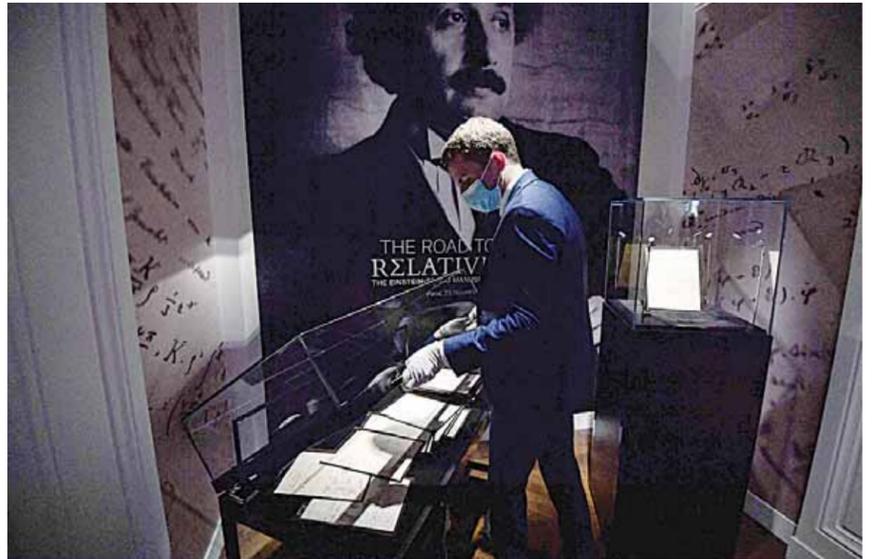
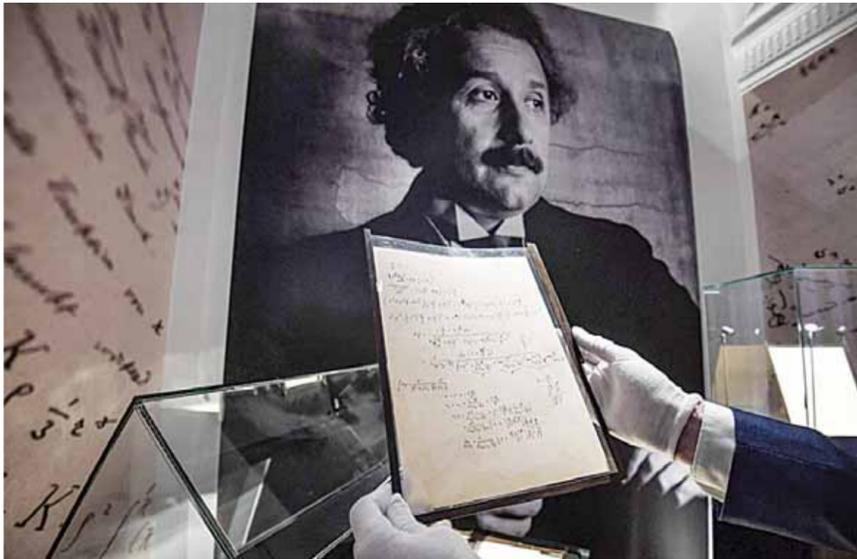


Lifestyle | Features

# RARE EINSTEIN MANUSCRIPT SET TO FETCH MILLIONS



These pictures show pages of one of the preparatory manuscript to the theory of general relativity of Albert Einstein, during their presentation a day before being auctioned at Christie's auction house in Paris. —AFP photos

Albert Einstein's handwritten notes for the theory of relativity are being auctioned in Paris yesterday, expected to fetch millions of euros. "This is without a doubt the most valuable Einstein manuscript ever to come to auction," said Christie's, which is hosting the sale on behalf of the Aguttes auction house. The manuscript contains preparatory work for the physicist's signature achievement, the theory of general relativity, which he published in 1915. Christie's expects it to reach between two and three million euros (\$2.3 million to 3.4 million).

The 54-page document was handwritten in 1913

and 1914 in Zurich, Switzerland, by Einstein and his colleague and confidant, Swiss engineer Michele Besso. Christie's said it was thanks to Besso that the manuscript was preserved for posterity. This was "almost like a miracle" since the German-born genius himself would have been unlikely to hold on to what he considered to be a simple working document, Christie's said. Today, the paper offers "a fascinating plunge into the mind of the 20th century's greatest scientist", it said. It discusses his theory of general relativity, building on his theory of special relativity from 1905 that was encapsulated in the

famous equation  $E=mc^2$ .

Einstein died in 1955 aged 76, lauded as one of the greatest theoretical physicists of all time. His theories of relativity revolutionized his field by introducing new ways of looking at the movement of objects in space and time. In 1913, Besso and Einstein "attacked one of the problems that had been troubling the scientific community for decades: the anomaly of the planet Mercury's orbit," Christie's said. This initial manuscript contains "a certain number of unnoticed errors", it added. Once Einstein spotted them, he let the paper

drop, and it was taken away by Besso.

"Scientific documents by Einstein in this period, and before 1919 generally, are extremely rare," Christie's added. "Being one of only two working manuscripts documenting the genesis of the theory of general relativity that we know about, it is an extraordinary witness to Einstein's work." Einstein also made major contributions to quantum mechanics theory and won the Nobel physics prize in 1921. He also became a pop culture icon thanks to his dry witticisms, and trademark unruly hair, moustache and bushy eyebrows. —AFP



In this file photo actor Kevin Spacey attends the BAFTA LA TV Tea 2013 presented by BBC America and Audi held at the SLS Hotel Beverly Hills, California. —AFP

## Kevin Spacey to pay \$31mn after losing arbitration case

Disgraced US movie star Kevin Spacey will have to pay almost \$31 million to the production company that made the series "House of Cards" in which he starred until he was fired over allegations of sexual harassment, according to legal documents made public Monday. MRC, the production company that made the popular tale of political intrigue that was broadcast on Netflix, had sought damages for lost revenue attributed to Spacey's abrupt exit after allegations of harassment and sexual abuse emerged. An arbitration judge made the ruling on October 19 when MRC filed a petition to confirm the verdict in a Los Angeles court.

In the document, MRC detailed that after the allegations came to light it suspended Spacey and launched an investigation which found that the "American Beauty" star had "breached provisions of both the Acting and Executive Producing Agreements that set standards for his workplace conduct, including by breaching MRC's Harassment Policy." The wave of accusations that halted the 62-year-old's illustrious career coincided with the rise of the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment and abuse, sparked by the case of the all-powerful Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

Two-time Oscar winner Spacey had starred as unscrupulous US politician Frank Underwood in five seasons of "House of Cards" until the allegations of sexual harassment against co-workers were made public in the media. "MRC had no knowledge whatsoever of any such conduct by Spacey with any cast or crew associated with the Show," the company said in its petition. The production company said the actor's abrupt exit from the popular series required a reorganization that resulted in "substantial losses" for MRC. It had to rewrite the script excluding Underwood, the main character of the series, and redesign the sixth season that went from 13 to eight episodes. The production company launched its legal battle against Spacey in 2019. The actor's legal representatives did not respond to an AFP request for comment. —AFP

## French Netflix show 'Call My Agent' nets International Emmy

French showbiz comedy 'Call My Agent' won an award at the International Emmy's Monday after riding a wave of popularity on the global streaming giant Netflix. Launched in France in 2015 under the title "Ten Percent," the show has become an international hit as "Call My Agent," charting the ups and downs of the lives of actors and their agents in Paris. The International Emmy for best comedy was awarded to the fourth season of the show, which began as an idea by former agent Dominique Besnehard.

The writers and producers were in New York for the awards, which are given to the best television shows produced outside of the United States. On the red carpet in New York, producer Michel Feller admitted that "the Netflix broadcast of the four seasons has allowed us, with a production that we could say is local, to be seen in more than 200 territories".

"Today there are almost 20 remakes that have either been signed, are in production or have been filmed," in countries as diverse as Canada and India, he said. —AFP



In this file photo commuters drive past a poster of late Indian film star Puneeth Rajkumar in Bangalore. —AFP photos

## Film star's death sets India's sights on eye donations

Mourning fans of beloved Indian film star Puneeth Rajkumar are pledging to give up their eyes after the actor's untimely death brought his post-mortem organ donation into focus. The "Powerstar"—so named for his boisterous action roles—died of a heart attack in Bangalore last month at 46, with thousands of grief-stricken admirers thronging the city's streets to hug, cry and commiserate. News reports in the days following revealed that Rajkumar had willed the donation of his eyes, with enough ocular tissue salvaged to restore sight for four people.

The tradition runs in the actor's family—both his parents made the same pledge before their deaths—and doctors say the example has now been taken up in earnest around Bangalore. "He sort of reminded people that you should donate eyes... instead of burning or burying them," Rekha Gyanchand, medical director at the Lions International Eye Bank, told AFP. "We see a lot of people coming forward to donate," she added. "The awareness has really increased." At the nearby Narayana Nethralaya hospital, vinyl posters and pamphlets showed Rajkumar's smiling visage, along with a message urging prospective donors to give the gift of sight.

A queue of young men waited in front of a trestle to speak to staff and fill in pledge forms. More than 7,000 members of the public have committed themselves to post-mortem eye donations since Rajkumar's death, said the clinic's managing director K. Bhujang Shetty. "In the days after

Puneeth passed away, we have had 112 eyes collected" from the recently deceased after relatives agreed to transplants, he added.

### 'Somebody will benefit'

Among those donating was Subramani, a driver who lost work after his vision deteriorated but received a transplant just two weeks ago. He was offering the eyes of his recently deceased brother. "We didn't want to waste his eyes, and would like to donate them to someone like the person who donated eyes to me," he told AFP. Rajkumar first made a name for himself as a child actor and went on to star in around 30 films, with his debut action-comedy flick "Appu" being one of the biggest hits. He had established himself as one of the most recognizable stars of the Kannada-language film industry centered on Bangalore, better known to the world as India's main tech hub. News of his death sent the city into shock, with a crowd chasing the ambulance carrying his body from the hospital, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing the loss as a "cruel twist of fate". Rajkumar is survived by his wife Ashwini Revanth and two children, along with the fanatical devotion of his fans.

Among them was Bangalore housewife Uma Aravind Kumar, who resolved to donate her own eyes. "After the (example) of Puneeth, our son pledged his eyes without our knowledge," she told AFP. "I liked it and I wanted to donate too. Somebody will benefit from this." —AFP



Narayana Nethralaya Eye Hospital employees help volunteers fill eye donation pledge forms during an event organized in memory of late Indian film actor Puneeth Rajkumar.

## JK Rowling reveals death threats over transgender row



"Harry Potter" author JK Rowling said Monday she had received a flood of death threats, as she slammed three transgender rights activists who posted her home address on Twitter. Rowling thanked police in Scotland for their support after the activists tweeted a photograph of them standing outside Rowling's home in Edinburgh, with the address visible, on Friday. Rowling said that she and other women who have spoken out on gender issues had faced "campaigns of intimidation", stalking and harassment, but vowed she would not be silenced.

The 56-year-old writer said she had received "so many death threats I could paper the house with them", and that "families have been put into a state of fear and distress" by transgender activists. "Perhaps... the best way to prove your movement isn't a threat to women, is to stop stalking, harassing and threatening us." A Police Scotland spokesperson said the force was "aware of this incident"

and that enquiries were "ongoing". All three activists had shut down their Twitter accounts by Monday.

Rowling has been involved in a simmering row with the transgender community over her belief that women's sex-based rights should be protected. The dispute began around two years ago when the author tweeted against use of the phrase "people who menstruate", rather than only women. The message caused a rift with some of the stars of the "Harry Potter" movies, including lead actor Daniel Radcliffe, who tweeted an apology on her behalf. "Transgender women are women," Radcliffe wrote in a post. In her posts Monday, Rowling said she had been "appalled" to hear from various women who had spoken out on transgender issues, including those with no public profile, and suffered abuse including threats of rape. "None of these women are protected in the way I am," she said, attacking the "socio-political concept of gender identity" as opposed to biological sex. —AFP