

CBS Mornings

09/24/25

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

25 seconds

GAYLE KING: An emotional return for Jimmy Kimmel. We'll show you his heartfelt monologue. But first, here's today's Eye Opener, it's your world in 90 seconds.

JIMMY KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: Hey, if you're just joining us, we're preempting your regularly-scheduled encore episode of *Celebrity Family Feud* to bring you this special report.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Kimmel Is Back]

KING: Jimmy Kimmel returns after nearly a week-long suspension for comments about Charlie Kirk's assassination.

(....)

7:01:23 a.m.

3 minutes and 50 seconds

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: A lot of people have been asking me if there are conditions for my return to the air, and there is one. Disney has asked me to read the following statement, and I have agreed to do it. Here we go. To reactivate your Disney+ and Hulu accounts — [LAUGHTER]

ANNOUNCER: This morning's Eye Opener is presented by Progressive, making it easier to bundle insurance and save.

KING: I thought that was very funny, because a lot of people, they say, cancelled—

TONY DOKOUPIL: Yeah, there were some cancellations—

KING: — their subscriptions.

DOKOUPIL: — and not to the business context around all this.

KING: Yes, that's exactly right. We're glad to see Jimmy back on the air. I'm glad to see Jimmy back on air. That's where we're going to begin. Jimmy Kimmel, he is back on late night TV — I know you've heard about this — nearly a week after Disney suspended him, after an outcry over his comments about the man accused of killing Charlie Kirk. Now, in his monologue, Jimmy Kimmel did not apologize, he took some jabs at his critics. But he was still off the air in several cities where dozens of ABC affiliates refuse to run the show. Jonathan Vigliotti has more from Los Angeles. Jonathan, good morning to you. I can't wait to hear the reaction to his return last

night.

[ON-SCREEN HEADELINE: Jimmy Kimmel Returns, Gives Emotional Monologue]

JONATHAN VIGLIOTII: And, Gayle, good morning to you. Last night's show was emotional, it was passionate. Ultimately, it was a tribute to free speech. Jimmy Kimmel has hosted nearly 4,000 shows. Last night's was perhaps his most consequential.

AUDIENCE: Jimmy! Jimmy!

VIGLIOTII: Greeted by chants and a lengthy standing ovation, it was a triumphant return for late-night host Jimmy Kimmel.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: I'm happy to be here tonight with you.

VIGLIOTII: An emotional Kimmel took the stage for the first time since his nearly weeklong suspension following comments he made about the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: - it was never my intention to make light of the murder of a young man. [Applause] I don't think there's anything funny about it.

VIGLIOTII: In his monologue, Kimmel took aim at his critics, saying he felt lucky to live in a country where he could speak freely.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: This 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.

VIGLIOTII: He thanked supporters, including Democrats and Republicans, who united against efforts to censor the comedian.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: It takes courage for them to speak out against this administration, and they did and they deserve credit for it and thanks.

VIGLIOTII: Two major station groups, Sinclair and Nexstar, said they would not air Kimmel's program on Tuesday. They represent about a quarter of ABC affiliates. Kimmel also slammed FCC Chairman Brendan Carr over his apparent threats to scrutinize ABC because of his show.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: In addition to being a direct violation of the First Amendment, is not a particularly intelligent threat to make in public.

KEVIN FRAZIER: He really came out tonight and set a tone that was respectful, a little apologetic, but as irreverent as ever because that's who Kimmel is.

VIGLIOTTI: *Entertainment Tonight* host, Kevin Frazier.

FRAZIER: He was tested not only by the network, by the affiliates, but also people in this country who were questioning him. And he stood two feet deep in the sand and said, "Here I am."

VIGLIOTTI: Kimmel also had a little help from Robert de Niro, who channeled past roles to star as a new mafioso FCC Chair.

ROBERT DE NIRO [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: Speech, it ain't free no more.

KIMMEL [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: What? It's not free no more?

ROBERT DE NIRO [on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: Yeah. We're charging by the word now.

VIGLIOTTI: And the controversy continues. Just before the show aired last night, President Trump weighed in on social media, and I'm quoting here, "I can't believe ABC Fake News gave Jimmy Kimmel his show back. The White House was told by ABC that the Show was canceled." The President then went on to suggest that he could potentially sue ABC, writing, "I think we're going to test ABC out on this." Tony.

DOKOUPIL: Alright, Jonathan. Thank you very much.

(....)

8:00:51 a.m.

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Kimmel Is Back]

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: I'm happy to be here tonight with you.

KING: Jimmy Kimmel returns to late night with an emotional message after his suspension.

(....)

8:02:50 a.m.

2 minutes and 8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Jimmy kimmel Returns, Gives Emotional Monologue]

DUTHIERS: All right. Let's begin this hour with Jimmy Kimmel's return to late night TV after being taken off the air for nearly a week. ABC, you'll recall, pulled "Jimmy Kimmel Live after a backlash to his comments about the alleged assassin of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. The owners of dozens of ABC affiliates refused to run last night's episode. Jonathan Vigliotti is in Hollywood. Jonathan, good morning.

VIGLIOTTI: And Vlad, good morning to you. Jimmy Kimmel is back, and, at times, he was defiant last night after his nearly week-long suspension, a suspension Disney has defended in an effort to de-escalate tension. Well, last night Jimmy Kimmel addressed that tension head on and at times in his monologue was emotional.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: 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.

VIGLIOTTI: It was still very much a Kimmel monologue filled with jokes, but he devoted a huge chunk of time on conversations and debate over his suspension including freedom of speech and censorship. He joked about getting support from some of the unlikeliest of people including Republican Senators Ted Cruz and Mitch McConnell. In a memorable moment he poked fun at the streaming boycotts at Disney+ and Hulu and took a few swings at President Trump.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: He tried his best to cancel me, instead he forced millions of people to watch the show. That backfired bigly.

VIGLIOTTI: And in a post on Truth Social, President Trump appeared to threaten ABC with another civil lawsuit writing, "last time I went after them, they gave me \$16 million. This one sounds even more lucrative." Kimmel also took a moment to thank fellow hosts Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, Howard Stern, and others who reached out while he was off the air. He also made it clear that comedians should not be attacked for making jokes, calling such government suppression anti-American. Back to you.

DOKOUPIL: Jonathan, thank you very much.