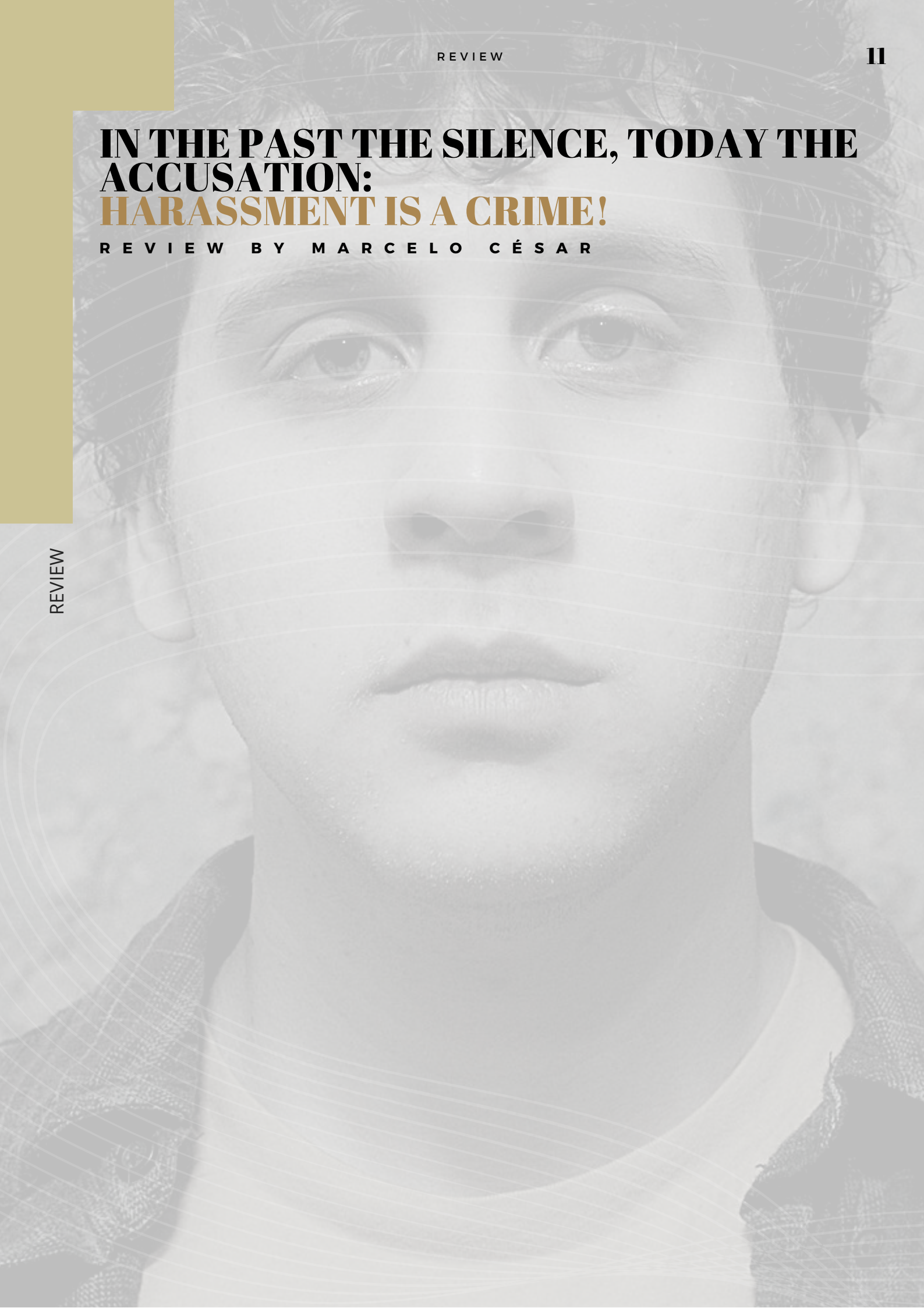


**IN THE PAST THE SILENCE, TODAY THE  
ACCUSATION:  
HARASSMENT IS A CRIME!**

REVIEW BY MARCELO CÉSAR

REVIEW



## THE 2ND ACT A FILM BY VICTOR FONTOURA

REVIEW BY MARCELO CÉSAR



"The 2nd Act" film scene

**IN THE PAST THE SILENCE, TODAY THE ACCUSATION: HARASSMENT IS A CRIME!**

The short film is about a young actor who is harassed by a talent agent.

Lately, it has been brought to social media several headlines on the subject. In 2017 a social activist named Tarana Burke launched the hashtag "Me too" which is a movement advocating the need to support victims of sexual harassment. The idea was to bring up various cases of abuse so that one victim could be inspired by other victims. And in this way, these women would lose their fear of talking about the crime.

It all started with the case of one of Hollywood's biggest executives, Harvey Weinstein, for harassing, abusing, and even raping dozens of actresses. Since then, several accusations have surfaced against men from the upper classes of entertainment, politics, and various areas of society. Of course, the theme has also extended to male victims who have also been sexually abused and have had to keep silent because of the shame of the situation or even the subjugation of labor relations. The film was written, directed, and produced by Victor Fontoura, an activist for Human Rights and the LGBTQIAP+ community. "The 2nd Act" is his first film as director and screenwriter.

In the first scene of the film the character Rich, played by young Evan Crommett, arrives at the home of talent producer Mark, played by David E. McMahon. The initial conversation between the two is to understand how Rich ended up at Mark's house. The producer is an acquaintance of his mother and his intention is to convince the young man that he depends on Mark to make a success of his acting career. Even this conversation is already well-known to those who have experienced such a situation. The theme is already very old and one realizes that over time it doesn't change much.

I am reminded of a character in the movie "Fame", a 1980 musical directed by Alan Parker, in which the actress Irene Cara plays the role of Coco, who is an aspiring actress in New York and has to submit to the embarrassment of sexual abuse. She is forced to take nude pictures with the promise of winning good roles in Broadway plays. So 42 years have passed and we are still coming across these themes in various current films, and we know it is not just fiction as the tabloid newspapers are full of such headlines.

The film "The 2nd Act" is based not only on a real fact, as advertised, but unfortunately on several events in the entertainment industry. What is interesting is that Fontoura brings a message that it is possible to turn things around and always report the crime, even if this brings a lot of embarrassment to the victim. Society is less sexist, more humanitarian, and certainly with a more sensitive eye for similar cases.

The film is well shot with cinematography well suited to each scene, directed by Ricardo Acioli. The script is nicely written and gives the viewer a good understanding of the plot. The actors are well-directed and can deliver the performance required by the role in a natural way. About the director: Victor Fontoura is a Brazilian queer writer, actor, and producer who lives in New York. He graduated in theater directing from the Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. He studied filmmaking at SVA - School of Visual Arts, MNN - Manhattan Neighborhood Network, and AIC - International Film Academy.

Marcelo Cesar



The director Victor Fontoura