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	Assigned for all purposes to: Spring Street Courthouse, Judicial Officer: Kristin Escalante			
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9		E STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES			
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13	TAHLIAH BARNETT, an individual,	<sup>Case No.:</sup> 208TCV 47437		
14	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR:		
15	v.	1. SEXUAL BATTERY;		
16	SHIA LABEOUF, an individual,	<ol> <li>BATTERY;</li> <li>ASSAULT;</li> </ol>		
17	Defendant.	<ol> <li>INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS; AND</li> <li>GROSS NEGLIGENCE</li> </ol>		
18		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL		
19		DEMAND FOR GORT TRIAL		
20 21				
21				
22	Plaintiff TAHLIAH BARNETT (hereir	nafter sometimes referred to as "Plaintiff" or		
23	"Tahliah") hereby brings the following causes	of action against Defendant SHIA LABEOUF		
24	("LaBeouf" or "Defendant"), with knowledge as t	to herself and otherwise on information and belief,		
25	claim and allege as follows:			
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27				
20				
	COMPLAINT			

### **INTRODUCTION**

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2 1. Shia LaBeouf hurts women. He uses them. He abuses them, both physically and 3 mentally. He is dangerous. For too long, LaBeouf has sought to excuse his reprehensible actions as the eccentricities of a free-thinking "artist." Even though his history of violent behavior was well-4 5 documented, many in the media have treated LaBeouf as a harmless figure of fun, which has helped 6 enable him to perpetuate his cycle of abuse of women over the years. There is nothing funny about 7 the exploitation of and battering of women. This action has been brought not for personal gain, but to set the record straight, and to help ensure that no more women must undergo the abuse that Shia 8 9 LaBeouf has inflicted on his prior romantic partners. The days in which LaBeouf can mistreat and harm women with impunity are over. 10

2. 11 Tahliah Barnett, professionally known as FKA twigs, is an internationally successful 12 singer, songwriter, and actor. Tahliah was involved in a tumultuous relationship with LaBeouf 13 shortly after they finished working on the motion picture Honey Boy. After LaBeouf had employed 14 a "charm offensive" on Tahliah, a tactic she now knows he used on other women, LaBeouf 15 convinced her to move in with him. LaBeouf was engaging in grooming - gradually gaining Tahliah's trust and confidence with the intent of abusing her. What followed was a living nightmare 16 17 for Tahliah. Over a course of months, LaBeouf engaged in a continuous stream of verbal and 18 mental abuse toward Tahliah, belittling her and berating her after the slightest perceived "insult" by 19 LaBeouf. LaBeouf isolated Tahliah from her friends and family, making it so her daily existence 20 and routine revolved around LaBeouf and only LaBeouf. His verbal abuse escalated into physical abuse, during which LaBeouf became increasingly violent toward Tahliah. On one horrific 21 22 occasion, around Valentine's Day 2019, LaBeouf forcibly slammed Tahliah against his car and then 23 strangled her, after she was trying to escape from one of his manic tirades. In fact, LaBeouf even 24 admitted to another woman, whom he was cheating on Tahliah with at the time, that he had dragged 25 Tahliah out of his car by her collar. LaBeouf kept Tahliah in a constant state of fear by openly 26 storing live firearms throughout his home, including in the bedroom he shared with Tahliah. 27 Finally, and most dreadfully, LaBeouf knowingly transmitted a serious illness to Tahliah, without 28 ever informing her beforehand that he suffered from this dreadful malady. Tahliah has since learned

that LaBeouf has infected other unsuspecting women with his disease. Simply put, LaBeouf's
 reckless disregard for the health and safety of his partners makes him a danger to women
 everywhere.

3. Although Tahliah has suffered greatly, and will bear the scars of LaBeouf's abuse for 4 5 the rest of her days, she will not be labeled a victim. Instead, Tahliah has triumphed over LaBeouf's 6 abuse and stands ready to hold him accountable for his actions. Together with Karolyn Pho, another 7 survivor of LaBeouf's abuse, Tahliah sought to avoid this action by requesting LaBeouf voluntarily seek the mental health and substance abuse treatment he so desperately needs, and that he make a 8 9 donation to a domestic violence shelter. Tahliah and Karolyn simply wanted LaBeouf to take affirmative steps toward healing himself and, in turn, to stop his cycle of domestic violence toward 10 11 his future partners and keep them from suffering the same physical, sexual, and mental abuse.

4. 12 In response to this peaceful overture, LaBeouf played games and downplayed the 13 seriousness of the situation. LaBeouf's attorney cruelly dismissed the sexually transmitted disease 14 LaBeouf had infected Tahliah with as "not that bad." LaBeouf attempted to dissuade Karolyn from 15 allying with Tahliah by sending Karolyn an unsolicited email in which he falsely disparaged Tahliah. LaBeouf also threatened Tahliah, claiming that he was in possession of personal text 16 17 messages and other information that he could use to embarrass her. In his effort to intimidate 18 Tahliah, LaBeouf engaged Tahliah's former assistant Noelle O'Reilly into improperly providing 19 him with private and confidential information about Tahliah. With these threats, LaBeouf clearly 20hoped to terrorize Tahliah into submission and keep her from taking any further action. LaBeouf's scare tactics will not work. He has no power over Tahliah anymore. 21

5. Tahliah now brings this action to seek some measure of justice not simply for herself, but for the many other women who have been similarly abused by LaBeouf. Tahliah intends to donate a significant portion of any monies received in this action to charities dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence. Never again will another woman be forced to undergo the brutal treatment and degradation that Tahliah and others experienced at his hands. This case is being brought on behalf of all those women that LaBeouf has mistreated in the past, and for all those women who will be spared his abuse in the future.

## PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

6. Plaintiff Tahliah Barnett is, and at all times relevant was, an individual residing in London, England, United Kingdom.

7. Defendant LaBeouf is, and at all times relevant was, an individual residing in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

8. The wrongful acts by LaBeouf alleged herein occurred in the County of Los Angeles,
State of California.

# FACTS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

# LaBeouf's Abuse of Tahliah

9. Tahliah first met LaBeouf while filming the motion picture "*Honey Boy*" in the early summer of 2018, a film in which both had lead roles. When shooting on the picture wrapped later that year, the two began a romantic relationship. Tahliah was in a vulnerable and sensitive state at the time, as she had recently ended a four-year engagement and was recovering from having painful fibroid tumors removed from her uterus.

10. Within a week or two of dating, LaBeouf dramatically professed his love for Tahliah.
17 During the first few months of their relationship, LaBeouf restrained himself to over-the-top
18 displays of affection, eventually winning Tahliah's trust. Once LaBeouf had gained Tahliah's
19 confidence, her living nightmare began.

20 11. Beginning in and around October 2018, LaBeouf convinced Tahliah to go live with 21 him at his Los Angeles home. Once Tahliah had moved in, LaBeouf began regularly exhibiting frequent rage and bouts of jealousy toward Tahliah. On a continual basis, he aggressively accused 22 23 her of dwelling on her former fiancé (well-known actor Robert Pattinson), and also accused Tahliah 24 of "rushing" him into a relationship. LaBeouf would inexplicably escalate the most inconsequential 25 disagreements—for example, over matters of taste in art—to apocalyptic levels, often forcing 26 Tahliah to stay up all night while he verbally berated her for hours on end about her supposed lack 27 of taste. LaBeouf would take something as innocent as Tahliah kissing another man on the cheek in

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a music video, or being polite to a waiter, as nothing less than a betrayal, an assault on his manhood, and an existential threat to their relationship.

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12. LaBeouf would literally count the kisses Tahliah would give him in a given day and berate her if she fell short of a target number. He would verbally assault Tahliah if he placed his hand in her lap and she failed to *immediately* reciprocate and place her hand on top of his. He would "end" their relationship on the slightest imagined grievance and then almost immediately resurface, desperate to resume it.

8 13. LaBeouf suffered recurring periods of delusions wherein he armed himself with 9 firearms on the belief "gang members" were going to break down his door at any moment, going so 10 far as to sleep with these guns. Tahliah would be trapped in their shared bed for hours at a time 11 without the ability to even get up to go to the bathroom for fear she would be shot by LaBeouf 12 should he wake up suddenly upon her return to bed.

13 14. LaBeouf's relentless mental and verbal harassment and mistreatment of Tahliah
14 eventually turned into physical violence. LaBeouf committed physical attacks against Tahliah on
15 multiple occasions, each resulting in personal injuries to Tahliah, not the least of which was
16 LaBeouf's knowing transmission of a serious disease which has forever altered the course of her
17 life.

18 15. While Tahliah was living with LaBeouf at his Los Angeles home, she remained in 19 constant fear due to the threatening presence of loaded firearms throughout LaBeouf's home. 20 Beginning in November 2018, LaBeouf insisted on keeping his front door unlocked and sleeping 21 with a loaded rifle at their bedside. LaBeouf demanded Tahliah join him while he watched 22 documentaries about murdered women before bed and refused to allow Tahliah to sleep with any 23 clothing on. In these moments, Tahliah would often text friends in the middle of the night to devise 24 a plan to escape LaBeouf's home.

16. Similarly, when LaBeouf was filming the movie *The Tax Collector*, in which he
played a gangster, he took on the role in real life. During one incident, while Tahliah was driving
with him, LaBeouf pulled a pistol from a compartment in his car which he boasted to Tahliah was
illegal to possess in California. On another occasion, LaBeouf attempted to scare Tahliah by

warning her that he pulled out one of his firearms on set and threatened others with it, bragging to 1 2 Tahliah that he enjoyed "getting their attention." LaBeouf made the horrific boast to Tahliah that, in 3 order to get into "character" for his role in The Tax Collector, he would drive around neighborhoods in Los Angeles and shoot stray dogs. LaBeouf claimed he killed these dogs because he wanted to 4 5 know what it felt like to take a life so he could get into the "mindset" of a killer, like his role in the movie. LaBeouf knew that Tahliah is a great lover of dogs, and that she is very close to her own 6 7 dog. LaBeouf's admission to such wanton animal cruelty profoundly disturbed and terrified Tahliah. 8

9 17. To celebrate the Valentine's Day holiday in February 2019, LaBeouf drove Tahliah 10 to a hotel spa for a romantic evening. However, instead of a night of romance, Tahliah was 11 subjected to a torrent of physical abuse from LaBeouf. After she had gone to bed, Tahliah awoke to 12 LaBeouf towering over her and violently squeezing her body and arms against her will. LaBeouf 13 then grasped his hands around Tahliah's neck and began strangling her while whispering, "If you 14 don't stop you are going to lose me." Tahliah was so terrified she could not move and lay there 15 frozen while LaBeouf continued to harm her.

18. The following morning, outside of their hotel, LaBeouf threw Tahliah to the ground. 16 17 And as they drove back to LaBeouf's house, LaBeouf drove maniacally, removing his seat belt and 18 threatening to crash the car unless Tahliah professed her eternal love for him. Tahliah was horrified 19 by LaBeouf's actions and feared for her life. LaBeouf eventually stopped at a gas station, and 20 Tahliah desperately attempted to escape from him. However, after Tahliah tried to remove herself and her belongings from the car, LaBeouf violently attacked Tahliah. While in the gas station 21 22 parking lot, he threw Tahliah against the car and attempted to strangle her violently while screaming in her face. LaBeouf then forced Tahliah back into his car. 23

19. Later, when confronted about this incident by his female friend on September 29,
2019, LaBeouf did not deny that he used violence on Tahliah. Indeed, LaBeouf admitted it a text
message that, "I do remember removing her [Tahliah] from the car in the desert." LaBeouf stated
that he removed Tahliah "[b]y her arms." In response, LaBeouf's friend confronted him with a text
message stating, "Shia, you did actually admit to me the incident when you had her [Tahliah] by the

collar and were pushing her against the car while she sobbed, and while three male witnesses did nothing at the gas station was true[.]"

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20. Shortly after the Valentine's Day incident, on February 25, 2019, Tahliah reached out for help, by texting a close friend and writing, ". . . this is difficult to say but I am sure you know. I have been in an abusive relationship that has isolated me. It's worse than you could imagine."

7 21. Tahliah also sought the help of a professional therapist, writing to him on February
8 24, "I have just left an emotionally, physically, and sexually abusive relationship. I have one day
9 out and I'm very confused and overwhelmed . . . . I am writing this email because I am hoping that
10 by seeking professional help I can stay out of it and carry on with my life." Tahliah has continued
11 to seek counseling and psychotherapy from this therapist, as she continues to suffer ongoing mental
12 trauma and distress from LaBeouf's relentless abuse.

13 22. Tahliah began to slowly distance herself from LaBeouf and his violence. She began
14 this process by planning to escape from LaBeouf when the opportunity arose. However, LaBeouf's
15 fixation on controlling and surveilling Tahliah made the prospect of escape both difficult and
16 dangerous.

17 23. In and around March 2019, Tahliah attempted to escape from LaBeouf's abuse. One day, she began packing her bags and belongings, intending to leave Los Angeles and LaBeouf. 18 19 However, while Tahliah was doing so, LaBeouf showed up unannounced at the rented home where 20she was staying. The entire incident was witnessed by Tahliah's housekeeper, who was helping her pack at the time. In her own words, the housekeeper had provided sworn testimony that, 21 22 "[LaBeouf] yelled at [Tahliah] that she had to come with him. [Tahliah] hesitated and remained 23 where she was in the room. When [Tahliah] refused to go with [LaBeouf], [LaBeouf] appeared to 24 grow angrier and moved toward [Tahliah]. [LaBeouf] then violently grabbed [Tahliah] and lifted her off the ground." 25

26 24. Tahliah's housekeeper further relates that, "[a]fter [LaBeouf] had lifted [Tahliah]
27 into the air, he forcibly carried her into a separate room. I then heard the door to this room lock
28 from the inside. I tried the door and confirmed that it was locked. [LaBeouf] continued to scream

at [Tahliah]. He yelled so loudly that I could hear him from outside the room. I waited outside the
 room while this occurred. [LaBeouf] kept yelling at [Tahliah] for a considerable amount of time.
 Eventually, I observed [LaBeouf] open the door and exit the room where he had been keeping
 [Tahliah]. As he left the room, [LaBeouf] first appeared to notice me watching him. [LaBeouf]
 stared at me but did not say anything."

6 25. Finally, Tahliah's housekeeper has testified that, "I quickly went to [Tahliah]'s side
7 to see how she was doing. I observed that [Tahliah] was in a very traumatized state. She appeared
8 to have been crying and her voice was very weak. I asked [Tahliah] if [LaBeouf] had taken her into
9 that room and kept her there against her will. [Tahliah] confirmed that [LaBeouf] had indeed done
10 so." Unfortunately, LaBeouf soon returned, dashing Tahliah's plans to escape from him.

11 26. Beginning in and around March 2019, Tahliah began to experience unusual and 12 painful physical symptoms. Shortly thereafter, Tahliah confronted LaBeouf about her symptoms 13 and he admitted that he suffered from a sexually transmitted disease which had been diagnosed 14 years earlier. LaBeouf admitted that he had never told Tahliah about his condition before, even 15 though they had been sexually intimate for many months. Further, LaBeouf admitted that he had experienced a flareup of his disease's symptoms in December 2019, but worked to hide his outward 16 symptoms from Tahliah by applying makeup. Despite experiencing a flareup of his symptoms, 17 18 LaBeouf continued to engage in sexual relations with Tahliah, further exposing her to his disease.

27. Shocked and horrified by this revelation, Tahliah consulted with her physician who
performed blood work and confirmed that Tahliah had been infected with LaBeouf's disease.
Tragically, Tahliah later learned that she was not the first person that LaBeouf had transmitted his
disease to. Tahliah discovered that at least one other woman that LaBeouf had been in a
relationship with had contracted the disease from him, and that he had engaged in similar attempts
to hide his condition from that person while engaging in sexual relations.

28. Despite his endless mistreatment of Tahliah, LaBeouf had succeeded in isolating her
from her friends, family and others that could help extricate her from the toxic relationship.
LaBeouf's domineering treatment of Tahliah had allowed him to convince her that *he* was a victim,
that he genuinely loved her and that he wanted to "repair" their relationship. For the next few

months, Tahliah engaged in multiple therapy sessions with LaBeouf, in an attempt to salvage their
relationship. However, LaBeouf's unpredictable and violent behavior did not change. Eventually,
after Tahliah refused his endless stream of calls and text messages, LaBeouf unceremoniously ended
his relationship with Tahliah via a text message. Tahliah later learned that LaBeouf had been
cheating with another woman during this time. Finally free from LaBeouf, Tahliah began the long
and difficult process of healing from his abuse.

### LaBeouf's Prior History of Abuse

29. As part of her path toward healing, Tahliah came into contact with Karolyn Pho ("Karolyn"), another survivor of LaBeouf's abuse. Karolyn dated LaBeouf during the years 2010 to 2011. Theirs was a well-documented and public relationship.

30. Behind that publicity, however, LaBeouf subjected Karolyn to the same kind of abuse, including physical abuse, he inflicted on Tahliah, fueled by his jealous, impulsive, and irrational ways. For example, just as LaBeouf was fixated on Tahliah's former fiancé and would accuse her, constantly, of still being emotionally drawn to him, LaBeouf would berate Karolyn for something as innocuous as "looking" at the male waiting staff at a restaurant. LaBeouf would furiously claim that Karolyn was attracted to any male, other than himself, that she happened to be "looking" at, instigating needless traumatic arguments with Karolyn.

18 31. Karolyn's experience with LaBeouf was disturbingly similar to Tahliah's, 19 demonstrating his pattern and practice of abusing women. For instance, in February 2012, LaBeouf traveled with Karolyn to New York City for Fashion Week. During their flight east, paid for by 20Karolyn, LaBeouf angrily berated her for wearing expensive sunglasses and repeatedly humiliated 21 22 her, causing her to burst into tears in front of other passengers on the airplane. He disappeared the 23 moment he deplaned at JFK airport. Karolyn traveled to their hotel alone, could not find LaBeouf, 24 and went to bed. LaBeouf eventually showed up to the hotel room extremely drunk, waking 25 Karolyn by banging loudly on the door. Karolyn let LaBeouf into their room, where, after babbling 26 incoherently, he promptly passed out on the couch face up. Fearful that LaBeouf might choke on his 27 own vomit in that position, Karolyn helped carry him into a shower, where she sat him upright and 28 turned on the water. LaBeouf continued to sit in this position, mumbling to himself. Believing

LaBeouf was no longer in danger, Karolyn returned to bed. Later that night, Karolyn awoke to
 LaBeouf on top of her—drunk, naked, wet, and screaming. He held her down by her arms, causing
 intense pain and leaving multiple bruises, and then headbutted her violently causing her to bleed on
 the hotel bed.

5 32. Likewise, following a party at the Chateau Marmont in early 2011, Karolyn kept 6 LaBeouf from driving home because of how drunk he was. They hailed a taxi. On the ride home to 7 Sherman Oaks, LaBeouf repeatedly berated and verbally assaulted Karolyn in front of the driver, 8 and repeatedly whispered to Karolyn, "You know I'm going to kill you." Once home, he vomited in 9 the hallway. The next morning, LaBeouf asked Karolyn about the vomit in the hallway, claiming he 10 had "blacked out" and did not remember anything from the prior evening.

33. Karolyn has bravely chosen to ally with Tahliah against LaBeouf, in order to protect
women from ever again having to endure LaBeouf's abuse.

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# LaBeouf's Documented History of Arrests and Violence

Over the years, the media has reported on public examples of LaBeouf's violent and 14 34. 15 volatile behavior. In 2007, for instance, LaBeouf was arrested and jailed following an altercation 16 with his next-door neighbor in Van Nuys, California. In 2008, LaBeouf narrowly avoided seriously injuring others when his drunk driving caused him to hit another vehicle, resulting in his arrest.<sup>1</sup> In 17 2011, LaBeouf was involved in a bar fight in Sherman Oaks, California, which resulted in his being 18 detained by police.<sup>2</sup> In 2014, LaBeouf attended a performance of the musical *Cabaret* on 19 Broadway. LaBeouf was extremely drunk during the performance, and caused such a disturbance 20 that he was arrested during the show's intermission.<sup>3</sup> In 2015, LaBeouf's drunk and disorderly 21 behavior resulted his arrest on the streets of Austin, Texas.<sup>4</sup> 22

- 24 1 See https://people.com/crime/shia-labeouf-arrested-for-dui/
- 25 25 See <u>https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/shia-labeouf-handcuffed-released-bar-96959</u>

27 3 See https://pagesix.com/2014/06/26/shia-labeouf-arrested-for-disorderly-conduct/

28 <sup>4</sup> See <u>https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2015/10/09/shia-labeouf-arrested-public-intoxication-in-texas/73694686/</u>

35. In 2015, the media widely reported on an incident between LaBeouf and his thengirlfriend Mia Goth ("Goth"). While in Germany, LaBeouf's vicious verbal assault on Goth was
captured on video by passersby. Among other things, LaBeouf told Goth, "I don't wanna touch
you. I don't wanna be aggressive. This is the kind of shit that makes a person abusive." LaBeouf,
apparently inebriated, blames Goth for "pushing" him. When he eventually leaves the scene,
LaBeouf was caught saying, "If I'd have stayed there, I would have killed her."<sup>5</sup>

7 36. As recently as September 24, 2020, LaBeouf was charged by the Los Angeles City
8 Attorney with misdemeanor battery and theft for allegedly using physical violence to steal a man's
9 hat.<sup>6</sup>

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## LaBeouf's Enlists Tahliah's Former Assistant to Threaten Her

11 37. From 2017 until 2019, Tahliah employed Noelle O'Reilly ("O'Reilly") as her 12 personal assistant. In connection with her employment with Tahliah, O'Reilly was privy to certain 13 private and confidential information concerning Tahliah's personal life and career that O'Reilly was 14 obligated not to disclose. However, it has since become clear to Tahliah that O'Reilly repeatedly 15 abused her position of trust by engaging in fraud and outright theft. Moreover, O'Reilly undertook 16 most of her misdeeds while Tahliah was away from her home, living with LaBeouf.

38. In August through October 2018, after her own application was denied, and desperate to become a member of the exclusive Soho House chain of clubs, O'Reilly committed identity theft and hacking in order to pose as Tahliah so she could "recommend" herself for a club membership. Once O'Reilly was approved, she then stole from Tahliah by paying for her Soho House membership with Tahliah's money. All of this was done without Tahliah's knowledge and consent.

<sup>5</sup> See <u>https://www.huffpost.com/entry/shia-labeouf-mia-goth-public-fight-germany\_n\_55b64e86e4b0224d8832c8e1</u>

<sup>6</sup> See <u>https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/actor-shia-labeouf-charged-misdemeanor-battery-</u> petty-theft-n1241857

> 11 COMPLAINT

39. As if posing as Tahliah in order to gain a club membership was not enough, O'Reilly 1 2 stole articles of designer clothing from Tahliah and sold them for her own profit via the resale 3 website Vestiaire Collective. O'Reilly then directed that the proceeds from these illicit sales be directed to her personal account with Vestiaire Collective. For instance, on October 4, 2018, 4 5 O'Reilly emailed Vestiaire stating, "I have a large collection of designer items, 100-150. I can't list them all . . . . Account is under this email address." This collection of "designer items" was 6 7 Tahliah's personal property. This led to a viewing appointment between O'Reilly and Vestiaire representatives on November 14, 2018, at Tahliah's house - without Tahliah's consent and while 8 9 she was away. The following day, when Vestiaire informed O'Reilly that 15 of the items would need to be returned, O'Reilly had them returned to her own residence - not Tahliah's. 10

40. 11 Unaware of her duplicity, Tahliah confided in O'Reilly about LaBeouf's violent 12 abuse of her. Indeed, O'Reilly took photographs of the bruises that LaBeouf inflicted on Tahliah in 13 February 2019. O'Reilly even sent a text message to Tahliah's friends to warn them that Tahliah 14 was in an abusive relationship. However, soon after Tahliah uncovered O'Reilly's deception and 15 theft, she began to aid LaBeouf in his intimidation campaign against Tahliah. After Tahliah and Karolyn approached LaBeouf about informally resolving this dispute, which would have involved 16 17 LaBeouf undergoing intensive psychotherapy and substance abuse treatment in addition to donating 18 to a domestic violence shelter, LaBeouf began an intimidation campaign against Tahliah to frighten 19 her from filing this lawsuit. LaBeouf stated that O'Reilly had provided him with sensitive and 20 confidential information, obtained during O'Reilly's employment with Tahliah, which he would use 21 to embarrass Tahliah if she ever went public about LaBeouf's abuse. He also claimed that O'Reilly 22 had provided a statement in which she would claim that Tahliah's February 2019 bruises did not 23 result from LaBeouf's physical violence, but were self-inflicted from a strenuous dancing session 24 Tahliah had that month. By providing confidential information and false statements to LaBeouf, 25 whom she knew had abused Tahliah, O'Reilly not only violated Tahliah's trust and confidence but 26 also her own contractual obligations to Tahliah. Tahliah has since spoken with a high-profile 27 recording artist in the music industry who had also employed O'Reilly as his assistant. That artist 28 informed Tahliah that O'Reilly also engaged in the theft of his property while under his employ.

The fact that LaBeouf would enlist such a disreputable person to support his intimidation tactics speaks volumes about his own character, or lack thereof.

3 41. Undeterred by LaBeouf's shameful threats, and determined to keep any more women from being ensnared and abused by such a dangerous man, Tahliah has pressed forward with this 4 5 action. If LaBeouf will not help himself and address his own demons, Tahliah will do everything in her power to keep him from hurting others. Tahliah has nothing to gain professionally from this 6 7 action. She intends to donate a significant portion of any monies she receives from LaBeouf to deserving non-profits aimed at helping survivors of domestic abuse. Most importantly, women 8 9 everywhere are now on notice that LaBeouf is not the tortured artist he portrays himself as: he is a destructive and dangerous man. 10

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# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR SEXUAL BATTERY

# (BY PLAINTIFF AGAINST LABEOUF)

13 42. Plaintiff re-alleges herein by this reference each and every allegation contained in
14 paragraphs 1 through 41, inclusive, of this Complaint as if set forth fully herein.

43. LaBeouf's conduct in transmitting a sexually transmitted disease to Plaintiff was
done without Plaintiff's consent and constitutes sexual battery.

44. LaBeouf intended to cause and did cause a harmful contact with Plaintiff's person.

45. Plaintiff did not consent to LaBeouf's harmful contact with her person.

46. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts of LaBeouf, Plaintiff has
suffered bodily injuries, severe emotional and mental distress and anguish.

47. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts of LaBeouf, Plaintiff has
suffered damages, all in amounts according to proof and in excess of the minimum jurisdiction of
this Court.

48. LaBeouf performed the foregoing wrongful acts, conduct, and omissions
intentionally, fraudulently, maliciously, and oppressively in willful and conscious disregard of
Plaintiff's rights and with the intent and design to damage Plaintiff. By reason thereof, Plaintiff is
entitled to recover punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the time of trial.

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1		SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR BATTERY	
2		(BY PLAINTIFF AGAINST LABEOUF)	
3	49.	Plaintiff re-alleges herein by this reference each and every allegation contained in	
4	paragraphs 1	through 48, inclusive, of this Complaint as if set forth fully herein.	
5	50.	LaBeouf intended to cause and did cause a harmful contact with Plaintiff's person.	
6	51.	Plaintiff did not consent to LaBeouf's harmful contact with her person.	
7	52.	As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts of LaBeouf, Plaintiff has	
8	suffered bodi	ly injuries, severe emotional and mental distress and anguish.	
9	53.	As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts of LaBeouf, Plaintiff has	
10	suffered dam	ages, all in amounts according to proof and in excess of the minimum jurisdiction of	
11	this Court.		
12	54.	LaBeouf performed the foregoing wrongful acts, conduct, and omissions	
13	intentionally,	fraudulently, maliciously, and oppressively in willful and conscious disregard of	
14	Plaintiff's rights and with the intent and design to damage Plaintiff. By reason thereof, Plaintiff is		
15	entitled to red	cover punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the time of trial.	
16	THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR ASSAULT		
17		(BY PLAINTIFF AGAINST LABEOUF)	
18	55.	Plaintiff re-alleges herein by this reference each and every allegation contained in	
19	paragraphs 1	through 54, inclusive, of this Complaint as if set forth fully herein.	
20	56.	LaBeouf acted in a manner such that he intended to cause a harmful touching of	
21	Plaintiff.		
22	57.	LaBeouf touched and assaulted Plaintiff in a harmful manner.	
23	58.	Plaintiff did not consent to the assaultive conduct committed by LaBeouf.	
24	59.	As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts of LaBeouf, Plaintiff has	
25	suffered bodily injuries, severe emotional and mental distress and anguish.		
26	60.	As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts of LaBeouf, Plaintiff has	
27	suffered dam	ages, all in amounts according to proof and in excess of the minimum jurisdiction of	
28	this Court.		
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# COMPLAINT

61.

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this Court.

emotional distress and suffering.

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# FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR GROSS NEGLIGENCE

LaBeouf performed the foregoing wrongful acts, conduct, and omissions

intentionally, fraudulently, maliciously, and oppressively in willful and conscious disregard of

Plaintiff's rights and with the intent and design to damage Plaintiff. By reason thereof, Plaintiff is

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF

**EMOTIONAL DISTRESS** 

**(BY PLAINTIFF AGAINST LABEOUF)** 

paragraphs 1 through 61, inclusive, with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

and carried out by LaBeouf with an intention to cause Plaintiff emotional distress and/or with

Plaintiff reallege and incorporate herein by reference the allegations contained in

The conduct of LaBeouf as alleged above was at all times extreme and outrageous,

As a result of the conduct of LaBeouf, as alleged herein, Plaintiff has suffered severe

LaBeouf performed the foregoing wrongful acts, conduct, and omissions

As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts of LaBeouf, Plaintiff has

suffered damages, all in amounts according to proof and in excess of the minimum jurisdiction of

intentionally, fraudulently, maliciously, and oppressively in willful and conscious disregard of

Plaintiff's rights and with the intent and design to damage Plaintiff. By reason thereof, Plaintiff is

entitled to recover punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the time of trial.

entitled to recover punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the time of trial.

reckless disregard of the probability of causing emotional distress to Plaintiff.

## (BY PLAINTIFF AGAINST LABEOUF)

67. Plaintiff reallege and incorporate herein by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 41, inclusive, with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

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68. At all times relevant herein, LaBeouf owed Plaintiff a duty to act with ordinary care.

27 69. LaBeouf breached his duties to Plaintiff by failing to exercise ordinary care and due
28 diligence in his actions toward Plaintiff.

15 COMPLAINT

1	70.	LaBeouf's conduct constituted a want of even scant care and an extreme depar	ture
2	from the ordin	ry standard of conduct.	

71. As a direct and proximate result of LaBeouf's grossly negligent conduct, Plaintiff
has suffered damages, all in amounts according to proof and in excess of the minimum jurisdiction
of this Court.

6 72. As alleged herein, LaBeouf is guilty of oppression, fraud, and/or malice as defined in
7 Civil Code Section 3294. By reason thereof, Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive damages in an
8 amount to be determined at the time of trial.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against LaBeouf as set forth below:

- 1. For compensatory damages according to proof;
- 2. For exemplary and/or punitive damages as permitted by law;

3. For cost of suit herein;

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- 4. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper;
- 5. For a trial by jury on all causes of action as permitted by law.

FREEDMAN + TAITELMAN, LLP

Dated: December 10, 2020

Bryan J. Freedman, Esq. Sean M. Hardy, Esq. Attorneys for Plaintiff Tahliah Barnett