

Charlie Kirk Would Not Want His ‘South Park’ Episode Pulled, ‘Charlie Kirk Show’ Producer Insists - The Hollywood Reporter

The Comedy Central satire saw a season 27 episode that had Eric Cartman styled as the late conservative thought leader pulled from rotation.

[Charlie Kirk](#) was many things in life — a firebrand conservative activist, a devoted father of two, and, it turns out, a [South Park](#) fan who enjoyed being parodied on the [long-running Comedy Central satire](#).

The [death](#) of Kirk, who was [shot](#) dead at a speaking engagement at Utah Valley University last week, has deepened partisan political division in the U.S. as President Donald Trump and others on the right are lionizing the late crusader for MAGA values. Meanwhile, commentators, journalists and media personalities have seen their jobs disappear after making critical comments about Kirk or the investigation into his murder.

The irony, of course, is that Kirk was a ride-or-die free speech advocate, which was demonstrated on his radio and web show over the past several years and at the speaking engagements he'd undertake on college campuses, where he encouraged students and faculty to openly debate issues with him in front of their peers. That First Amendment right is at the heart of South Park, which for decades has taken its non-partisan, no-one-escapes-unscathed approach to comedy to extreme and hilarious ends.

On Wednesday, The Charlie Kirk Show producer Andrew Colvet took to Twitter to remind the world that Kirk was a huge South Park fan and revealed that he loved the recent episode that mocked him. That entry into the show's canon saw the show's Eric Cartman styled as Kirk as he mimics the “debate me” gimmick the activist became known for to debate students. The episode was [yanked](#) from rerun rotation by Comedy Central in the wake of Kirk's death, and Colvet insisted that this would not be OK'd by his late friend and colleagues

The 27th season of South Park has gone all-in on mocking the second Trump administration, with new spoofs of cabinet members and others in his orbit each week. The show introduced Trump as a key character as he sues the town for millions and woos Satan himself, eventually impregnating the dark lord, as was revealed at the end of the most recent episode. The season was scheduled to continue on Wednesday night on Comedy Central, but in a rare statement, show creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone indicated that the latest episode was not completed in time to air; it is expected to return next Wednesday in its regular 10 p.m. timeslot.

“Apparently when you do everything at the last minute, sometimes you don't get it done. This one's on us. We didn't get it done in time. Thanks to Comedy Central and South Park fans for being so understanding. Tune in next week!” they wrote.

Comedy Central says the remaining six episodes of the ratings-shattering season will air as follows: Sept. 24, Oct. 15, Oct. 29, Nov. 12, Nov. 26 and Dec. 10.

UK Culture Secretary Asks Netflix to Label ‘The Crown’ as Fiction - Variety

U.K. Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden has demanded that Netflix label “[The Crown](#)” as fiction, in order to make it clear that certain events depicted in the show should not be taken as fact. In an interview with [Daily Mail](#), Dowden said: “It’s a beautifully produced work of fiction, so as with other TV productions, Netflix should be very clear at the beginning it is just that. Without this, I fear a generation of viewers who did not live through these events may mistake fiction for fact.”

Dowden is expected to write Netflix a formal request that a label is added to the beginning of each episode, clearly stating that the series is fictionalized. Dowden’s demands echo worries that the series will do lasting damage to the image of the British monarchy.

Netflix did not immediately respond to Variety’s request for comment.

Charles Spencer, the brother of [Princess Diana](#), told [ITV](#) on Wednesday that he also believes a disclaimer is necessary.

“It would help ‘The Crown’ an enormous amount if at the beginning of each episode it stated that, ‘This isn’t true but is based around some real events,’” Spencer told ITV. “Because then everyone would understand it’s drama for drama’s sake.”

Princess Diana is one of the main focuses of Season 4, and “The Crown” depicts her struggles with bulimia in several episodes – which are flagged with a health warning at the beginning. Emma Corrin, who portrays Princess Diana in “The Crown,” [told Variety in an interview](#): “Those were difficult scenes to film and I also feel like taking her to that place was a good thing. It gave me somewhere to go with her, but I was exhausted a lot those days coming off set because at the same time as you’re playing someone who’s fictionalized and obviously you’re not feeling or thinking those things, it’s your job to make yourself feel that way.”

Incest Innuendo in ‘Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story’ Is Pure Fiction, Says Trial Expert - The Hollywood Reporter

Robert Rand, the author of the definitive book on the crimes committed by the Menendez brothers, tells The Hollywood Reporter the Netflix series depicts a fantasy version of their relationship.

The latest installment in [Ryan Murphy's](#) Monster series, [Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story](#), shot immediately to the top of the streamer's most watched list after its release last week. Yet the true-crime series also swiftly faced criticism over innuendo made in the show that the two convicted murderers had more than a brotherly bond, and developed a sexual relationship. Backlash against the series — landing just as [a new Menendez brothers Netflix docuseries](#), in which the two participated, was announced — came fast on Friday, the day after the nine-episode fictionalization of the 1989 killing of José and Kitty Menendez and its aftermath premiered on the streamer. First, a wave of comments from the Menendez supporters community, which [has grown lately on TikTok and Instagram](#), flooded social media as viewers took issue with suggestions in Murphy and co-creator Ian Brennan's script that the brothers were also lovers. Then, [Erik Menendez himself chimed in](#) to denounce the series as “lies and ruinous character portrayals.”

Instances of Murphy's show alluding to possible incest occur a few times in a series that is as much about the path of generational trauma as it is about American obsession with material wealth and spoofing the more questionable trends of early 1990s L.A. (Milli Vanilli permeates the show's soundtrack.)

In the second episode, this includes the brothers briefly kissing after Lyle has placed his hands on Erik's neck; later in the same sequence, Lyle is seen cutting in on Erik while he's dancing with a woman at a party in their room at the Hotel Bel-Air, then wiping cocaine from his nose and sticking his thumb in his brother's mouth. Later, in an episode six sequence that is pretty clearly telegraphed as a moment of fantasy, mother Kitty Menendez ascends a staircase to find her sons showering together.

Lyle testified at his trial that he never had a sexual relationship with his brother. [Robert Rand](#), who wrote the definitive 2018 book on the brothers' crime, The Menendez Murders, which is the culmination of closely covering their case as a reporter since the day after the murders, told The Hollywood Reporter the same by phone this weekend, describing the brothers as traditional jocks who did not do drugs.

Rand explained that the show's depiction of the brothers' relationship as likely incestuous is false and that the show portrayed the idea of the relationship the brothers were having that lived in the minds of those around them.

“I don’t believe that Erik and [Lyle Menendez](#) were ever lovers. I think that’s a fantasy that was in the mind of Dominick Dunne [the reporter portrayed in the series by Nathan Lane],” Rand explained. “Rumors were going around the trial that maybe there was some sort of weird relationship between Erik and Lyle themselves. But I believe the only physical contact they might have had is what Lyle testified, that when Lyle was 8 years old, he took Erik out in the woods and played with him with a toothbrush — which is what [their father] José had done with him. And so I certainly wouldn’t call that a sexual relationship of any sort. It’s a response to trauma.”

Testimony from Lyle Menendez at trial was just as explosive in the courtroom as it was portrayed in the series, Rand indicated. The seasoned journalist told THR that in the courtroom that day, reporters and jurors alike were in tears as the accused murderer explained how the abuse he suffered at the hands of his father was then inflicted by him on Erik.

In the series, Lyle, played by Nicholas Alexander Chavez, confesses to this during a private conversation with his attorney, Leslie Abramson, played by Ari Graynor, while he recounts the abuse both he and his brother suffered at the hands of their father, José.

The Menendez brothers are currently incarcerated in Donovan Correctional Facility in California, and don’t have [Netflix](#) access in prison. [Erik Menendez](#) was likely given a description of the series by his wife as to how he and Lyle are depicted. And while his Friday statement didn’t mention the decision to include the incestuous innuendo, he seemed appalled by the overall portrayal of him and his brother. While the show presents the brothers as victims of abuse, he said it also condemns them as the justice system did when they were found guilty by a jury of premeditated first-degree murder with the special circumstances of lying in wait and multiple murders.

In his statement, which was [posted](#) by his wife, Tammi Menendez, on social media, Erik said: “I believed we had moved beyond the lies and ruinous character portrayals of Lyle, creating a caricature of Lyle rooted in horrible and blatant lies [sic] rampant in the show. I can only believe they were done so on purpose. It is with a heavy heart that I say, I believe Ryan Murphy cannot be this naive and inaccurate about the facts of our lives so as to [sic] do this without bad intent. “It is sad for me to know that Netflix’s dishonest portrayal of the tragedies surrounding our crime have taken the painful truths several steps backward — back through time to an era when the prosecution built a narrative on a belief system that males were not sexually abused, and that males experienced rape trauma differently than women,” Erik Menendez continued. “Those awful lies have been disrupted and exposed by countless brave victims over the last two decades who have broken through their personal shame and bravely spoken out. So now Murphy shapes his horrible narrative through vile and appalling character portrayals of Lyle and of me and disheartening slander.”

Neither Murphy nor Netflix have yet to publicly respond to the statement from Menendez on Friday regarding the series, which is now streaming all episodes and is the No. 1 series in the

U.S. on the platform. The Hollywood Reporter did not immediately hear back from Murphy or Netflix when seeking comment on Monday.