

Carmike Cinemas pulls 'The Interview' with Sony's support

December 17 2014, by Lindsey Bahr



This Dec. 2, 2014 file photo shows Sony Pictures Entertainment headquarters in Culver City, Calif. Two former employees of Sony Pictures Entertainment on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014 filed suit against the company for not preventing hackers from stealing nearly 50,000 social security numbers, salary details and other personal information from current and former workers. (AP Photo/Nick Ut, File)

Carmike Cinemas has decided to cancel its planned showings of "The Interview" in the wake of threats against theatergoers by the Sony hackers.

Sony Pictures Entertainment told theater owners on Tuesday that it would be supportive of their individual decisions on whether or not to show the film, which is still set for a Christmas release, according to multiple reports.

The late developments came just hours after the hackers released a data dump that they're calling a "Christmas gift." Included in the latest breach are emails from Sony Pictures co-chair and CEO Michael Lynton, as well as specific threats against patrons of the comedy, which depicts an assassination attempt against North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

In a chilling message invoking the memory of 9/11, the [hackers](#) urged audiences to stay away from venues showing the film.

Carmike Cinemas operates 278 theaters across the country and is the first theater to pull the screenings of the controversial film, according to Hollywood trade publications The Hollywood Reporter and Variety.

The Georgia-based company is the fourth largest cinema chain in the nation, following Regal, AMC, and Cinemark, none of whom commented on their plans for "The Interview" showings.

The Department of Homeland Security has said that there is no credible intelligence to indicate a threat, but is still investigating the message.

The National Association of Theatre Owners had no comment about pulling of the film by its members. Neither Sony nor representatives from Carmike responded to requests for comment.

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Citation: Carmike Cinemas pulls 'The Interview' with Sony's support (2014, December 17) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-12-carmike-cinemas-sony.html>

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