Weinstein, Spacey, Schwahn, Westwick… Some names among many of those who have been tarnished by 2017. So, is 2017 being just rude? Or did something happen in Hollywood last year? As though there is always something happening in this Industry, 2017 might have been a real trigger, exposing things already present, hiding in the corner of Weinstein's couch. To be more serious, 2017 has been the year of revelation, though the word might not express it correctly, so probably the year of acknowledgement of things everybody always knew.

October the 5th 2017, The New York Times publishes an accusation of a dozen women against Harvey Weinstein. Little by little, the list of his victims grows and soon seem to never stop – today over 80 women accused him while rumours and allusions about his “couch promotions” were made publicly since 1998.

http://knowyourmeme.com/photos/1319936-weinstein-effect

The first one was by Gwyneth Paltrow:

“I do all my movies for Harvey Weinstein, that’s Miramax for all of you. And I'm lucky to do them there, but he will coerce you to do a thing or two.”
20 years later... the case breaks out. The fact that everybody knew in the industry and that he had been free to harass women and rape them for so long show a real intern problem in terms of misuse of power. Indeed, as Weinstein, influential men have been in the position to use their dominance the way they want to not only in the Hollywood Industry but everywhere. Therefore scandals 2017 brought are in a way no surprise and display a real banalization of the harassment of women.

Knowing this we can now wonder how is this still possible nowadays? Is it because women are hypersexualized and sexually objectified that men in the industry think it is ok to do so? And why waiting so many years to speak out the truth? Every man in a position of power is likely to harass his female employees, this issue is not exclusive to this world, however, the drama is even more important in the public’ eyes as this industry is the most mediatized in the world. But that may also explain why Harvey's actions or others were kept as nearly an open secret among the entertainment world.

“It would hardly do to say we didn't suspect that his appetites and bullying and exercising of personal power included sexual predation and assault because we did - everybody in the entertainment industry and every journalist covering the entertainment industry did. Sexual avarice, intimidation and demands were built into the Harvey myth, a myth propounded by all the same media outlets that are now taking him down.” —Michael Wolff on GQ

As a matter of fact, we know every move of our favourite star – when they go shopping, running or with whom they’re potentially sleeping. Nonetheless, a case as big as this one has been kept secret and silenced for almost 20 years. From all the Weinstein victims’ testimonies, it is always the same idea that comes out if it; many of them declared not denouncing him before as he is a powerful man and he could open doors for them or on the contrary, ruin and end their career. By keeping silence out of fear and still working with men like him it builds our modern society where sexual harassment seems to be banalized and not shocking anymore.

Weinstein’s case created a snowball effect – encouraging the victims to speak up against their assailants. Due to the thirteen women who decided to denounce Weinstein, thousands of other took courage from their acts and dared to point out publicly their aggressors. This is way more than only a trigger, more than
simple trends or hashtags – it is real people who suffered, who are still suffering. One of the things we hear the most is “why nobody spoke before? Why did the first victims didn’t do something knowing he will do it again?” To this, the *One Tree Hill* cast and crew – harassed by the show-creator Mark Schwahn for almost ten years answered in a common letter:

“Many of us were told, during filming, that coming forward to talk about this culture would result in our show being cancelled and hundreds of lovely, qualified, hard-working, and talented people losing their jobs. This is not an appropriate amount of pressure to put on young girls. [...] We want Tree Hill to remain the place “where everything’s better and everything’s safe” for our fans; some of whom have said that the show quite literally saved their lives.”

And also expressed their anger on twitter:

http://twitter.com/
As previously mentioned, the aggressors take advantage of their victims by blackmailing them, making them believe that if they speak, all the negative consequences will be on them. As time has passed, those victims still have a career, still have something they could be afraid to lose—so the question remains the same: why people only talk about this now? By not denouncing their aggressors, by keeping their mouth shut most of them were rewarded by roles in movies. But what does it reflect on our society? Once again, this might be a real misuse of power and objectification of women’s body. Letting us think that maybe, they did not deserve this role for her acting but because one producer chose to harass her. Women would be seen by producers only as sexual objects and nothing more.

Weinstein is not the first case, yet people paid more attention because as soon as one woman spoke up, another one was added to the list and the rest is history. Furthermore, the victims’ public status seems to add to the public’s eyes legitimacy to their allegations, people will tend to believe them more—especially when they are this numerous.

Weinstein’s case actually was the reason for 2017 to pull the trigger. After this scandal blew out, 68 men, producers, actors and others were accused of sexual harassment or rape. Even if they had not been as mediatized as Harvey Weinstein’s case, we can notice a real change for women, it created several movements for them to stick together: #MeToo #BurnItDownSis #TimesUp.

Whether only being hashtags that would be soon forgotten or ancred as a real revolution it encourages women to speak up, to feel safer and not alone. Women created a butterfly effect, inspiring others to clean up their closet in the Hollywood Industry. As Hollywood is a real mirror of our modern societies, a real Spring cleaning might be happening. The message of hope for an equal future that was delivered by 2017 and its scandals might just be a good start for a real change worldwide.

“99% - THE NUMBER OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREDATORS (IN AND OUTSIDE HOLLYWOOD) THAT WILL WALK FREE AFTER A TRIAL”

This number is horrifying and confirms that sexual abuse is an everyday thing. Hollywood is not the only industry dealing with these issues showing a deeper encrusted problem in our society that has been around for many decades. According to USA3 Today’s study, 94% of women declared having been victims of sexual assault or harassment. It almost seems like, being harassed is a rite of passage to become an actress, normalizing men’s behaviour like Weinstein or Spacey.

In the opinion poll we realized, on 84 answers coming from all around the world, 46.4% think that women are empowering themselves lately, on and off screen, that they are creating a revolution, or at least starting a real discussion on the issues our modern societies are facing. That 46.4 % agree on the fact that we can nowadays see a silver lining hiding somewhere behind a cloud. That is what a woman from Arizona pointed out:
The Hollywood Industry can be seen as a society in itself and scandals like 2017 exposed are problems even less mediatised societies still face. You might have also asked yourselves the questions faced previously: why saying it just now? Since sexual harassment, for instance, isn't just a Hollywood problem, why not denouncing it before? As though the question can be answered in different ways, in addition to the answer we tried to give earlier – one that appeared to us is how the lack of equality is at the heart of Hollywood today.

**WHAT HAPPENS OFF SCREEN, MAY NOT STAY OFF SCREEN...**

History proves that societies have never been keen on equality between women and men, preferring a hierarchy where men were mostly “the bosses” as women couldn't hold a place as powerful. Yet, as though some women in History have had the power like Cleopatra or Queen Elizabeth I’s, they never ceased to be doubted as though they were within their rights. This is an issue that comes from History in general which is set into the society, and it is directly lead to how women are perceived, to how sexualised they've always been, and the hierarchy widely held between men and women.

This pyramid of power in our societies is also present in the world of Hollywood. Indeed, according to the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film, on the top 100 grossing films of 2017, women represented:

- 8% of directors (7% of directors on the top 250 films of 2016)
- 10% of writers
- 2% of cinematographers
- 24% of producers
- 14% of editors
It shows that a very few women work in this industry. Perhaps it comes from History, as Hollywood was created in 1896 and held by men, women were due to stay at home. Hollywood might have known an evolution since then, but its roots are still unconsciously present.

During the Golden Globes 2018, Natalie Portman echoed this lack of equality problem by clashing the category “best director” denouncing “And now, here are the all-male nominees”. Indeed, the five well-known directors Spielberg, Nolan, Del Toro, Scott and McDonagh were the nominees this year.

As though the movies selected for best director were all very exceptional and Guillermo del Toro deserved the recognition for his movie *The Shape of Water*, Natalie Portman gave rise to this lack of recognition for women’s work.

For instance, the movie *Wonder Woman*, directed by Patty Jenkins, acknowledged to be at the 1st place on the rank of the box office, did not get the honour to be nominated for best director, though the work of Patty Jenkins has been recognised by many among the Industry and by the audience. The movie might have been praised by the whole world, it maybe did not fit in the criteria of the *Hollywood Foreign Press Association* way of selecting the nominees. Usually, the Golden Globes don’t select DC or Marvel movies for nomination *Deadpool* being the exception two years ago. It’s been two years since there were no women nominated in the category “best director”. The fact that *Wonder Woman* deals with an independent and strong woman – who was created in 1941 – as a leader and also realised by a female director might have been seen as an outrage by the world.

The last winners in the best director category at the Golden Globes from 2003 to 2017:

[Link to image]

https://www.google.fr/search?q=golden+globes+best+director+winner&oq=golden+globes+b&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j69i59j69i60l3.4592j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
The Golden Globes were created in 1944 and as though women have already won prices, regarding the “Best Director” category, the only woman who got recognised for her work was Barbra Streisand (picture on the right) in 1984 for *Yentel*. Kathryn Bigelow, on the left picture has been the only female director to win an Oscar for the category “Best Director” and it was in 2010.

As she was also in the course of being nominated for her screenplay this year, everyone assumed Greta Gerwig would also be nominated for best director at the Golden Globes for her movie *Lady Bird*. Thanks to her movie, the leading actress, Saoirse Ronan won the Award for the Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy. The movie itself won Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy...

If 8% represents the number of females director, it means 92% are men. The competition is fierce so it is more likely to have male nominees for the Best Director category rather than women. There were many prizes for this movie and yet she was not nominated for the category “Best Director”. The five nominees are well-known, all of them directed a lot of movies so they could have been nominated not for the movie itself but because of their names.
The movie *The Post*, directed by Spielberg receives 81% on Rotten Tomatoes and grade 7.3/10 on IMDB whereas *Lady Bird* has 7.7/10 on IMDB and receives 88% on Rotten Tomatoes. These grades (which are put by everyone who wants to give their opinion) show that *Lady Bird* is considered higher and better than *The Post*, and she was not even nominated. The reason might be her being a woman or perhaps because she is not as famous as the male nominees. Or eventually, her work as a director did not fit the criteria for best director for the Golden Globes. Greta Gerwig was also nominated for best director for the 2018 Oscars which happened Sunday 4th of March. She eventually lost to *The Shape of Water*.

The lack of women's representation in this category was highly criticised by Emma Stone: “these four men and Greta Gerwig created their own masterpiece this year” following the audience reaction to it. As Though Emma Stone pointed at this lack of representation in this category, Guillermo Del Toro deserves completely the Oscar he received for his movie. Frances McDormand, who won the Oscar for Best Actress called for an inclusion of writer when during her acceptance speech asked all the women nominated in every category to stand up. Once again, this issue was recognised as one during the event, showing that the “inferiority” of women may be changing.

So why are women considered inferior in this world which is Hollywood? As it is frequently criticised, it may be because “women are inferior” type of stereotype isn’t just confined to the Glamour of Hollywood. Indeed, both male and female own stereotypes such as men don’t know how to cook, and women must know how to cook. These stereotypes have slightly changed, but some still exist today. One major stereotype that describes women is that they are inferior to men and weaker. Therefore, it is reflected in the Hollywood Industry and could be one of the roots of sexual harassment, misuse of power, as mentioned above and now denounced at events such as the Golden Globes.

If there is a majority of men who run the Hollywood Industry, it echoes on our screens. Towards November 2017, Jessica Chastain, American actress, pointed a finger at the inequalities that might be found off-screen by releasing a parody video on *The Tonight Show* starring Jimmy Fallon. She played a woman during an audition who has to repeat around five times one sentence in different ways but still in a sexy and hot tone. In the end, a male auditioned and just has to say one sentence to be accepted. Even with humour, it shows that women have to work harder than men. Just like she is expected to do in real life: she must know how to cook, to take care of children, to be beautiful. The Hollywood Industry is no exception, she must know how to do several things at the same time such as dancing, singing, being thin, beautiful but her acting skills are not the primary criteria for getting a part. But these too-much expectations for them don’t result on screen. Jessica Chastain also explains, during *Jimmy Fallon Show* in January 2018, the lack of strong statements in movies for women, and to justify her statement, she parodies several movies parts (such as action movies, romantic movies), playing the role of the man whereas Mr Fallon plays the woman parts. We could see clearly that Chastain owns lots of lines whereas Fallon has very few to say. This is a consequence of the stereotypes and despite the hard selection for women during an audition, their hard work don’t result on screen. As though some stereotypes like the damsel in distress are still present nowadays, the past few years have shown that a new era of representation might be possible.
THE ON-SCREEN REALITY…

"It's hard for young actresses who still feel like scrappy teenagers but are sort of forced to play characters who are a lot more mature, because, you know, 'young sexy woman' really sells in Hollywood" 

This quotation, from actress Maisie Williams, best known for portraying Arya Stark in *Game of Thrones*, resonates today among young adults in and out of Hollywood. Young actresses feeling forced or maybe just wanting to look more mature and feel like a woman by wearing more feminine clothes isn't just confined to Hollywood, it has spread worldwide as a sort of phenomena. But where did it start? In our modern societies, therefore, reflected on the screen? Or by the tendency of representing women in restricted roles on screen?

The fact that we can be sure of is that Hollywood, as previously mentioned, is a window on modern societies phenomenon, included women's place in it.

As we are looking at Hollywood as a world far away from ours, there are things we cannot miss, questions we cannot help but ask ourselves.

Usually, while watching a random American movie, we can notice that the female main character appears to be not developed enough. Nonetheless, today things are changing step by step, including strong and complex female characters such as Cersei Lannister, portrayed by Lena Headey or Sansa Stark played by Sophie Turner on HBO most famous show, *Game of Thrones*.

Without spoiling anything for those who may have been unaware of the show, those two female characters, part of the main cast, go beyond the depiction of the villain or the good girl. The two characters' complexity has been developed since the beginning of the show offering the audience female characters holding the power and being more than just here to make the men of the show feel like the only bosses.
In a survey, realised during February, 84 people answered questions on the relationship of women with Hollywood today, on and off screen. This graph shows us that 75.9% of the people who answered agree on one point: there is a clear lack of equality in the Hollywood Industry. But that is something we already knew, as it still exists in so many different areas worldwide. Some agree that inequality has always existed, and Hollywood is just one brick on the wall separating us from an equal world.

The question is now, on which criteria a woman is going to be selected or to be involved in a Hollywood movie? Beauty, femininity, sexiness are obviously primordial criteria when it comes to how women are depicted on screen. Those standards, so inherent to this industry and especially the on-screen Hollywood, are nowadays torn between denunciation and cause of empowerment. As some women point at the negative effects of being only considered as sexy, some others draw the reason to stand up and prove that they are more than that. Indeed, on the 21st of January 2018, during the women’s march in Los Angeles, Natalie Portman delivered a speech reminiscing her years as a child actor and the dark side of the glitter of Hollywood. When she started her career at 12-13 years old her body started to change as soon as every camera was scrutinising her every move as she was the international star to be.

To the question: do you think there is a lack of equality between men and women in the Hollywood Industry? (all categories included) a French person answered: " In movies, the woman has to be pretty, or submissive and under the power of someone else. Even though she appears to be independent, she's likely to fall in love, to be bound to (usually a white straight) man. Men don't have that side. And beauty is still the essential criteria for women and not for men."

"I turned 12 on the set of my first film, The Professional, in which I played a young girl who befriends a hitman and hopes to avenge the murder of her family. The character is simultaneously discovering and developing her womanhood, her voice, and her desire. At that moment in my life, I too was discovering my own womanhood, my own desire, and my own voice. I was so excited at 13 when the film was released, and my work and my art would have a human response. I
excitedly opened my first fan mail to read a rape fantasy that a man had written me. A countdown was started on my local radio show to my 18th birthday, euphemistically the date that I would be legal to sleep with. Movie reviewers talked about my budding breasts in reviews.”

-Natalie Portman, Women’s march

In her speech, Natalie Portman delivered her point of view on how the expression of her sexuality may have been the source of unsafety she felt for many years. She then stood away from this source of unsafety. She added:

"At 13 years old, the message from our culture was clear to me. I felt the need to cover my body and to inhibit my expression and my work in order to send my own message to the world: That I'm someone worthy of safety and respect.”

This statement, given by the 36 years old actress, is said with the benefit of hindsight.
Let's take, for instance, Millie Bobby Brown. She's known for her portrayal of Eleven in Netflix's show, *Stranger Things*. The young actress, who turned 14 the 19th of February, is at the centre of many discussions. As a matter of fact, Millie Bobby Brown was born and grew up in a modern society where social media, for instance, are a fundamental source of entertainment. The thing is, we spend a good amount of time scrolling down our Instagram feed liking young actresses' photos and telling them how much they look beautiful in this dress or with this makeup that we don't realise our actions have unconscious impact.

Our modern society is seeing young girls wanting to act more mature because they want to, not because they are directly forced to. But does the unconscious is involved then as well as a will to fit in? Because wanting to look older and mature might also be a way to grow up faster and in the case of Millie Bobby Brown to exist in a world where as Maisie Williams said, "young sexy woman' really sells in Hollywood'.

This phenomenon of young girls being sexier is a worldwide thing. As young girls, many of us have been through this phase where we were longing for looking older than we actually were. The reason might also lie in the whole entertainment industry. As it happens, women are being sexually portrayed in magazines, always making sure they eat 'healthy', they work out and so on. It is a common thing nowadays. There is a culture around the image of women that have been built throughout the past decades. Hollywood is part of what nourishes this idea of "what a woman should be like, should look like". This image is embodied in many, many American movies and series. Some American studies are denouncing this representation of women in the very same angle which is apparently focused on sexual desire and objectification.

For instance, The University of Southern California's School for Communication and Journalism released in 2010 a study on screen portrayals of each gender. The 100 top-grossing films from 2009 were the centre of that study.

- They found out that females are more likely than males to be shown in sexy attire, 25,8% for females and 4,7% for males.
- The exposed skin was also measured as for 23,6% for females and 7,4% for males. As we can probably guess, this measurement might be dealing with the exposed skin as in a sexy attire.
- Women were also referenced as attractive in 10,9% of these movies whereas 2,5% for Men. (study by Smith, Choueiti and Gall).
Nonetheless, what this study doesn't show is the empowerment that comes within the denunciation of women's only representations on screen and the poor development of their characters. This empowerment felt by many women in Hollywood doesn't just come from this but also from the mass effect which, as previously mentioned, has had the benefice to denounce sexual abuse stories everybody knew for so long, but none had the courage to speak up the truth to the public.

2017 not only brought scandals over Hollywood, it also lighted up the path towards a future with more empowering and inspiring figures.

As someone mentions in the survey, answering the question: Are women becoming more influential in Hollywood? “I think that Wonder Woman is a real revolution: a woman as a hero, a woman as the director and it is one of the biggest movies of the year, it brings a lot, as repercussions and as inspiration”

*Lady Bird*, portraying a young, complex yet anchored into reality girl is also part of the biggest movies of the year. Once again, a movie directed by a woman and portraying a woman as the lead shows that the wind of change might be rising.

**So, is it changing for women in Hollywood today?**

The water has started to boil in Hollywood, as it has everywhere else, but is it yet enough to call this a real revolution? A much-needed conversation has begun in this controversial world, yet it is maybe too soon to tell whether or not a real uprising, in terms of how women are treated there, has started.

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