

# Moscow's Pioner Cinema Fined for Screening 'Death of Stalin' in Defiance of Ban

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Kirill Kukhmar / TASS

A court in Moscow has fined the only movie theater in the country that screened a satirical film about Stalin whose license was revoked by the government.

Police [raided](#) the historic Pioner Cinema last month before the second screening of “The Death of Stalin” after Russia’s Culture Ministry revoked its license on ideological grounds. The ministry withdrew a request on Feb. 14 to punish Pioner for screening the film, before [filing](#) another complaint days later against the cinema for having defied the ministry's screening ban.

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A magistrate court on Thursday imposed a fine of 100,000 rubles (\$1,700) on Pioneer Cinema for screening “The Death of Stalin” without a license, Interfax [reported](#) on Thursday.

The movie theater said it had only received the ministry’s notification of license withdrawal after having already screened the film for two days, the state-run TASS news agency [cited](#) Pioneer’s lawyer as saying.

“It’s impossible to violate a screening ban by the Culture Ministry that the cinema hadn’t been notified about,” he added.

Representatives of the Culture Ministry were not present at the court hearing, TASS reported.

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