

NBC's *Today*

09/24/25

7:00:08 a.m. [TEASE]

41 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: Jimmy Kimmel back on the air overnight.

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Inside his highly anticipated return. It's September 24th. This is *Today*. On the air, Jimmy Kimmel makes his emotional return to late night —

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; On the Air]

JIMMY KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: You understand that it was never my intention to make light of the murder of a young man.

GUTHRIE: — making his first comments on the statements that led to his suspension while defending his right to free speech.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: A government threat to silence a comedian the president doesn't like is anti-American.

GUTHRIE: The latest straight ahead.

(...)

7:03:43 a.m.

3 minutes and 40 seconds

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

GUTHRIE: We will begin, though, with Jimmy Kimmel's closely watched return to late night television. The host emotional at times, greeted with a standing ovation from the studio audience nearly a week after his show was pulled indefinitely over comments he made about the death of Charlie Kirk. We've got it covered, starting with Liz Kreutz outside Kimmel's theater in Los Angeles. Hi, Liz, good morning.

LIZ KREUTZ: Hey, Savannah, hey, Craig, good morning to you. Well, Jimmy Kimmel broke his silence here last night with a lengthy and heartfelt monologue where he addressed those comments that he made about Charlie Kirk's alleged shooter and also his suspension head-on and while many people are praising his return to the airwaves, President Trump is not one of them. He is now threatening potential legal action against ABC for bringing him back.

AUDIENCE: Jimmy! Jimmy! Jimmy!

KREUTZ: Overnight, Jimmy Kimmel making his return to late night.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: I'm not sure who had a weirder 48 hours, me or the CEO of Tylenol.

KREUTZ: The comedian choking up as he addressed comments he made about Charlie Kirk's alleged shooter that outraged many conservatives and led ABC to suspend his show nearly a week following pressure from the head of the FCC.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *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. I posted a message on Instagram on the day he was killed sending love to his family and asking for compassion and I meant it. I still do.

KREUTZ: In his almost 30-minute long remarks Kimmel delivering a searing defense of free speech —

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: A government threat to silence a comedian the president doesn't like is anti-American. That's anti-American.

KREUTZ: — and praising Charlie Kirk's widow Erika for forgiving her husband's shooter.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: A selfless act of grace forgiveness from a grieving widow, it touched me deeply.

KREUTZ: Just before the show, President Trump slamming Kimmel's return posting, "I can't believe ABC fake news gave Jimmy Kimmel his job back. The White House was told by ABC his show was canceled!" He then suggested potentially taking legal action against the network again. Kimmel firing back.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: The President of the United States made it very clear he wants to see me and the hundreds of people who work here fired from our jobs. Our leader celebrates Americans losing their livelihoods because he can't take a joke.

KREUTZ: Despite ABC bringing back the show, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* did not air on nearly 60 ABC affiliates nationwide. The owners of those stations, Sinclair and Nexstar — which have pending business before the FCC — saying they won't run the show. FCC chairman Brendan Carr praising that decision writing, "Democrats...simply can't stand that local TV stations—for the first time in years—stood up to a national programmer." But Kimmel thanking a wide range of people who have supported him, even his critics, and standing firm.

KIMMEL [on ABC's *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. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

KREUTZ: Now audience numbers inside the taping told us Kimmel's wife and parents were

there inside, that his mother at times got emotional and was tearing up during his comments. As for Nexstar and Sinclair, they have not said when, if ever, they plan to run Kimmel's show on their ABC stations again. Kimmel's show last night was pretty much immediately put on YouTube which allowed folks in those blacked out markets to watch it almost in realtime, Savannah.

GUTHRIE: Liz Kreutz outside the theater there in Los Angeles, thank you.

(....)

8:00:09 a.m. [TEASE]  
27 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Jimmy Kimmel Returns]

GUTHRIE: Coming up, Jimmy Kimmel returns. The late-night host back on air for the first time since his suspension —

KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/23/25]: I'm not sure who had a weirder 48 hours, me or the CEO of Tylenol.

GUTHRIE: — as President Trump reacts overnight, vowing to keep fighting ABC over the controversy. We're live with the details.

(....)

8:02:54 a.m.  
2 minutes and 29 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Jimmy Kimmel Returns to Late Night]

GUTHRIE: Let's get to your news at 8:00. We begin with Jimmy Kimmel's return to late night television, the host making his first comments overnight since the suspension and defending his right to free speech. NBC's Liz Kreutz outside Kimmel's theater in Los Angeles with more now. Hi, Liz, good morning.

KREUTZ: Hi, Savannah. Good morning to you. This has been one of the most anticipated moments in late-night TV and Jimmy Kimmel jumped right in addressing those comments that he made about Charlie Kirk's alleged shooter and also calling for the importance of free press and free speech. He also got emotional at one point talking about Erika Kirk, he praised her ability to forgive her husband's shooter and called it a selfless act of grace that touched him deeply. Overnight Jimmy Kimmel making his return to late night.

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GUTHRIE: Liz Kreutz, thank you very much.