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Exclusive to YJ: “Bikram Feels the Heat” by Benjamin Wallace

BY YJ EDITOR | MAR 13, 2017

In 1974, [Bikram Choudhury](#), a yoga prodigy, opens his first studio in Beverly Hills, California. By 2011, there are over 600 Bikram Yoga studios worldwide. As Choudhury’s empire grows, so does the cult-like nature of his organization. He becomes controlling, demanding loyalty from his followers and surrounds himself with young, female students who he insists brush his hair and massage him. In 2013, one woman alleges that Choudhury assaulted her. Soon after, more women come forward with similar stories of harassment and sexual assault. How did this man allegedly go from healer to sexual predator? What will it take to stop the violence?

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