

# We need to stop separating art from the artist

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Hollywood is in the middle of a revolution of monumental proportions.

Slowly, women and men are coming forward to voice the sexual harassment and assault they have faced from Hollywood elite for decades. Aziz Ansari and James Franco are among the men toppling from their pedestals as victims make known the horrible crimes done upon them.

The best way for us outside of entertainment to help rock the boat? Stop separating the art from the artist.

“I feel as if it’s almost impossible to separate the art from someone who has done the things to the degree Woody Allen and others have,” said Allison Walter, a sophomore health and wellness student at UNC Asheville.

Yet there are still abusers succeeding in Hollywood with little sign of stopping.

Gary Oldman is well on his way to winning an Oscar for his role as Winston Churchill in *The Darkest Hour* after winning at the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards. Oldman was reported for domestic abuse by his ex-wife in 2001 for allegedly beating her with a phone in front of their children.

Oldman’s portrayal of Sirius Black in the Harry Potter series meant a lot to many people I know, myself included. But the airing of his dirty laundry recently has made me rethink everything, along with the attitude J.K. Rowling has taken when asked about defending the casting of Johnny Depp in her spin-off series, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

Depp, a well-known actor who has a toe dipped in quite a few big film franchises, was accused of and admitted to abusing his wife Amber Heard. Heard later pledged to donate her \$7 million settlement to a number of charities, including the

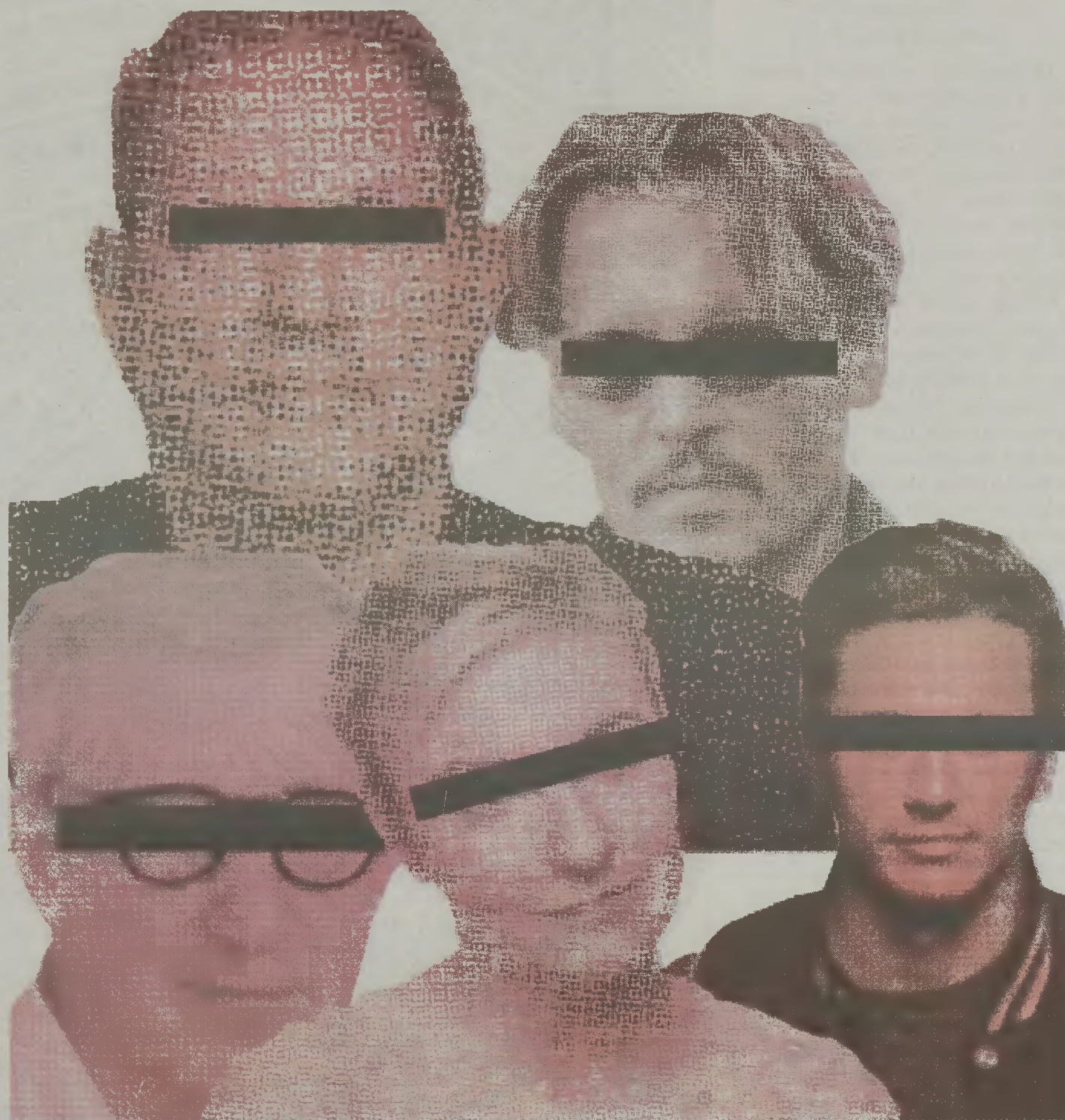


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American Civil Liberties Union, according to *The Huffington Post*.

Heard also used her platform to raise awareness of domestic and sexual assault with the organization Girl Gaze by creating a public service announcement on the epidemic many women — and men — face everyday.

Both Oldman and Depp were part of our childhoods, portraying

film characters many of my friends found interesting and adventurous. The men who played Sirius Black and Jack Sparrow were not the suave heroes we saw on screen, but almost as bad as the villains they fought against.

Multiple men in Hollywood, including Casey Affleck, Chris Brown and James Franco, have been accused — or in Brown’s case, found

guilty — of sexual harassment and domestic abuse.

This topic has been debated on and off in recent years, something Walter said she herself noticed.

“I’ve seen debate about separating the art from the artist and a lot of debate about, you know, is that even possible? Do we have to do it? What do we do with this art that

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