBS indefinitely suspended the late-night TV show host (/story/life/2017/12/13/tavis-smileys-show-dropped-pbs-amid-troubling-allegations-misconduct/950476001/) following "multiple, credible allegations" of misconduct. According to *Variety* (http://variety.com/2017/tv/news/tavis-smiley-pbs-1202639424/), an investigation found credible allegations Smiley had engaged in sexual relationships with multiple subordinates, and that some believed their jobs depended on a sexual relationship with Smiley. Smiley denies any wrongdoing.

Kevin Spacey

The actor best known for his role on *House of Cards* and *American Beauty*, has been accused of sexual harassment by several people including actor Anthony Rapp (/story/life/people/2017/10/30/who-anthony-rapp-actor-who-accused-kevin-spacey-sexual-harassment/812414001/), who claims he was 14 when Spacey made advances towards him in 1986. Spacey apologized to Rapp via Twitter on Oct. 30, writing, "I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years." The actor

also came out as gay in the statement. Spacey plans to "seek evaluation and treatment," the actor's representative Staci Wolfe told USA TODAY (/story/life/people/2017/11/01/kevin-spacey-scandal-new-accuser-says-actor-made-advances-him-teen/820324001/). (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

Sylvester Stallone



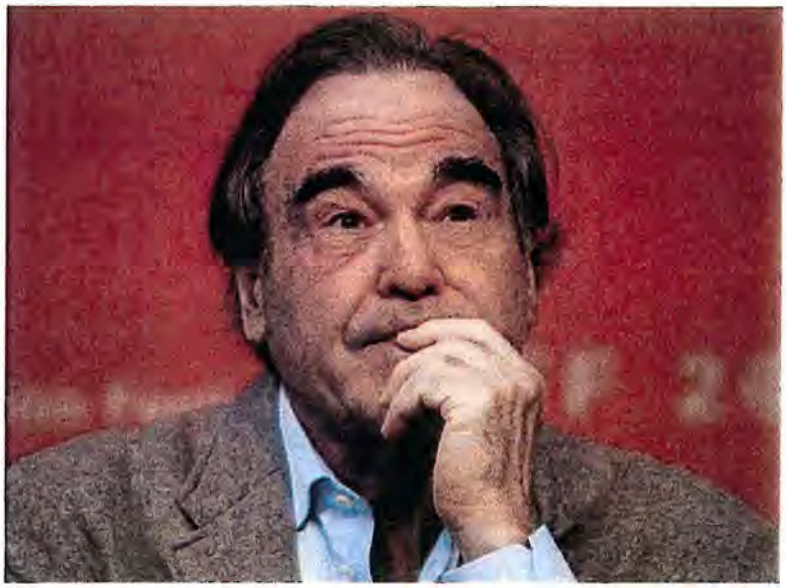
A rep for Sylvester Stallone has called decades-old sexual assault allegations against the star "categorically false." *(Photo: Mike Marsland, WireImage)*

The actor-director whose *Rocky* franchise saw a rebirth with 2015's *Creed,* is facing reports of sexual assault from the late 80s. An old police report detailed by the *Daily Mail (http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5081605/Sylvester-Stallone-accused-forcing-teen-threesome.html)* and the *Baltimore Post-Examiner* (http://baltimorepostexaminer.com/sylvester-stallone-accused-30-years-ago-allegedly-group-sex-teen-police-say/2016/02/16) website indicates an unnamed teen, then 16, consented to sex with Stallone in Las Vegas in 1986. But she told police she did not consent to group sex after Stallone invited his bodyguard to join them. She said she felt intimidated into having sex with both of them. Under Nevada law, the age of consent is 16. "This is a ridiculous, categorically false story," his rep, Michelle Bega, told USA TODAY. Meanwhile, a second woman has stepped forward (/story/life/people/2017/12/21/sylvester-stallone-categorically-disputes-sexual-assault-claim-second-accuser/974418001/), reportedly filing a police report last month in Santa Monica, Calif.

Lockhart Steele

The editorial director for Vox Media was fired for harassment (http://money.cnn.com/2017/10/20/media/vox-media-fires-editorial-director-lockhart-steele/index.html) following allegations made by a former employee. In a Medium post from Eden Rohatensky, a former web developer at Vox Media, she said a VP caressed her hand and kissed her neck while in the back of an Uber. "Lock admitted engaging in conduct that is inconsistent with our core values and is not tolerated at Vox Media," said CEO Jim Bankoff in a memo to employees, *Variety* reports (http://variety.com/2017/digital/news/vox-media-lockhart-steele-fired-sexual-harassment-1202595146/).

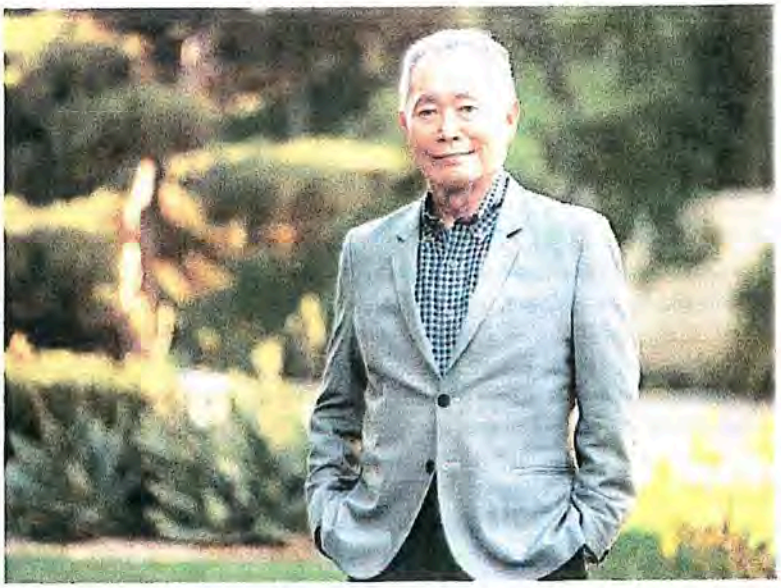
Oliver Stone



Oliver Stone speaks during a press conference of the New Currents Jury at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan, South Korea, on Oct. 13, 2017. *(Photo: JEON HEON-KYUN, EPA-EFE)*

Carrie Stevens, an actress and former Playboy model, alleged the Oscar-winning director grabbed her breast during a party, she tweeted and detailed to *The Hollywood Reporter* (https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/oliver-stone-accused-groping-tv-actress-early-1990s-1048468) and *New York Daily News*. Meanwhile, actress Melissa Gilbert said she felt "humiliated" (/story/life/people/2017/11/21/melissa-gilbert-says-oliver-stone-humiliated-her-in-audition-for-the-doors/884074001/) following an audition for the 1991 film *The Doors*, which Stone directed. "The whole scene was just my character on her hands and knees saying, 'Do me, baby.' Really dirty, horrible," Gilbert said. "Then he said, 'I'd like you to stage it for me.'" In a statement, Stone said actors were told the audition process would be intense.

George Takei



'Star Trek' original cast member George Takei denies the claim of former model Scott R. Brunton alleging Takei groped him in the actor's Los Angeles condominium in 1981. *(Photo: USA TODAY)*

The *Star Trek* actor and social activist was accused of sexually assaulting former model Scott R. Brunton, according to an interview published by *The Hollywood Reporter* on Nov. 10 (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/george-takei-accused-sexually-assaulting-model-1981-1056698?utm_source=twitter&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral). Brunton alleges Takei groped him in the actor's Los Angeles condominium in 1981. Takei denied the allegations (/story/life/people/2017/11/11/george-takei-sexually-assault-accusation/854433001/) in a series of tweets on Nov. 11, writing, "The events he describes back in the 1980s simply did not occur, and I do not know why he has claimed them now."

Jeffrey Tambor

The *Transparent* actor was accused of engaging in inappropriate behavior by his former assistant, a transgender woman named Van Barnes, according to a *Deadline* report (http://deadline.com/2017/11/jeffrey-tambor-sexual-harassment-claims-amazon-1202204220/) on Nov. 8. Tambor, who plays a trans woman on the hit show, rejected the claims, calling Barnes' allegations "baseless." Tambor was also accused of sexual misconduct (/story/life/people/2017/11/16/transparent-trace-lysette-jeffrey-tambor/873288001/) by *Transparent* star Trace Lysette in a Nov. 16 report from *The Hollywood Reporter*. Amazon Studios has initiated an investigation into the allegations, Amazon spokesperson Craig Berman confirmed to USA TODAY. (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

Jack Tate

A woman told NPR affiliate KUNC (http://www.kunc.org/post/colorado-senators-baumgardner-and-tate-named-allegations-sexual-harassment) the Colorado senator was inappropriate with her repeatedly over a period of two-and-a-half months in 2016, when she was 18. A formal complaint (http://aspenpublicradio.org/post/sen-jack-tate-fourth-colorado-lawmaker-accused-sexual-harrassment) has been filed. Tate denied wrongdoing, reports KUNC.

Ike Taylor

The former pro football player was suspended as an analyst (/story/sports/nfl/2017/12/12/nfl-network-suspends-analysts-over-sexual-misconduct-suit/108532946/) by the NFL Network after a former wardrobe stylist accused him of misconduct in a lawsuit. He has yet to respond to the claim.

Glenn Thrush

Several women accused the White House reporter for The New York Times of sexually inappropriate behavior, reports Vox (/story/news/politics/2017/11/20/new-york-times-suspends-star-reporter-glenn-thrush-after-sexual-misconduct-allegations/880955001/). The report's author, Laura McGann, claimed Thrush came on to her at a bar and she had to quickly leave. McGann said she believes he later disparaged her to their newsroom colleagues. The Times said it will suspend Thrush while it investigates the matter. "Over the past several years, I have responded to a succession of personal and health crises by drinking heavily," said Thrush in a statement to Vox. "During that period, I have done things that I am ashamed of, actions that have brought great hurt to my family and friends."

James Toback



Director James Toback attending the photocall of the movie "The Private Life of a Modern Woman" presented out of competition at the 74th Venice Film Festival. *(Photo: Tiziana Fabi, AFP/Getty Images)*

The screenwriter and film director (*The Pick-up Artist*, *Two Girls and a Guy*), was accused of sexually harassing over 300 women, according to reports from the *Los Angeles Times* (http://beta.latimes.com/entertainment/movies/la-et-mn-selma-blair-rachel-mcadams-james-toback-20171026-story.html) on Oct. 27. The *Times* says 31 of the women spoke on the record about their encounters with Toback, which go back decades, and more than 270 have contacted journalist Glenn Whipp (http://beta.latimes.com/entertainment/movies/la-et-mn-toback-follow-up-20171023-story.html) with similar claims.

Adam Venit

The agent faces a lawsuit from Terry Crews (/story/life/people/2017/12/05/terry-crews-sues-hollywood-agent-he-says-groped-him/925510001/) for allegedly groping the actor at an industry event in 2016. Crews said in the lawsuit he shoved Venit after the agent grabbed his penis and testicles. "I have never felt more emasculated, more objectified, I was horrified," Crews said during an interview (/story/life/people/2017/11/15/terry-crews-opens-up-alleged-assault-good-morning-america-interview/865631001/) on *Good Morning America*.

Bruce Weber

Fashion photographer Bruce Weber has been accused (http://www.tmz.com/2017/12/05/fashion-photographer-bruce-weber-sexual-harassment-allegations/) by models Jason Boyce and Mark Ricketson of forcing them to touch their own genitals, they announced in a news conference with attorney Lisa Bloom on Dec. 5.

Kirt Webster

Webster Public Relations CEO Kirt Webster has been accused of sexual assault by one woman. The firm has been renamed and Webster is "taking time away."

Bob Weinstein

The film producer and brother of Harvey Weinstein has been accused of harassing TV producer Amanda Segel. In a statement, Spike TV told the Associated Press (/story/life/movies/2017/10/17/bob-weinstein-accused-sexually-harassing-female-tv-producer/773055001/) that the network is investigating the allegations by Segel, the showrunner on its adaptation of Stephen King's *The Mist*. According to a story published Oct. 17 by *Variety* (http://variety.com/2017/tv/news/bob-weinstein-sexual-harassment-1202592165/), Weinstein invited her to dinner, to his home and to a hotel room during a three-month period in the summer of 2016.

Harvey Weinstein

The film producer (*Shakespeare in Love*, *Emma*), was accused of decades of alleged sexual harassment and assault in bombshell reports from the *New York Times* (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/05/us/harvey-weinstein-harassment-allegations.html?_r=0) and *New Yorker* (https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/from-aggressive-overtures-to-sexual-assault-harvey-weinsteins-accusers-tell-their-stories) in early October. The list of his accusers (/story/life/people/2017/10/27/weinstein-scandal-complete-list-accusers/804680001/), which includes actresses Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Rose McGowan. In wake of the allegations, Weinstein resigned from the company board of directors on Oct. 17. He has also filed suit against the Weinstein Company in an attempt to gain access to his emails and personnel file for the purpose of defending himself, the *Associated Press* reports.

Fullscreen

Harvey Weinstein's scandal

Hollywood career

Matthew Weiner

The creator of hit series *Mad Men* was accused of sexual harassment by *Mad Men* staff writer Kater Gordon in an interview with *The Information* (https://www.theinformation.com/articles/former-mad-men-writer-starts-nonprofit-after-alleged-harassment?jwt=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJzdWIiOiJzaGFyZnphY2tAZ21haWwuY29tIiwiZXhwIjoxNTQxODIxNjg2LCJuIjoiR3Vlc3QiLCJzY29wZSI6WyJzaGFyZSJdfQ.xl Nov. 9. In the interview, she alleges Weiner told her late one night she "owed it to him to let him see her naked." She says she didn't report the comment officially because she was afraid of losing her job. A year after the incident, Gordon was let go from *Mad Men*. Weiner's spokeswoman said in a statement to *The Information,* "Mr. Weiner spent eight to ten hours a day writing dialogue aloud with Miss Gordon, who started on Mad Men as his writers assistant. He does not remember saying this comment nor does it reflect a comment he would say to any colleague."

Jann Wenner

Rolling Stone publisher Jann Wenner was accused by one man of sexual harassment. He says he did not intend to make the accuser uncomfortable.

Ed Westwick



Ed Westwick known for his role on Gossip Girl is accused of sexual misconduct by two women. Actress Kristina Cohen accused Westwick in a Facebook post Nov. 6, of raping her at his house three years ago and filed a Hollywood police on Nov. 7. Westwick denied the allegations, tweeting on Nov. 7, "I do not know this woman. I have never forced myself in any manner, on any woman. I certainly have never committed rape." Rachel Eck accused him of groping her and unwanted advances in a Buzzfeed report on Nov. 14. *(Photo: FREDERIC J. BROWN, AFP/Getty Images)*

The *Gossip Girl* actor was accused of rape by actress Kristina Cohen, who filed a report of sexual assault with the Hollywood police station on Nov. 7, LAPD spokesman Drake Madison confirmed to USA TODAY (/story/life/people/2017/11/07/lapd-investigating-ed-westwick-allegations/842440001/). Cohen accused Westwick in a Facebook post (https://www.facebook.com/kristina.kruz.5/posts/10211729772336179) Nov. 6, which claimed he raped her at his house three years ago. Westwick has denied the allegations, tweeting on Nov. 7 (https://twitter.com/EdWestwick/status/927940546382913536), "I do not know this woman. I have never forced myself in any manner, on any woman. I certainly have never committed rape." Westwick was also accused of unwanted advances and groping by Rachel Eck in a *Buzzfeed* report (https://www.buzzfeed.com/mbvd/a-third-woman-says-gossip-girl-star-ed-westwick-sexually?utm_term=.psJYq2Ge1#.tn9aYKj0w) on Nov. 14. (https://www.facebook.com/jurvetson/posts/10159616207180611?pnref=story)

Leon Wieseltier



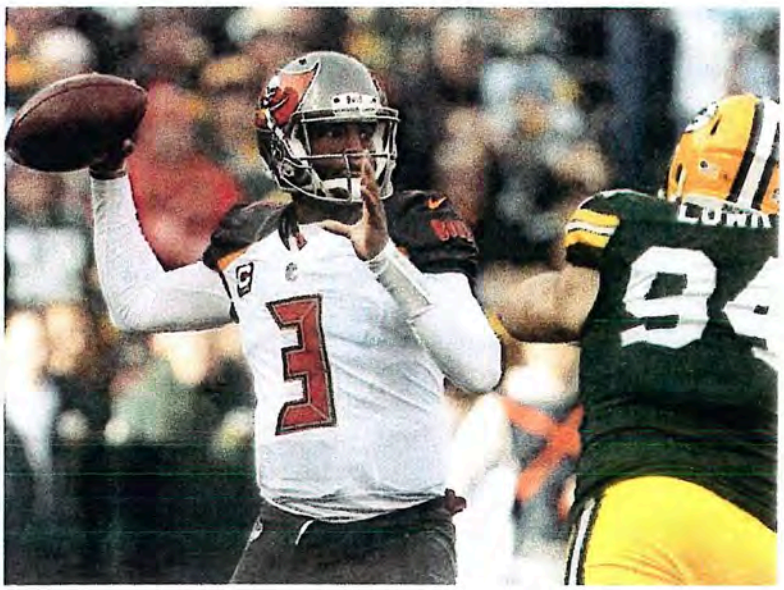
One-time New Republic literary editor Leon Wieseltier apologized to past staffers for behavior that accusers say included inappropriate touching. The Emerson Collective immediately pulled its support for a magazine Wieseltier was set to publish. *(Photo: June 9, 2013 photo by AP)*

The former *New Republic* editor and senior fellow at The Brookings Institution was at the center of several stories about his conduct from former female employees at the publication, reports Politico (https://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/24/leon-wieseltier-new-republic-emerson-collective-workplace-conduct-244120). Emerson Collective cut ties with Wieseltier, reported Politico, while The Brookings Institution suspended Wieseltier without pay, according to the Washington Post (https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/wp/2017/10/25/brookings-institution-suspends-leon-wieseltier-without-pay/?utm_term=.c4ed8c2e1534). "For my offenses against some of my colleagues in the past I offer a shaken apology and ask for their forgiveness," Wieseltier said in a statement.

Brendan Williams

Former Washington state Rep. Brendan Williams has been accused of four women of harassing or assaulting them while he was in office from 2005-2010.

Jameis Winston



(Photo: The Associated Press)

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback was accused by an Uber driver of groping, reports Buzzfeed (https://www.buzzfeed.com/talalansari/jameis-winston?utm_term=.oh0nQIX9V#.ycMk0XOEY). The National Football League said it is investigating the matter (/story/sports/nfl/2017/11/17/nfl-reviewing-allegation-jameis-winston-groped-uber-driver/107784674/). In a statement from representative Russ Spielman, Winston denies the allegations.

Steve Wynn

The casino mogul resigned as finance chair of the Republican National Committee (/story/news/politics/2018/01/27/steve-wynn-sexual-misconduct-allegations-could-hurt-gop/1071968001/) following allegations of sexual assault. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Wynn engaged in sexual misconduct with company employees spanning decades. Wynn has vigorously disputed the accusations.

Gregg Zaun

The former Major League Baseball player who was a Toronto Blue Jays analyst for Sportsnet, was fired for "inappropriate behavior and comments" toward female employees, Rogers Media announced (/story/sports/mlb/bluejays/2017/11/30/blue-jays-analyst-gregg-zaun-fired-inappropriate-behavior/911861001/) Nov. 30. Zaun, 46, had played for nine major league teams over 16 seasons.

Matt Zimmerman

NBC News booker Matt Zimmerman was accused of inappropriate conduct by multiple women at the network. He was fired from NBC.

Contributing: Associated Press

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Geoffrey Rush's repeated touching made actor 'uncomfortable', court told

Actor's lawyer in defamation trial says allegation of inappropriate touching 'completely opaque'

Mon, Feb 19, 2018, 12:42

Australian actor Geoffrey Rush repeatedly touched a female cast member "in a way that made her feel uncomfortable" during a 2015 production of King Lear despite being asked to stop, a Sydney court has heard.

The actor is suing the News Corp subsidiary Nationwide News and journalist Jonathon Moran for defamation over articles published by the Daily Telegraph in November and December last year that reported on alleged "inappropriate touching" of a female colleague during the Sydney Theatre Company production.

Rush denies the allegations and in a statement of claim lodged with the federal court argues that Australian newspaper the Daily Telegraph made him out to be a "pervert" and a "sexual predator" who had "committed sexual assault". He has labelled the allegations "spurious claims with bombastic titles".

In a court hearing on Monday his barrister, Richard McHugh SC, sought to have large sections of News Corp's defence thrown out, partly on the basis that it failed to lay out specific accusations against Rush.

In a previous hearing Mr McHugh argued that the defence contained "scandalous" information amounting to "rumours" that would do further damage to Rush's reputation.

On Monday he said the allegation of "inappropriate touching" made against Rush was "completely opaque" and would make it impossible for Rush to defend himself.

"To this day it's not clear what they're saying," he said. "Not just unclear, it's completely opaque.

"What would Mr Rush say in the witness box about that?

"He would get into the witness box and say, 'I didn't do it. I don't know what it is [but] I didn't do it.'"

Justice Michael Whitney reserved judgment on the validity of the defence and a subpoena issued by News Corp seeking access to Sydney Theatre Company but he did lift a confidentiality order suppressing the News Corp defence, arguing tha the principle of open justice outweighed any risk of further damage to Rush's character.

During the hearing lawyers for News Corp laid out some of the allegations against Rush, arguing that he acted in a "completely inappropriate" manner in a workplace during the production.

The court heard that Rush touched his cast-mate in a manner that made her feel uncomfortable while carrying her on stage in front of an audience of hundreds of people and that the alleged conduct occurred on five occasions during the final week of the Sydney Theatre Company production

"She said stop [and] he didn't, he went on doing it," the barrister for News Corp, Tom Blackburn SC, said. "Our case is that in itself is inappropriate. If you touch someone out of the blue in a workplace situation . . . in a way that makes the person feel uncomfortable and the person says 'please stop this' and you don't stop, that in itself is inappropriate conduct."

Mr McHugh said the argument that the touching was inappropriate because Rush was allegedly asked to stop was flawed because he was required to touch the woman as part of the conditions of the workplace.

He also disputed whether Rush knew what it was he was being asked to stop.

"What is it my client was told to stop, and what was he supposed to do differently?" Mr McHugh said. "My client is carrying the complainant. They must be touching. What is it that is new about the touching?"

The Daily Telegraph articles were published in November and December last year after the Sydney Theatre Company released a statement to the newspaper saying it had received a complaint against Rush from someone who accused him c "inappropriate behaviour" during the company's staging of William Shakespeare's King Lear two years earlier.

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The Daily Telegraph led its front page with the story on 30 November with the headli

A second article published on December 1st with the headline "We're with you: theatr 'touching'" contained a denial from Rush that he "inappropriately touched" a female c Guardian Service

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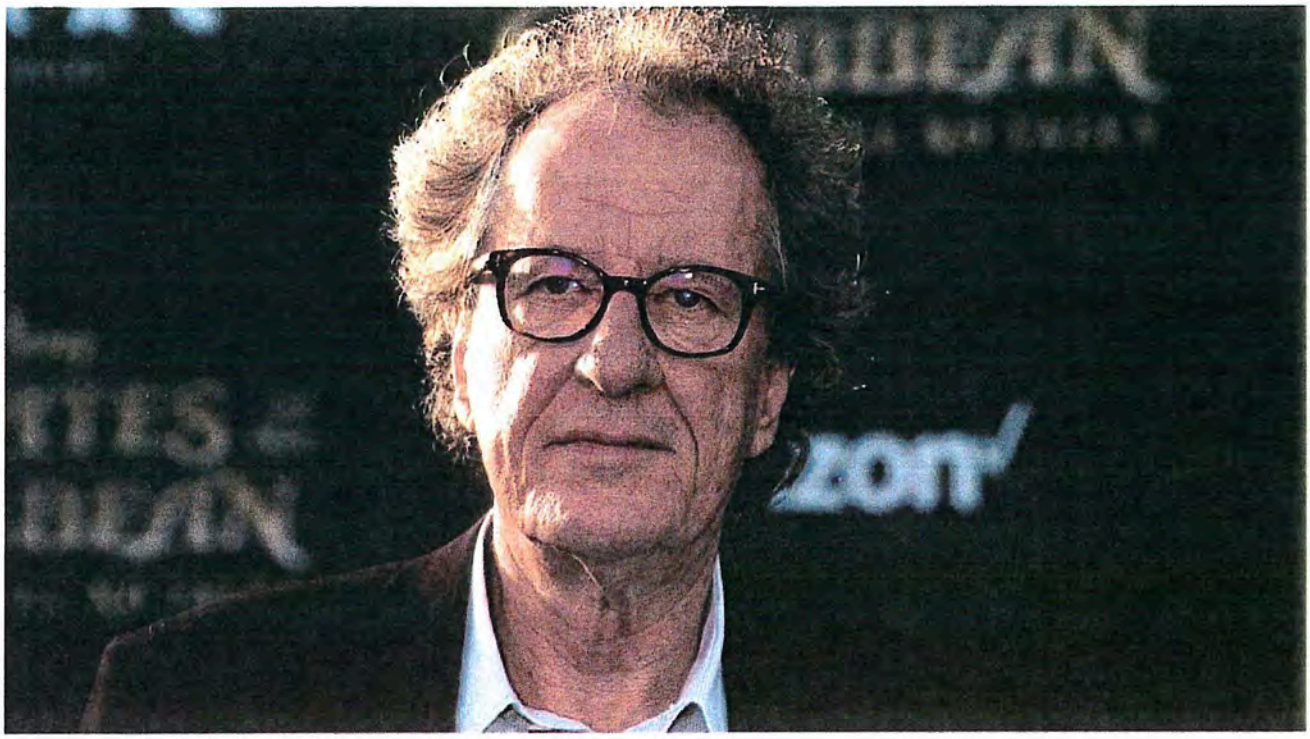
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SCANDAL · February 20th

Geoffrey Rush inappropriately touched actress, lawyer tells courtroom

Associated Press



A lawyer in an Australian courtroom accused Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush of touching a woman inappropriately. (Reuters)

A lawyer accused Oscar-winning Australian actor Geoffrey Rush in court Monday of touching an actress inappropriately on an Sydney stage three years ago while he was starring in a production of "King Lear."

Rush is suing Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper in Federal Court for defamation over articles last year which alleged inappropriate behavior and touching during the Sydney Theatre Company production in 2015.

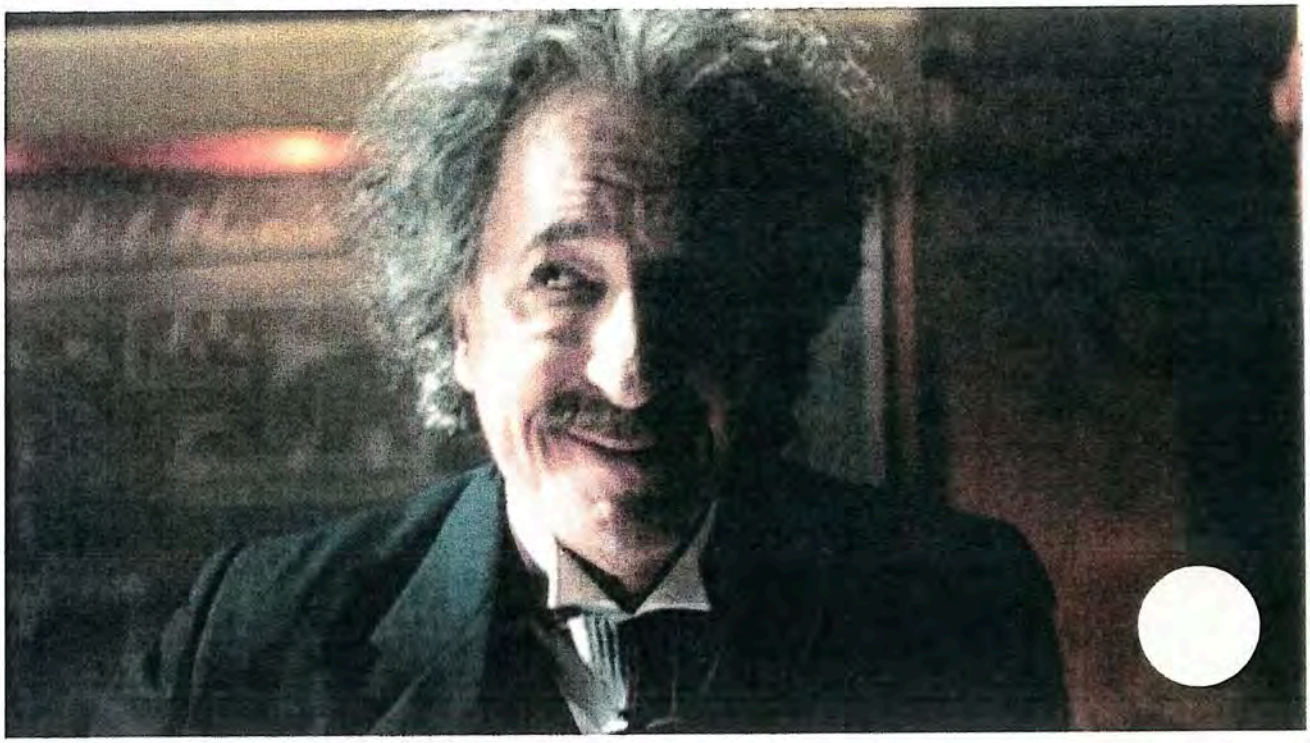
The newspaper's lawyer, Tom Blackburn, told the court on Monday that Rush, now 66, touched an actress who has not been identified on five consecutive nights in the last week of the production in a way that he had not done before and that made her uncomfortable.

"She said stop — he didn't. He went on doing it. Our case is that that in itself is inappropriate," Blackburn told the court.

But Rush's lawyer, Richard McHugh, told the court the accusations were vague.

Blackburn is fighting Rush's request to have the newspaper's truth defense struck out.

Justice Michael Wigney delayed his decision on that request to a later date.



McHugh told the court that parts of the defense lacked specificity and did not detail Rush's alleged behavior.

The inappropriate behavior is alleged to have occurred when Rush and the actress were required to touch on stage, McHugh said.

"To this day, it's not clear what they're saying. Not just unclear, it's completely opaque," McHugh said.

The newspaper's lawyers have previously told the court that the articles did not allege Rush engaged in inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature.

Blackburn said for the purposes of the defense it wasn't important where Rush touched the actress, but the fact she allegedly asked him to stop — and he didn't stop — made it inappropriate.

Rush, who was not in court on Monday, has denied behaving inappropriately.

Rush announced in December he was suing the newspaper over its reporting of the actress's complaint of what the theatre company described in a statement as "inappropriate behavior."

The company said the complaint was made after the production closed. The actress had not wanted Rush informed of her complaint, the company said.

Rush has performed in the Sydney Theatre Company for 35 years. He won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for "Shine" and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

Conversation (28)

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oce77 ★ Leader ·

Soon, it'll be against the law to even interact with a member of the opposite sex.....

Reply · Share ·

> **UltraCrepdarian** ★ Leader oce77 ·
>
> Soon you'll be able to use the women's locker room because that's how you self-identify. Inclusivity is for everyone!
>
> Reply · Share ·
>
> > **oce77** ★ Leader UltraCrepdarian ·
> >
> > That's why we need more Democrats voted out of Congress this November.
> >
> > Reply · Share ·

princessroxana ★ Leader ·

She can't manage to state exactly where his hands went? You think that wouldn't be a problem.

Reply · Share ·

> **gt46l** ★ Leader princessroxana · · *Edited*
>
> Thats not the point. His hand could have moved 1 micron from where they were the other X jillion performances they'd done together, but all that matters is if it offended this woman those last 5 performances. Its perfectly sensible to ruin a man's career for such transgressions.
>
> Reply · Share ·

ickthus ★ Leader ·

No stop, no, no don't stop.... Crazy bwitches are freaks. Anne Lennex sings all about it. "Everybody's looking for something. " so..... Don't be caught looking

Reply · Share ·

barryrice021 ★ Leader ·

Soon the left will have men prosecuted for inappropriate staring.

Reply · Share · 1 ·

KasparGutman Leader ·

Well what do you expect from a pirate?

Reply · Share · 2 ·

knightnblu Leader ·

"To this day, it's not clear what they're saying. Not just unclear, it's completely opaque," McHugh said.

That's true for about 90% of what comes out of the left's mouth. But when you fabricate, you don't want straight up statements to tie you down in your lies.

Reply · Share · 2 ·

lctommyboy Leader ·

#NotMeToo

Reply · Share · 1 ·

jpcook Leader · *Edited*

#MeToo run amuck. I love the statement "The actress had not wanted Rush informed of her complaint, the company said." Of course not, ruin a brilliant actors career anonymously. If you are going to make accusations, then have the fortitude to take responsibility for the accusations. (BTW, he may be "best known as Barbarossa, but he was absolutely great in The Tailor of Panama, Les Miserables, Elizabeth (The Golden Age), etc.)

Reply · Share · 2 ·

U.S.

Crime
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Music News
Style News
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House + Home
Fitness + Well-being
Style + Beauty

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Air & Space
Planet Earth
Wild Nature
Natural Science
Dinosaurs

Tech

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Innovation
Drones
Computers
Video Games
Military Tech

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Mental Health
Cancer
Heart Health
Children's Health

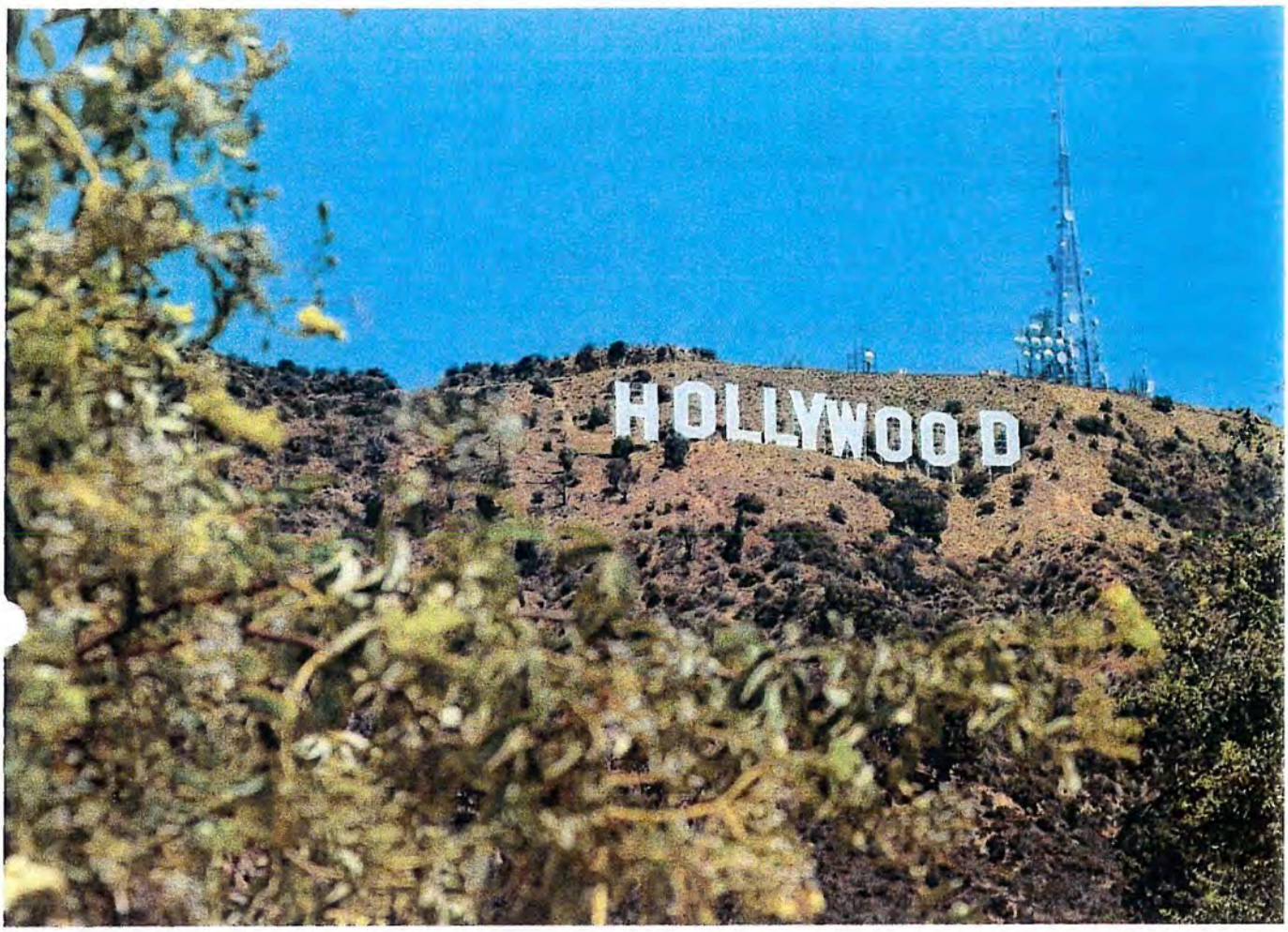
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The Never Ending List of Accused Perverts

by **AVERY KLATSKY (HTTPS://LONECONSERVATIVE.COM/AUTHOR/AVERYKLATSKY/)**

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018 (HTTPS://LONECONSERVATIVE.COM/2018/03/30/LIST-OF-ACCUSED-PERVERTS/)

In the midst of Hollywood award season, the Olympics, and a revolving political climate, the floodgates have been flung wide open of accusations of sexual assault in the celebrital world. With this being said, major celebrities from all industries are under fire for their alleged actions.

Below is a complete list of celebrities and public figures who have recently been accused of sexual misconduct.

*(Notes: Chart as of 3/29/17, and names with an * have been added in. All other names are according to The Associated Press (https://apnews.com/f9060549e9c54857a3657a26fc5eb099). An orange highlight indicates someone who is deceased.)*

Name	Occupation	Comment/Action following Allegation(s)
	Entertainment	
Ben Affleck (http://www.dailywire.com/news/22196/another-allegation-against-affleck-does-spell-doom-james-barrett)*	Actor	Apologized for behavior
Sherman Alexie (https://www.npr.org/2018/03/05/589909379/it-just-felt-very-wrong-sherman-alexies-accusers-go-on-the-record)*	Author	Admits that some women are telling the truth ab allegations

Mario Batali (https://ny.eater.com/2017/12/11/16759540/mario-batali-sexual-misconduct-allegations)*	Celebrity Chef	Takes leave following allegations
Hadrian Belove	Cinefamily Executive	Movie theater shut down due to debt
Eddie Berganza (http://ew.com/books/2017/11/13/dc-comics-fires-editor-eddie-berganza-over-sexual-harassment-accusations/)*	DC Comics Editor	Pending investigation, fired from DC comics
John Besh	Celebrity Chef	Stepped down from position
David Blaine (https://www.thedailybeast.com/exclusive-former-model-accuses-david-blaine-of-rape)*	Magician	Denies allegations
Don Burke (https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/99303906/australian-celebrity-gardener-don-burke-denies-sexual-harassment-allegations)*	Australian Celebrity Gardener	Denies allegations
Nick Carter	Singer	Denies allegations
David Cassidy (http://www.miamiherald.com/entertainment/article189119989.html)* *(Deceased)*	Actor	Cassidy passed away on Nov. 21, 2017, allegatior broke after his death
Louis C.K.	Actor	Says allegations are true, has apologized
Dallas Clayton (https://nypost.com/2017/11/16/make-magic-do-good-author-dallas-clayton-accused-of-rape/)*	Author	Denies allegations
Stephen Collins (http://abcnews.go.com/US/stephen-collins-denies-pedophile-confessing-sexual-misconduct-girls/story?id=27728607)*	Actor	Denies allegations
Andy Dick (http://people.com/movies/andy-dick-fired-sexual-harassment/)*	Actor	Denied allegations of groping
Michael Douglas (http://www.cnn.com/2018/01/10/entertainment/michael-douglas-sexual-harassment-interview-denial/index.html)*	Actor	Denies allegations
Richard Dreyfuss	Actor	Denies allegations
Andrew Duncan (https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/florida-project-producer-accused-sexual-harassment-by-a-dozen-insiders-1068287)*	Film Producer	Denies any wrongdoing
Charles Dutoit (http://time.com/5100246/charles-dutoit-sexual-assault-rape-allegations/)*	Orchestra Conductor	Denies allegations
Shadie Elnashai	Cinefamily Executive	Movie theater shut down due to debt
Todd English (http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5051939/Celebrity-chef-Todd-English-accused-sexual-harassment.html)*	Celebrity Chef	No comment on allegations
Adam Fields	Film Producer	Denies allegations
James Franco (http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/la-et-entertainment-news-updates-2018-james-franco-says-actresses-allegations-1515605045-htmlstory.html)*	Actor	Says allegations are not accurate

Yunxiang Gao (http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5554433/Chinese-movie-star-accused-sexually-assaulting-woman-inside-ritzy-Sydney-hotel.html)*	Chinese Movie Star	Pleading not guilty
Gary Goddard	Director/Producer	Denies allegations
Raymond Grant (https://www.thesun.co.uk/tvandshowbiz/5303291/kiosk-keith-sacked-im-a-celebrity-smacking-girls-bum-drunk/)*	Actor (a.k.a. Kiosk Keith)	Fired from "I'm a Celebrity"
Tyler Grasham (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Hollywood Agent	Fired from the Agency of Performing Arts after accusations
Paul Haggis (https://www.independent.ie/style/celebrity/celebrity-news/oscarwinner-paul-haggis-denies-allegations-of-sexual-assault-from-four-women-36462601.html)*	Filmmaker	Denies allegations
Charlie Hallowell (http://www.foxnews.com/food-drink/2017/12/29/san-francisco-chef-charlie-hallowell-accused-sexual-harassment-by-17-women.html)*	Celebrity Chef	Apologizes for actions
Jon Heely (http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2017/12/08/disney-music-executive-charged-with-sexual-misconduct-report-says.html)*	Music Executive at Disney	Suspended without work, pleaded not guilty to charges, denies allegations
Andy Henry	Casting Employee	Fired by employer
Dustin Hoffman	Actor	Apologized for behavior
Jens Hoffmann (https://www.metrotimes.com/the-scene/archives/2017/12/05/mocad-curator-jens-hoffmann-suspended-from-other-projects-amid-sexual-harassment-claims)*	Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) Curator	On unpaid leave, denies allegations
Israel Horovitz (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/30/theater/israel-horovitz-sexual-misconduct.html)*	Actor, Director, Playwright	Claims of having a "different memory of events," apologizes to women who have accused Horovitz
Mike Isabella (http://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/food/celebrity-chef-mike-isabella-accused-of-sexual-harassment)*	Celebrity Chef	Claims his company does not tolerate sexual harassment
Johnny Iuzzini (http://www.foxnews.com/food-drink/2017/11/29/celebrity-chef-johnny-iuzzini-accused-sexual-harassment.html)*	Celebrity Chef	Apologizes for actions, says some claims are inaccurate
John Jarratt (http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/celebrity-life/aussie-actor-john-jarratt-has-responded-to-sexual-assault-accusations/news-story/1f13034a44181e8aa00bb1911c793c14)*	Australian Actor	Denies allegations
Ron Jeremy (https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/inside-ron-jeremy-sexual-misconduct-allegations-w511844)*	Adult Film Actor	Denies allegations, cleared (http://canoe.com/entertainment/celebrity/porn-legend-ron-jeremy-cleared-in-sexual-assault-investigation-report) from allegations
Aled Jones (https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/aled-jones-bbc-axed-sexual-harassment-claim-contact-denies-statement-songs-of-praise-classic-fm-a8063376.html)*	Singer, "Songs of Praise" Star	Taken off air by BBC amid allegations, apologizes behavior
Ethan Kath (https://www.theguardian.com/music/2017/oct/25/alice-glass-crystal-castles-ethan-kath-sexual-assault-abuse)*	Singer/Songwriter, Crystal Castles	Denies allegations

R. Kelly (http://variety.com/2017/music/news/new-r-kelly-accuser-comes-forward-with-claims-of-physical-and-sexual-abuse-1202597011/)*	Singer/Songwriter	Denies allegations
Robert Knepper	Actor	Denies allegations
Joel Kramer (http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/james-cameron-denies-knowing-eliza-dusku-alleged-assault-article-1.3756863)*	Stunt Coordinator	Denies allegations
Andrew Kreisberg	Showrunner	Told Variety he has made comments on women's appearances, but they were "not sexualized"
Jesse Lacey (https://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/brand-news-jesse-lacey-apologizes-for-sexual-misconduct-w511579)*	Musician	Apologizes for actions
John Lasseter	Pixar/Disney Animation Chief	6 month leave of absence, apologized for behavic
Stan Lee (https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/01/09/marvel-creator-stan-lee-accused-of-groping-harassing-nurses/)*	Marvel Comics Creator	Denies allegations
James Levine (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/03/arts/music/james-levine-met-opera.html)*	Opera Conductor	No comment on allegations as of yet
Bey Logan (http://variety.com/2017/film/asia/weinstein-asia-executive-bey-logan-accused-of-sexual-misconduct-1202638722/)*	Actor	Denies any criminal wrongdoing
Melanie Martinez (https://jezebel.com/pop-singer-melanie-martinez-accused-of-sexual-assault-b-1821025157)*	Pop Singer	Denies allegations
Peter Martins (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/04/arts/dance/peter-martins-new-york-city-ballet.html)*	Leader of the NYC Ballet	NYC Ballet is looking into allegations
Danny Masterson (https://www.thedailybeast.com/danny-masterson-rape-accuser-comes-forward-to-blast-netflix-we-do-matter)*	Actor	No comment on allegations, fired from Netflix
Craig McLachlan (http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/celebrity-life/actor-craig-mclachlan-reportedly-accused-of-being-a-manipulative-sex-predator/news-story/952fca8cae82f1c7458e521843a6ee08)*	Actor	Denies allegations
Benny Medina (https://www.usmagazine.com/celebrity-news/pictures/hollywood-sexual-misconduct-scandals/benny-medina/)*	Manager	Denies allegations
Miguel (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OtzGOOY_EC9q_tK9COxFPLIs4p1YfsJM-Zr_dqbz_vs/edit)*	Singer	Denies allegations
Murray Miller (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Screenwriter	Denies allegations
TJ Miller (https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2017/12/19/actor-t-j-miller-denies-accusations-sexual-assault-physical-violence/964492001/)*	Actor	Denies allegations
Rick Najera (http://variety.com/2017/tv/news/cbs-diversity-showcase-1202601412/)*	Actor, Writer, Producer	Denies allegations, Fired from CBS

Carter Oosterhouse (https://www.dailywire.com/news/24707/hgtv-star-accused-forcing-makeup-artist-repeatedly-amanda-prestigiacomo)*	HGTV Star	Denies any coercion, claims relations were consensual
Jeremy Piven	Actor	Denies allegations
Roman Polanski (https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/oct/23/roman-polanski-marianne-barnard-allegations)*	Film Producer/Director, Writer, Actor	Denies some allegations, admits to unlawful sexu intercourse
Twiggy Ramirez (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Guitarist	Dismissed from Marilyn Manson's band, denies allegations
Brett Ratner	Filmmaker	Denies allegations
Terry Richardson (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/23/exclusive-terry-richardson-banned-working-vogue-leading-mags/)*	Fashion/Portrait Photographer	Denies allegations
Gilbert Rozon	Comedy Festival Organizer	Stepped down as president of Montreal's "Just fo Laughs" festival, apologized for behavior
Geoffrey Rush (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Actor	Denies allegations
Chris Savino	Producer	Apologized for behavior
Mark Schwahn (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/one-tree-hill-mark-schwahn-suspended_us_5a0dabdce4b0b37054f4ec35)*	Showrunner	No comment on allegations, suspended
Ryan Seacrest (http://people.com/tv/ryan-seacrest-denies-misconduct-allegations-former-stylist/)*	TV Host, Radio Personality	Denies allegations
Steven Seagal	Producer	Denies allegations
Charlie Sheen (http://www.syracuse.com/celebrity-news/index.ssf/2017/12/hollywood_sexual_harassment_assault_list.html)*	Actor	Denies allegations, has sued the National Enquir defamation
Andy Signore (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Creator of Screen Junkies	Fired from Screen Junkies
Gene Simmons (https://www.usmagazine.com/celebrity-news/news/gene-simmons-denies-any-wrongdoing-amid-sexual-misconduct-allegations/)*	Singer	Denies any wrongdoing
Russell Simmons (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russell_Simmons)*	Def Jam Record Co-founder, CEO of Rush Communications	Says relationship was consensual, stepping down from businesses amid allegations
Bryan Singer (http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2017/12/07/bryan-singer-sued-over-alleged-sexual-assault-17-year-old-boy.html)*	Director, Producer, Actor, Writer	Fired from "Bohemian Rhapsody," no comment o allegations
John Singleton (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Director	No comment on allegations
Tom Sizemore	Actor	Denies allegations

Kevin Spacey	Actor	Apologized for behavior, is seeking unspecified treatment, not returning to *"House of Cards"*
Morgan Spurlock (https://www.dailywire.com/news/24683/leftist-filmmaker-morgan-spurlock-preempts-claims-emily-zanotti)*	Filmmaker	Admits to sexual harassment
Sylvester Stallone (http://time.com/5029300/sylvester-stallone-sexual-assault-allegations/)*	Actor	Denies allegations
Oliver Stone (http://variety.com/2017/tv/news/bob-weinstein-sexual-harassment-1202592165/)*	Filmmaker	No comment on allegations
Jeffrey Tambor	Actor	Denies allegations
George Takei	Actor	Denies allegations
Mario Testino (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/14/mario-testino-and-bruce-weber-models-claim-fashion-vogue)*	Photographer	Disputes claims made against him
James Toback	Writer/Director	Denies allegations
John Travolta (https://www.thedailybeast.com/john-travolta-accused-of-sexual-battery-by-male-masseur)*	Actor	Denies allegations
Eric Tsang (https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hongkong-actor-tsang/hong-kong-star-eric-tsang-denies-sexual-assault-allegations-idUSKBN1F61WD)*	Actor	Denies allegations
Ben Vereen (https://www.amny.com/entertainment/celebrities/ben-vereen-sexual-misconduct-1.15869055)*	Actor	Apologized for behavior
Jing Wang (http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5554433/Chinese-movie-star-accused-sexually-assaulting-woman-inside-ritzy-Sydney-hotel.html)*	Chinese Movie Star	Pleading not guilty
Bruce Weber (https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/2017/12/05/fashion-photographer-bruce-weber-accused-groping-male-models/923407001/)*	Photographer/Filmmaker	No comment as of yet
Matthew Weiner	"Mad Men" Creator	Denies allegations
Bob Weinstein (http://variety.com/2017/tv/news/bob-weinstein-sexual-harassment-1202592165/)*	Film Producer, head of the Weinstein Company, (brother of Harvey Weinstein)	Denies allegations
Harvey Weinstein	Producer	Denies allegations of non-consensual sex, apolog for causing "a lot of pain" with the way he acted around colleagues in the past
Ed Westwick	Actor	Denies allegations
Adam Venit (https://www.usmagazine.com/celebrity-news/news/terry-crews-details-alleged-sexual-assault-by-adam-venit-in-tv-interview/)*	Former Head of WME's Motion Picture Group	Took 30 days leave of absence, returned to work, demoted to agent
Gianni Versace (https://www.dailywire.com/news/22790/actor-kevin-sorbo-claims-he-was-victim-sexual-emily-zanotti)* *(Deceased)*	Fashion Designer	Versace was murdered in 1997, allegations broke after his death

	Media, Publishing, & Business	
Tom Ashbrook (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tom-ashbrook-on-point-radio-host-faces-misconduct-allegations/)*	NPR Host	Placed on leave amid allegations
André Balazs (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/09/style/andre-balazs-accused-of-groping-standard-chateau-marmont.html)*	President/CEO of André Balazs Properties	No comment on allegations
Gavin Baker (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Technology Fund Manager at Fidelity Investments	Denies allegations
Ken Baker (http://variety.com/2017/tv/news/ken-baker-e-sexual-harassment-allegations-1202600640/)*	Journalist at E! News	"Disturbed by anonymous allegations," won't be c the air during investigation from E! News
Stephen Blackwell	Billboard Magazine Executive	Resigned from the magazine
Richard Branson (http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2017/11/27/richard-branson-accused-sexual-harassment-by-singer-says-has-no-recollection.html)*	Founder of Virgin Atlantic Airways, Virgin Mobile, Virgin Blue	Says he has "no recollection" of the events
Giuseppe Castellano	Penguin Random House Art Director	No comment on allegations
Max Clifford (https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2017/12/10/british-celebrity-publicist-max-clifford-dies-while-imprisoned-sexual-assault/938556001/)* *(Deceased)*	British publicist	Died on Dec. 10, 2017 in prison. Clifford was serv an 8 year prison sentence.
Andrew Creighton (http://www.sacbee.com/entertainment/celebrities/article192557059.html)*	President of Vice Media	Stepped down from position
Teddy Davis (http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/362432-senior-cnn-producer-dismissed-over-inappropriate)*	Senior Producer at CNN	Fired from CNN, no comment on allegations
Steve Edwards (https://www.usmagazine.com/celebrity-news/news/steve-edwards-fired-amid-sexual-harassment-allegations/)*	'Good Day LA' Anchor	Fired amid allegations
Hamilton Fish	New Republic Publisher	Resigned from magazine
Harold Ford Jr. (http://wreg.com/2017/12/07/harold-ford-jr-fired-due-to-sexual-harassment-allegations/)*	Financial Managing Director at Morgan Stanley, Former U.S. HoR Congressman (D)	Denies allegations, fired from Morgan Stanley
Ken Friedman (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ken-friedman-spotted-pig-owner-accused-sexual-misconduct/)*	Co-owner of the Spotted Pig (restaurant)	Apologizes for actions
Mike Germano (http://www.sacbee.com/entertainment/celebrities/article192557059.html)*	Chief Digital Officer of Vice Media	Stepped down from position
David Guillod (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Manager, Producer, and co-CEO of Primary Wave Entertainment	Took leave of absence from company following allegations

Mark Halperin	Journalist	Denies some allegations, fired from NBC, book contract terminated
John Hockenberry (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/04/business/media/john-hockenberry-sexual-harassment.html)*	WNYC Radio Host	Apologizes for behavior, making colleagues feel uncomfortable
Ken Holoman (http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2017/12/12/former-uc-davis-professor-stripped-of-titles-amid-sexual-assault-allegations/)*	UC Davis Orchestra Conductor	Stripped of titles, denies allegations
Dylan Howard (https://jezebel.com/top-national-enquirer-editor-dylan-howard-accused-of-se-1821028636)*	National Enquirer Editor	Claims allegations are "baseless"
Sam Isaly (http://www.businessinsider.com/orbimeds-sam-isaly-steps-down-after-sexual-harassment-allegations-2017-12)*	Founder of OrbiMed	Stepping down from position as managing partne "did not recall allegations"
Jesse Jackson (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Reverend, Civil Rights Activist	"Does not recall incident," apologizes to any pain accuser may have experienced
Florian Jaeger (https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-017-08235-z)*	Cognitive Scientist at the University of Rochester	No comment on allegations
Steve Jurvetson (http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-tn-steve-jurvetson-20171113-story.html)*	Former Partner of Draper Fisher Jurvetson (DFJ)	Left DFJ, Tesla and SpaceX/plans to pursue legal action "against those whose false statements defamed him"
Garrison Keillor (https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/11/29/567241644/garrison-keillor-accused-of-inappropriate-behavior-minnesota-public-radio-says)*	Voice Actor/Radio Personality	Fired from Minnesota Public Radio
Larry King (http://www.syracuse.com/celebrity-news/index.ssf/2017/12/hollywood_sexual_harassment_assault_list.html)*	Former CNN Host	Denies allegations
Knight Landesman	Artforum Publisher	Resigned from magazine
Matt Lauer (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/29/business/media/nbc-matt-lauer.html)*	TV Journalist	Fired from NBC, issued apology
Ryan Lizza (https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-new-yorker-severs-ties-with-star-reporter-ryan-lizza?source=twitter&via=desktop)*	Reporter for the New Yorker	Fired by The New Yorker, claims the firing "was terrible mistake"
Leonard Lopate (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/longtime-nyc-public-radio-hosts-suspended-after-allegations-of-inappropriate-behavior/)*	WNYC Radio Host	"Baffled" by suspension from WNYC, claims he h never done anything inappropriate on any level
Malcom Maddox (http://www.fox2detroit.com/news/local-news/wxyz-anchor-malcom-maddox-placed-on-leave-amid-claims-of-sexual-harassment)*	WXYZ-TV Anchor	Placed on leave by WXYZ-TV
Massage Envy (https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/massage-envy-partners-anti-sexual-violence-group-after-misconduct-allegations-n826731)*	Largest massage franchise in the U.S.	Partnering with Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) as a result of more than 180 cl of sexual assault
Chris Matthews (http://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/2017/12/16/nbc-paid-off-producer-who-accused-chris-matthews-harassment-report-says.html)*	MSNBC, NBC Commentator	NBC paid off a producer who accused Matthews about 2 decades ago
Bill O'Reilly	Journalist, Author, Former TV Host at Fox News	Fired from Fox News, settled one allegation clair

Michael Oreskes	National Public Radio News Chief	Ousted from NPR
Shervin Pishevar (https://www.engadget.com/2017/12/05/hyperloop-one-co-founder-steps-down-sexual-harassment-claims/)*	Founder of Sherpa Capital and Virgin Hyperloop One	Stepped down from positions, arrested for rape (never charged) in London in November 2017, de all allegations
Roy Price	Amazon Executive	Resigned from Amazon
Geraldo Rivera (http://www.syracuse.com/celebrity-news/index.ssf/2017/12/hollywood_sexual_harassment_assault_list.html)*	Fox News Reporter	Apologizes for actions
Charlie Rose	PBS/CBS Host	Apologized for behavior, questioned the accurac some of the accusations
Andy Rubin (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/29/technology/andy-rubin-android-google-misconduct.html)*	CEO/Founder of Essential Products	Stepped away from firm amid misconduct report
Jonathan Schwartz (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/06/business/media/wnyc-leonard-lopate-jonathan-schwartz.html)*	WNYC Radio Host	Fired from WNYC, no comment on allegations
Robert Scoble (https://www.theverge.com/2017/10/23/16527862/robert-scoble-resigns-transformation-group-sexual-harassment)*	Tech Blogger at the Transformation Group	Apologized for behavior, acknowledged his actio were inappropriate
Tavis Smiley (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/13/business/media/tavis-smiley-misconduct-pbs.html)*	PBS Talk Show Host	Suspended from PBS, denies allegations
Lockhart Steele (http://money.cnn.com/2017/10/20/media/vox-media-fires-editorial-director-lockhart-steele/index.html)*	Editorial Director at Vox	Fired from Vox
David Sweeney (https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/11/28/567026934/npr-chief-news-editor-departs-in-wake-of-harassment-allegations)*	NPR Chief News Editor	Fired from NPR, no comment as of yet
Glenn Thrush	NYT White House Reporter	Disputes some allegations, says he has a drinking problem, apologizes for "any situation where [he] behaved inappropriately"
VICE (https://www.vice.com/en_us/page/statement113017)* (3 Employees)	Media Outlet	Fired 3 employees over alleged sexual misconduc proposes 'sensitivity training'
Kirt Webster	Webster Public Relations CEO	Firm renamed, Webster is "taking time away"
Jann Wenner	Rolling Stone Publisher	Says he did not intend to make the victim uncomfortable
Leon Wieseltier	New Republic Editor	Removed from masthead of The Atlantic magazir apologized for behavior
Matt Zimmerman	NBC News Booker	Fired from NBC
	Politics	

Johnny Anderson	Staffer for Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards (D)	Denies allegations
Joe Barton (http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/22/politics/texas-joe-barton-apology-graphic-picture/index.html)*	Texas Rep. in the U.S. House of Representatives (R)	Apologizes for not having "better judgement," wil seek re-election in 2018
Randy Baumgardner (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Legislator in the Colorado House of Representatives (R)	Denies any wrongdoing
Joe Biden (http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/11/16/adventures-creepy-joe-biden-serial-young-girl-toucher/)*	Former Vice President of the U.S. (D)	N/A
Stephen Bittel	Florida Democratic Party Chairman	Resigned
Raul Bocanegra (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Former Member of the California State Assembly (D)	Will not seek re-election following allegations
George H.W. Bush	41st President of the United States (R)	Issued apologies "to anyone he has offended"
Jeff Clemens	Member of the Florida State Senate (D)	Resigned
John Conyers	U.S. Representative from Michigan (D)	Denied allegations, including one he settled, Con (http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/30/politics/john-conyers-hospitalized/index.html) was also hospitalized for a 'stress-induced' condition, announced retirement
Tony Cornish	Minnesota State Lawmaker (R)	Announced resignation
Matt Dababneh (http://www.dailywire.com/news/24327/lobbyist-recounts-democrat-masturbating-front-her-amanda-prestigiacomo)*	Assemblyman from California (D)	Denies allegations, announced resignation
Michael Fallon	British Defense Secretary, Conservative Party member (UK)	Resigned from position
Blake Farenthold (https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/rep-blake-farenthold-settled-sexual-harassment-claim-84-000-n825696)*	U.S. Representative from Texas (R)	Settled seuxal harassment claim for $84,000
Al Franken	U.S. Senator from Minnesota (D)	Faces a Senate ethics investigation, plans to resig
Trent Franks (http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/07/politics/trent-franks-resigns/index.html)*	U.S. Representative from Arizona (R)	Accounced resignation from Congress, to take ef at the end of January
David Gomberg (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Oregon State Representative (D)	Publicly apologized for behavior

Brian Gosch (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Former House Majority Leader in South Dakota (R)	Said his comments were "made in jest and not me to make her feel uncomfortable"
Greg Graves (http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/sexual-harassment-investigation-report-released-county-gop-joins-calls-for/article_45e7b88c-44ed-537d-9a96-86fe52873dcb.html)*	Utah County Commissioner (Formerly a Republican, now a member of the Democratic party)	Denies allegations
Cliff Hite (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Former Ohio Senator (R)	Admits to inappropriate behavior
Jeff Hoover	Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives (R)	Denies harassment allegations, admitted to send consensual yet inappropriate text messages, rem in Legislature
Dan Johnson (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2017/12/12/accused-of-molesting-a-teenage-girl-kentucky-lawmaker-refuses-to-resign/?utm_term=.fc04c027f651)* *(Deceased)*	Kentucky Lawmaker (R)	Denied allegations, committed suicide on Decem 13 per The Washington Post (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/12/14/a-lawmaker-accused-of-molesting-a-teen-killed-himself-his-widow-calls-high-tech-lynching/?utm_term=.7da2a56c19d9)
Ruben Kihuen (http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/nevada-democrat-accused-sexual-misconduct-resign/story?id=51599790)*	U.S. Rep. from Nevada (D)	Will not seek re-election amid allegations
Alex Kozinski (https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/12/08/569559223/federal-appeals-judge-alex-kozinski-accused-of-sexual-harassment)*	Former Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit	Denies allegations, stepped down after allegatior
Jeff Kruse (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Member of the Oregon Senate (R)	Denies allegations
Jack Latvala	Member of the Florida State Senate (R)	Denies allegations
Steve Lebsock (http://www.denverpost.com/2017/11/29/wake-sexual-harassment-allegations-rep-steve-lebsock-resists-calls-resignation/)*	Former Rep. of Colorado House District 34, Candidate for Colorado Treasurer (D)	Denies allegations, still plans to run
Corey Lewandowski (https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/dec/27/ex-trump-campaign-manager-corey-lewandowski-accused-of-sexual-assault)*	Former Campaign Manager for President Trump (R)	No comment on allegations
Ivan Lewis	Member of Parliament, Labour Party (UK)	Suspended, apologized if behavior was "unwelcoi or inappropriate"
Tony Mendoza (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Member of the California Senate (D)	Denies any wrongdoing, booted from leadership positions, pending investigation
Roy Moore	Judge from Alabama (R)	Denies allegations, lost Alabama Senate election
Ed Murray (https://www.dailywire.com/news/18695/after-alleged-sexual-abuse-victim-goes-public-hank-berrien)*	Mayor of Seattle (D)	Denies allegations, resigned from position as Ma

Ed Murray (http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/12/16/wyoming-secretary-state-ed-murray-accused-sexual-assault-by-former-intern.html)*	Wyoming Secretary of State (R)	Denies allegations
Paul Pressler III (https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Lawsuit-accuses-retired-Texas-justice-of-sexual-12458341.php)*	Retired Justice of the Texas 14th Circuit Court of Appeals (R)	Denies allegations
Andrea Ramsey (https://www.dailywire.com/news/24725/female-democrat-accused-sexual-harassment-slams-james-barrett)*	Candidate for Kansas Rep. (D)	Denies allegations, dropped out of race
Paul Rosenthal (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Colorado House of Representatives (D)	Denies allegations
Carl Sargeant *(Deceased)*	Labour Party (UK) Legislator	Sargeant (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/13/found-welsh-carl-sargeant-hanged-home-readin note-left/) committed suicide after the allegation
Dan Schoen	Minnesota State Lawmaker (D)	Said he would resign
Bobby Scott (http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/aide-accuses-congressman-bobby-scott-sexual-misconduct-article-1.3702026)*	U.S. Rep. from Virginia (D)	Denies allegations
Don Shooter (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Member of the Arizona House of Representatives (R)	No comment on allegations
Ralph Shortey (https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=ralph+shortey&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8)*	Former Oklahoma State Senator (R)	Plead guilty to child sex trafficking
Ira Silverstein (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Member of the Illinois Senate (D)	Stripped of Democratic leadership position, per Chicago Sun Times (https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/leadership-stripped-for-senator-named-at-harassment-hearing/)
Jack Tate (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Legislator in Colorado (R)	Denies any wrongdoing
Donald J. Trump (https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-sexual-assault-allegations-claims-women-how-many-groping-accused-us-president-a8091581.html)*	45th President of the United States (R)	Apologized for "Access Hollywood" tape, denies sexual assault allegations
Brendan Williams (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Formerly of the Washington State House of Representatives (D)	Denies allegations
	Sports	
Joseph "Sepp" Blatter (https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/nov/10/hope-solo-sepp-blatter-fifa-sexual-assault-accusation)*	Swiss Football Administrator, 8th President of FIFA	Denies allegations
Fletcher Cox (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fletcher-cox-lawsuit-philadelphia-eagles-player-seducing-wife/)*	Defensive Tackle (DT) for the Philadelphia Eagles	No comment as of yet

Eric Davis (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/12/sports/nfl-network-marshall-faulk-donovan-mcnabb.html)*	Former Cornerback (CB) for the San Francisco 49ers, Carolina Panthers, Denver Broncos, and Detroit Lions, Analyst for ESPN and	No comment on allegations, fired from ESPN
Heath Evans (https://www.dailywire.com/news/24571/nfl-network-rocked-sexual-harassment-lawsuit-three-james-barrett)*	Former Fullback (FB) for the Seattle Seahawks, Miami Dolphins, New England Patriots, and New Orleans Saints, Analyst for NFL Network	Suspended by NFL Network
Marshall Faulk (https://www.dailywire.com/news/24571/nfl-network-rocked-sexual-harassment-lawsuit-three-james-barrett)*	Former Running Back (RB) for the Indianapolis Colts and the St. Louis Rams	Suspended by NFL Network
Alex Gilady	International Olympic Committee Member	Denied rape accusations, acknowledged a claim t he made propositions during a job interview, step down from broadcasting company, IOC is looking the allegations
Danny Jordaan	Former South African Soccer Association President	Denies allegations
Donovan McNabb (https://deadspin.com/espn-suspends-donovan-mcnabb-eric-davis-after-nfl-netw-1821218948)*	Former Quarterback (QB) for the Philadelphia Eagles, Washington Redskins, and Minnesota Vikings	Suspended by ESPN
Warren Moon (http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/21694844/warren-moon-sued-sexual-harassment-assistant-sports-marketing-firm)*	Hall of Fame NFL Quarterback	Sued over allegations, to take leave of absence as commentator for the Seattle Seahawks
Larry Nassar (http://wwmt.com/news/local/larry-nassar-pleads-guilty-to-more-charges-of-criminal-sexual-conduct)*	Former U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Team Doctor	Pleaded guilty to seven counts of first degree crir sexual charges, also plead guilty to federal charge regarding child pornography in July 2017
Jerry Richardson (http://www.foxnews.com/sports/2017/12/15/carolina-panthers-owner-jerry-richardson-accused-workplace-misconduct.html)*	Owner of the Carolina Panthers (NFL)	No comment on allegations
Miguel Sano (http://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/21903348/miguel-sano-minnesota-twins-denies-assault-allegations-mlb-looking-matter)*	3rd Baseman (3B) for the Minnesota Twins	Denies allegations
Warren Sapp (http://www.tampabay.com/sports/football/bucs/Warren-Sapp-accused-of-harassment-NFL-Network-suspends-three-analysts-over-sexual-assault-allegations_163524103)*	Former Defensive Tackle (DT) for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Oakland Raiders	Suspended by NFL Network
Ike Taylor (https://www.dailywire.com/news/24571/nfl-network-rocked-sexual-harassment-lawsuit-three-james-barrett)*	Former Cornerback (CB) for the Pittsburgh Steelers, Analyst for NFL Network	Suspended by NFL Network
Eric Weinberger (http://www.newsweek.com/who-eric-weinberger-bill-simmonss-top-exec-accused-sexual-harassment-nfl-745337)*	President of the website "The Ringer"	Suspended "indefinitely"

Jameis Winston (https://247sports.com/Bolt/NFL-investigating-Jameis-Winston-for-sexual-assault-110625710)*	Quarterback (QB) for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Being investigated by the NFL, previously settled rape case while at Florida State University (FSU) $950,000, per NPR (https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/01/25/464332250/fsu-pays-950-000-woman-who-accused-jameis-winston-of-sexual-assault)
Gregg Zaun (https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/11/22/weinstein-aftermath-all-men-accused-sexual-misconduct/884778001/)*	Former Major League Baseball (MLB) Catcher, Toronto Blue Jays Analyst	Apologizes for "any harm or distress his commen may have caused his female colleagues," per SportsNet (http://www.sportsnet.ca/baseball/mlb/gregg-za issues-apology-inappropriate-behaviour/)

Extra Statistics:

General Breakdown:

Industry	# of People Accused (% of Total Amount)
Entertainment	94
Media, Publishing, & Business	51
Politics	44
Sports	17
Total	206

Political Breakdown:

Political Affiliation (of Politics Category)	# of People Accused
Democrat (D)	20
Republican (R)	20
Labour Party (United Kingdom)	2
Conservative Party (United Kingdom)	1
Other/NA	1
Total	44

Sports Breakdown:

Sport/League	Number of People Accused
National Football League (NFL)	10
Soccer	2
Olympic	2
Major League Baseball (MLB)	2
Other	1
Total	17

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ABOUT AVERY KLATSKY



Avery Klatsky was born in Dallas, Texas, and he has lived in the Dallas area his entire life. Currently, Klatsky is a junior in high school, and he will graduate in the spring of 2019. He plans on attending a four-year university after his high school graduation to major in either business, finance, law, economics or political science. His other interests include country music, the Dallas Stars, the Dallas Cowboys, the Texas Rangers, American and International politics, BBYO, Judaism, Israel, family, and friends. Klatsky's goals for the future are to preserve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

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The Guardian

#MeToo has led to an asphyxiating vortex of litigation

Richard Ackland

Defamation cases have exploded around the world in response to sexual misconduct allegations

Tue 3 Apr 2018 16.53 AEST



The legal system crashing headlong into #MeTooism provides theatre of an altogether dramatic spectacle.

On stage we find Geoffrey Rush's defamation claim against the Daily Telegraph for its "King Leer" article, alleging he behaved "inappropriately" towards another actor in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of the Shakespearian play two years ago. Rush denies all claims.

No less commanding is Craig McLachlan's litigation against Fairfax, the ABC and actor Christie Whelan Browne. According to his pleadings before the New South Wales supreme court he claims the publications meant he indecently assaulted, sexually harassed, indecently exposed himself and bullied female cast members during the 2014 production of The Rocky Horror Show - allegations he rejects.

Accusers have been prompted to come forward about sexual misconduct in the wake of the allegations of lurid conduct by the Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein. Whatever the label - TimesUp, #MeToo, #balancetonporc - women now feel motivated to speak up.

A number of women also levelled allegations against the former TV personality Don Burke, which he denies. Craig McLachlan has been the subject of allegations by five women.

Antony Catalano, the former CEO of Domain Holdings, has gone to his lawyers to reject the Financial Review's report that the real estate marketing business was run like a "boys club" where female employees were "made to feel uncomfortable".

Guardian Australia had a story that a 2DayFM executive was fired for allegedly raping a video producer who worked at the radio station.

The calling out of allegedly predatory behaviour is a global movement. The "rat on your pig" movement in France has had a roiling effect in that country.

In the United States, porn stars and Penthouse models are making allegations against Donald Trump and his extramural trysts. In Britain, the defence secretary fell on his sword, so to speak, after a series of allegations surfaced, including lunging at a female journalist's lips after lunch and repeatedly touching another reporter's knee.

Maybe some of these outings do not qualify for inclusion within the strict definitional confines of the #MeToo category. The complaint to the Sydney Theatre Company from an actor about Geoffrey Rush was not an instance of a woman loudly declaring her version of events to the world. It only became evident in the defence pleadings that the allegation was made by Eryn Jean Norvill, who played Cordelia opposite Rush.

We now descend into the abyss of legal technicalities.

The NSW supreme court defamation judge, Lucy McCallum, in the first preliminary hearing of the McLachlan case pointed to the "infinite complexity and ambiguity of sexual and sexualised behaviour". The responses range from:

... people who would dismiss the most inappropriate and unacceptable conduct as being 'only a joke', to those of the champions of the #MeToo movement, to the French feminist response to that movement reflected in the statement of the famous French actor Catherine Deneuve.

The difficulty also extends to finding the right words to fit the descriptions used by the media. For instance, the defendants in the McLachlan case unsuccessfully objected to the plaintiff's claim that the publications mean the actor "is guilty of indecently assaulting, sexually harassing, indecently exposing himself to, and bullying female cast members ..."

It was contended that this rolls up several distinct defamatory meanings which makes it harder to defend. McLachlan's barrister said that the four kinds of conduct described in the pleading "represents a catalogue within a genus".

Justice McCallum thought that the complexity of the language in the Fairfax articles and the issues raised "defies distillation into a single word or phrase".

In the Rush case, which is before the federal court of Australia, where judges sit without juries, Justice Michael Wigney has struck out the Telegraph's defence of truth and set aside a subpoena served on the Sydney Theatre Company seeking documents in relation to the complaints laid against Rush.

The judge found the particulars of the truth defence were deficient. In relation to the alleged "inappropriate" touching by Rush of Norvill, the judge said the "touch" would have occurred on stage, "observed by hundreds of patrons" in circumstances where he had to carry Norvill "and therefore touch her".

The judge wanted more details about "the touch".

What exactly was the 'touch'? What part of Mr Rush relevantly touched the actress? Was it one or both hands or some other part of his body? And what part of the actress' body was touched? What was the nature and duration of the touch? ...

Justice Wigney also thought there might be an innocent explanation for Rush to be in the STC's women's bathroom at the same time as Norvill. The claim is he stood outside a cubicle she occupied until she told him to "fuck off".

The judge questioned whether Rush knew she was in the bathroom before he entered.

If Mr Rush had another reason for entering the bathroom it might not be able to be characterised as 'inappropriate'.

He also felt obliged to comment on the motivation behind the Telegraph's headlines "King Leer" and "Star's Bard Behaviour", saying:

It would seem that the sub-editors, or whoever it was responsible for the headlines and sub-headlines, simply could not help themselves.

Nationwide News has flagged its intention to seek leave to appeal against the strikeout decision, to be able to replead its defences and to cross sue the Sydney Theatre Company, which provided information to the paper on which its story about Rush was based.

If Justice Wigney's ruling stands, then the newspaper and its reporter Jonathon Moran are in difficulty. To have a reasonable prospect of success they need to be able to defend the story on the ground that it was true. "It's true or it's nothing," is the refrain media lawyers sing all the time.

That invariably means the complainant will have to give evidence and as we saw in the Chris Gayle defamation case against Fairfax, women who blow the whistle are also in for a torrid time in the witness box.

Christie Whelan Browne, one of the complainants in the McLachlan case, is now also a defendant as well as a witness.

In France, the creator of that country's #MeToo movement, Sandra Muller, is being sued for defamation by her former boss who she accused of sexual harassment.

Former Fox News employee Laurie Dhue is suing Bill O'Reilly over claims he made that allegations against him were "unfounded". She had previously received settlements in relation to O'Reilly's behaviour.

Complainants complain, media organisations that publish the complaints are sued, the perpetrators complain about their victims and the victims sue the perpetrators.

This might well be described as an asphyxiating vortex of litigation.

In a slightly different version on the theme, Stormy Daniels, who is a complainant but hardly a victim, is suing Donald Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen for casting doubt on the veracity of her allegations against the president.

Defamation proceedings are far from a satisfactory way for aggrieved celebrities to regain their footing. This is a long, complex, expensive and risky path to undo the harm.

In Canada Patrick Brown, a conservative politician in Ontario accused of sexual misconduct, mounted a vehement social media campaign proclaiming his innocence and gave selected interviews to try and rehabilitate his reputation, which he said had been damaged by "sloppy journalism". He is also suing the TV network which broadcast the allegations.

It's interesting that in January, following the publication of the allegations against him, McLachlan gave an extensive and exclusive interview to the Sunday Telegraph. It was a carefully choreographed piece, which didn't press for details about his alleged behaviour.

The article said:

There were no restrictions on the interview, but, citing legal advice, the actor would not comment on the specific allegations made against him.

With his partner, orchestra conductor Vanessa Scammell, by his side, he conceded he had a 'Benny Hill' sense of humour but had said he didn't come close 'in the filth department' to other cast members.

"By God, I will fight this," he added.

Only seven weeks earlier the Telegraph published its story about Geoffrey Rush, which just goes to show that the media is perfectly capable of straddling both sides of the street.

Richard Ackland is a Guardian Australia columnist

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MOVIE REVIEWS »

A bit of Geoffrey Rush goes too far in Final Portrait

by Ken Eisner *on April 4th, 2018 at 5:07 PM*

1



Starring Geoffrey Rush. In English and French, with English subtitles. Rated PG

8-664

A bit of Geoffrey Rush goes too far in *Final Portrait*. Certainly, the Australian Oscar winner bears an uncanny resemblance to the wild-haired Swiss-Italian artist Alberto Giacometti, most famous for raw-textured sculptures so elongated, they make El Greco's stuff look hyperrealistic.

Written and directed by actor Stanley Tucci, the story is loosely based on journalist James Lord's *A Giacometti Portrait*, in which he recounted an afternoon sitting that stretched into 18 days—much as the movie stretches a half-hour's worth of material to 90 minutes and never gets under the creative skin of its subject.

We meet Giacometti, as did Lord (*Call Me by Your Name*'s Armie Hammer), in 1964 Paris, where the rumpled modernist had kept a small studio for more than 40 years. Shot in dark, near-monochromatic tones that allow a few Parisian colours to intrude—the odd party dress or a red BMW—*Final Portrait* mostly sticks to the confines of that cramped and crumbling atelier. The strategy is initially engaging, but viewers may soon share Lord's bum-numbing discomfort at watching the theatrical whims of a 63-year-old baby who always gets his way, even if he rarely knows quite what that way should be.

The celluloid Giacometti changes his mind as often as he lights cigarettes (and every character smokes in every scene, to go with the Gypsy-jazz score, presumably). This oddly arrogant self-

doubt obtains in wiping out his most recent attempts, bullying his patient younger brother (Tony Shalhoub), and ignoring his long-suffering wife (Sylvie Testud) whenever distracted by his current mistress, a flighty prostitute (Clémence Poésy, of *In Bruges* and several *Harry Potter* movies).

Giacometti also talks smack about other artists, including Picasso, who in real life befriended Lord just after the war, as did Gertrude Stein, who helped the young writer escape the closet that hid him while he was in the U.S. army. None of this comes out on-screen, and the young scribe remains a cipher, thereby missing the chance to make this a double portrait, with commentary about the process of making art *and* consuming it. An art critic becomes one of a painter's last subjects, and yet the movie relies on tortured-genius clichés and gives the audience little sense of why either of its antiheroes matter. (Hard to say if Rush's current #MeToo problems inform the role or hinder it.)

Spoiler alert: the painting, which was eventually finished, sort of, was sold at auction in 2015 for more than US$20 million. That buys a lot of paint, and a few indie movies, as well.

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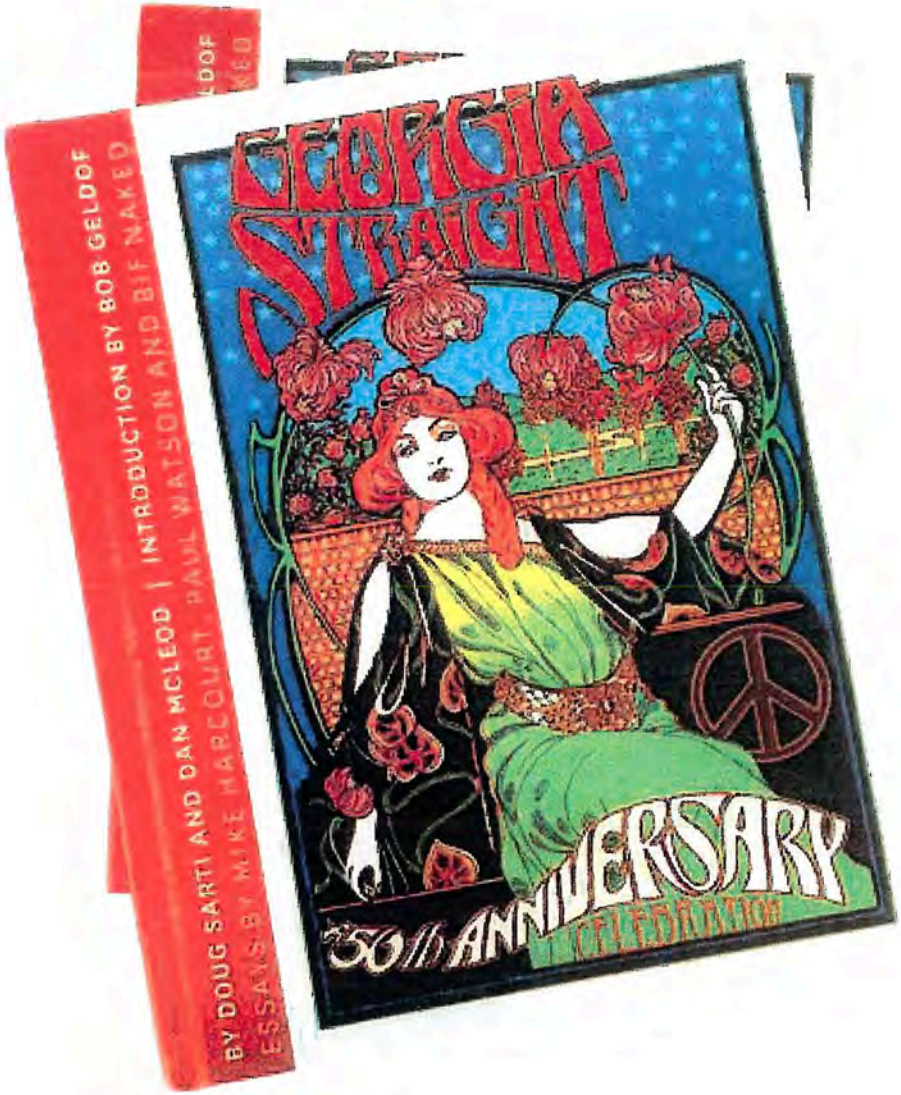


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INTERNATIONAL

Geoffrey Rush Is "Virtually Housebound" And His Career Is "Irreparably Damaged" Oz Court Told In Defamation Case

by Andreas Wiseman

• April 9, 2018 5:31am

Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush is "virtually housebound" and believes his career has been "irreparably damaged" following the publication of an allegation against him, his lawyers claimed in an Australian court today.

The *Shine* and *The King's Speech* star is suing Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* and journalist Jonathan Moran for defamation over articles that said he was suspected of inappropriate behavior toward a fellow performer during a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear* in 2015.

Rush, who denies the allegation, since had endured "tremendous emotional and social hardship," according to legal documents filed in the Federal Court of Australia. This included him eating little food, having difficulty sleeping and feeling anxious in public, his lawyers said. "The applicant has found that as a direct result of the publications he has been constantly associated in Australia and internationally with the #MeToo movement," they detailed. Rush stepped down from his role as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts in December, and he won a gag order against the *Daily Telegraph* in February.

The tabloid, which is published by News Corp subsidiary Nationwide News, has defended its reports, but Rush accused the newspaper of false and "spurious" claims when he filed the defamation suit in December. The newspaper argues that its articles were not defamatory and that it reported no accusations of a sexual nature. Last month, however, Justice Michael Wigney struck out large parts of the newspaper's defense of truth. The newspaper has appealed that decision.

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statements relating to a complaint alleging inappropriate behavior by Rush knowing they would, or would likely, be re-published by the *Telegraph*.

In court this morning, Rush's barrister attacked the cross claim as "spurious" and a time-wasting exercise. The cross-claim application is scheduled to be heard on Friday. Wigney said it was likely that the trial would be heard in December.

Sydney Theatre Company

Sydney Theatre Company

Rush last year received a Golden Globe nomination for Nat Geo's *Genius*.

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Luke • *on* **Apr 9, 2018 8:01 am**

A disgusting situation all round. First of all, the accuser has been allowed to remain anonymous while smearing her victim's good name. Second of all, Geoffrey was not even furnished with the accusations. Just that there were accusations. How do you defend yourself when you don't even know what exactly you're being accused of much less who you supposedly did it to? And third of all, the media as usual dived right in despite knowing as little about the situation as Geoffrey. Lots of lurid headlines but with no information in the articles beneath because nobody knows what the hell is alleged to have happened.

I hope this anonymous accusation thing when it comes to sex is eliminated and Geoffrey successfully sues the woman to hell and back.

J.D. • *on* **Apr 10, 2018 7:02 pm**

well said Luke!

Jane • *on* Apr 9, 2018 8:03 am

I hope he puts them out of business the scum.

• *on* Apr 9, 2018 8:25 am

Good for you, Geoffrey Rush. Unfortunately, they rushed to judgement, not having all the facts. In this particular case, I hope you make millions in damages.

• *on* Apr 9, 2018 11:39 am

Hang in there Mr. RUSH! You're true fans have not deserted you and are wishing you well....both in your lawsuit and you're career!

mooncove • *on* Apr 10, 2018 8:58 am

Here here! Lots of love to you Geoffrey. We know you're telling the truth.

David O • *on* Apr 9, 2018 11:43 am

I stand with Mr. Rush. Hope he gets his career back and a ton of money. Disgusting.

Cra • *on* Apr 9, 2018 3:39 pm

This like a Kafka play. You don't know what you are accused of or who accuses you. I support Me Too but can't be used for annymous allegations. This type of thing will damage the movement.

• *on* Apr 9, 2018 7:40 pm

Charlie Rose is going around NY without a problem

Fred • *on* Apr 10, 2018 10:57 am

Here's an idea. Man up and grow a pair...

Donaldo • *on* Apr 10, 2018 12:43 pm

Man up and grow a pair? What exactly would that look like, Fred?







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THEATRE

Up close - but not too personal: The 'intimacy workshops' giving actors guidelines for sex scenes

Close but not personal: O'Brian has made a code of conduct for sex scenes

KATIE STRICK

dnesday 2 May 2018 10:16

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It's mid-afternoon at Camden's New Diorama Theatre and two actresses are practising a sex scene — without touching.

Instead, they're saying every action out loud: "I'm looking at you and smiling, I put my hand between your legs, I turn my body and lift my buttocks, I go down." Across the room, a male and a female actor are rehearsing an on-stage kiss as a director watches on. They begin by establishing boundaries: "Can I

GO

It sounds remarkably scripted but that's the point. This is one of a new set of "intimacy workshops" for actors, producers and directors by professional movement director Ita O'Brien. Together with London casting agency Carey Dodd Associates, she has developed a set of guidelines for approaching simulated sex and nudity in theatre, TV and film in the post-Weinstein era: a code of conduct, if you like, for getting intimate on stage and on screen.

O'Brien's reasons are two-fold: to equip cast and crew for this type of scene, and to keep them safe. "It's about helping to address something that's often embarrassing or pushed to the side," she explains. Talking about it takes away that embarrassment and opens up a conversation to ensure "everyone is on the same page", from the actors to the crew.



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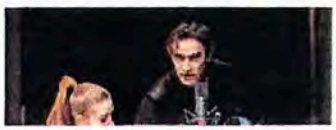
Crucially, it's also about safety. After more than 30 years in the industry, O'Brien recalls many "upsetting" stories from actors she's worked with, and just this year Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush has been accused in court of touching an actress inappropriately on stage in a production of King Lear. According to documents, the touch was "not directed or scripted by any person or necessary for the purpose of the performance of the production," and left the female cast member "visibly upset". In 2013, the lesbian sex scene in Abdellatif Kechiche's film Blue Is The Warmest Colour brought the actor-director relationship into the limelight after actress Léa Seydoux revealed it had been "extremely difficult", "humiliating" and "gross" to shoot. She said she was made to feel like a "prostitute" filming the scenes, which reportedly took 10 days to film, and said she would never again work with Kechiche.

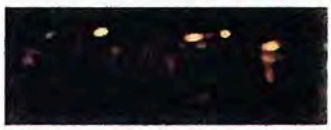
as an actor. For student actors, it's about going out into the profession in a more empowered way. Being ready to work doesn't mean opening yourself up to being abused — it's that element of being able to say no."

O'Brien insists that her guidelines are "not a set of rules" but a code of conduct for best practice. Similarly to off the stage, the key word is consent. The nine principles include asking actors to consent to scenes of an intimate nature, agreeing strategies for halting action if an actor is uncomfortable and setting pre-agreed times when nudity will be used. It may sound restrictive but actors say it leaves them feeling free. "You discover so many other things that might not happen 'in the moment'," says actress Maeve O'Sullivan.

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When it comes down to it, the guidelines are simple: treat sex scenes in the same way you would a fight scene, O'Brien explains. Actors should identify the shape of the scene, agree "danger zones" and areas of physical touch, choreograph physical actions using plain words, identify emotional content then integrate the physical actions with it. For scripts of a particularly sensitive nature, she suggests employing a suitably trained "intimacy director" to help formulate the scene — a role she practices herself at her workshops.

The majority of people who come say they simply want to find out more. O'Sullivan says it's a "misconception that actors are love-y people" who are "open to whatever". She says the workshops have helped her to feel "braver".

Some have had a bad experience with what directors expect from them. One student says she's had many kisses forced on her in past auditions. "It's like using tongues in a kiss," she says. "It should be something that's specifically spoken about and nothing should ever be a surprise. That's where people can take advantage of situations because it's like 'Oh, I'm just in character'."





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O'Brien says ultimately it's about professionalism. The stage is a workplace for those in the industry, and "everybody deserves to be treated in the workplace with respect". She hopes her guidelines will be formally adopted by the industry. Lamda introduced them last year: the workshops now take place as part of the induction week programme for BA and MA actors and Mountview drama school in Wood Green now works with O'Brien.

"The intention is that just as people wouldn't dream of not having a stunt co-ordinator for a fight scene, if there's an intimate scene they wouldn't dream of doing it without making sure they've agreed consent or employed an intimacy coordinator." She wants that to become the "absolute standard" industry-wide. "It's a more efficient and streamlined way of working and it creates exciting and believable sex scenes: a safe space to be sexy."

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HARASSMENT CHARGES

Actor Morgan Freeman apologises after sexual harassment allegations surface

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'I apologise to anyone who felt uncomfortable or disrespected – that was never my intent,' he said.

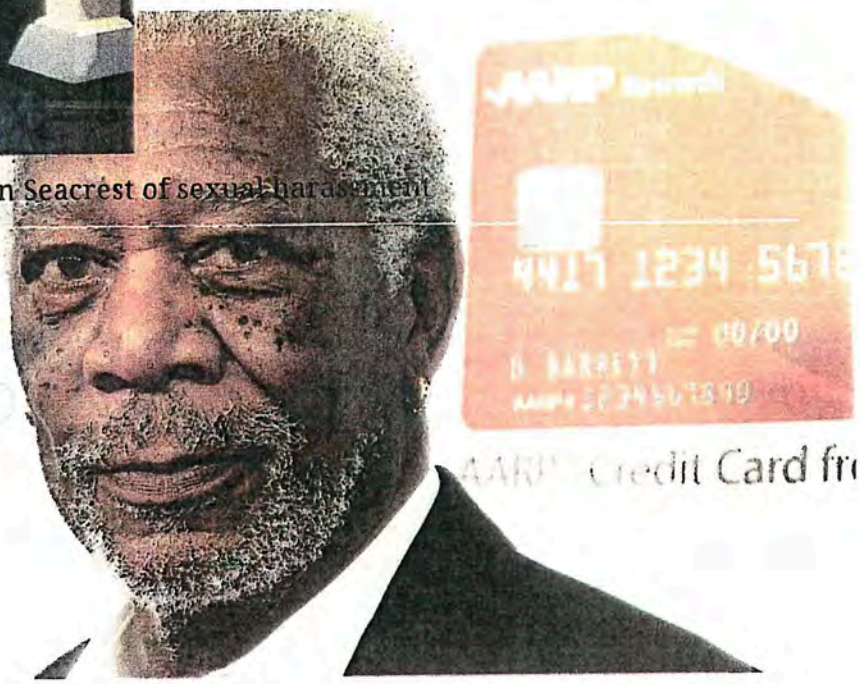
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by Scroll Staff

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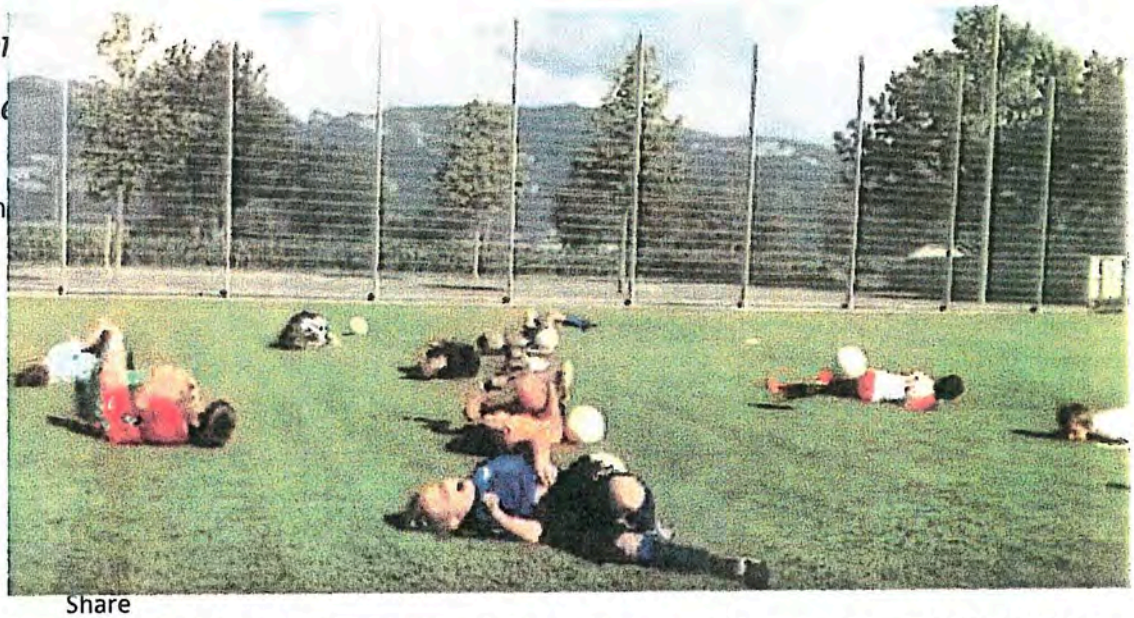
Freeman is the latest Hollywood actor to be accused of sexual misconduct after the #MeToo and Time's Up movements began around October. The movements, which seek to expose sexual harassment and assault, especially at workplace, gathered momentum after Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was accused of sexual harassment by nearly 70 women, including actors Ashley Judd, Rose Mc Gowan, Asia Argento and Angelina Jolie. Actors and directors such as Dustin Hoffman, Brett Ratner, Geoffrey Rush, Ryan Seacrest and Kevin Spacey have also been accused of sexual harassment.

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NORTH EAST NEWS

North East: Rain and landslide damage major roads, Manipur cut off from rest of the country

Part of a highway sank in a landslide near Kohima and a bridge got damaged in Manipur.

by *Scroll Staff*

Published 2 minutes ago



Kohima-Dimapur sector of NH 29 near Kohima | HT Photo

Manipur was virtually cut off from the rest of the country on Sunday after a bridge along the National Highway 37 got damaged following heavy rain. Rain over the last few days has also damaged a part of National Highway 29 in Nagaland, the *Hindustan Times* reported.

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A stretch of around 100 metres on the busy Kohima-Dimapur sector of NH-29 near Kohima sank early on Sunday because of a landslide. This left more than 100 Manipur-bound goods trucks stranded on the highway.

The bridge, over Barak River along the Imphal-Jiribam sector of NH-37, got damaged when a loaded truck was on it on Sunday morning. Dozens of trucks were unable to move near the bridge.

"We have removed the truck from the bridge and now the repairing and restoration works of the bridge is underway," an official of the National Highway and Infrastructure Development Corporation told the *Hindustan Times*.

The rain also caused landslides along parts of NH-2, affecting traffic along the Kohima-Dimapur road, PTI reported on Sunday, quoting Nagaland Police....

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Interview

Barry Humphries: 'I defend to the ultimate my right to give deep and profound offence'

Simon Hattenstone

The creator of Dame Edna Everage and Sir Les Patterson is back on stage with a show highlighting the dangers of censorship. He talks about living in a prudish age, sexual harassment and why he regrets voting for Brexit

Wed 11 Jul 2018 23.51 AEST

Barry Humphries' latest stage show celebrates the music of the Weimar Republic - radical, risque and ultimately banned by the Nazis. The performer, best known for his monstrous creations Dame Edna Everage and Sir Les Patterson, believes there is no better time to highlight the danger of censorship. Today, Dame Edna's sly prejudices and Sir Les's outlandish views (his monologues are peppered with references to spags, slopies, muff-munchers and shirt-lifters) are regarded by many as relics. Some might even regard them as "degenerate", just as Hitler did the art of the Weimar Republic. As for Humphries, he is scathing about what he calls "the new puritanism".

We meet at his agent's office in King's Cross, London. At 84, Humphries is super bright, fearlessly opinionated and more rakish than ever. Baggy check suit, bright green tie, matching pocket square that could double up as a tablecloth, snakeskin shoes and fedora, he looks every inch the boho dandy.

The grotesque global superstar Dame Edna Everage and the foul-mouthed priapic dribbler Sir Les Patterson are hilarious spoofs of old-school Australian bigotry. In the flesh, Humphries is unrecognisable from Everage and Patterson. Intellectually, he could not be more different - a bibliophile with 30,000 books at home, most of them read. While Dame Edna and Sir Les are loud and boorish, Humphries is quiet and urbane ("I never swear," he says). He sounds more like a 1950s upper-class English gent than Sir Les. And yet people continue to ask - with good reason - where do Dame Edna and Sir Les end and Barry Humphries begin?

His return to the stage is unusual because he appears as himself, curating an evening of songs sung by the Australian chanteuse Meow Meow. Weimar Cabaret pays homage to the cultural revolution that blossomed between the end of the first world war and the rise of Hitler. It was a short-lived period in which jazz, expressionism and dadaism flourished. Humphries is a huge fan of this period. It shouldn't surprise us. Dame Edna and Sir Les are caricatures every bit as savage as the paintings of Otto Dix or George Grosz.

Humphries says none of his characters give him quite as much pleasure as Australian ambassador Sir Les, best known for his puce cheeks, huge appendage and formidable frothing. "I enjoy playing Les more than any other character because it release my inner vulgarity. It liberates my repressed ribaldry." In 1999, Sir Les appeared with Kylie Minogue at Nick Cave's Meltdown, in a duet that concluded with him chasing her round the stage and whipping out his famous (and thankfully fake) "frightener".

Sir Les is an acquired taste. When I first came across him in my teens, I couldn't believe somebody could be so disgusting on TV and get away with it - he was one of the funniest things I'd ever seen.



Barry Humphries with Meow Meow at the Barbican.
Photograph: Tristram Kenton for the Guardian

Does he still have sufficient saliva to play the dissolute ambassador? "Well, look, the same question was asked by Prince Charles." Like Edna, Humphries is an accomplished name-dropper. "He said: 'Do you have some kind of tube running down your mouth?' and I said: 'No, I produce it myself.' It really is organic. I can expectorate six rows into the stalls." He looks at me with undisguised pride. "That is an accomplishment, isn't it? I can almost hit a target half a block away!" Does the royal family like Sir Les? "Prince Charles likes Les *a lot*," he whispers lubriciously. Of Dame Edna's formidable gladdy-chucking feats, he says: "With the gladioli, I can get them into Camilla's lap if she's sitting in the front row of the dress circle." How does he know? "She told me." British royalty seem to adore Dame Edna as much as Dame Edna adores them.

Dame Edna remains Humphries' most successful creation. She first appeared in the 1950s when he was living in Australia. Edna was a parody of polite, decent, small-minded suburban housewives. "Edna was painfully shy at first. Angonisingly shy." His eyes twinkle. "Hard to believe!" And how she evolved - the voice became louder, the diamante spectacles more spectacular, the purple rinse more flamboyant and the ego more untamed. The amazing thing about Edna is that she was never regarded as a man in drag, she was simply Edna. In the late 1980s she was given her own chatshow, The Dame Edna Experience, which paved the way for Mrs Merton (who had more than a touch of Edna about her). Edna became a brilliant pricker of pomposity. She was merciless on her guests, memorably telling Jeffrey Archer: "If you can't laugh at yourself you might be missing the joke of the century."

Ultimately, Edna satirises the nature of celebrity itself - the faux intimacy of stars who actually hold their fans in contempt. She talks of "the little faces" in the audience, "looking up, grotesque with gratitude". In her song That's What My Public Means to Me, she sings: "You can keep the company of Roman Polanksi and Bianca, it's after nobodies like you that I hanker."

After Humphries' mother died, he admitted Edna was largely based on her. In the past, he has painted a picture of a cold, unhappy, priggish woman who would point out Jews in the street as if they were a lower form of life. Louisa Humphries wanted

her Barry to be a somebody, and she was embarrassed when he opted for a career in theatre. She would often say: "We don't know where he came from."

His mother seemed to take pleasure in him getting bad reviews. "She'd say: 'Don't be depressed, Barry. There's something you have to learn - not everybody likes you!'" Did she mean that she didn't like him? "I'm not sure. There was a kind of relish. I think she was finally a bit proud of me, but she teetered on the brink of being embarrassed as well. She was very complex."

Nowadays he sees a lot of his mother in himself, "the same mentality - a bit waspish, prepared to see the negative side of people and situations".



As Dame Edna Everage. Photograph: Robbie Jack/Corbis via Getty Images

Humphries says his childhood was stultifying. His father was a builder who made good, and bought into middle-class life. Despite living in Melbourne, the family were little Englanders. "We were pretending we were in the home counties. We had nice churches, English gardens with nice lawns, crumpets for tea, teapots in the form of thatched cottages, pictures of Winston Churchill on the back of the kitchen door, and we subscribed to the Church of England. As Germaine Greer has brutally expressed it, it was a very boring life. And you either submerged yourself in it or left."

Humphries was one of a group of Australian contemporaries, including Greer, Clive James and Rupert Murdoch, who left - ironically, for the mother country, England. He remains friendly with all of them, and refers to them frequently. "It's wonderful that Clive's still alive," he says of James, who announced he was close to death in 2015. "He's blind in one eye and tiny now. I wrote this poem: Poor old Clive / Is still alive. / We know he is not dead / Because he keeps telling us / About all the books he's read."

He giggles. Has he shown it to James? "I should, shouldn't I?" And he recites it once more to amuse himself.

By the time he left Melbourne in 1959, he had enjoyed some success with Edna. His comedy verged on performance art, and often seemed as much for his amusement as that of others. On plane journeys, he would sneak a can of vegetable soup onboard, drink a mouthful, then vomit it into the sick bag. He would then get out a spoon and eat the contents.

In England, he struggled. He befriended his hero Peter Cook and created the cartoon character Barry McKenzie for Private Eye (McKenzie was another debauched

womaniser), but struggled as a jobbing stage actor. He started to drink heavily. The Private Eye editor, Richard Ingrams, sacked him despite the cartoon's popularity because he kept missing deadlines. Over 15 years, he almost drank himself to death. He went through women as rapidly as booze. (Humphries has been "very happily" married to his fourth wife, Lizzie Spender, the daughter of the poet Stephen Spender, for 28 years. He has four children - two daughters with his second wife and two sons with his third.) Humphries has described himself as "a dissolute, guilt-ridden, self-pitying boozer". He reached his nadir in 1973, when he was found beaten unconscious in a gutter. He was admitted to hospital to dry out, and he turned his life around. He has been sober for 45 years. What made him stop? "I got sick and tired of being tired and sick." The answer might be pat, but it's also true.



At his wedding in 1979. Photograph: Richard Young/Rex/Shutterstock

Perhaps Sir Les is a warning to himself of what he could have become. Would any part of him want to be Les? "No, I don't want to be Les Patterson. I do rather admire him, though. He's very genial. It would be therapeutic if Les was on TV constantly, reminding people there is another attitude to the fairer sex which doesn't entirely displease them. I've noticed that people who laugh at Les's most offensive, controversial, sexual sallies are old ladies. I have the lights up, and can see the old ladies on the front row. And they love it, as they used to love Max Miller."

Humphries is a clever man. Within one sentence he can segue from the ironic to the heartfelt and back again. On such occasions, his conversation can be hard to unpick. At other times, he talks with a simple, if scabrous, warmth.

I mention that the Australian actor Geoffrey Rush said he thought Dame Edna should have a full celebrity breakdown. "He's a funny man, Geoffrey Rush. He's a great actor ..." Silence. You know something is coming - and this is when I see Edna in Humphries. "He's having a very hard time in Australia ... " Is he surprised by the allegations of inappropriate touching? "Well, I feel for him. You know." Does he think it's fair? "No, I don't think it's fair." There are"genuine cases", but as for cases where an actor is accused of touching "some Sheila on stage", he says, "well, part of the job, isn't it?" Now I can see the Les in him.

Have the rules of behaviour changed? "Look, I'm a solo performer. I don't get a chance." He grins. "Les does it for me. He drinks for me, too."

Humphries says he adores women. "I wouldn't mind if there were no men in the world at all. I really do like women. Women know more. My sister's school magazine was full of poems and romance, mine was full of sport, and I used to think how lovely to be at the Presbyterian ladies college writing these poems. Women know more about life ... they bring it into the world ... they are much more honest ... they cook. My wife is a wonderful cook, which is why I'm so morbidly obese." How much does he weigh? "I'm not going to tell you. Or your readers. All I can say is that in the next few weeks, it's going to go down. When I'm on the stage, my weight disappears."

The older Humphries gets, the more outrageous he becomes. In recent years, his comments have caused controversy. In 2014, he defended the University of Sydney professor Barry Spurr after the academic was suspended for sending allegedly racist emails. Humphries said of them: "How could anyone take such deliberate Touretting seriously?" and concluded: "The answer, I fear, is that there are a lot of Australians these days who are totally bereft of a sense of humour. The new puritanism is alive, well and powerful."

In 2016, he told the Radio Times that Downton Abbey was popular in the US "because there are no black people in it". It is a comment that can be read in many ways. What did he mean? "It was a throwaway comment - a joke really. And I would not wish to offend [Julian] Fellowes, who has created a wonderful thing. I think Americans like it because it describes a society so unlike American life that it is intriguing to them. It's fascinating annd attractive ... and good manners are a curiosity, aren't they?"



As Sir Les Patterson in 1984. Photograph: ITV/Rex/Shutterstock

Does it bother him if people say it is a racist comment? "Oh, I don't really care. If people think it is racist, they'll be sensitive to everything of that kind. You can't pussyfoot around them. You just say what you think. I was being provocative." I ask if he thinks he has become more like Sir Les over the years. "No. Sir Les Patterson has never said anything I've agreed with."

Humphries splits his time between Melbourne and London, and regards both as home. "I'm a very conservative, sentimental old person. And I like the Melbourne of my memories." He says the old-fashioned backwaters of his youth still exist and he enjoys visiting them.

How does he feel about Brexit? "I voted in favour of Brexit and I would reverse my vote now if I could." Why? "Because I have changed my mind. There is a lot to be said for a European solidarity that includes Britain."

He returns to the new puritanism, and the relevance of his Weimar Cabaret, which he first performed two years ago. "There was this burst of wonderful art and invention, and discovery and beauty. It only lasted a few years. And the musical side of it was suppressed almost immediately by the Nazis. A lot of the composers were Jewish. Some of them fled to Hollywood. The Nazis called it Entartete Musik, degenerate music."

Humphries fears political correctness may lead us into a new era of censorship - or self-censorship. Indeed, he believes Edna was an early victim of political correctness. In 2003, her agony column for Vanity Fair was dropped after she was asked: "I am thinking of learning Spanish. Is this a good idea?", and answered: "Why Spanish, who would you talk to - your maid?" Humphries was dumbfounded. "It's so much easier

to shock people these days. I find it extremely provocative and therefore inspiring to find myself in a society that is so prudish when it thinks it's being liberal. It's ridiculous."

That is why, he says, he is determined to bring Sir Les back to Britain for one last hurrah. "I think Les might have adapted to new conditions." Is he less offensive? He guffaws. "No, he's more offensive. He's had to ramp it up."

Does anything frighten Humphries? Yes, he says: death. Now there is no irony or grandstanding. The thing is, he says, after the desperation of the alcohol years, he started to love life. "I picked up the gift of life 45 years ago. And now I look at the obituaries and see how old people are, and I think I'm getting to be that. And I think of all the things I'd like to be doing." What scares him most? "Dropping dead on stage worries me. It's happened to people I've admired like Tommy Cooper."

Humphries has to leave. He is having lunch with his friend, the chef Rick Stein. As we get up, I ask where he got his dress sense from. "My father. There he was, striding across the joists of suburban villas in their construction and talking to the plumbers, always in a suit and a tie. And he always took his hat off in lifts for ladies. And I still do that. Almost as a tribute to my father. When ladies get in a lift, I take my hat off. Nobody ever does it any more."

As we enter the lift, he tells me how lucky he has been and how much he is looking forward to the future - particularly reviving Sir Les. "I defend to the ultimate my right to give deep and profound offence." He pauses. "So long as people laugh while they're being offended." And do they laugh as much nowadays? "Oh yes, of course they do." A young woman enters the lift. Humphries discreetly raises his hat. She doesn't notice that one of the world's great provocateurs has just paid his respects.

Weimar Cabaret is at the Barbican, London, until 29 July, barbican.org.uk

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Geoffrey Rush's lawyers argue newspaper's allegations "motivated to harm" the actor

By Richard Phillips
1 August 2018

Lawyers for internationally-acclaimed actor Geoffrey Rush have lodged an amended outline of evidence in his defamation case against the Murdoch-owned Nationwide News, which publishes the *Daily Telegraph*, and Jason Moran, the newspaper's entertainment and celebrity journalist.

Amid the global #MeToo furore, the Sydney tabloid claimed in articles last November 30 and December 1 that Rush had behaved in a sexually inappropriate manner toward a female cast member during a Sydney Theatre Company (STC) production of *King Lear* in 2015–16. The articles were sensationally headlined "King Leer" and "Bard Behaviour."

Rush immediately denied the claims and launched legal action a week later, accusing the newspaper of ɔrtraying him as a "sexual predator" and a "pervert."

In their amended submission, Rush's lawyers assert that the *Telegraph* articles—and repeated claims in Nationwide News outlets in the following months—were "actuated by malice" and published "for the improper motive of harming" the Oscar-winning actor.

Like most of those targeted by #MeToo-style allegations, no charges were ever laid against Rush, let alone an official complaint made to police. The actor was not informed by the newspaper about the supposed "inappropriate" behaviour allegations until the evening before they were printed in the *Telegraph* and then republished uncritically around the world.

Despite Rush's strong denials, Nationwide News' publications, in fact, continued to "pile on" against him in subsequent articles, weeks and months after the defamation case was launched.

The spurious claims had a serious impact on the 66-year-old actor, who was pressured to stand down as president of the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA), the peak drama body he helped establish. The actor's pre-recorded video message to AACTA's annual awards ceremony in early December was pulled following demands from television executives.

ɹsh has not worked since the newspaper's accusations. According to his lawyers, the actor was virtually housebound and on medication in the three months after the newspaper's claims. An affidavit lodged in April said the actor woke up "every morning with a terrible sense of dread." He would "rarely attend public events" and felt that his worth to the theatre and film industry had been "irreparably damaged."

In June, Rush bravely announced that he would play Malvolio in the Melbourne Theatre Company production of *Twelfth Night* later this year. He decided this month, following medical advice, however, to withdraw from the production because he could not provide "the necessary creative spirit and the professional stamina required for the project."

Rush's amended submission points to ongoing detrimental reportage by Nationwide News publications. It references articles published by the *Australian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Herald-Sun* and *Courier Mail* in February and March this year.

These articles, the submission argues, were "misleading and sensationalist" and repeated unsubstantiated

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The newspaper was told by the STC, moreover, on November 29 that the female cast member alleged to have made a complaint against Rush was "distressed and extremely fragile." The STC "took the view that it was the complainant's story to tell it at a time of her choosing and on her own terms. Notwithstanding that, the [*Telegraph*] still published the matters complained of ... because they were motivated to harm [Rush] rather than to support the alleged complainant."

The new documents also state that on November 30, the *Telegraph* ignored a written statement from the theatre company, which said the complaint was "made to the STC, not by the STC, and was not a conclusion of impropriety."

The *Telegraph* did not publish that part of the STC statement. On the contrary, its article declared: "Two STC sources said the company stood by her [the complainant's] claims."

The *Telegraph* also lifted generic comments about the international entertainment industry from the Facebook account of actor Meyne Wyatt and posted it on the newspaper's front page. Rush's lawyers argue that the newspaper "misrepresented" the comment, "representing that he was personally taking a stand against [Rush]." The newspaper's journalist did not even speak to Wyatt before publishing the comment.

In March, Federal Court Justice Michael Wigney struck out the entirety of Nationwide News "truth defence" and several paragraphs of its "qualified privilege" defence. He also refused to allow Nationwide News lawyers to subpoena the STC, describing it as a "fishing expedition." In April, the court rejected Nationwide's attempts to file a "cross-claim" against the theatre company—i.e., enjoin it as a co-defendant—claiming that it was "an accessory" to the newspaper's publications.

The "qualified privilege" defence means that the publisher must show the alleged defamatory articles were in the "public interest" and that it "acted reasonably." Nationwide News lawyers will attempt to claim that the *Telegraph* 's articles, which were inspired by the upper-middle class, anti-democratic #MeToo movement's witch-hunting of filmmakers, actors and others in the US, were "matters of proper and legitimate public interest."

Closed-door discussions were held between Rush and his lawyers and Nationwide News in the Federal Court in early July. While this fuelled some media speculation that the publishing company may seek a pre-trial settlement, such court-mediated discussions normally occur before defamation trials.

Irrespective of the outcome of the scheduled eight-day trial, due to start on September 3, or whether the media conglomerate offers a pre-trial deal, the case, thus far, has indicated that Nationwide News targeted Rush in pursuit of #MeToo's right-wing agenda.

The author also recommends:

The lawless frontier of the #MeToo campaign
[7 March 2018]

Geoffrey Rush lawsuit strikes blow against anti-democratic #MeToo campaign
[22 March 2018]

Geoffrey Rush defamation case: Australian judge dismisses newspaper's latest defence
[23 April 2018]

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Name

Robert Seaborne • a month ago

Thank you Richard,
for this illuminating report on the #MeToo Rush debacle. Let us hope that Geoffrey Rush has at least one more public role to play in exposing this 'upper-middle class, anti-democratic #MeToo movement's witch-hunting of filmmakers, actors and others..'

1 ^ v • Reply • Share ›

RBHoughton • a month ago

I sincerely hope the case goes to trial so the responsible journalist can be exposed to public view and his opinions evaluated. Let all the poison out. There will be a reason for his opinions - let's see if its proper.

1 ^ v • Reply • Share ›

Greg • a month ago

"The newspaper's journalist did not even speak to Wyatt before publishing the comment."

That's gotta be journalism 101.

^ v • Reply • Share ›

Ambricourt • a month ago

Can an individual win against organizations skilled in disseminating distortions? Self-defence against defamation places immeasurable strain on a creative person. Mr Rush deserves immense public support.

6 ^ v • Reply • Share ›

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Kalen • a month ago

I am afraid that this whole affair will end up in secret settlement without admitting guilt as there is tremendous political pressure on Rush to take money and go away so this will be forgotten next week under barrage of new accusation as part of political campaign of misdirection before US elections making Dems look "good".

1 ^ v • Reply • Share ›

lee le brigand ➦ Kalen • a month ago

good point, comrade kalen -- low-life Dems wouldn't know the truth if it ran over them like a small toyota truck ! misdirection, misdirection, a simple magic trick -- but a hustle that doesn't work anymore : the magicians are naked and have no skills, no derisory tricks left to play -- but they remain murderers, and we, the mob, we never forget --

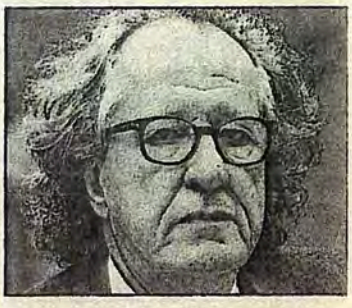
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Rush judgment

ACTRESS **Eryn Jean Norvill** says she'll testify for Australian newspaper the Daily Telegraph, which is being sued for defamation by Academy Award-winning actor **Geoffrey Rush**. Norvill co-starred with Rush in a 2015-2016 production of the Sydney Theatre Company's "King Lear," and lodged a complaint of sexual harassment against Rush with the theater. Rush (above) sued over the newspaper's reports on the matter last year. It will be the first time that Norvill's spoken publicly about the incident. The paper has now moved to amend its defense, which Rush's side is trying to block. The judge has said that he will not yet release Norvill's statement to the public, since he does not want this to be a "trial by media."

Actress says Geoffrey Rush touched her inappropriately

Source: Canadian Press
Publication Date: August 9, 2018
Country: Canada
Source Type: Newswire

8/9/18 Can. Press 16:13:00

News

Copyright (c) 2018 The Canadian Press

SYDNEY, Australia _ The actress at the centre of Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush's defamation suit against a Sydney newspaper alleged he touched her breast and lower back during a Shakespeare production three years ago, documents presented in court said Thursday.

The 67-year-old Australian actor is suing The Daily Telegraph in the Federal Court over articles in December that reported Sydney Theatre Company had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" against Rush during a production of "King Lear" in 2015. The company said the actress who complained had requested anonymity and had not wanted Rush informed.

That actress was later identified as Eryn Jean Norvill, who played Cordelia, the youngest daughter of King Lear, played by Rush. Lawyers told the court on Thursday that Norvill had agreed to provide the newspaper with a sworn statement detailing her allegations last month.

Justice Michael Wigney was told on Thursday that the newspaper would use Norvill's statement in its defence against the defamation suit, which is to be tried by a jury in October. Both Rush and Norvill are expected to testify.

The newspaper's defence will include allegations Rush's hand "traced across" the side of Norvill's breast during a performance.

Rush is also accused of touching her lower back under her shirt, making lewd gestures in her direction and making groping gestures in the air.

Rush has denied any inappropriate behaviour.

Rush's lawyer, Sue Chrysanthou, criticized the newspaper for publishing the original articles without speaking to Norvill.

"They did publish two front-page articles accusing my client of sexual misconduct when they had nothing," Chrysanthou said.

The newspaper's lawyer, Alec Leopold, said his legal team was searching for witnesses to corroborate what Norvill said.

He said the nature of the allegations and Rush's "position in the acting world" meant not everyone wanted to speak about the claims.

Rush argues the newspaper articles portray him as a pervert and sexual predator.

He won the 1997 best actor Academy Award for "Shine" and has three other Oscar nominations. He is perhaps best known as Captain Barbossa in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

LANGUAGE: English
COMPANY: RUSH ENTERPRISES INC
NEWS SUBJECT: Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05)
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08); Motion Pictures (1MO51)

REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
OTHER INDEXING: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Cordelia; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Sue Chrysanthou; Barbossa; Alec Leopold; Jean Norvill)
WORD COUNT: 348

THOMSON REUTERS

Actress says Geoffrey Rush touched her inappropriately

Source: Postmedia News (Canada)
Publication Date: August 9, 2018
Source Type: Newswire

8/9/18 Postmedia News (Can.) 00:00:00

News

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The Associated Press

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OTHER INDEXING: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Cordelia; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Sue Chrysanthou; Barbossa; Alec Leopold; Jean Norvill)
WORD COUNT: 347

Actress says Geoffrey Rush touched her inappropriately

Source: AP Worldstream
Publication Date: August 9, 2018
Source Type: Newswire

8/9/18 AP Worldstream 13:54:29

News

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SYDNEY

SYDNEY (AP) — The actress at the center of Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush's defamation suit against a Sydney newspaper alleged he touched her breast and lower back during a Shakespeare production three years ago, documents presented in court said Thursday.

The 67-year-old Australian actor is suing The Daily Telegraph in the Federal Court over articles in December that reported Sydney Theatre Company had received a complaint of "inappropriate behavior" against Rush during a production of "King Lear" in 2015. The company said the actress who complained had requested anonymity and had not wanted Rush informed.

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The newspaper's defense will include allegations Rush's hand "traced across" the side of Norvill's breast during a performance.

Rush is also accused of touching her lower back under her shirt, making lewd gestures in her direction and making groping gestures in the air.

Rush has denied any inappropriate behavior.

Rush's lawyer, Sue Chrysanthou, criticized the newspaper for publishing the original articles without speaking to Norvill.

"They did publish two front-page articles accusing my client of sexual misconduct when they had nothing," Chrysanthou said.

The newspaper's lawyer, Alec Leopold, said his legal team was searching for witnesses to corroborate what Norvill said.

He said the nature of the allegations and Rush's "position in the acting world" meant not everyone wanted to speak about the claims.

Rush argues the newspaper articles portray him as a pervert and sexual predator.

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COMPANY: RUSH ENTERPRISES INC
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REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Cordelia; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Sue Chrysanthou; Barbossa; Alec Leopold; Jean Norvill)
WORD COUNT: 349

Geoffrey Rush accuser says the actor 'traced his hand across her breast and made groping gestures towards her'

Source: Daily Mail Online (UK)
Publication Date: August 9, 2018
Country: United Kingdom
Source Type: Newspaper

8/9/18 Daily Mail Online (U.K.) (Pg. Unavail. Online)

News

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Australian Associated Press

The actress at the centre of Geoffrey Rush's defamation case has alleged he traced his hand across the side of her breast and touched her lower back when they starred in a Sydney theatre production, according to court documents.

The Daily Telegraph and reporter, Jonathon Moran, will attempt to prove a defence of truth when the case goes to trial in October now actress Eryn Jean Norvill has provided their lawyers with a statement.

Actress alleges Geoffrey Rush touched her breasts and back in court documents

Eryn Jean Norvill has provided her statement to The Daily Telegraph lawyers

Rush is suing the publication after it published the allegations against him

Publication to try to prove defence of truth when case goes to trial in October

Alleged conduct occurred when Norvill and Rush starred in a theatre production

Rush is suing the Telegraph's publisher and Moran over articles about allegations he behaved inappropriately towards a female colleague - later revealed to be Norvill - during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear in 2015.

The 67-year-old Oscar winning actor denies the claims against him.

The Telegraph published the articles in 2017 without Norvill's co-operation and Rush's lawyer claims the STC begged Moran not to publish in an email which stated: 'This is her story to tell.'

But the Federal Court on Thursday heard Norvill had agreed to give her account more than seven months after the first article was published, providing a statement to the Telegraph's lawyers in July.

Their amended defence - based on her statement - includes allegations Rush's hand 'traced across' the side of Norvill's breast during a preview performance, according to an outline of submissions filed by Rush's lawyers.

He's accused of touching her lower back under her shirt, making lewd gestures in her direction and making groping gestures in the air.

Six months after the production, Rush also allegedly sent Norvill a text message saying he thought of her 'more than is socially appropriate'.

Rush's lawyers in the document argue some of the allegations lack precision and there's no explanation why they vary starkly from claims previously made by the Telegraph in an earlier defence.

That defence was struck out by Justice Michael Wigney in March after he found its claims were 'plainly deficient' and 'vague and imprecise'.

The new defence has forced the trial to be delayed by seven weeks and Rush's lawyer, Sue

Chrysanthou, on Thursday said he would seek indemnity costs and aggravated damages.

'Mr Rush is suffering continuing trauma because of these proceedings and because of the allegations, so the delay of seven weeks is maybe not a big deal to News Limited, but it is a big deal to him,' the lawyer said in the Federal Court.

She criticised the Telegraph for publishing the original articles without speaking to Norvill.

'They did publish two front page articles accusing my client of sexual misconduct when they had nothing,' Ms Chrysanthou said.

'Now we know what they did have was rubbish.'

The Telegraph's lawyer, Alec Leopold SC, said they were seeking witnesses to corroborate what Norvill said about Rush touching her breast and lower back.

He said the nature of the allegations and Rush's 'position in the acting world' meant not everyone wanted to speak about the claims.

'There are people we know who can corroborate it,' Mr Leopold said.

He rejected Ms Chrysanthou's claim that the STC had begged Moran not to publish.

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COMPANY: NEWS LTD
NEWS SUBJECT: Crime (1CR87); Criminal Law (1CR79); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Judicial Cases & Rulings (1JU36); Legal (1LE33); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05)
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08)
REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Jonathon Moran; Sue Chrysanthou; Alec Leopold; Jean Norvill)
WORD COUNT: 510

Geoffrey Rush inappropriately touched actress Eryn Jean Norvill, court hears

Source: Sky News (UK)
Publication Date: August 9, 2018
Country: United Kingdom
Source Type: Other

8/9/18 Sky News (U.K.) (Pg. Unavail. Online)

News

Copyright © hears Sky News 2018: Geoffrey Rush inappropriately touched actress Eryn Jean Norvill, court

Eryn Jean Norvill alleges that the Australian actor, 67, touched her breast and lower back under her shirt while rehearsing for King Lear in Sydney in 2015.

She claims the actor, who plays Captain Barbossa in the Pirates Of The Caribbean series, also "made groping gestures in the air" around her torso and made "comments which contained sexual innuendo" and "lewd gestures".

The allegations were revealed in court documents submitted by Rush's legal team during a defamation case brought by Rush against Sydney's Daily Telegraph.

The case is about an article in December which said Sydney Theatre Company had received a complaint of "inappropriate behaviour" against Rush during the production of King Lear.

The trial was due to start in September but was delayed because Norvill eventually agreed to be added to the newspaper's witness list, with a sworn statement with details of her allegations.

Rush's legal team said the allegations by Norvill could not be considered "'scandalously inappropriate' or amount to 'sexual assault'".

The document said: "It could also not result in a finding that [Rush] is a 'pervert' or a 'sexual predator'."

The Daily Telegraph will use Norvill's statement in its defence against the defamation suit, which will be tried by a jury in October.

Rush's lawyer, Sue Chrysanthou, criticised the newspaper for publishing the original articles without speaking to Norvill.

"They did publish two front-page articles accusing my client of sexual misconduct when they had nothing," she said.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP LTD
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REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Sue Chrysanthou; Barbossa; Jean Norvill)
WORD COUNT: 241

Actress accuses Rush of improper contact

Source: Portland Press Herald (Maine)
Publication Date: August 10, 2018
Country: USA
Source Type: Newspaper

8/10/18 Portland Press Herald A

News

Portland Newspapers Aug 10, 2018

SYDNEY -- The actress at the center of Oscar-winning actor Geoffrey Rush's defamation suit against a Sydney newspaper alleged he touched her breast and lower back during a Shakespeare production three years ago, court documents said Thursday.

The 67-year-old Australian actor is suing The Daily Telegraph in Federal Court over articles in December that reported Sydney Theatre Company had received a complaint of "inappropriate behavior" against Rush during a production of "King Lear" in 2015. The company said the actress who complained had requested anonymity.

That actress was later identified as Eryn Jean Norvill, who played Cordelia, the youngest daughter of King Lear, played by Rush.

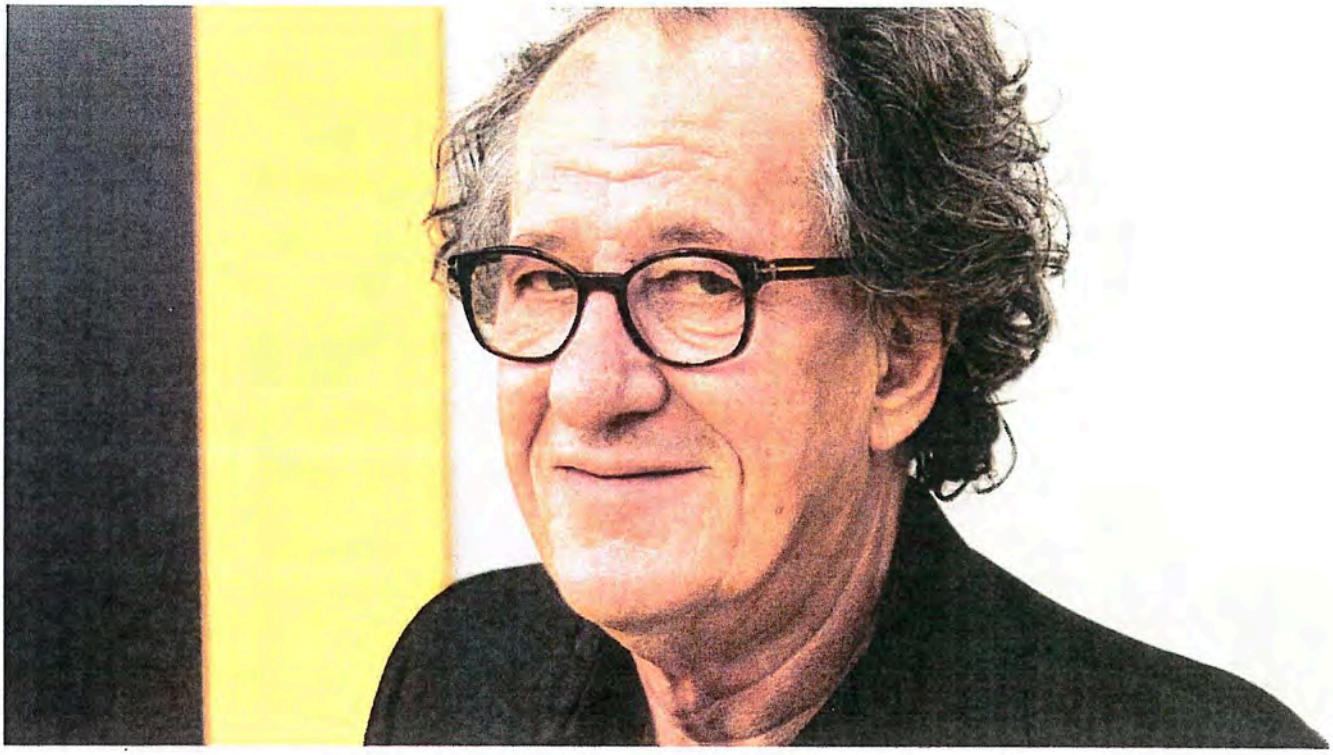
- From news service reports

--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

LANGUAGE: English
NEWS SUBJECT: Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Social Issues (1SO05)
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REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
OTHER INDEXING: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Cordelia; Eryn Jean Norvill)
WORD COUNT: 111

Geoffrey Rush Accused of "Sexually Predatory Behavior" in Defamation Lawsuit Documents

12:02 AM PDT 8/13/2018 by Pip Bulbeck



Earl Gibson III/Getty Images

Geoffrey Rush

News Corp. tabloid the Daily Telegraph has amended its defense in the case to include statements from the actress who has made allegations of inappropriate behavior against Rush.

Australian actress Eryn Jean Norvill alleged that Geoffrey Rush made "groping gestures in the air with two cupped hands" that simulated "fondling" her breasts during rehearsals for *King Lear* in 2015, in documents tendered to the Federal Court of Australia on Thursday.

Norvill's statement is part of News Corp. tabloid *The Daily Telegraph*'s amended defense in the defamation suit Rush has brought against the newspaper after it published a complaint of inappropriate behavior by the actor during the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *King Lear* between 2015 and 2016.

Rush has denied all allegations of wrongdoing.

Norvill, who had previously declined to provide a statement to the court, last month agreed to give evidence for the *Daily Telegraph* at the upcoming trial.

Her decision allows the News Corp. tabloid to argue a defense of truth. Rush's barrister Sue Chrysanthou did not oppose the newspaper's application to include the truth defense but said "it should not be seen as acceptance of the claim by him."

In the document, *The Daily Telegraph*'s defense lists a series of incidents which their legal team argues show Rush "engaged in conduct of a kind in which only a pervert would engage" and engaged in "sexually predatory behaviour."

The document alleges that Rush touched Norvill's breast during preview performances and moved his hand under her shirt and along the waistline of her jeans to touch the skin of her lower back in a "deliberate" way when they were about to go onstage, in separate incidents.

The new defense means the trial has been delayed seven weeks. It will now start in October and is expected to run for 13 days.

Rush's barrister says the delays are causing Rush "continuing trauma."

"Mr Rush is suffering continuing trauma because of these proceedings and because of the allegations, so the delay of seven weeks is maybe not a big deal to News Limited, but it is a big deal to him," she told the federal court last week.

READ MORE
Geoffrey Rush Pulls Out of Stage Production Due to Defamation Case

Geoffrey Rush accused of simulating 'groping and fondling' actor at centre of lawsuit

Source: Guardian (UK)
Publication Date: August 13, 2018
Country: United Kingdom
Source Type: Newspaper

8/13/18 The Guardian (U.K.) (Pg. Unavail. Online)

News

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Michael McGowan

Geoffrey Rush simulated "groping and fondling" the actor at the centre of his defamation suit against the Sydney Daily Telegraph, the newspaper has alleged in court documents.

Last week the federal court heard the Telegraph and its reporter, Jonathon Moran, will attempt to prove a defence of truth when the case goes to trial in October after the actor, Eryn Jean Norvill, provided their lawyers with a statement .

Rush is suing the Telegraph's publisher News Corp and Moran over articles about allegations he behaved inappropriately towards a female colleague – later revealed to be Norvill – during a Sydney Theatre Company production of King Lear in 2015.

Rush has strenuously denied the claims.

The documents list a series of incidents in which the Telegraph's lawyers argue Rush acted like a "pervert" and engaged in "sexually predatory behaviour".

In one instance during the final weeks of production Rush and Norvill were rehearsing a scene in front of cast and crew members when Rush allegedly simulated "groping" Norvill while she lay on stage.

During the scene Norvill, who played Lear's daughter Cordelia, lay prone on the stage with her eyes closed while Rush, who played Lear, grieved above her.

The documents state that while Rush would usually touch her "on the face and arm" during the scene "in the manner of a grieving father", on this occasion Norvill opened her eyes when she heard people laughing and saw Rush "hovering his hands above her torso and pretending to stroke or caress her upper torso".

The documents state Rush then "made groping gestures in the air with two cupped hands [which were] intended to simulate and in fact did simulate him groping and fondling [Norvill's] breasts".

The document states the conduct intended to "mock" Norvill while she was in a vulnerable position, and that he "engaged in conduct of a kind in which only a pervert would engage".

The amended defence – based on Norvill's statement – also includes allegations Rush's hand "traced across" the side of her breast during a preview performance of the same scene.

It alleges that in the lead-up to the preview performance the director of the production, Neil Armfield, gave Rush an instruction that he should make the scene more "paternal" as it was "becoming creepy and unclear".

He's also accused of touching her lower back under her shirt, making lewd gestures in her direction such as licking his lips and "using his hands to grope the air like he was fondling [Norvill's] hips or breasts".

Six months after the production, Rush also allegedly sent Norvill a text message saying he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate".

Rush's lawyers had sought to have the document thrown out, arguing some of the allegations lack precision and there's no explanation why they vary starkly from claims previously made by the Telegraph in an earlier defence.

The previous defence was struck out by Justice Michael Wigney in March after he found its claims were "plainly deficient" and "vague and imprecise".

The new defence has forced the trial to be delayed by seven weeks and Rush's lawyer, Sue Chrysanthou, on Thursday said he would seek indemnity costs and aggravated damages.

"Mr Rush is suffering continuing trauma because of these proceedings and because of the allegations, so the delay of seven weeks is maybe not a big deal to News Limited, but it is a big deal to him," the lawyer said in the federal court last week.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY: NEWS LTD; NEWS CORP; TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP LTD
NEWS SUBJECT: Assault & Battery (1AS33); Crime (1CR87); Defamation, Libel & Slander (1DE07); Sex Crimes (1SE01); Social Issues (1SO05); Violent Crime (1VI27)
INDUSTRY: Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08)
REGION: Australasia (1AU56); Australia (1AU55); New South Wales (1NE75); Oceania (1OC40)
LANGUAGE: English
OTHER INDEXING: (Sydney Theatre Company) (Geoffrey Rush; Cordelia; Michael Wigney; Eryn Jean Norvill; Neil Armfield; Jonathon Moran; Sue Chrysanthou; Jean Norvill)
WORD COUNT: 578

INTERNATIONAL

Geoffrey Rush Defamation Case: News Corp Tabloid Alleges Actor Behaved Like A "Pervert"

by Andreas Wiseman

• August 13, 2018 2:59am

Court documents filed by the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* claim that actor Geoffrey Rush behaved like a "pervert" and engaged in "sexually predatory behaviour" during a 2015 theater production.

RELATED
Geoffrey Rush Exits Australian Stage Production Amidst Defamation Lawsuit Against Newspaper

Oscar-winner Rush is suing the *Telegraph*'s publisher News Corp over articles bout allegations he behaved inappropriately towards actress Eryn Jean Norvill during a Sydney Theatre Company production of *King Lear*.

Norvill had previously declined to provide a statement to the court but last month agreed to provide evidence for the *Daily Telegraph* at the upcoming trial. Her decision means the News Corp tabloid can argue a defense of truth.

According to the *Guardian*, the latest court documents filed by the publisher allege that Rush simulated "groping and fondling" towards the actress; Rush's hand "traced across" the side of her breast during a preview performance; he touched her lower back under her shirt; made lewd gestures in her direction such as licking his lips; and sent her a text message months after the production saying he thought of her "more than is socially appropriate."

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Rush's lawyers had tried to have the document thrown out, claiming some of the allegations lack precision and inexplicably deviate from the *Telegraph*'s previous defense, which was thrown out by a local judge in March after he found its claims were "vague and imprecise."

Rush has vigorously denied all claims of inappropriate conduct.

The new defense has meant the trial will be delayed by seven weeks and Rush's lawyer, Sue Chrysanthou, last week said he would seek indemnity costs and aggravated damages due to the "continuing trauma" of the case and its delay.

Earlier this year, the *Shine* star's lawyers said he was "virtually housebound" and that his career has been "irreparably damaged" by the articles. Last month, the actor exited an Australian stage production.

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5 Comments

your facts wrong.

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Cap'n Sparkle • *on* Aug 13, 2018 4:33 am

Typical News Corp smear and innuendo.....damned if i know what sort of "journalist" is ever attracted to work in that cesspit....

Reply

• *on* Aug 13, 2018 9:54 am

This is disgusting! Just because he is famous, and in a position of power does not mean Geoffrey Rush did ıything inappropriate to that woman! I realize that a lot of male celebrities in high places have done gross and disturbing things to their female counterparts, but that just does not mean that every male celebrity is going to misbehave in this way. Get a life,, Daily Telegraph! Don't help a spiteful little twit ruin a good man! There are plenty of real scumbags out there for you to pursue! You know, like, a certain costar of mr. Rush's, from a certain multi billion-dollar film franchise, who drinks himself legless, smokes himself hazy on marijuana, and probably other substances, and may very well be a wife beater? Yeah, now, that guy is justifiable tabloid fodder! Leave mister Rush alone!

Reply

Ally Gierke • *on* Aug 15, 2018 3:01 pm

Mr. Rush is an amazing actor and a good man. This metoo# stuff has to have limits. To be able to ruin a reputation by uttering whatever appeals is very frightening. I hope Mr. Rush gets the justice and his peace as he deserves. This woman clearly has an ax to grind.

Reply

Poof • *on* Aug 13, 2018 10:22 am

I'd call that flirting, not molesting or whatever she calls it.

Reply

D Chappell • *on* Aug 15, 2018 2:12 pm

To the other commenters: This isn't flirting. This is why the Me Too movement started. I have some personal insight on Geoffrey Rush, having worked on a film set in which Rush worked on over the course of several weeks. All actors/crew were being hold up in the same hotel, and I saw him act in very unbecoming ways multiple times (while he was apparently married), and this kind of behavior from him does not surprise me in any way. There's more to this story I assure you. Geoffrey Rush may be a great actor, but from my observations and encounters, he isn't a great person.

Reply







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