

# Russian Version of Elton John Biopic Censors Gay Sex Scenes

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**Rocketman / Central Partnership**

Russia has deleted gay sex and drug scenes from the Russian-language version of a newly released Elton John biopic, the Dozhd TV news channel reported Friday.

“Rocketman” premieres throughout Russia on June 6, but viewers in Moscow were treated to a prescreening on Thursday. A racy 40-second scene featuring two nude actors playing John and his manager was at risk of being cut from the original film before the singer himself intervened, British media [reported](#) in March.

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Russia’s version of the musical biopic has deleted “all” gay sex and male kissing scenes, Dozhd TV anchor Mikhail Kozyryov was [reported](#) as telling moviegoers after the screening.

A number of scenes depicting drug use had also been removed, Kozyryov said.

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“Several scenes had indeed disappeared from the Russian version,” said film critic Yegor Moskvitin, who had seen the original “Rocketman” at the Cannes Film Festival.

These scenes include a photograph of John and his husband in the closing credits, with a caption saying that he ended up meeting his real love, Moskvitin was quoted as saying.

*Update: Russia's Culture Ministry on Friday [told](#) Interfax that it didn't order the scenes to be removed and that it was solely the film distributor's decision to cut the scenes.*

*“Indeed, changes were made to the film to comply with the legislation of the Russian Federation,” a representative from the Central Partnership film distributor later [confirmed](#).*

*In a statement Friday, John [condemned](#) the move, calling it “a sad reflection of the divided world we still live in.”*

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— Elton John (@eltonofficial) [May 31, 2019](#)

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