

CELEBS

celebs

Depp wins out in bitter Heard defamation trial

Jury sides with Johnny Depp in libel case against ex-wife Amber Heard, awards him \$10M

AFP | Los Angeles

A US jury found both Johnny Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard liable for defamation — but sided more strongly with the “Pirates of the Caribbean” star following an intense trial riding on bitterly contested allegations of domestic abuse.

The verdict capped a bitterly-fought six-week trial riding on lurid claims and counter-claims of between the Hollywood celebrities.

The seven-member jury in Virginia awarded the 58-year-old actor \$15 million in damages after finding that a 2018 article penned by Heard on her experience of “sexual violence” was defamatory to Depp.

Heard, her eyes downcast throughout, listened impassively as the verdict was read out in Fairfax court, U.S. —

“The jury gave me my life back. From the very beginning, the goal of bringing this case was to reveal the truth, regardless of the outcome. The best is yet to come and a new chapter has finally begun

JOHNNY DEPP

later declared herself “heartbroken” and disappointed “beyond words” by the outcome.

Depp, who was following the proceedings from the United Kingdom, meanwhile posted on Instagram that the jury “gave me my life back.”

In the op-ed for The Washington Post, Heard had described herself as a “public figure representing domestic abuse” — and although she did not name Depp

in the piece, he sued her for implying he was an abuser, seeking \$50 million in damages.

The 36-year-old Heard, who had a starring role in “Aquamant,” countersued for \$100 million, saying she was defamed by statements made by Depp’s lawyer, Adam Waldman, who told the Daily Mail her abuse claims were a “hoax.”

The jury agreed that Heard was defamed by those statements, and also awarded her damages — but at a significantly lower amount, \$2 million.

‘Setback’

Reacting to the verdict, Heard called it a “set-

back” for women.

“The disappointment I feel today is beyond words. I’m heartbroken that the mountain of evidence still was not enough to stand up to the disproportionate power, influence, and sway of my ex-husband,” she said in a statement.

“I’m even more disappointed with what this verdict means for other women. It is a setback... It sets back the idea that violence against women is to be taken seriously,” she said.

A few dozen onlookers and Depp supporters were posted outside for the ver-

dict, one man sporting a “Jack Sparrow” pirate hat and a woman with a placard reading: “No matter what happens today, Johnny, you are a winner!!! And the whole world knows the TRUTH!!!”

Dozens of witnesses testified during the trial, including bodyguards, Hollywood executives, agents, entertainment industry experts, doctors, friends and relatives.

Depp and Heard each spent days on the witness stand during the televised trial, which was attended by hundreds of fans of the “Pirates” star and accompanied by a #JusticeForJohnnyDepp campaign on social media.

Video and audio recordings of heated, profanity-laced arguments between the couple were played for the jury, which

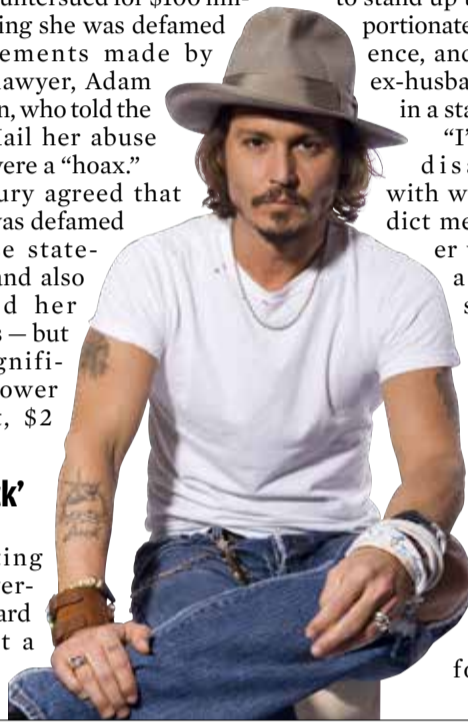
was also shown photographs of injuries allegedly suffered by Heard during their volatile relationship.

Depp testified that it was Heard who was frequently violent and said it has been “brutal” to listen to “outlandish” accusations of domestic abuse made against him.

Heard, who was married to Depp from 2015 to 2017, obtained a restraining order against him in May 2016, citing domestic violence.

Depp, a three-time Oscar nominee, filed a libel suit in London against the British tabloid The Sun for calling him a “wife-beater.” He lost that case in November 2020.

Both sides have claimed damage to their Hollywood careers.



Hilary Duff loved her home birth experience

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Hilary Duff loved the “aftermath” of her home births.

The 34-year-old actress — who has Luca, ten, with ex-husband Mike Comrie, as well as Banks, three, and Mae, 14 months, with Matthew Koma — chose a water birth at

home for her two youngest children and Hilary thinks it’s “one of the best things” she’s ever done.

She explained: “A friend of mine had decided to give birth at home, and as soon as she told me, I was speechless. I didn’t think it was doable.

“With Luca, I had the classic natural birth in the hospital with all the necessary medicines. I waited many years before I had

Banks. I had her at 31 and I like to challenge myself, face something that scares me. So, I started doing research, watching documentaries.

“Childbirth is a different experience for every woman and I wanted to try this practice. Supported by my husband, I did it and it was one of the best things I’ve ever done in my life.”

Hilary loved being at home and “surrounded by family” in the af-

Hilary originally wanted Luca and Banks to witness the birth of their sister - but her plans never came to fruition

termath of the births. The ‘Wake Up’ hitmaker told Grazia magazine: “It is obviously difficult and in some moments uncomfortable, but the aftermath is wonderful: being in your home surrounded by family, with the other children ready to welcome the newborn. When I had Mae, in the middle of the pandemic, I had no intention of going near a hospital anyway.”

Hilary originally wanted Luca and Banks to witness the birth of their sister - but her plans never came to fruition.

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Ewan McGregor: Obi-Wan Kenobi series is standalone

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Ewan McGregor has insisted the ‘Obi-Wan Kenobi’ Disney+ series is just a “standalone” limited series for the time being.

The Scottish actor reprised his role as Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi in the new show of the same name, but he has insisted there is no plans for future episodes or a spin-off movie at this stage.

Speaking to Collider.com, he

said: “Well, at the moment, we’re just doing the six episodes. It was very much set up and made to be a limited series. So, that’s how it stands at the moment. Listen, if it does very well and Disney are excited about the prospect of doing another one...I loved doing it. I loved working with Deborah Chow.



I loved working with the new technology.

“And I thought our scripts were really good. And I feel like the

experience of doing it with the crew who were so passionate about it. So many Star Wars fans in the crew of ‘Star Wars’ projects nowadays that

it makes the experience really exciting. So, I’d be totally up for doing more. But I can guarantee, at the moment, it’s just a standalone thing.”

That’s not to say Ewan isn’t keen to do a Kenobi movie.

He previously told the same outlet: “I’d very much like to do one too. I think the story between Episode III and Episode IV, I think there’s a story there. I think that’s the Obi-Wan Kenobi movie, if there is one.”

SUDOKU

6			1	3	5	9	7	
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2					8		3	
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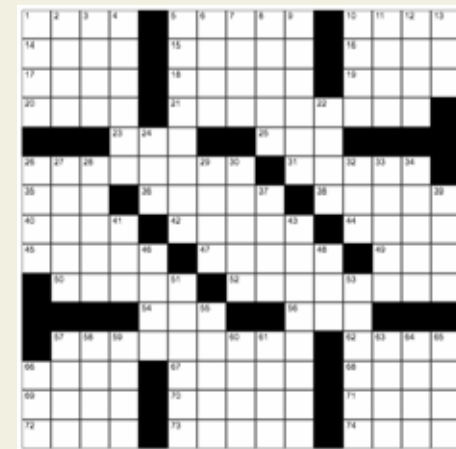
Yesterday's solution

3	4	2	9	5	1	8	7	6
6	8	9	7	3	2	1	5	4
5	7	1	4	6	8	3	9	2
9	3	8	6	4	5	2	1	7
1	5	7	8	2	9	6	4	3
2	6	4	1	7	3	5	8	9
4	2	3	5	1	7	9	6	8
7	9	5	3	8	6	4	2	1
8	1	6	2	9	4	7	3	5

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Wish for; 5- Ribbons; 10- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 14- Cupid; 15- Deadly virus; 16- Got down; 17- So long; 18- Bubbling; 19- Concerning; 20- Island of Hawaii; 21- Shrove Tuesday; 23- Animal foot; 25- Hydrocarbon ending; 26- Rulers; 31- Writer Loos; 35- Thor Heyerdahl craft; 36- Sister of Calliope; 38- Parenthetical remark; 40- Hurler Hersher; 42- Small hill; 44- Gola of Israel; 45- Blender brand; 47- Connection; 49- It's for two, in song; 50- Ruin; 52- Horny; 54- Feather scarf; 56- Occupational suffix; 57- Listen secretly; 62- Frees; 66- Optic layer; 67- New Zealand aboriginal; 68- Assist, often in a criminal act; 69- Letter opener; 70- Scheduled; 71- Title; 72- Sunburn soother; 73- Plinth; 74- Barbershop request;

Down

1- Baylor's city; 2- What ___ mind reader?; 3- Flood survivor; 4- Company of actors; 5- Cooperative effort; 6- “Dancing Queen” quartet; 7- Wanting; 8- Exclude, remove; 9- Saltworks; 10- Den; 11- Radius neighbor; 12- Melodies; 13- Shoshone language member; 22- Actress Rowlands; 24- 100 square meters; 26- Switch back?; 27- Cattail's locale; 28- Michelangelo work; 29- Harangue; 30- Impassive; 32- Doctrine; 33- Connect with; 34- Old French expression meaning “goodbye”; 37- Bread spread; 39- Historical periods; 41- Monetary unit of Bulgaria; 43- Tippet; 46- Choir attire; 48- Compass dir.; 51- Universe; 53- Wide of the mark; 55- Hersey's bell town; 57- Devil's doing; 58- Dynamic beginning; 59- Urn; 60- Campus mil. group; 61- Like some history; 63- Girder type; 64- Moore of “G.I. Jane”; 65- Meerschaum part; 66- Country bordered by Canada and Mexico;

Yesterday's solution

L	E	N	S		O	R	A	L	T	R	O	T			
A	L	O	H	A	S	U	L		R	I	F	E			
O	B	E	Y	S	P	S	S		A	L	T	A			
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A	G	O	N		S	A	M	E		Y	E	N	T	A	
T	E	N	S		S	T	A	R		S	H	O	W		