

Mr. Mark Parker  
Chairman of The Walt Disney Company

Mr. Robert Iger  
Chief Executive Officer, The Walt Disney Company

Dear Sirs,

Exactly two years ago, on March 10, 2022, the world learned that The Walt Disney Company had stopped all its businesses in Russia in response to military aggression against Ukraine.

“Given the unrelenting assault on Ukraine and the escalating humanitarian crisis, we are taking steps to pause all other businesses in Russia,” a Disney spokesperson said in a statement.

From our side, we felt and expressed incredible gratitude for this decision, for supporting Ukraine’s struggle, for choosing the side of the light in these tragic times.

These days, all Ukrainians enthusiastically welcomed the news of the recognition of the film "20 Days in Mariupol" as winner in the nomination "Best Documentary Feature". The speech of the film's director, Mstyslav Chernov, was quoted by almost all the news in democratic countries.

However, it has now become apparent that the short international version of the Ceremony did not contain this fragment! Today, all democracies in the world are looking for any opportunity to resist military aggression that poses a threat to the peaceful world order. At this point, your staff decides to remove the fragment of the Ceremony where journalists receive the Prize for a full-length documentary film that talks about the horrors of war! And this moment, which caused enormous emotion in the Dolby Theater and in numerous posts throughout the day on the Internet, will not be seen by viewers in many countries of the Eastern Hemisphere and those viewers around the globe who will watch the Ceremony in subsequent screenings.

It is difficult for us to believe that such a decision by the studio staff would be a politically motivated decision agreed by the company's management. We are also already familiar with the Studio's explanations about pre-planning the short version and believe that it could well be only preliminary. We also understand the decision of the Ukrainian public broadcaster to show this episode in Ukraine – it has particular importance in our country, which is under deadly fire from enemy bombings.

Therefore, we ask you to create and distribute to broadcasters an updated international version, in which the fragment with the nomination "Best Documentary Feature" will be preserved.

We hope for your understanding,

The National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine