

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT, PUBLIC OUTCRY EXPLOITED BY THE MEDIA TO MAKE MONEY



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It all started with Harvey Weinstein.

The world suddenly discovered that the very man responsible for Quentin Tarantino's most successful films, the independent producer who through Miramax revolutionized Hollywood in the name of authors' independence, was chiefly a world-class bastard. This is how it worked with Weinstein: "Have sex with me if you want this job". That not only equates to blackmail – which automatically turns the other person into a victim, no matter whether they accept or not – but also to extortion. In fact, in what asking for sex in exchange for work is so different from asking for money? What is the difference between that request and an extortion?

The problem is that, since Weinstein was exposed, we have plunged into a totally different type of psychosis.

On 29th October a B-movie actor, in an interview orchestrated by his press office, declared that in 1986 the actor Kevin Spacey made sexual advances towards him at a party. In the next few days other men, actors as well as extras, came up to accuse Spacey, saying they had been the victims of sexual advances which had left them deeply traumatized. All of them claim that they found the strength to “come out” thanks to the outcry provoked by the Weinstein affair.

There is a difference, though. Weinstein blackmailed (and extorted) his victims, Kevin Spacey didn't. Kevin Spacey made passes: in a libertine, questionable, unpleasant, morally unacceptable way but, as Monica Bellucci said, there is a difference between sexual harassment and blackmail, and making a pass.

To censor inappropriate behaviors is legitimate. But to terminate someone's career, annihilate it as if it had never existed is a different matter. Spacey was annihilated, kicked out of the Creative Artists Agency (Hollywood's extremely influential talent agency) basically putting an end to his career.

Since then, as if in a long *deja-vu*, new interviews are being published every day, with once celebrated artists turned into the worst of villains and thrown to the social media wolves in a matter of minutes.

Dustin Hoffman, Louis C.K., Matthew Weiner, who knows who else tomorrow. They are all equal in the eyes of the Twitter puritans, they are all Weinstains, all criminals and perverts not just to be ruined and shitted all over, but most importantly to be erased from the collective memory.

After Netflix cancelled Kevin Spacey, HBO cancelled all Louis C.K.'s shows, cultural treasures no longer available since last night, and the release of his much anticipated new movie, "I Love You Daddy", has been cancelled. His whole repertory - including his 10 million view videos able to explain how modernity works better than any sociology book - is now being reinterpreted in a psychoanalytical light. Louis C.K. himself, for many years the last bastion of resistance against the dictatorship of political correctness, was forced to publicly abjure in an attempt to limit the damage, acknowledging the "enormous pain" he had inflicted with his behavior.

It won't do any good: his career, like Spacey's, is most likely over. Never mind the fact that, as I said before, in his case the extortion in the form of a job granted only "if", the fundamental element that makes Weinstein's case different, is missing.

Never mind the fact that there he hasn't been accused of any violent act or even of any physical contact, and that in one case it was all about a phone conversation.

Never mind that we are talking about advances between adults in a hotel bedroom to "have a drink together" at 2 o'clock in the morning, and that those same advances were even accepted.

The Twitter puritans, who have in the HuffPost their personal Scientology, are in no doubt. Taking support from the concept that a woman is a helpless human being - and that is indeed discriminatory - incapable of telling a pig to fuck off or to refuse an advance without being traumatized for life, are exulting for what they define a "healthy purge", and they don't even know that they are quoting Stalin.

And now, waving burning torches, they are going for the big target who goes by the name of Woody Allen. He has eluded them until now, but they are finally getting ready to burn him too.

How is it possible that all of a sudden America has become more puritan than Oliver Cromwell's England, and that no one sees the Orwellian turn it is taking?

The answer is easy: because they know perfectly. The reasons for this witch hunt – or rather sorcerer hunt – are quite petty and may downgrade the urgent and legitimate battle to protect women from discrimination at the workplace by turning it into just a means to a far less noble end.

For many years the web, and the social networks in particular, have been modifying the public debate distorting it completely. By dividing the public opinion into bubbles, the social media forced the media to decide on which bubble to bet on in order to survive. So, while some newspapers openly addressing one bubble only (HuffPost for the left, Breitbart News for the right) thrived, the mainstream media everywhere were forced not only to take up less and less moderate positions and to orient themselves more and more towards the selected bubble, but also to nourish and pamper it constantly.

They stopped addressing the general public, diverse by definition, and chose to talk to one bubble, intrinsically homogeneous and conformist, in a constant radicalization process. Triggering indignation feelings proved to be the best, almost surefire way to keep it happy.

For many years the media, in the broader sense of the term, have been spending huge resources to abet systematically every possible form of indignation in an attempt to turn outrage into views, likes, and copies sold. The mechanism actually proved so effective that indignation has become an outright world scale economy, the only currency accepted on the market of ideas.

Today's sorcerer hunt, therefore, is nothing more than a great commercial operation where Weinstein is merely a pretext, orchestrated by the media to make the most of one of the largest, and hence richest, bubbles: the feminist bubble.

No one cares about women's rights and dignity, about bringing concrete proposals to support the emancipation of real women. And no one cares about the difference between harassment and advance as pointed out by Monica Bellucci. What matters is that a growing number of women get outraged without the benefit of the doubt and keep reading articles packed with bra or make up ads that show women used as coatracks, published in internet websites or newspapers largely run by men, in turn controlled by finance groups exclusively directed by men.

To destroy the careers of those who made fundamental contributions to the cultural progress of a community just on the basis of an anonymous interview or an unverifiable memory dating from fifteen years ago, in order to get retweets.

To drown the guilty together with those who should at least have the right to a trial in an ocean of outrage to get a heart emoji in exchange. They are all guilty, which will soon mean that no one is guilty.

Those who dare to raise a doubt are told that, sure, the blacklist may include some innocent people, but they are necessary casualties so that other women will have the courage to come out. It is indiscriminate shooting. Stalin, as a matter of fact.

We can only hope that no philologist will find out that Newton or Galileo too made shocking advances to a woman or a student. Should that happen, given the current climate, the consequence could be a ban on the law of gravity or a prohibition of the Copernican system.

Welcome to the 16th century.