



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **STATEMENT FROM THE BELCOURT THEATRE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEPHANIE SILVERMAN**

NASHVILLE, TENN. (Dec. 23, 2014) — Today, with the permission of Sony Pictures, the Belcourt Theatre joins with a number of other independent theatres across the country to screen *THE INTERVIEW*. The Belcourt plans to open the movie on Thursday, Dec. 25. Showtimes are posted and tickets are now on sale at our website, [www.belcourt.org](http://www.belcourt.org).

As one of the many American art house theatres behind an open letter to Sony offering to show *THE INTERVIEW*, our decision to screen it was made thoughtfully and seriously. As an art house, we are uniquely positioned to understand the importance of showing films that give voice to diverse and sometimes controversial perspectives. While *THE INTERVIEW* was never initially slated as part of programming, the dramatic events of recent days have shifted the conversation beyond this specific movie. The context is now about audiences' right to see a film—*any* film.

I, my Belcourt colleagues, and the entire art house community have great empathy for Sony and our exhibition brothers and sisters who had to make some initial difficult calls. The release this week of *THE INTERVIEW* underscores the fundamental importance of freedom of expression in our industry and for our audiences.

#### **About the Belcourt Theatre**

The Belcourt Theatre is a nonprofit cultural institution that engages, enriches and educates audiences through innovative film programming. Housed in Nashville's only historic neighborhood theatre, the Belcourt presents the best of independent, documentary, world and repertory cinema 365 days a year, while promoting visual literacy throughout the community and providing opportunities for people of all ages to experience the power of film. First opened in 1925 as a silent movie house, the theatre was home to the Grand Ole Opry from 1934-35. Since the re-opening of the theatre as a nonprofit art house in 1999, over a half million people have visited the Belcourt to see more than 1,000 films from every corner of the globe. The Belcourt Theatre is funded in part by the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission and the Tennessee Arts Commission, and is grateful for their support of our nonprofit mission.

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