

NBC's *Today*

09/18/25

7:00:12 a.m. [TEASE]

5 seconds

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: A major shake-up in Hollywood.

CRAIG MELVIN: ABC pulling Jimmy Kimmel off the air.

(...)

7:00:22 a.m. [TEASE]

24 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Late Night Drama]

MELVIN: Late night drama. Jimmy Kimmel live being suspended indefinitely following backlash over the host's comments on Charlie Kirk, his killer, and conservatives.

JIMMY KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/15/25]: Doing everything they can to score political points from it.

MELVIN: Republicans praising the move. Democrats blasting it as censorship. So, where does it all go from here? We'll have the very latest from Hollywood to Washington.

(...)

7:03:31 a.m.

3 minutes and 58 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Kimmel Off Air]

MELVIN: But we are going to start here with that real live drama unfolding in the world of television. ABC announcing it is pulling Jimmy Kimmel off the air.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Kirk Comments]

GUTHRIE: This comes after comments he made on the show about the Charlie Kirk assassination. It marks another major shake-up in late night. Two months after CBS announced it is canceling *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Colbert, of course, another fierce critic of President Trump. The network called that move a financial decision.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Late Night Shake-Up]

MELVIN: Lots of overnight developments to get to. NBC's Liz Kreutz joins us now with the

very latest on all of it. Liz, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: ABC Pulls Jimmy Kimmel Off Air]

LIZ KREUTZ: Hey, guys, good morning. This is a stunning development for a show that's been on the air now for more than 20 years, ABC made this decision after pressure from the head of FCC and while conservatives including the President are praising the move, Democrats and many free speech advocates are condemning it as censorship. This morning, Jimmy Kimmel off the air. The host seen leaving his studio last night after ABC announced it's suspending his long-running late night show indefinitely. During his monologue Monday he made comments about the shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, accusing Republicans of reaching new lows in response to the 22-year-old alleged killer who authorities say had a leftist ideology.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/15/25]: The MAGA gang desperately trying characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it.

KREUTZ: The comments sparked outrage among conservatives, including Brandon Carr, the chairman of the FCC, who oversees broadcast licensing for local stations speaking on Wednesday afternoon threatening to take action against ABC and its parent company, Disney.

FCC CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR [on *The Benny Show*, 09/17/25]: It appears to be some of the sickest conduct possible. [SCREEN WIPE] I mean, look, we can do this the easy or the hard way. These companies can find ways to change conduct, to take action, frankly, on Kimmel or, you know, there's going to be additional work for the FCC ahead.

KREUTZ: Soon after Nextstar, one of the largest companies in the country and currently seeking FCC approval for a merger announced it would stop airing Kimmel on all of its ABC affiliated stations. Within hours, ABC suspended Kimmel's show. Carr praising the move later in the evening.

CARR [on FNC's *Hannity*, 09/17/25]: I'm glad to see that America's broadcasters are standing up to the interests of their community.

KREUTZ: On Truth Social, President Trump congratulating ABC for finally having the courage to did what had to be done. Anna Gomez, the lone Democrat on the panel accusing the Trump administration of setting a dangerous precedent.

FCC COMMISSIONER ANNA GOMEZ: We must be careful not to allow the government to punish critics simply because of content.

KREUTZ: Kimmel's suspension comes two months after CBS announced it was canceling their late night show with another Trump critic, Stephen Colbert. CBS saying it was a financial decision. Over the last week a growing number of people have been fired or suspended for their public comments about Charlie Kirk, something the Vice President encouraged.

VICE PRESIDENT JD VANCE [on *The Charlie Kirk Show*, 09/15/25]: So, when you see someone celebrating Charlie's murder, call them out in hell, call their employer.

KREUTZ: But some say what's happening now is a double standard.

OLIVER DARCY: Conservatives, for many years now, have claimed that they are the free speech champions. They have railed against so-called cancel culture and now you're seeing them lead the campaigns to cancel people they disagree with.

MELVIN: So — so, Liz, where does it all go from here?

KREUTZ: Yeah, well, Craig, it's unclear right now how long ABC plans to keep Jimmy Kimmel off the air. NBC News reached out to Jimmy Kimmel for comment. He's not responded and so far he has not said anything yet about this suspension. Last night, many ABC affiliates aired *Family Feud* during his normal time slot. Outside the theater where Kimmel tapes here on Hollywood Boulevard, supporters say they're planning a protest in support of him later today, Craig.

MELVIN: All right, Liz Kreutz for us. Liz, thank you.

(...)

8:00:14 a.m. [TEASE]
15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Late Night Drama.

MELVIN: [L]ate night drama. Jimmy Kimmel pulled off the air indefinitely following backlash over the host's comments about Charlie Kirk, his killer and conservatives.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/15/25]: Doing everything they can to score political points from it.

MELVIN: We're live with the latest.

(...)

8:02:23 a.m.
1 minute and 41 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; ABC Pulls Jimmy Kimmel Off Air]

MELVIN: We're going to start with that late night drama in Hollywood. ABC announcing it is pulling *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* off the air, off the air over the host's comments on the Charlie Kirk assassination. NBC's Liz Kreutz joins us with the very latest on what is becoming a growing

controversy. Liz, good morning.

KREUTZ: Hey, Craig, good morning. Yeah, ABC made this decision after growing backlash from conservatives and also pressure from the chairman of the FCC in regards to comments that Jimmy Kimmel made on his show Monday night. During his monologue, the comedian went after Republicans for their response to the Charlie Kirk shooting. Take a listen to what he said.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/15/25]: The MAGA gang desperately trying characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it.

KREUTZ: Now, the chairman called those comments sick and on a podcast yesterday threatened to take action against ABC and its parent company Disney. Shortly after that Nextstar, one of the largest television station groups in the country currently seeking FCC approval for a merger, came out and said they would no longer air Kimmel on any of its ABC affiliated stations and it was not long after that ABC then came out and said it was suspending Kimmel for the foreseeable future. Right now, that move praised by conservatives, President Trump posting that ABC finally has the courage to do what needed to be done, but many Democrats and free speech advocates are condemning this as censorship. Disney has not said how long they plan to keep Kimmel off the air, but outside the theater where Kimmel tapes, his supporters say they plan to gather in support of him in protests later today.

MELVIN: Alright, Liz Kreutz there from Hollywood. Liz, thank you.