# Ricky Gervais stirs debate with controversial Hollywood Walk of Fame speech



Ricky Gervais received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Friday, stirring both admiration and controversy with his acceptance speech. The comedian, known for his irreverence, made headlines once again as he weaved a risky joke referencing celebrities such as Michael Jackson, Bill Cosby, and Roscoe 'Fatty' Arbuckle—figures previously embroiled in sexual assault allegations. "Thank you so much for this honor. It's a genuine thrill to be part of such an exclusive club," he remarked, reflecting on the complex nature of their legacies.

In the age of heightened sensitivity towards contentious issues, Gervais has often walked a fine line between provocative humour and social accountability. His past performances, particularly during his five tenure as host of the Golden Globe Awards, have consistently pushed boundaries—drawing both criticism and acclaim. His 2020 monologue, which sought to expose the hypocrisy of Hollywood’s elite, especially around the #MeToo movement, was notable for its sharpness and lack of remorse. Gervais admonished his fellow nominees against turning award speeches into political platforms, stating, “You know nothing about the real world. Most of you spent less time in school than Greta Thunberg.” This mixture of wit and audacity has attracted mixed reactions, and the #HollywoodHypocrites hashtag trended in response to his critiques.

During his Walk of Fame speech, Gervais maintained his characteristic self-deprecation, joking, “I haven't even prepared a speech or anything,” while unfolding a seemingly casual piece of paper. His remarks included an apology for his attire, a humorous acknowledgement of his shifting personal style, which he quipped was due to not having a suit that fit him anymore. This blend of humility and brashness is emblematic of his comedic style, but it is also a reminder that even in moments of celebration, the comedian’s narrative is invariably punctuated by his penchant for edgy humour.

The backdrop of controversy surrounding Gervais is not merely anecdotal; his comments often challenge societal norms and reflect a broader cultural discourse on what constitutes acceptable humour. Recent months have seen heightened scrutiny over comedy standards, especially with Gervais facing backlash after his latest Netflix special, where jokes touching on terminal illness and disability sparked petitions for removal. In defending his work, Gervais labelled the outrage as “faux” and likened critics to “hecklers.” What remains central to Gervais’ ethos is the belief that offending people is part of a comedian’s job description, a sentiment he defended on the BBC stating, “They don’t count. They’re hecklers.”

Moreover, the rise of cancel culture has heightened the stakes for comedians, causing many to rethink the boundaries of their craft. Gervais' willingness to embrace controversy places him in direct contrast to a growing segment of artists who favour more palatable narratives. Yet, his ability to attract substantial audiences demonstrates a disconnect between industry elites and the broader public, who may find solace in genuine, unfiltered humour that reflects real-life complexities.

As Gervais stood beside his long-term partner, Jane Fallon, who has remained a steadfast supporter throughout his career, it was evident that amidst the uproar, the essence of his comedy—challenging conventions and eliciting discomfort—remains vital to his identity as an artist. His Hollywood honour serves not only as recognition of his accomplishments but also as a testament to his enduring influence and the debates surrounding the limits of comedy in a rapidly changing cultural landscape.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14766597/Ricky-Gervais-risks-getting-CANCELED-Hollywood-Walk-Fame.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14766597/Ricky-Gervais-risks-getting-CANCELED-Hollywood-Walk-Fame.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.nme.com/news/tv/ricky-gervais-is-getting-a-star-on-the-hollywood-walk-of-fame-2977583), [[4]](https://www.apnews.com/article/fd55660c4182aeb5ba8c597174d1bee0), [[5]](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/golden-globes-ricky-gervais-speech-greta-thunberg-jeffrey-epstein/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.newsweek.com/hollywoodhypocrites-twitter-golden-globes-1480614), [[7]](https://www.westernjournal.com/hollywood-hated-gervais-golden-globes-speech-new-numbers-show-america-loved/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.nme.com/news/tv/ricky-gervais-is-getting-a-star-on-the-hollywood-walk-of-fame-2977583), [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14766597/Ricky-Gervais-risks-getting-CANCELED-Hollywood-Walk-Fame.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14766597/Ricky-Gervais-risks-getting-CANCELED-Hollywood-Walk-Fame.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14766597/Ricky-Gervais-risks-getting-CANCELED-Hollywood-Walk-Fame.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Ricky Gervais received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and delivered a controversial speech referencing figures like Michael Jackson, Bill Cosby, and Roscoe 'Fatty' Arbuckle, all associated with sexual assault allegations. He joked about his attire and the nature of his job, which often involves making edgy jokes. Gervais has previously faced backlash for his provocative humour, including during his hosting of the Golden Globe Awards and his Netflix special, which led to petitions for the removal of certain jokes deemed offensive.
3. <https://www.nme.com/news/tv/ricky-gervais-is-getting-a-star-on-the-hollywood-walk-of-fame-2977583> - Ricky Gervais is set to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The announcement comes after his controversial speech at the previous year's Golden Globes, where he mocked various celebrities and Hollywood's 'woke' culture. Gervais has previously hosted the Golden Globes five times, known for his sharp and often provocative humour.
4. <https://www.apnews.com/article/fd55660c4182aeb5ba8c597174d1bee0> - At the Golden Globes, Ricky Gervais delivered a scathing monologue, mocking Hollywood's elite with explicit jokes. He criticised the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, made fun of celebrities' relationships with tech companies, and addressed the #MeToo movement. Gervais also took aim at figures like Jeffrey Epstein and Felicity Huffman, highlighting the industry's controversies.
5. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/golden-globes-ricky-gervais-speech-greta-thunberg-jeffrey-epstein/> - Ricky Gervais, hosting the Golden Globes for the fifth time, delivered a sharp monologue criticising Hollywood's elite. He mocked celebrities' relationships with tech companies and billionaire Jeffrey Epstein, urging them not to use their acceptance speeches as political platforms. Gervais also addressed the #MeToo movement and the industry's hypocrisy.
6. <https://www.newsweek.com/hollywoodhypocrites-twitter-golden-globes-1480614> - Following Ricky Gervais' scathing Golden Globes monologue, the hashtag #HollywoodHypocrites trended on Twitter. Gervais criticised celebrities for their hypocrisy, mocking their relationships with companies like Apple and Amazon, and addressing issues like the #MeToo movement and Jeffrey Epstein. His comments sparked mixed reactions, with some praising his candour and others finding his jokes offensive.
7. <https://www.westernjournal.com/hollywood-hated-gervais-golden-globes-speech-new-numbers-show-america-loved/> - Despite backlash from Hollywood, Ricky Gervais' Golden Globes monologue received significant support from viewers. The NBC YouTube video of his speech garnered millions of views, surpassing other clips from the event. Gervais' sharp critique of Hollywood's elite and his candid humour resonated with a large audience, highlighting a disconnect between the industry's reactions and public opinion.