

# 3 Things Russia Censored on TV in the Past Week

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A series of censorship scandals rocked Russia's television landscape in the past week.

Here's a look at the three high-profile cases where words, episodes or entire shows were taken down from Russian television screens:

## “Servant of the People”

The Gazprom-owned TNT entertainment channel [pulled](#) Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's political satire “Servant of the People” off the air the day after its premiere.

Observers linked the show's cancellation in Russia to a scene where Zelenskiy's character mispronounces the Swiss watchmaker Hublot's name in reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin. The phrase “Putin — Hublot,” which made it to air in the Russian Far East but was cut for viewers in central Russia and Moscow, is a homonym for a [common Ukrainian slur](#) aimed at the Russian president.

**Related article:** [Russian TV Pulls Ukraine President's Comedy Series After Putin Joke](#)

The Kremlin denied that censorship exists on Russian television, while Zelenskiy said he was disappointed by the decision to pull his 2015 series off the air.

### **“Protests”**

The word “protests” was [muted](#) from a song performed at an awards ceremony by the popular rock band Bi-2 with singers Manizha and Leonid Agutin on Sunday.

The state-run Rossia channel later [said](#) the word “protests” was already muted when the broadcaster received a copy of the awards ceremony from its producers. The award show’s organizers, meanwhile, said they’re “not responsible for the broadcast,” the state-run RIA Novosti news agency reported.

### **Embed:**

The award show’s director Andrei Boltenko [called](#) the word’s omission an “annoying technical malfunction,” RIA reported.

A group of Russian linguists [voted](#) for “protest” as the 2019 word of the year last week.

### **“Epidemia”**

TNT’s online subscription service pulled an entire episode of Russian post-apocalyptic drama “Epidemia,” which depicted authorities shooting at a crowd of people, the day after it aired.

The service’s spokesperson [told](#) the independent Dozhd television news channel that it plans to air the rest of the series, including the censored episode, in February. Director [Pavel Kostomarov](#) called the decision a “surprise.”

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