



WME Cuts Ties with Justin Baldoni Amid Blake Lively's Allegations

Description

Justin Baldoni has been terminated by WME.

The agency's decision to sever ties with the director and star of "It Ends With Us" was made public on Saturday, following a sexual harassment and retaliation complaint lodged against him by Blake Lively the previous night, as confirmed by reliable sources.

Sources indicate that Baldoni learned of the agency's choice on Saturday. WME, which also represents Lively, deemed the allegations outlined in her complaint sufficiently serious to necessitate immediate action.

WME has refrained from issuing a public statement regarding the matter.

A copy of Lively's complaint, acquired by *Variety*, accuses Baldoni of inflicting "severe emotional harm" on her and her family through acts of sexual harassment, and of orchestrating a smear campaign against her following the film's release. In response to the allegations, Baldoni's attorney Bryan Freedman branded the claims as "shameful" and "categorically false."

The complaint, filed with the California Civil Rights Department, details a meeting in January 2024 where Lively and Baldoni discussed her potential return to the film's set post-strikes by the WGA and SAG-AFTRA. Ryan Reynolds, Lively's spouse, was reportedly in attendance.

During this meeting, Lively alleges that Baldoni made inappropriate remarks regarding her weight to her trainer, discussed his own sex life indiscreetly, and pressured her to reveal her religious beliefs. Additionally, she alleged that Jamey Heath, a producer of "It Ends With Us" and CEO of Wayfarer Studios, showed her a video of his wife giving birth.

Lively contended that after she requested Baldoni not to increase the number of intimate scenes beyond those approved by Sony Pictures, he initiated a campaign of "social manipulation" aimed at sully her reputation. *Variety* has sought a response from Sony Pictures regarding these claims.

The complaint also includes allegations that Heath and Baldoni discussed their previous struggles with pornography addiction and intruded upon her makeup trailer unannounced while she was breastfeeding her newborn. Additionally, the complaint featured emails and text messages exchanged between Lively, Baldoni, and his publicity team, indicating plans to counteract Lively's grievances in the event they became public.

"It is disgraceful that Ms. Lively and her representatives would level such grave and categorically unfounded allegations against Mr. Baldoni," Freedman stated to *Variety* concerning the complaint. "Wayfarer Studios and its representatives acted in what appears to be a desperate attempt to 'remedy' her damaged reputation, which is the result of her own comments and actions during the film's promotional campaign."

"These claims are wholly false, outrageous, and deliberately sensationalized with the intent to inflict public harm and resurrect a damaging narrative," Freedman elaborated. "Wayfarer Studios decided to engage a



crisis manager prior to the film's promotional efforts, collaborating with their own representatives due to the numerous demands and threats presented by Ms. Lively during production.”

The concluding statement asserted that “the representatives of Wayfarer Studios neither acted proactively nor retaliated; they merely responded to media inquiries to ensure balanced reporting, while also monitoring social media discourse. Significantly absent from the selectively presented correspondence is any evidence of proactive engagement with media or otherwise.”

A spokesperson on behalf of Lively directed *Variety* to a statement previously given to [The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com), which articulated: “I hope my legal action brings greater awareness to these insidious retaliatory tactics used against those who speak out against misconduct and fosters protections for others who may find themselves in similar situations.”

Vocabulary List:

1. **Harassment** /hə'ræs.mənt/ (noun): Aggressive pressure or intimidation.
2. **Allegations** /,æ.l.ɪ'geɪ.fənz/ (noun): Claims or assertions made without proof.
3. **Retaliation** /rɪ,tæ.lɪ'eɪ.fən/ (noun): The action of returning a military attack; counterattack.
4. **Insidious** /ɪn'sɪd.i.əs/ (adjective): Proceeding in a gradual subtle way but with harmful effects.
5. **Disgraceful** /dɪs'greɪs.fəl/ (adjective): Shockingly unacceptable.
6. **Manipulation** /mə,nɪp.jə'leɪ.fən/ (noun): The action of controlling or influencing a person or situation cleverly or unscrupulously.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is defined as unwanted and repeated behavior that may be perceived as offensive?
Option: A. Allegations
Option: B. Insidious
Option: C. Harassment
Option: D. Retaliation
2. Which word relates to the customs arts social institutions and achievements of a particular nation people or other social group?
Option: A. Indelible
Option: B. Enduring
Option: C. Cultural
Option: D. Transformation



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3. What word describes someone who is keen or enthusiastic about something?
- Option: A. Representation
 - Option: B. Devastated
 - Option: C. Eager
 - Option: D. Significant
4. To go beyond the limits of something is to _____.
- Option: A. Scrutiny
 - Option: B. Resilience
 - Option: C. Transcend
 - Option: D. Anticipating
5. Which term refers to a famous person especially in entertainment or sports?
- Option: A. Celebrity
 - Option: B. Authentic
 - Option: C. Dissolution
 - Option: D. Turmoil
6. What are the possibilities or likelihood for future success or advancement called?
- Option: A. Prolific
 - Option: B. Devastated
 - Option: C. Anticipation
 - Option: D. Prospects
7. What word describes something so interesting or exciting that it holds one's attention?
- Option: A. Substantial
 - Option: B. Compelling
 - Option: C. Aficionados
 - Option: D. Prolific
8. Which term is used to describe something of considerable importance size or worth?
- Option: A. Transformation
 - Option: B. Cultural
 - Option: C. Substantial
 - Option: D. Anticipation
9. What word refers to the action of speaking or acting on behalf of someone or something?
- Option: A. Representation
 - Option: B. Manipulation
 - Option: C. Celebrity
 - Option: D. Anticipating



10. Which term describes something that is genuine real or true?

- Option: A. Dissolution
- Option: B. Authentic
- Option: C. Harassment
- Option: D. Indelible

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. When someone makes a claim or _____ against another person it is known as making allegations.

12. Responding to a harmful action with a similar harmful action is often seen as a form of _____.

13. The detailed and careful examination of something is known as _____.

14. A state of great disturbance confusion or uncertainty is often referred to as _____.

15. Someone who is _____ is producing abundant works or results.

16. Looking forward to or expecting something is the same as _____.

17. Feeling extreme sorrow or shock after a loss is to be _____.

18. Something that is impossible to remove forget or change can be described as _____.

19. The act or process of changing significantly in appearance form or nature is known as _____.

20. The feeling of excitement about something expected or hoped for is called _____.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The disease had an insidious onset making it difficult to detect in the early stages.

22. His behavior at the party was disgraceful causing embarrassment to everyone present.



23. The politician was accused of deceit and manipulation to gain power.
24. The dissolution of their partnership came as a shock to many in the industry.
25. Despite facing numerous challenges she showed great resilience and determination.
26. The discovery of a new species was a significant breakthrough in the field of biology.
27. The author crafted a compelling narrative that captivated readers until the last page.
28. The art exhibition attracted many aficionados who appreciated the intricate details of each piece.
29. Their enduring friendship stood the test of time and challenges.
30. The director's use of lighting and angles created a cinematic masterpiece.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. C. Harassment 2. C. Cultural 3. C. Eager 4. C. Transcend 5. A. Celebrity 6. D. Prospects 7. B. Compelling 8. C. Substantial 9. A. Representation 10. B. Authentic

Gap-Fill: 11. allegation 12. retaliation 13. scrutiny 14. turmoil 15. prolific 16. anticipating 17. devastated 18. indelible 19. transformation 20. anticipation

Matching sentence: 1. Insidious 2. Disgraceful 3. Manipulation 4. Dissolution 5. Resilience 6. Significant 7. Narrative 8. Aficionados 9. Enduring 10. Cinematic

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

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