

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T

In which the author sees The Interview before Sony cancels its theatrical Christmas release

Less than two weeks ago, I became one of the lucky viewers to see *The Interview* at a screening hosted by Harry Knowles, founder of *Ain't It Cool News*, in Austin, Texas, with directors Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg in tow. At the time, it didn't seem odd to see the film a few weeks early.

The Interview, a film previously scheduled to hit theaters nationwide on Christmas, was removed from distribution last week following terrorist threats from the Guardians of Peace (GOP) — a hacker group believed to have ties to the North Korean government — targeting cinemas that screened it. This comes on the heels of the November Sony hack by GOP, speculated to be retaliation against the film, which leaked the personal information of thousands of employees, including social security numbers, executive salaries and some damning emails between Sony Pictures co-chairman Amy Pascal and producer Scott Rudin.

The film, directed and written by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, went from being one of 2014's most anticipated releases to the movie nobody can see. Nobody, that is, unless you're one of the few who managed to see it before its theatrical run was canceled.

In Austin, Rogen and Goldberg introduced the film and answered questions afterward. One audience member asked if they had received any personal threats and Rogen



JAMES FRANCO AND SETH ROGEN

remarked that they wouldn't have traveled to Austin if they had. They both seemed upbeat and excited for the film's imminent release.

The funny thing about *The Interview* is that people who've never seen it have grossly exaggerated the controversial plot. Yes, it does center on a CIA assassination plot against North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un, but it's much more about friendship, stereotypes and cultural misunderstanding.

The film is actually flattering to Jong-un in many ways, as it explores how such a young man was thrust into power from relative obscurity in a country that has had only three "supreme leaders" — his father, grandfather and himself. This version of Jong-un secretly loves Katy Perry, enjoys drinking margaritas and, contrary to what the film says is actually told to North Korean citizens, urinates and defecates like a normal human being. This cinematic Jong-un seems more relatable than the actual North Korean leader.

Those who liked Rogen and Goldberg's directorial 2012 debut, *This Is The End*, wherein Rogen and frequent

co-star James Franco play exaggerated versions of themselves in an apocalyptic Los Angeles, will enjoy *The Interview*, should it ever be released. The film is filled with raunchy jokes, ridiculous twists (I'm still cackling about an unexpected convergence between Rogen, a CIA drone and a tiger) and instantly quotable lines; Franco's character, a popular TV talk show host set to interview Jong-un in North Korea, responds to criticism with "They hate us 'cause they ain't us." Rogen, his TV producer, accuses a male CIA agent of trying to "honeydick" them into carrying out the assassination.

Sony would be wise to release it as soon as possible, not only to recoup the financial losses of pulling the film and to satiate the curiosity of American audiences who don't like to be denied, but to make a statement that film, like any art, need not be sacrificed to the demands of those who may find it unsettling. ■

Josh Adler is the chief communications officer for Hoodoo Ski & Recreation. Adler was an editor for the Cottage Grove Sentinel and has two degrees from the UO School of Journalism and Communication. He lives in Eugene with his wife, Emily.

BIJOU Showtimes
Dec 26 - Jan 1
492 E. 13th Ave.
bijou-cinemas.com

THE IMITATION GAME Fri-Tue 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30
Wed 1:50, 4:25, 7:00
Thu 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30
Fri-Sun 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING Mo-Tue 2:40, 5:20, 8:00
Wed 2:40, 5:20
Thu 2:40, 5:20, 8:00

Showtimes and info: 541-686-2458

BIJOU METRO 43 W. Broadway
bijou-cinemas.com

Ninkasi Brewing presents
THE BABADOOK Fri-Tue 7:45, 9:10
Wed 7:45
Thu 7:45, 9:10

BIRDMAN Fr-Tue 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15
Wed 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45
Thu 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15

CITIZENFOUR 12:05, 2:40, 5:15

FORCE MAJEURE Fri-Tue 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40
Wed 12:40, 3:20, 6:00
Thu 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40

THE HOMESMAN Fri-Tue 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:55
Wed 1:00, 3:45, 6:30
Thu 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:55

Bijou Classic Series presents
QUENTIN TARANTINO:
NATURAL BORN KILLERS Jan 9-11
FROM DUSK TILL DAWN Jan 16-18
INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS Jan 23-25
KILL BILL: VOLUME I Jan 30-Feb 1
KILL BILL: VOLUME II Feb 6-8
...and many more!

COMING SOON
BOYHOOD PORCO ROSSO
FOX CATCHER PONYO
A GIRL WALKS HOME OSCAR NOMINATED SHORTS
A MOST VIOLENT YEAR MR. TURNER
NOBLE FIR LEVIATHAN

REGAL CINEMAS
(CC,DV) = Personal Closed Captioning and Descriptive Devices Available Upon Request
Bargain Shows In () ✓ No Bargain Night Specials
★ Pass / Discount Restrictions Apply
VALLEY RIVER CENTER STADIUM 15
Delta Hwy. between I-5 & Bellline
Crown Club Members \$5.50 Tuesday
3D up-charges/holidays excluded

IMAX: HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ 1230 345 700 1020
INTO THE WOODS [CC,DV] (PG) ★ (1225) 400 655 1000
BIG EYES [CC,DV] (PG-13) (1205 350) 650 930
THE GAMBLER [CC,DV] (R) ★ (1055 140) 430 715 1005
UNBROKEN [CC,DV] (PG-13) (1215 325) 640 950
ANNIE [CC,DV] (PG) ★ (1100 150) 440 735 1030
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB [CC,DV] (PG) ★ (1145 220) 450 720 955
HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ (1200 315) 630 945
HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ (1130 245) 600 915
EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS [CC,DV] (PG-13) (1140 AM) 1000 PM
EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ (305 PM) 625 PM
TOP FIVE [CC,DV] (R) 1010 PM
WILD [CC,DV] (R) (1125 215) 500 745 1025
HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 [CC,DV] (R) ★ 705 PM 935 PM
THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR [CC,DV] (PG) ★ (1110 135) 410 725
HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY, PART 1 [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ (1150 330) 645 940
BIG HERO 6 [CC,DV] (PG) (1105 AM 145 PM) 425 PM
INTERSTELLAR [CC,DV] (PG-13) (1135 AM 340 PM) 740 PM

ALBANY 7 Next to Fred Meyer
INTO THE WOODS [CC,DV] (PG) ★ (1030 120) 420 715 1005
THE GAMBLER [CC,DV] (R) ★ (1130) 400 740 1025
UNBROKEN [CC,DV] (PG-13) (1030 350) 700 1030
ANNIE [CC,DV] (PG) ★ (1110 200) 645 930
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB [CC,DV] (PG) ★ (1120 150) 440 705 940
HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ (1100 AM) 1015 PM
HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ (230 PM) 650 PM
EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ (1045 AM) 1000 PM
EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ (215 PM) 630 PM

9TH ST. CINEMAS 4 541-928-7469
Behind Skippers 9th St
Crown Club Members \$5 Tuesday
3D up-charges/holidays excluded
INTO THE WOODS [CC,DV] (PG) ★ (1040 130) 425 715 1015
BIG EYES [CC,DV] (PG-13) (1100 140) 420 700 945
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB [CC,DV] (PG) ★ (1130 200) 445 730 1010
HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 [CC,DV] (R) ★ (115 PM) 650 PM
BIRDMAN [CC,DV] (R) (355 PM) 935 PM

Times For 12/25 © 2014 www.REGmovies.com

SOUP NATION
525 HIGH STREET
EUGENE
541.683.1999

Thunderbird
MARKET

**TOBACCO
SNACKS & BEER
ENERGY DRINKS
HORSEHEAD BAR
DELI ITEMS
LOTTERY
OUTSIDE ATM**

**99 W Broadway
Eugene OR**
(the Heart of the Barmuda Triangle)

**Your LOCALLY OWNED
Convenience Store
In the Downtown Core**

OPEN REALLY FRIGGIN' LATE NOON TO 2:30 AM DAILY!