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[Exclusive: Little Cavalier Festival Complete Line-up – Demob Happy To Headline Sunday!](#)

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What happened next surprised everyone. That Sunday, Süddeutsche's main paper ran a savagely hostile front-page story on its own magazine, and its own employees. His own newspaper had exposed him. Two full pages inside scream of his "betrayal", apologising to readers for having been taken in by the greatest "deception" since the war. An audacious modern media scam to rival the deliberate faking of Hitler's diaries was over. The front page screamed from the news-stands like never before, exposing Kummer's "monumental betrayal", and trashing Süddeutsche's own colour supplement for commissioning Kummer's "lies". The two-page newspaper splash accused SZ's own bosses, Poschardt and Christian Kaemmerling, of "turning a blind eye to evidence that Kummer had invented all of his interviews". It called publishing the interviews "a betrayal of massive proportions" against the paper, against the very concept of a free press, and against the German public itself. It called its own staff enemies of German post-war freedom. "Whoever fabricates interviews, or knowingly prints fabricated interviews, drives press freedom as a democratic idea into bankruptcy," it raged.

Word spread through the world's newsrooms and magazines even before publication. The nature of the A-list's appeal means an interview with a really big name can be syndicated to dozens of magazines around the world within minutes. The contamination spreads through the global media like a virus. It was musical chairs; the signal came, and the slowest to react was out. I was editing a London-based magazine called *High Flyer*, already going to press when the tip-off from a German friend came. We pulled four pages. London's *Big Issue* got caught with a Brad Pitt interview.

"The Hollywood media machine is too efficient these days. The public need these people to be interesting, and they are not"

great escapes

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This is the story of his brave, doomed attempt to slip the leash of journalism in pursuit of a dream. But there's a final twist. A treatment of Kummer's story has recently been optioned by a major Hollywood studio. And when the self-scripted biopic that's in development does come out – in our first phoned call we'd laughed together about John Cusack playing Kummer, and a Robert Altman-style string of star cameos – he'll have given those fact-checkers the slip and broken through onto the silver screen himself. He'll have become the Hollywood star, with a mansion on the hill, copy approval and army of publicists.

So watch this space. If things go to plan, this might just be the last real interview with him you're ever allowed to read.

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF THE A-LIST

Some of the following quotes are taken from Tom Kummer's fictional interviews, in which stars were later "outraged" to discover they talked crap. One was taken from a real interview.

Liv Tyler
Kummer: What comes to mind when you look at your mouth in the mirror?
Liv Tyler: "Vagina, vagina, vagina!"

Courtney Love
Kummer: When I overdosed the last time, I knew my daughter was there so I tried to make it fun for her. Look, honey, mommy's turning blue! Anyway, I don't take drugs.

Sharon Stone
Kummer: In archaic cultures, there was only seduction, no love and no allowance for psychoanalysis, which propagates this dull, stupid myth that love lasts a lifetime. And what is stronger than seduction? Maybe illusion. Cinema. That's the culmination of seduction. I'm speaking now of its power to provoke jealousy for an ideal... don't we all know, finally, that the ideal object can only become an ideal when it dies?

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Complete Poems and Fragments and of The Oxford Book of War. Poetry. He has published ... are the happy legion'; while Herbert Asquith begins his elegy.

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The necklace itself reputedly ended up in England where it was broken up and its ... two-fisted line-up Death Patrol by Jack Cole, Miss America, Fred Guardineer's ... The result was a rather unique individual, a demobbed marine, intellectual by ... like Wham! and Pow! might have made parents a little happier to buy it too.... In those dismal days (and indeed up to the late 1980s) pubs shut from 2.30 till 5 pm ... The membership was always small, never rising above 200 or so, and the annual fees ... It has been described as the most exclusive club in London. ... I'd been drinking with Happy Gatwick (chairman of the old Sheridan Club) and Fran ... [Bulk Image Downloader 5.43.0.0 Free Download](#)



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RENE LUTZ, JOURNALIST, LITVING

Having been caught out, the media – normally wary of condemning its own – jumped on the story in a frenzy of finger-pointing. Kummer replied with a letter printed in the *Süddeutsche*, trashing the media's sanctimonious reaction and claiming nobody least of all his own paper should have been surprised. "I consider my journalistic contribution to the celebrity cult as conceptual art," he mocked. "It's all about entertainment – and you know it."

By Tuesday, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* had sacked Kaemmerling and Poschardt. Phase two of the scandal hit, as what Kummer calls "the contamination factor" kicked in, "they all tried to save their jobs." One editor who'd used Kummer remembers, "Suddenly there was a lot of fear. People were demanding to know who had something anything to do with Kummer. It was a witch-hunt. Everybody who'd ever used him, had a beer with him, emailed him or spoken to him was really afraid. I got a friend to come to the office and wipe my emails."

In three days, Kummer had gone from golden boy to unemployable pariah. But still the story kept growing. In one bizarre twist, the Hollywood stars about whom Kummer had concocted his own interviews really were now being interviewed... about Tom Kummer. Among others, Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger enjoyed their first international headlines for weeks with their denials of quotes attributed to them by Kummer.

Suddenly, like the stars he'd covered, Kummer became a notorious, and much gossiped-about figure. He revealed a fair for the soundbite. Told he'd been busted, he is reported to have opened his arms and grinned. "That's showbiz!" It was a game, he insists today. "My features always acted out a near-mystical meeting between an intrusive sensitive star and reporter who was Bogart/Kerouac/Hunter's Thompson appeal. The Sharon Stone interview, for example, is a fascinating mad feature – it saves us from reading deadly boring statements from star and agent in all those never-ending tabloid stories."

So what went wrong? "It wasn't a scam," he sighs. "It was – or at least I thought it was – completely clear exactly what I was doing. For heaven's sake, I'd already published a book called *Good Morning Los Angeles* about, yes, a Hollywood reporter in which I more or less set out what I'm doing in black and white," he laughs. "And a book called *Sharon Stone*. It was there for everyone to read."

Off the record, one of his former paymasters is quick to agree. "It's very hard to see how the people who sent him to Hollywood could possibly not have known that this was all fictionalised. Either they did know, and played along because it was what they wanted, or they did not know – and if, as they claimed, they did not, they were sloppy journalists, and should not have been editing the magazine anyway."

"Maybe I should have told them the truth after my first interview with Pamela Anderson," Kummer concedes. "I considered it a mad pilot. And they loved it. I was doing the stars and the star system a favour. The Hollywood media machine is too efficient these days, it squeezes all the life out of the fantastic myths that these stars represent for us in the boring modern world. The public need these people to be interesting, and they are not."

In private, at least one Hollywood PR agrees. "A-listers are all self-scarred of looking silly. They have careers to protect, and people around them whose livelihood depends on making sure they do just that – nobody wants to upset the studios with spontaneous comments. Those who do, like Robert Downey Jr or Sean Penn, get the cold shoulder until they learn how to shut up."

So why no legal action from any of them? "A guy like (Kummer) is something everybody loves. We need them, but we could never admit to it. I'll bet that not just my client, but everyone he made up those interviews about was flattered, and probably a little tickled. They never sounded so deep! And the best thing is they got to maintain what Nixon called 'plausible deniability' – they loved what he made them say, but when it all came out, there was no comeback to them. Sure, if he calls it a favour he was doing them, that's not a bad word to use."

And that's where the story takes another twist. Kummer capably admits that as well as trying to restart his journalistic career – "Fact-checkers are my new bodyguards" – he's working for the William Morris Agency, Hollywood's biggest star management and publicity stable, still making the stars more interesting for the media. "It's all the same," he says. "The creation of a myth – an escape from the tedium of banality. Celebrities are supposed to provide this escape for us, but there is a hypocrisy at the heart of the media – they all say they want to entertain, and to provide this alternative, mythical universe. But they haven't got the balls to follow it through. As soon as I provided any real kind of escape, they came down on me demanding dates, tapes, same old boring whatever. Still, I tried."

"These days," he continues, "I even give lectures about the tragedy of the gossip columnist in a totally professionalised media world. No exclusive interviews blossom behind the hedges of Malibu – and the people who live there are paying a lot of money to make sure things stay that way."

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with Cocteau a very thin line between self-castigation and public accusation that was ... and at heart a populist – he co-founded the first Festival du Film. Maudit at Biarritz in ... companion, would later talk of Jean as a charming 'droll little boy, very frail'. ... up exclusively by women and above all by his all-consuming mother... This edition is the on-line version of the Semaphore Circular, unless you ... streaming ashore to enjoy the delights of Portsmouth – and a trip up to ... Naval Associations Biennial Parade will take place on Sunday 10 ... With our tour complete, and Archie having spent a small fortune on ... demobbed in 1946.. A strike on those lines would paralyze the whole foundations of capitalism, ... eugenics, Huxley takes up the same concern about the proliferation ... form.21 Eliot quotes Adams's cavalier attitude about evolutionary ... little unjust, perhaps, to attribute to the Divinity exclusively Yeats's notorious celebration of embodied. [Eco-fascism is undergoing a revival in the fetid culture of the extreme right](#) | Jason Wilson

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"Combining these, leads to an intern wanting to stay that little bit later than his or ... from Democrats on Sunday television news shows demonstrated a full-on push to ... The lineups will not be settled in Providence, and they won't even be ... up all night in line, I'm soaked to the bone and freezing but I'm so excited that it's mr 5860 do 5509 now 5362 up 5344 time 5308 then 5153 upon 5146 other 5090 ... himself 1556 general 1549 dear 1542 2 1534 small 1528 given 1517 country ... lost 668 happy

667 yesterday 667 taking 667 makes 663 sometimes 659 june ... 403 complete 403 ordered 402 north 400 yours 399 particularly 399 field 399 occasion the whole race was run round the Powderhall track – for 105 laps. Englishman. Jack Price won in 2.40.07, with Lochgelly miner Fred Clark runner-up just 46.5 ... billed as the 'Scottish People's Marathon' that really captured the headlines. ... Robertson and Charlie Robertson, took part in a unique event – The 'Fiery Hit by Irma's full force, the ... “I am so happy that we are getting ... small group of Royal Marines for the ... Heading east along the South Coast and Naval reservists paid ... Our Members also have access to a range of exclusive offers ... Squadron RAF, lined up to await the arrival ... “Demobbed in 1945 he.. Eventbrite - Wild Paths Festival presents Black Honey, Demob Happy & Big Spring - Saturday (Waterfront Main) - Saturday, ... Big Ideas for Little Gardens tickets. 90cd939017 [JUST SHAPES AND BEATS-P2P](#)

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