

ABC's *Good Morning America*

09/24/25

7:00:17 a.m. [TEASE]

24 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Back on the Air; Jimmy Kimmel Returns]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Jimmy Kimmel is back, the apparent u-turn for the President on Ukraine, and the ABC News investigation on school safety. On air.

JIMMY KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: Anyway, as I was saying before I was interrupted. [LAUGHTER]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Overnight, Jimmy Kimmel returns to his show after threats from the FCC and suspension from Disney that sparked an outcry over free-speech. President Trump lashes out at the decision.

(....)

7:03:12 a.m.

4 minutes and 25 seconds

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to begin with Jimmy Kimmel's return to late-night. Our parent company, Disney, suspended the host last week after pressure from the FCC over comments Kimmel made on the show that sparked a national debate over threats to free speech. Trevor Ault has the latest from Los Angeles. Good morning, Trevor.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Jimmy Kimmel Returns to Television]

TREVOR AULT: Good morning, George. So, Jimmy Kimmel returned with a 17 minute monologue addressing this controversy himself for the very first time, saying he never meant to make light of Charlie Kirk's death, and even thanking some Republicans, while still making some jokes at the President's expense.

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

ANNOUNCER [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: Jimmy Kimmel!

AULT: Walking out to a thunderous standing ovation overnight, Jimmy Kimmel returning to late-night TV after a week off the air.

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: Thank you. Anyway, as I was saying before I was interrupted. [LAUGHTER]

AULT: Kimmel's show was suspended amid apparent threats from the Trump administration, following the host's comments last Monday about the ideology of the alleged shooter in Charlie Kirk's murder. An emotional Kimmel now clarifying his remarks.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE] "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" Returns]

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: I do want to make something clear, because it's important to me as a human. And that is, you understand that it was never my intention to make light of the murder of a young man. I don't — [APPLAUSE] — I don't think there's anything funny about it [SCREEN WIPE] Nor was it my intention to blame any specific group for the actions of what — it was obviously a deeply disturbed individual. That was really the opposite of the point I was trying to make. But I understand that to some that felt either ill-timed or unclear, or maybe both. And for those who think I did point a finger, I get why you are upset. Of the situation was reversed, there's a good chance I'd have felt the same way.

AULT: He also praised Kirk's widow during this past weekend's memorial for her husband.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: On Sunday, Erika Kirk forgave the man who shot her husband. She forgave him. That is an example we should follow.

AULT: But Kimmel was also back telling jokes, taking a jab at President Trump.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: You almost have to feel sorry for him. He tried his best to cancel me, instead he forced millions of people to watch the show. [Laughter] That backfired bigly.

AULT: After the taping of the show, President Trump weighing in overnight, blasting ABC's decision to put Kimmel back on the air, saying "...his talent was never there. Why would they want someone back who does so poorly, who's not funny..." In a statement, Disney said Kimmel's show had been suspended "...to avoid further inflaming a tense situation at an emotional moment for our country." Kimmel shedding light on what happened behind the scenes.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: I was not happy when they pulled me off the air on Wednesday. [LAUGHTER] I did not agree with that decision, and I told them that, and we had many conversations. I shared my point of view, they shared theirs, we talked it through. And at the end, even though they didn't have to, they really didn't have to—this is a giant company, we have short attention spans, and I am a tiny part of the Disney corporation—they welcomed me back on the air. And I thank them for that.

AULT: The host also thanked those who came out to support him, including his fans, his fellow late-night hosts, and even voices on the right.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: Maybe most of all, I want to thank the people who don't support my show and what I believe, but support my right to share those beliefs anyway. [APPLAUSE] People who—I never would've imagined, like Ben Shapiro, Candace

Owens, Mitch McConnell, Rand Paul, even my old pal Ted Cruz.

AULT: But not everyone was able to watch. Nexstar and Sinclair, media groups that own dozens of local ABC affiliates, are still not broadcasting *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*. Kimmel using his opening monologue to defend free-speech.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: Look, I never imagined I would be in a situation like this. I barely paid attention in school. [LAUGHTER] The one thing I did learn from Lenny Bruce and George Carlin and Howard Stern, is that a government threat to silence a comedian that the President doesn't like is anti-American. [APPLAUSE] That's anti-American.

AULT: And Kimmel said this situation is much bigger than him. He said his show is not important. What is important is that we get to live in a country that allows us to have a show like this.

ROBIN ROBERTS: That is the point

AULT: Robin.

ROBERTS: Alright. Our thanks to you, Trevor, so much.