

# The International Celebrity Witch-Hunt

By **Alexander Baron** - Dec 16, 2015

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Fame can be a mixed blessing, whether or not that fame is deserved. For a small number of overwhelmingly male celebrities it can become a living nightmare. Since 2010, celebrities on three continents have been the subjects of all manner of lurid historical sexual allegations from fondling and groping to serial aggravated rape. They include two A List Australians, America's biggest black entertainer, and a plethora of UK celebrities great and small.

Most historical allegations are by their very nature difficult and at times impossible either to corroborate or refute. In some countries there are statutes of limitations which prevent the prosecution of historical crimes; in the UK, unfortunately, statutes of limitations apply only in civil cases. There is at the moment a concerted campaign in the United States to remove statutes of limitations in rape and sexual assault cases. The rhetoric used by the people behind these campaigns sounds compelling until you do some basic research. These campaigners, overwhelmingly women, **talk about** bringing closure, justice and healing for survivors. What they don't mention is compensation (ie

money) for imaginary crimes. And what they never mention is revenge – for unrequited love, or for some nebulous crime committed either by the accused or by men in general.

While it is true that most sex crimes happen either in private or with no other witnesses present, and it is also true that some victims may be slow coming forward, these claims are or should be limited either to the young or to genuinely vulnerable victims. Alas, even very young children can and do make false allegations. Some are even coerced or schooled to make them as in the recent and quite notorious **Hampstead Satanic abuse hoax**. False allegations of child sexual abuse have become so common in contested custody proceedings that there is even a special name for the practice: parental alienation syndrome. This can involve not simply sexual allegations, but ordinary abuse, and can also be used against women.

In the recent appalling **case of Daniel Holtzclaw**, a police officer who preyed on drug addicts and like women, there can be an understandable reluctance for victims to come forward, but even in that case there was one acknowledged false accuser. Allowing or as in the UK encouraging victims to come forward to make allegations against celebrities and others with total impunity is a recipe for miscarriages of justice. The latest victim of this insanity is Neil Fox, a very minor celebrity. Fox was a DJ with Capital Radio and other stations. On December 14, **he was cleared** at Westminster Magistrates' Court of all charges, and the poor bloke was nearly in tears as he read a press statement after the verdict. Allegations against him dated back to 1988.



DJ Neil Fox

In the absence of real evidence, the legal authorities in the UK have resorted to corroboration by volume, which involves trawling for victims. In the case of non-celebrities this consists of contacting former school pupils or care home residents and inviting them to make allegations against both particular individuals and former staff generally. In the case of celebrities it involved appealing to members of the public to come forward with such allegations. In the UK, this celebrity witch-hunt madness started with the defamation of the late Jimmy Savile. In Australia, it began two years earlier with allegations by a former child actress. In no particular order, here are some of the victims.

Australian soap star Robert Hughes was accused in March 2010 by Sarah Monahan of sexually abusing her on the set of *Hey Dad..!* between 1987 and 1994. Monahan was born in 1977. Although Hughes was questioned about an alleged offence against an underage girl in 1986, one should not read too much into this, indeed along with her subsequent indoctrination, this may have been the catalyst that led Monahan to accuse him. Monahan does not simply believe paedophile networks are widespread in Australia, she believes Satanic cults **are behind them**. She probably picked up these lunatics ideas while she was working in the States.



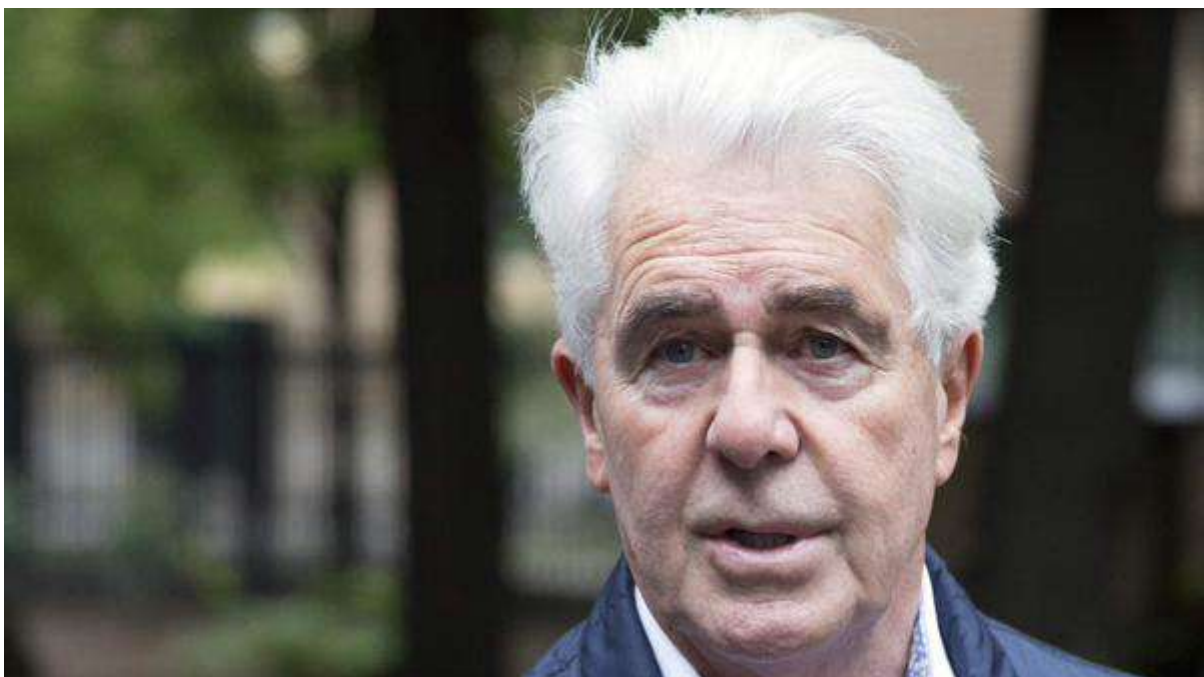
Robert Hughes (Image Credits: News Corp Australia)

Following her claims about Hughes, other self-styled victims/survivors came forward. Apart from talk, the most incriminating thing against Hughes is a group photograph

with a young Monahan sitting on his knee. His hand appears to be compromisingly placed, but she doesn't look the slightest bit nervous or perturbed. Nevertheless, these allegations cost Hughes his reputation and a sentence of 10 years 9 months, 6 years without parole.

Hughes may have been a big star in Australia, but his fellow Aussie who shares his initials was a megastar in both Australia and even more so the UK. The **trashing of Rolf Harris** has been a wonder to behold. Foolishly, Harris had an affair with a woman who was young enough to be his granddaughter. When it was revealed that he was being investigated for *grooming*, more self-styled victims came forward, one of whom – Tonya Lee – was quite likely inspired by the allegations against Hughes.

The authorities also trawled other victims from around the world as bad character evidence – the bad character of a man who had been invited to paint a portrait of the Queen! – and just for good measure they threw in child pornography charges which were dropped at the end of the day, but if you generate that much smoke, even the skeptical will believe there must be some fire. Rolf Harris was convicted on all counts, including of indecently assaulting a woman when she was a child more than four decades earlier. She claims this indecent assault took away her childhood, but there is no evidence Harris was ever at the small community centre where she says it happened in 1969 or 1970. This woman is obviously a head case, but the jury bought her nonsense.

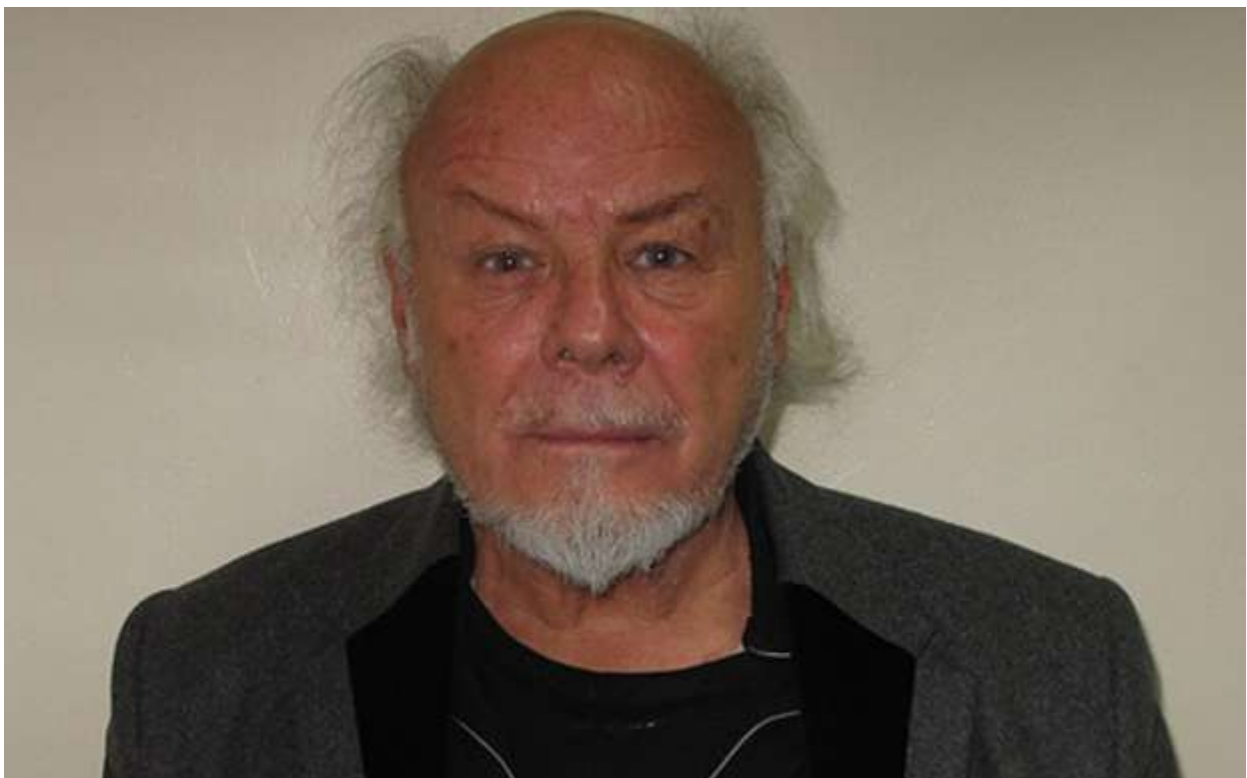


Max Clifford



Nobody ever had a bad word to say about Rolf Harris, but the same cannot be said for the (now former) publicist Max Clifford. As with Harris, the authorities **trawled for victims** and found one who claimed he had indecently assaulted her in Spain when she was a child. He was not charged with this offence, but it was another bad character allegation designed to poison the minds of the jury. It succeeded.

Gary Glitter was another victim of this witch-hunt. Although he was already a twice convicted paedophile before his trial at Southwark Crown Court, it is clear he was convicted **because he was Gary Glitter** and not because he attempted to rape a young girl in the basement of a house that didn't have a basement.



*Gary Glitter*

Although he didn't have as far to fall as either Max Clifford or Rolf Harris, the persecution suffered by Dave Lee Travis was outrageous. After a retrial he was finally convicted of one minor indecent assault, against an adult woman. He vowed to fight on, but on December 8 his appeal against this conviction **was dismissed**.

We will return to these English cases shortly, but first we will visit the Cosby allegations, and just to show this is not always and only about men...In August this year, the Australian soap actress Maggie Kirkpatrick was tried for the indecent assault of a thirteen year old girl, and was convicted of two offences dating back over three decades. She had some good news when her conviction was quashed this month. It is a matter of

speculation as to why she was so accused, but although the actress is married she is a strong supporter of so-called *gay* rights; she also played a lesbian prison officer in the TV series *Prisoner: Cell Block H*, so put those two facts together with a disturbed mind, and what do you have?

In the United States, the comedian Bill Cosby has been repeatedly branded a serial rapist by social media and indeed by much of the mainstream media. How can there be no fire with that much smoke? The reality is that the evidence against him is tenuous at best, some of his accusers are clearly mad, and even allegations that are demonstrably false are parroted as factual. The person responsible more than any for this media feeding frenzy is attorney **Gloria Allred**, who has been very quiet of late, probably because she has finally realised that it is much easier to make allegations than to prove them.



Roy Harper

Returning to the UK, Roy Harper is a songwriter who has been around since the 1960s. While never in the same class as **Al Stewart**, he did at times attract critical acclaim. In February 2013, he was accused of the 1980 indecent assault of a 16 year old girl. Unsurprisingly, another accuser came forward, who was eleven years old when he was alleged to have indecently assaulted her in the 1970s. He was cleared of the first indecent assault in February, but it was not until November that **he was informed** the

Crown would not be seeking a retrial concerning the second accuser. Like Dave Lee Travis, he says he has suffered both enormous financial loss and psychological strain.



*William Roache*

William Roache is the longest serving soap actor in the world, he was one of the first to stand trial, charged with raping underage girls, and was cleared of all charges. So what is going on here? The answer is all manner of things, Paul Gambaccini had part of the answer when **he said** that tonight three hundred girls in the UK may be going to sleep dreaming about Harry Styles, but thirty years from now, who knows what those dreams will have morphed into?

Gambaccini was accused by a head case. Cliff Richard has been similarly accused. Hoping to encourage more accusers to come forward, the police conducted **a high profile raid** on the star's home even seizing computer equipment with absolutely no justification, a quite cynical exercise. Paul Gambaccini has the answer to this too. Two weeks before his own arrest he was told by fellow broadcaster Liz Kershaw that the police had contacted her to ask if she would like to make an allegation against Dave Lee Travis. When asked if they didn't need evidence, the response was:

*"No we need people who agree".*

This agreement – which can be as few as two people – constitutes a pattern of abuse. Is this any way to run a police investigation?



*Paul Gambaccini*

In the UK, the police have a long tradition of making their own work, they do this by choosing soft targets. Harassing young black men with **low hanging trousers** is not an option, as in the Deep South. Nor is **shooting innocent motorists**. So how about fitting up ageing celebrities?

Another reason for the perpetuation of this witch-hunt is corrupt lawyers who are milking the system with dubious claims for compensation. Then there is the abuse industry; if you to credit a tiny fraction of their claims, half the women in this country have been raped, half the children molested, half the men buggered, and all manner of harassment, bullying and stalking is rife. Is it even safe to walk down the street anymore?

Then there are those individuals who are demented, fantasy-prone or simply lying.

Finally, although false rape accusers are prosecuted in the UK, no one is ever prosecuted for making gratuitously false historical allegations.

In his book *No Further Action*, the falsely accused comedian Jim Davidson relates the curious case of the woman who claimed to have been violated by him at the London Palladium, and when he pointed out to the police this would not have been possible because there was no public access, she changed her witness statement to accuse him of



orally raping her at another theatre, something which implies collusion. One of the accusers of Dave Lee Travis was shown to have lied in graphic circumstances by a member of the public who had filmed the DJ's visit to a hospital where he opened a radio station. He had his wife on his arm and an entourage in tow. Then there is the curious case of the five women who all claimed to have been sexually assaulted by the comedian Jimmy Tarbuck at a specific time and venue four decades earlier, a place he had never been at that time. Again, this indicates collusion, only this time not between the police and a *victim* but between false accusers, and possibly a corrupt law firm, yet nobody raises even an eyebrow at this.

It is to be hoped that the acquittal of Neil Fox this week will draw a line under this witch-hunt, but it is most unlikely this will happen, indeed the Government has committed itself to wasting millions of pounds with a public inquiry which will drag on for years and serve as an open invitation to fantasists and damned liars to spew their poison over celebrities, politicians, and lesser folk, alive and dead.

It is time the UK had a statute of limitations for all crimes except murder, and time too the authorities clamped down on false accusers and lunatics as well as those who milk the system. Heaven help the United States if it follows the same path as the UK at present.

*This opinion article was written by an independent writer. The opinions and views expressed herein are those of the author and are not necessarily intended to reflect those of [TheLatestNews.com](http://www.thelatestnews.com)*

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