

CELEBS



Emily Blunt

Elton John testifies for defence at Spacey sex assault trial



Elton John and Kevin Spacey

AFP | London

British rock star Elton John yesterday gave evidence as a witness for the defence at the sexual assault trial of Hollywood actor Kevin Spacey.

The two-time Oscar winner denies 12 charges concerning four men, including indecent assault, which are alleged to have occurred between 2001 and 2013.

Giving evidence via video-link from Monaco, John and his husband David Furnish were questioned by the prosecution about Spacey attending a fundraising ball at their home in Windsor, west of London.

One of the alleged victims has accused Spacey, 63, of grabbing him in the crotch while he was driving the actor to the celebrity event.

The complainant claimed he grabbed "so hard", he nearly came off the road.

Spacey has said there was a mutual flirtation between them and admitted to having touched the man but not in a "violent, aggressive, painful

He was on a flight, he came on a private jet and he came straight to the ball. I can't remember him coming after that

ELTON JOHN

way".

John said he recalled Spacey attending the fundraising event in the early 2000s but could not remember him visiting the property after that.

"He was on a flight, he came on a private jet and he came straight to the ball," John told the court, adding that Spacey stayed overnight at the their home after the event.

"I can't remember him coming after that," John told the Southwark Crown Court in south London.

Asked if he came straight from the private jet, the singer said "I assume so, yes".

Furnish, who was first to give evidence, also said he remembered Spacey's presence at the social event.

Emily Blunt taking 'a little downtime'

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Emily Blunt is "just taking a little downtime".

The 'Oppenheimer' actress - who has daughters Hazel, nine, and Violet, seven, with husband and fellow actor John Krasinski - recently caused a stir when she said she was taking a break from her career to be with her family, but she's now clarified she's simply taking a temporary break and will return to acting in a few months time.

She told Deadline: "Honestly, that story got so overblown. I'm just taking a little downtime, not quitting Hollywood. I was just taking some months off to be with the kids."

The 'Jungle Cruise' star had ex-

plained she wanted to spend more time at home to be with her kids for the tiny moments that are "so important" while they are still young.

Appearing on iHeartPod-cast's 'Table for Two with Bruce Bozzi', she said: "This year, I'm not working."

"I worked quite a bit last year, and my oldest baby is nine, so we're in the last year of single digits."

"I just feel there are cornerstones to their day that are so important when they're little."

"And it's, 'Will you wake me up?

Will you take me to school? Will you pick me up? Will you put me to bed?"

"And I just need to be there for all of them for a good stretch. And I just felt that in my bones."

Meanwhile, Emily recently admitted her "toes curl" whenever she hears about a child wanting to be a star because the industry is to "hard" to get into in the first place.

She told Harper's Bazaar UK: "My toes curl when people tell me, 'My daughter wants to be an actress'."

I worked quite a bit last year, and my oldest baby is nine, so we're in the last year of single digits

EMILY BLUNT

Michelle Yeoh did not dream of an acting career

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Michelle Yeoh never dreamed of becoming an actress. The 60-year-old star made history earlier this year by becoming the first Asian to win the Best Actress Oscar for her role in 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' but admitted that she had actually aspired to own a dance studio when she was younger.

Michelle told ET Canada: "I never dreamt of being on the silver screen. My world was always around dance, and I wanted to have my own school.

I wanted to always be dancing with music and all that."

The actress explained that being in the movie industry was simply an "opportunity that came by".

Yeoh recalled: "And then I thought, well, you know, nothing ventured, nothing gained. And thankfully I loved it. And here I am today."

The star revealed that the "best thing" about her awards success is that she is no longer only getting scripts for "Asian-looking" characters.

Speaking at the Cannes Film Festival recently, Michelle said:



Michelle Yeoh

"The best thing that has happened is I receive a script that doesn't describe the character as a Chinese or Asian-looking person."

"We are actors. We are supposed to act. We are supposed to step into roles that are given to us and do our job as best we can. That, for me, is the biggest step forward."

Michelle reflected on her first time at Cannes over 20 years ago with 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' and said she felt it was "quite obvious" Hollywood wasn't ready to celebrate Asian actors at the time.

Tiffany Haddish crashed weddings for free food when she was 'homeless and hungry'

Fox | Los Angeles

Tiffany Haddish used to crash weddings in order to feed herself while she was homeless.

Haddish, 43, admitted she would often show up to a hotel in the Westchester neighborhood of Los Angeles that held wedding receptions in search of the food catered to the events.

"I've crashed weddings before, given a speech and didn't know anybody there," the co-

median told People magazine "That's when I was homeless and hungry."

"I would have two or three drinks, and then I would grab the microphone and be like, 'I just want to say that you are the most beautiful couple,'" she remembered "Everybody

would be looking at me like, 'Who is this Black girl at our wedding?'"

Haddish started her career later in life and began to gain fame with a role on NBC's "The Carmichael Show." The comedian became a household name after appearing in "Girls Trip" alongside Regina Hall, Queen Latifah and Jada Pinkett Smith.



Tiffany Haddish

Tom Holland felt 'enslaved' to alcohol before sobriety journey

Celebretainment | Los Angeles

Tom Holland has admitted sobriety is the "best thing he's ever done" after becoming "enslaved" to alcohol.

The 'Spider-Man' actor has been sober for over a year now, and he has candidly spoke about his addiction to booze as he realised he needed to make a change.

Appearing on 'On Purpose with Jay Shetty', he said: "I was definitely addicted to alcohol, not shying away from that at all."

"I think that anyone that has a beer everyday has probably

got a little bit of a problem."

Tom, 27, would "drink and drink and drink" until breaking point, and then wake up in the morning with "a terrible headache".

He found himself wondering: "Why am I so obsessed by the idea of having this drink?"

"I would look back and recognize

that I would go to events for work and, you know, I can't enjoy myself until I've had a few beers, and I just felt so much pressure."

He decided to cut out booze by taking on the 'dry January' challenge, and then trying to extend it to February as he tried to avoid anywhere with alcohol.

He explained: "I felt like I couldn't be social. I felt like I couldn't go to the pub and have a lime soda. I couldn't go out for dinner."



Tom Holland

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

4	1	8	3	9	5	7	2	6
3	7	5	6	4	2	9	8	1
2	6	9	1	7	8	4	5	3
1	2	6	7	8	3	5	4	9
8	5	3	4	1	9	6	7	2
9	4	7	2	5	6	3	1	8
5	9	1	8	6	7	2	3	4
6	3	4	5	2	1	8	9	7
7	8	2	9	3	4	1	6	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- President Garfield's middle name; 2- Basics; 10- Skater Michelle; 14- Leaden; 15- Actress Singer; 16- Hawkeye's home; 17- Transform; 18- Algerian seaport; 19- Traditional passed-down knowledge; 20- Fab Four name; 21- Awkward; 23- Quiet; 25- Rickey ingredient; 26- Soft cheese; 29- Auction site; 32- Trials; 37- Jockey Turcott; 38- Hunk; 39- Assuage; 40- Failure to understand; 43- Handsome young man; 44- Alley; 45- Acid; 46- Man of many words; 47- Not so much; 48- Dues; 49- Diamond stat; 51- Drift, make a mistake; 53- Small piece of lean meat; 58- Really bother; 62- Sweeney; 63- Roe source; 64- Garden figure; 65- Langston Hughes poem; 66- Slippery; 67- Green ___ is the place to be; 68- Blackbird; 69- Very, in Versailles; 70- Birds on Canadian coins;

Down

1- Cries of discovery; 2- Waist band; 3- Pro follower; 4- Disinclined; 5- Gift of the Magi; 6- Baseball family name; 7- Emerged; 8- Rugged; 9- Egyptian peninsula; 10- Potter's oven; 11- Fleece; 12- Out of kilter; 13- Dundee denial; 22- Chant; 24- Aids; 26- Wild rose; 27- Musical composition; 28- Disguised, briefly; 30- Place for ordering alcoholic drinks; 31- White-barked poplar tree; 33- Goddess of dawn in Greek mythology; 34- Subway turner; 35- That group; 36- Transmits; 38- Strikes; 39- Psychics claim to have a sixth one; 41- Half and half; 42- Possesses; 47- Suds; 48- Spanish dictator; 50- Adjust to zero; 52- Royal; 53- Brief letter, paper money; 54- Scent; 55- Graven image; 56- Story, often rooted in folklore; 57- Ice cream brand; 59- Mower brand; 60- "So be it"; 61- Dick Tracy's love; 62- Russert of "Meet the Press";

Yesterday's solution

G	N	A	T	E	D	E	N	D	R	E			
R	A	R	E	L	Y	R	I	C	C	O	A	X	
U	P	I	N	E	E	L	E	R	L	O	N	E	
B	A	L	T	I	C	E	C	O	N	O	M	I	C
S	S	T	S	E	S	O	S						
D	N	A	L	I	M	A	S	T	I	G	M	A	
A	E	C	E	V	E	N	S	E	N	L	A	I	
R	H	E	A	E	L	D	E	R	G	E	N	S	
T	R	I	L	L	T	E	X	A	S	A	O	L	
S	U	N	G	O	D	S	E	T	S	N	N	E	
E	G	A	D	S	I	N	E						
J	A	M	B	O	R	E	E	O	S	P	R	E	Y
A	C	A	R	E	L	L	E	N	E	A	S	E	
I	N	G	A	S	T	E	L	L	A	E	T	T	A
L	E	I	S	E	L	L	S	E	E	R			