

Lifestyle

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(From left) Actresses Laura Dern, Nicole Kidman, Zoe Kravitz, Reese Witherspoon and Shailene Woodley pose with the Best Television Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television trophy for 'Big Little Lies' during the 75th Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

OPRAH DECLARES 'NEW DAY' FOR WOMEN IN CAMPAIGN-LIKE GLOBE SPEECH

Oprah Winfrey on Sunday declared a "new day" for women and girls facing down abusive men as her powerful speech to the Golden Globe Awards stirred talk that she has a political future. Within moments of the daytime television trailblazer's remarks at the Hollywood gala, effusive fans called for her to challenge President Donald Trump in 2020, although she has given no indication she is interested. The 63-year-old Winfrey, whose former talk show ushered in an era of confessional television and helped make her a billionaire, delivered a forceful but tightly focused speech that brought together issues of gender, poverty and race as she accepted a lifetime achievement award.

She saluted the #MeToo movement that has quickly gained steam after revelations of rampant sexual misconduct by film mogul Harvey Weinstein. Paying tribute to Recy Taylor, an African American woman who daringly reported her 1944 gang rape by six white men in Alabama and died last month just short of her 98th birthday, Winfrey deplored "a culture broken by brutally powerful men." "For too long, women have not been heard or believed if they dare speak the truth to the power of those men. But their time is up! Their time is up!" Winfrey said to a standing ovation and even some tears in the audience. "So I want all the girls watching here now to know that a new day is on the horizon," Winfrey said.

"And when that new day finally dawns, it will be

because of a lot of magnificent women—many of whom are right here in this room tonight—and some pretty phenomenal men, fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say 'me too' again," she said.

Hailing role of media

Winfrey highlighted her own life rising up from a violence-scarred childhood. She recalled her awe as a girl watching television in Milwaukee when Sidney Poitier became the first black person to win the Oscar for best actor in 1964. She also hailed the role of the media, so often maligned by Trump as "fake news." "It's the insatiable dedication to uncovering the absolute truth that keeps us from turning a blind eye to corruption and to injustice," she said.

"I want to say that I value the press more than ever before as we try to navigate these complicated times." At the start of the Golden Globes, host Seth Meyers playfully encouraged Winfrey to run for president against Trump, who made history by winning despite never holding a previous political or military position. Meyers had appeared at the now infamous 2011 White House Correspondents Association dinner where he and then president Barack Obama mocked the idea of Trump in the White House. The real estate mogul fumed in his seat. "Some have said that night convinced him to run. So, if

that's true, I just want to say, Oprah, you will never be president. You do not have what it takes," Meyers said, while also proposing actor Tom Hanks as a vice presidential candidate.

Fans see White House

For some of Winfrey's fans, a presidential run didn't seem far-fetched after her speech, with the topic quickly taking off on social media. "As I sit here in tears...I have never ever seen such a speech," the country singer Billy Gilman wrote on Twitter. "@Oprah, my friend. Please run for President. This world needs more of THAT. WOW." Winfrey had generally stayed away from overt politics until the 2008 election when she campaigned vigorously for Obama in an endorsement credited with helping him secure the Democratic Party's nomination.

The then governor of Illinois briefly considered Winfrey to replace Obama in the Senate, but she did not voice interest. With her vast audience and quickly relatable style, Winfrey has long been considered one of America's most influential celebrities. Her show has helped raise discussion in the United States on issues ranging from gay rights to abusive puppy breeding mills, while her endorsement power is avidly sought by the publishing industry. — AFP



Oprah Winfrey poses with the Cecil B DeMille Award.

Dior Paris fashion exhibition breaks 112-year record

More than 700,000 people flocked to a record-breaking Paris exhibition dedicated to the Christian Dior French fashion house, its organizers said yesterday. The six-month-long show which ended on Sunday was the most popular ever held at the city's Museum of Decorative Arts, with visitors queuing for an average of four hours to see some of the luxury brand's most iconic designs. "Christian

Dior, couturier du reve" (roughly translated as "Christian Dior, Designer of Dreams") was organized to mark the label's 70th anniversary, and told the story of the brand through some 300 of its haute couture dresses worn by stars from Marlene Dietrich to Rihanna.

The museum's director David Cameo told AFP that the turn-out was "an absolute record", the highest for

a single show in its 112-year history. It also attracted a string of Hollywood stars and top models—who were spared the queues—including Jennifer Lawrence, Robert Pattinson and Bella Hadid, some of whom are ambassadors for the brand. But not everyone was happy with the show. The French magazine Marianne lambasted the venerable institution, which is next to the Louvre museum, for selling out.

Museum as 'shop window'

Writer Agnes Poirier accused the museum of becoming a "shop window for commercial brands... under the cover of art", and also criticized its earlier link-up with toymaker Mattel for another hugely popular show on the Barbie doll. However, Cameo told AFP that the huge attendance had been a financial boon for the museum, helping it to notch up a large surplus that would "help us re-equip and pay for an overhaul of our restoration studios".

An retrospective of American fashion designer Marc Jacobs' work attracted more than 200,000 visitors to the museum in 2012, which was then a record for the publicly-funded institution. It is hoping to follow up its success with Dior with another fashion-themed show in March, tracing the enigmatic and mysterious Belgian-born designer Martin Margiela's years at Hermes. It will be one of two spring exhibitions in the French capital dedicated to the creator, with a retrospective of his work due to open at the Palais Galliera fashion museum also in March.

Despite breaking records, the Dior show was far from being the most popular Paris art show of 2017. That title is held by the "Icons of Modern Art" exhibition at the Louis Vuitton Foundation, which drew 1.2 million people. It featured the cream of the staggering collection of 250 paintings put together by collector Sergei Shchukin before the Bolshevik Revolution, which had never before been seen outside Russia. — AFP



This file picture shows a man adjusting a dress prior to the opening of the Dior exhibition that celebrates the seventieth anniversary of the Christian Dior fashion house, at the Museum of Decorative Arts (Musée des Arts Décoratifs) in Paris. — AFP photos



File photo shows dresses exhibited during the Dior exhibition that celebrates the seventieth anniversary of the Christian Dior fashion house at the Museum of Decorative Arts (Musée des Arts Décoratifs) in Paris.