

Abstract

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**Sexual harassment in the cultural
industries in Hungary: media
analysis and a creative labour
perspective**

In the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal, at the start of the so-called #MeToo-campaign, on 14 October 2017 Hungarian independent theatre actress Lilla Sárosdi shared her own story of abuse, dating back twenty years, in a Facebook post, which later led to Vígszínház theatre ceasing the contract of the perpetrator, renowned theatre director László Marton. This case was followed by others from within the theatre world, and later the literary field, initiating, beyond reports from Hollywood, a locally focused reflection in certain segments of the media – though not in public service – on issues such as power and gendered hierarchies within the cultural field, the sexualisation of women in art, and the autonomy of art and artists. The latter primarily refers to whether it is possible to treat “art” and “life” separately, and argue, for instance, that the humiliation of artists may serve higher artistic purposes and be morally redeemable. In my proposed paper, I would explore the ways such issues as gender, art, and creative autonomy have subsequently been thematised in segments of the media, as well as at related public events. I attempt to place these within broader theoretical strands, including feminist interpretations of labour in general and the understanding of labour in the cultural industries from a gender perspective in particular.