

TO: johnkoblin@nytimes.com

FROM: hegates@netflix.com

SUBJECT: Netflix's Dave Chappelle Special Controversy Explained

Hello John:

On Oct. 5, 2021, Netflix released Dave Chapelle's comedy special "The Closer." The special has a segment where Chapelle made statements about the transgender and LGBTQ+ community. The remarks have been viewed as offensive and have met with internal and external criticism. On Wednesday, Netflix employees organized a walkout in protest of the special. The walkout has sparked conversations to remove it and have asked to release more intersectional content. Netflix believes that our employees have the support of the company and artistic freedom of creators.

I've followed your coverage in the New York Times thus far about the Dave Chapelle Special, and I'd like to interest you in an interview with Co-CEO and Chief Content Creator of Netflix Ted Sarandos. Sarandos addressed the issue in a leaked internal email and is a crucial part of Netflix's day-to-day operations. Sarandos can tell you more about the decision to address the issue in the emails and understand releasing and editing the special.

I will follow-up with you this Friday to see if we can schedule this interview. Until then, feel free to reach out to me at 805-587-0635 or hegates@netflix.com. Thank you for your consideration.

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