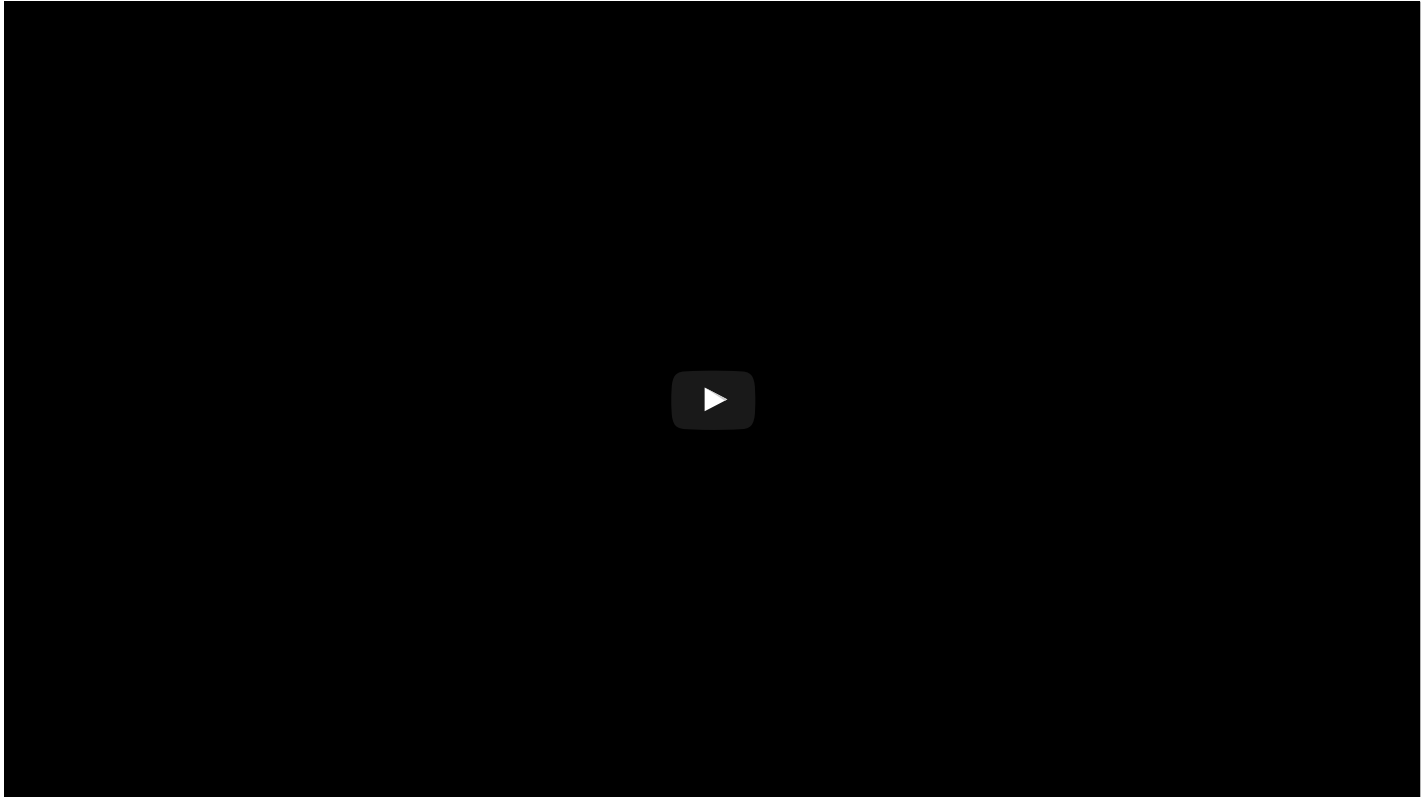


See Edward Snowden, Oliver Stone in live talk at movie theater near you

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Is NSA whistler blower Edward Snowden a hero or traitor?

You can contemplate that question yourself by hitting your local movie theater on Sept. 14 for "Snowden Live."

At this special one-night event, you can get a sneak peak of the highly anticipated film biopic "Snowden," followed by a live conversation between the film's subject and director Oliver Stone.

Stone will be in New York City, and Snowden will beam into theaters from Moscow via satellite.

Snowden, a former CIA employee and National Security Agency contractor, is living in exile in Russia after being charged in the United States with espionage for revealing the extent to which the NSA conducted a secret mass surveillance of the American public's internet activity.



This photo provided by The Guardian Newspaper in London shows Edward Snowden, who worked as a contract employee at the National Security Agency, on Sunday, June 9, 2013, in Hong Kong. (AP Photo/The Guardian) (Uncredited)

Snowden, 33, has made these live satellite appearances before, notably at a special press screening for the film at San Diego Comic-Con in July.

Also in conversation with Stone, Snowden talked about the surreal experience of having actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt play him in the movie, joked about how the FBI would probably obtain a copy of his talk with Stone via Google hangouts and said he's living a "surprisingly free life" in Russia.

The self-described privacy advocate added that he agreed to cooperate with Stone in making the movie to raise awareness for his own causes. "I'm not an actor," said Snowden, who apparently has a cameo in the film. "I don't think anybody in politics is charismatic enough to connect with people on these issues."

Early word from critics is that the film could be a contender for Oscars and other awards.

The sneak preview event "Snowden Live" is being presented Sept. 14 at 700 U.S. theaters nationwide by Fathom Events and Open Road films, ahead of the film's official release on Sept 16. The event, starting at 7:30 p.m., will be tape-delayed for audiences on the West Coast.

You can buy tickets for "Snowden Live" by going to www.fathomevents.com or by purchasing them at the theater's box office.

A list of participating Bay Area theaters can found at the website. The venues are located in Cupertino, Dublin, Emeryville, Milpitas, Pleasant Hill, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Francisco, San Jose, San Mateo, Union City and Walnut Creek.

Martha Ross provides celebrity commentary for the Bay Area News Group. Follow her at twitter.com/marthaiross.

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