

Breaking Open the Sexual Harassment Scandal

BY CHRISTOPHER PALMERI

Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey Exposed an Ugly Hollywood Secret. They Are Receiving the Press Club's Inaugural Impact Award

IT WAS the entertainment industry's story of the year, by far. Harvey Weinstein, the producer known for Oscar winners such as *The English Patient* and *Shakespeare in Love*, was a serial sexual abuser. For decades he had preyed upon young women looking to break into show business. His actions confirmed the worst fears of the Hollywood casting couch.

Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey got the story first. Now the *New York Times'* investigative report-

ers are the winners of the Los Angeles Press Club's inaugural Impact Award for journalists whose work makes a profound difference in the world.

"These two intrepid women faced down Harvey Weinstein by exposing the sordid truth of the mogul's decades-long sexual misconduct and abuse," Press Club Executive Director Diana Ljungaeus said in announcing the award. "They did so in spite of the onslaught of threats from Weinstein and his powerful allies. Hollywood will confront itself and become a little bit healthier thanks to their work."

In the wake of Kantor and Twohey's Oct. 5 story on Weinstein's history of harassment, some 80 women have come forward with tales of abuse by the 65-year-old industry legend. Weinstein is suspended from the independent studio that bears his name. Then, after the *New Yorker* published an equally horrifying account of women who claimed they had been raped by Weinstein, he was fired from his own company. He has since been booted out of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Producer's Guild. He has also been stripped of awards, including a prize the Los Angeles Press Club gave him for his documentary about Kalief Browder, a teen imprisoned without trial whose story prompted changes in the New York judicial system.

Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor take a break on the floor. Below, right: the button says it all.



Claims of Sexual Harassment Trail a Hollywood Mogul

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clined to comment on any of the settlements, including providing information about who paid them. But Mr. Weinstein said that in addressing employee concerns about workplace issues, "my motto is to keep the peace."



Late Edition Today, clouds and sunshine, warm, high 78. Tonight, mostly cloudy, mild, low 66. Tomorrow, times of clouds and sunshine, warm, high 80. Weather map appears on Page B8.

The New York Times

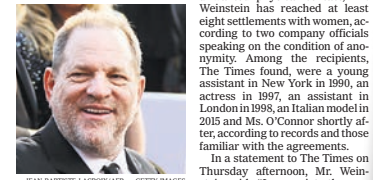
VOL. CLXVII ... No. 57,742 NEW YORK, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017

Sexual Misconduct Claims Trail a Hollywood Mogul

Oscar-Winning Producer Has Quietly Settled at Least 8 Complaints in 3 Decades

By JODI KANTOR and MEGAN TWOHEY

Two decades ago, the Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein invited Ashley Judd to the Peninsula Beverly Hills hotel for what the young actress expected to be a business breakfast meeting. Instead, he had her sent up to his room, where he appeared in a bathrobe and asked if he could give her a massage or she could watch him shower, she recalled in an interview.



Harvey Weinstein

made another offer: If she accepted his sexual advances, he would boost her career, according to accounts she provided to colleagues who sent them to Weinstein Company executives. The following year, once again at the Peninsula, a female assistant said Mr. Weinstein badgered her into giving him a massage while he was naked, leaving her "crying and very distraught," wrote a colleague, Lauren O'Connor, in a scathing memo asserting sexual harassment and other misconduct by her boss.

Star Actresses Say They Were Harassed by



Rosanna Arquette, Angelina Jolie, and other actresses who have accused Weinstein of sexual harassment.

... "I was a kid, I was signed up, I was promised, I thought he was going to fire me." ... "The next thing I know, he's preening against the hand pulling off my sweater." ... "He literally said, 'I'm not going to do this with you unless you have a massage.'"

New Accusers Expand Claims Against Weinstein Into the 1970s



Harvey Weinstein at his office in Manhattan in the 1970s. Previously, he had been accused of sexual harassment by actresses including Faye Dunaway, Catherine Deneuve, and Holly Hunter.

... "I called the police last week, but I didn't have it now." ... "I was a little bit nervous to be a 'snitch' when making an accusation. I know what it's like to be a young woman in a room with an older man. I know what it's like to be a young woman in a room with an older man. I know what it's like to be a young woman in a room with an older man."

... "I'm not going to do this with you unless you have a massage." ... "I was a kid, I was signed up, I was promised, I thought he was going to fire me." ... "The next thing I know, he's preening against the hand pulling off my sweater." ... "He literally said, 'I'm not going to do this with you unless you have a massage.'"

Weinstein has apologized, checked in to rehab, and maintains that any sex he had with the accusers was consensual. Police departments in London, New York and Los Angeles have opened investigations into his alleged misdeeds. "You never know what'll happen when you launch your story into the world," Kantor said in an October interview with *Marie Claire* magazine. In the wake of the Weinstein story, other prominent men have been outed as abusers, including Amazon.com's entertainment chief Roy Price, political commentator Mark Halperin, actor Kevin Spacey and even former President George H.W. Bush. All have publicly apologized and many have lost their jobs. Meanwhile, thousands of people around the world have taken to social media to proclaim #MeToo and share their own stories of harassment. For Kantor and Twohey, the key to breaking the story lay in getting prominent women to talk

The New York Times exploded with a series of stories involving film producer, Harvey Weinstein.

about what happened, on the record. Their first article included gripping stories from actress Ashley Judd as well as details from an internal Weinstein Company memo, where one-time employee Lauren O'Connor detailed a "toxic environment for women at this company."

Kantor and Twohey have devoted their careers to shedding light on abusive treatment of women and children. Their articles have prompted national and international discussions, new laws, and changes at some of the world's top corporations. Along the way, they have worked closely with a wide array of sources on delicate issues, finding sensitive but powerful ways to bring the truth to light.

After Kantor reported on bruising working conditions at Amazon (including women who were not given time to recover from miscarriages and a stillbirth), the company introduced its first paternity leave policy and revised other practices. Her article about Starbucks' punishing scheduling system—which left workers struggling to meet childcare and doctor's appointments—prompted the company to shift policies and helped kick off a fair scheduling movement that has resulted in



Megan Twohey, Jodi Kantor, Matty Purdy, NYT Editor Dean Baquet and Rebecca Corbett, who was their editor for these stories.

Times. When Trump threatened to sue, David McCraw, a *Times*' attorney wrote a firm response.

Kantor, now 42, was among the youngest people to edit a major part of the *New York Times* when she ran the Arts and Leisure section. She wrote *The Obamas*, a 2012 book about the first family's adjustment to life in the presidency. Kantor has said she was inspired to tackle stories that stick up for those in need in part because of her Jewish upbringing, and the specter of Hitler's unchecked rise to power. She's married to Ron Lieber, a financial columnist for the *Times*. They live in Brooklyn.

Twohey, meanwhile, grew up in a journalism family. Her father was an editor at the *Chicago Tribune*; her mother a TV news producer. She joined the *Times* last year after having worked at papers such as the *Moscow Times* and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

As mothers of young girls, both Kantor and Twohey have said they were inspired to take on the Weinstein story by the idea that they could make the world a better place for their children. They gained the confidence of the women who came forward in part with that idea as well.

To contact celebrities like Judd, they went around their publicists and reached out to them directly, letting them know that there were other women ready to speak out.

"When we got hold of Ashley, we told her, 'Hey, we're not just asking you to go out on a diving board alone,'" Kantor said in the *Marie Claire* interview. "We explained that we'd built a really strong investigative story and that we wanted her to, in a way, speak to this much larger thing."

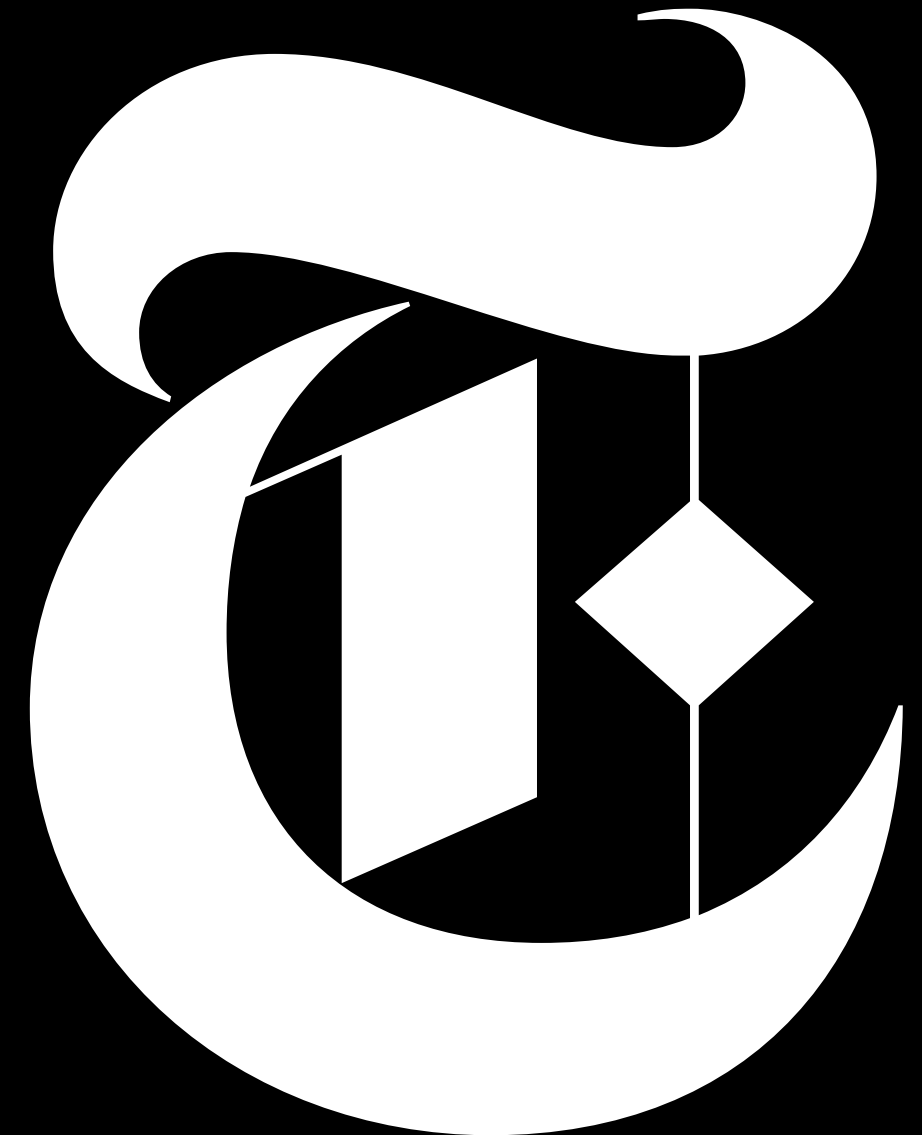
The effects continue to be felt.

Thousands of people around the world have taken to social media to proclaim #MeToo and share their own stories of harassment.

new laws in several cities and states. Her investigation into Harvard Business School's treatment of women resulted in the dean issuing a blanket apology to all alumnae.

At Reuters, Twohey's five-part series exposing an underground network where parents gave away adopted children led to new laws, an FBI investigation, and felony convictions for two of the main subjects. That work was a finalist for a 2014 Pulitzer Prize. At the *Chicago Tribune*, her articles about untested rape kits, mishandled DNA evidence and doctors who preyed on female patients led to criminal convictions, new state laws and other reforms.

During the 2016 presidential race, Twohey uncovered disturbing revelations about Donald Trump's treatment of women for the *New York*



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Megan Twohey

for being awarded
The Los Angeles Press Club
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