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Moscow Police Raid Theater Showing Banned Stalin Satire

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Kirill Kukhmar / TASS

Police reportedly arrived at a historic movie theater in Moscow on the second screening of "The Death of Stalin" on Friday afternoon after Russia's Culture Ministry warned it could fine cinemas for showing the banned comedy.

The ministry revoked the screening license of the satirical film about the Soviet dictator's death two days ahead of its nationwide release this week. The Pioner Cinema was the only cinema in Russia that decided to defy the ministry's ruling and allow the film's premiere on Thursday, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency reported.

Related article: Kremlin Denies Censorship After 'Death of Stalin' Pulled from Cinemas

Reporters Matthew Bodner and Ola Cichowlas first reported witnessing the arrival of police officers to the movie theater on Friday afternoon.

Embed:

> Police and other unknown group of people in civilian clothes have showed up at Moscow's Pioner cinema after a screening of Death of Stalin and refusing to say what's going on pic.twitter.com/TwiH6xNJLw
>
> — Ola Cichowlas (@olacicho) January 26, 2018

Bodner later documented a police photographer arriving to "collect evidence" of tickets being sold for "The Death of Stalin."

Cinemas will face fines for screening "The Death of Stalin" without a distribution license, the Culture Ministry told the RBC business portal on Thursday.

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