

The Ugly Side of being in Entertainment for Women

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So many young women today aspire to become top actresses, runway models, or singers “ someone of high value in the entertainment industry. They work very hard to achieve their

dream of building a successful career in music and love to share their talents with the rest of the world.

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Names like Taylor Swift, Beyonc  Knowles, Selena Gomez, and many others, are very vivid examples of women in entertainment who are making waves in their respective careers. Many of these famous women were once nobodies. Today, however, they have each become leading role models to many young women who also dream of leaving their footprints in the world of entertainment.

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Sadly, the entertainment industry today isn’t very accommodating to women. As more and more young girls come in, the more competitive the industry gets. Today, it would require multiple times the effort and determination to truly make an impact in a career in entertainment.

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Many women have spent countless hours attending rigorous auditions, going through intensive rehearsals, and enduring sleepless nights in order to develop themselves and perfect their art. The rewards of the entertainment industry, though sometimes fulfilling, also comes with an ugly side that is rarely ever talked about.

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The “ugly side” being referred to here is the prevailing problem of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape. Several young women have been constantly subjected to these debasing treatment by men in the entertainment world. It has become so rampant that it has ruined so many promising careers.

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There are so many cases of women being sexually harassed, assaulted or raped by men who occupy prominent positions in the entertainment industry. The case of Harvey Weinstein is a very typical example.

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Weinstein was a very prominent and powerful Hollywood producer, one whom many actors and actresses looked up to. Unfortunately, his lifestyle was nothing to write home about. Weinstein flagrantly leveraged his industry power for sexual satisfaction, whether consensual or otherwise.

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He has been embroiled in a series of sexual allegations by over 60 women with varying degrees of sexual harassment claims since the late 1970s. Investigations into his repulsive lifestyle were published by the New York Times and the New Yorker, including a variety of other outlets.

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Many aspiring actresses who wanted to land big roles in the movies he produced were sexually harassed by him. Even established actresses like Ashley Judd, Rose McGowan and Mire Sorvino also fell victims to his antics. Several actresses even decided to quit pursuing acting altogether after their horrible experience with him.

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Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, on a show in 1998, revealed that Weinstein "will coerce you to do a

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thing or two". Another actress, Courtney Love, in 2005, warned young actresses about him saying, "If Harvey Weinstein invites you to a private party in the Four Seasons, don't go".

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Many more cases of women who were forced by Weinstein to perform massages or oral sex on him came to light. Those who refused his advances were shown the door. And it doesn't end there, Weinstein was also notorious for devising various means to frustrate the acting careers of these innocent women.

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This epidemic isn't just associated with Hollywood alone, sexual harassment is a problem that has also been plaguing the music industry for years. It is just as bad as that of Hollywood, if not worse. The post, 22 Women Share Their Stories of Sexual Assault in the Music Industry (#MeToo) by Digital Music News highlights chilling accounts of women who had experienced an encounter in a series of tweets.

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Women like Sheryl Crow, Emma Lahana, Una Palliser, Annie Somerville, Jeannie Ortega and many

others tweeted about the rampant sexual harassment in the music industry. They admitted that they had to endure several degrees of harassment from their record producers, tour managers, photographers, and other male media personalities.

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Majority of those who couldn't take the degrading treatment avoided shows that would bring them in contact with these sexual predators. The remaining ones called it quits and totally gave up on their dreams of becoming a famous singer.

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The short film, Parker & Angel, written and directed by Independent Filmmaker, Ty Whittington aptly sheds light on this epidemic. It tells of a heartbreaking story about a

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homeless woman " Parker, played by Jill Allen, who was once an aspiring singer. Her struggle to become a famous singer led her to the streets due to abuse from men in the industry.

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Angel, played by Brooke Besikof, was aspiring to land the lead in her school choir and was looking for someone to help her get better at singing and start a career in music. That was when she met Parker, who was living under a tunnel in the streets, comforted only by her dog Kimble and cigarette buds.

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Parker shared with Angel her sad story. She told her how her voice got her to meet and work with one of the biggest producers in the world. The sky was the limit for her until she got too big for him. She was constantly abused by her producer, he introduced her to drugs and ultimately, she ended up homeless.

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According to Parker, many of the women we see on the streets are the most talented and gifted people. Unfortunately, they will never see the limelight because the music industry has been overshadowed by sexual predators in the form of men.

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Music will destroy you, she warned, as she took another long drag from her cigarette.

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Website

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