

Claims don't shock Gabrielle



STRENGTH Gabrielle says she stands up for herself

SINGER Gabrielle has said she was not surprised by stories of widespread sexual assault in the entertainment industry following the rise of the #MeToo movement.

The campaign was sparked by allegations of rape against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein in October last year.

Several high-profile stars, including Gwyneth Paltrow, Ashley Judd and

BY **KEIRAN SOUTHERN**

Jennifer Lawrence, came forward to say they too had been victims of inappropriate behaviour.

But Dreams singer Gabrielle, 49, said the stories of widespread abuse did not surprise her.

She said: "I don't want to be controversial, but the fact is that these movie stars made millions a long time ago, and

they kept quiet about it for so long.

"I don't think they are the ones we need to be listening to.

"It doesn't matter how much money you earn, if you're a woman, you can still be oppressed.

"But there's no way I'm going to earn that kind of money and let a man step over me.

"I'm not going to have a man do that."

DANIEL SLOSS ON



TALK OF THE TOWN Messing about with his family on the set of the Conan show

BY **RICK FULTON**

TO MAKE his audiences laugh Daniel Sloss delves into the darker parts of his life.

He has made jokes about the loss of his disabled sister and how he was groomed as a teenager.

But his new show, X, which started at the Edinburgh Fringe last week and runs throughout August, has been the hardest to come to terms with but will almost certainly be his most important.

In the spotlight will be the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment and assault, and what it means for men.

Daniel, 27, from Edinburgh, said: "Something recently happened that has brought me face to face of what it's like dealing with the MeToo issue.

"It's been a big part of my life for a couple of months. It's all I could think about. I need to talk about it. It's important.

"I've always felt an audience will trust you more making jokes about more difficult subjects if you'd had experience of it.

"Until now, I didn't have any direct experience of MeToo but if anyone has talked to the women in their lives, this problem is a lot, lot bigger than we initially thought.

"The MeToo movement started in the entertainment industry but it's in every industry. It is the mole on the surface which underneath is a deep, rotting cancer brought to light by MeToo."

While the Fringe will no doubt see more jokes about Trump or Brexit than any other topic, a lot of female comics will be talking about #MeToo.

Daniel said: "I was worried about talking about it because I didn't want to deflect from their voices but I think it's important to give another view to MeToo, to address men and what the hell some of us are doing"

He doesn't want to say too much until people see the show.

He said: "I don't mind intentionally offending people but it's when I accidentally offend people that I feel terrible.

"I don't want to upset people. I want to come at it intelligently and make sure my tone is correct.

"I don't want to make light of the situation. Things like MeToo should be – and need to be talked about."

Daniel added: "I am not making

Comedian admits it's a fine line between joking about showbiz sex pest shame and making mockery of it

light of the issue. People seem to live in a world that if you're making jokes, you aren't taking things seriously.

"I think the opposite. You make jokes to release tension. It doesn't mean you're not objectively looking at it. It can be a device to allow us to talk about difficult subjects and the world needs that more than ever right now."

Although in his 20s, Daniel is a stand-up veteran who did his first gig at 16 and today starts his 10th solo run at the his 11th Edinburgh Fringe.

Netflix will shortly announce when they plan to screen two of his two stand-up shows, Dark and Jigsaw.

In fact, Daniel's two hour-long specials will be streamed to 187 countries and in 26 languages.

Daniel said: "I didn't know there were 187 countries."

Jigsaw was recorded in Sydney but Dark was filmed earlier this year in LA in front of Netflix executives. For the first time, he had a wobble.

He said: "I had no nerves on the day but as soon as I walked on stage, my brain said: 'If you f*** it up, you're f****'."

"I took a breath and reminded myself that we do two recordings – one to get it in the bank, the other in case you made any mistakes so even if I did muck up, I could sort it in the second. And then I was fine."

Last year, his NOW show toured live in 150 shows across 28 countries.

He has appeared on Conan O'Brien's US TV talk show a record eight times and sold out hundreds of shows in the 10 solo Edinburgh Fringes he has performed at.

Despite his age, has been one of the biggest comedy ticket sellers for the past nine years.

Brought up in Fife, he calls

“It's important to give another view

DANIEL SLOSS ON THE #METOO MOVEMENT

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Edinburgh

home and loves the Fringe as it's on his doorstep.

Past years have been about "drinking heavily and having fun" but this year he will be taking it easier after a stag do which made *The Hangover* film look like a Sunday school day out.

His best friend and former flatmate, comedian Kai Humphries, is getting married next month and Daniel feels as best man, he has to be in a fit state for the nuptials.

Especially after a stag which left the groom saying, in Daniel's words, "that wasn't a stag do, it was a murder attempt".

Daniel said: "I'm surprised we didn't lose anyone.

"I cracked a rib, which no one remembers me doing, and someone else got attacked by wild dogs walking home.

"But it was fantastic. I kidnapped him as he came off stage, we took his phone, wallet and iPad and flew him to Malaga with 13 other comedians including Mark Nelson and Gareth Waugh."

Their antics did not impact on other people, which is possibly why he wants to use it in his show to explain to other guys what behaviour is unacceptable.

For a start, the stag do was held in a villa in the hills so they couldn't annoy the neighbours.

Daniel said: "When we go on our drinking holidays, we don't go to be lads, we go to be with the lads.

"We are terrible to each other but we aren't terrible to other people.

"We don't want to affect other people's holidays."

They did have a "death swing" which went over the side of a cliff by the villa.

Daniel said: "When I saw the photo on the website I thought, 'Someone is going to die.'

"Then I got there and it was ever scarier but exhilarating. Amazing."



BOYS ON TOUR
With Kai on his stag do and, above, the lads in Spain

I don't mind offending people.. it's when I upset them by accident that I feel terrible

TICKETS

Daniel Sloss: X

is at Pleasance at EICC until August 26. Tickets from www.pleasance.co.uk/event/daniel-sloss-x#overview or call box office

0131 556 6550