# Wes Anderson mocks Trump’s 100% film tariffs as industry voices unite in opposition



At the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, director Wes Anderson took a humorous yet pointed stance regarding President Trump's recently proposed 100% tariffs on foreign-made films. Addressing a global audience, Anderson mused, “Can you hold up the movie in customs?” This thoughtful inquiry underscores the impracticalities of such a policy, revealing how it would not only harm filmmakers like himself but also disrupt the intricate fabric of global film production.

Anderson’s comments come in the wake of Trump’s announcement on his Truth Social platform, where he lamented that the American film industry is facing a “very fast death.” Trump argued that many American filmmakers are abandoning domestic production in favor of international locations, drawn by appealing tax incentives and lower costs. The proposed tariffs, aimed at securing the U.S. industry, expose a fundamental misunderstanding of economic principles and the realities of creative collaboration. As Anderson pointedly remarked, “I feel that means Trump is saying he's going to take all the money. And then what do we get?” His critique reflects a broader discontent within the industry about the government's misguided approach.

The backlash against these tariffs has been considerable. An open letter signed by major film studios, industry unions, and even some of Trump’s allies in Hollywood, like Jon Voight and Sylvester Stallone, strongly urged the administration to bolster the American film industry through sensible tax incentives, explicitly referencing successful models in countries that embrace openness rather than protectionism. This collective response underscores the echoing confusion among industry insiders about using tariffs as a means of protection.

Anderson’s latest release, *The Phoenician Scheme*, predominantly filmed at Studio Babelsberg in Potsdam, Germany, exemplifies the very international collaborations that the tariffs threaten to dismantle. The film features a star-studded cast, including Tom Hanks, Bill Murray, and Scarlett Johansson. Critics have noted that *The Phoenician Scheme* offers a more accessible narrative than some of Anderson’s previous works, delving into the morally ambiguous world of capitalism through the lens of a billionaire navigating complex business dealings alongside his daughter and an insectologist. This character embodies what Anderson describes as “the darkness of a certain kind of capitalist,” provoking societal reflections that resonate across global audiences.

Other figures in the entertainment industry have echoed Anderson’s sentiments. Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel jested about the potential fallout of Trump's tariff proposal, quipping that if the industry were forced to cut budgets, acclaimed series like *The White Lotus* could be reduced to setting their narratives in budget accommodations like a Hampton Inn. Likewise, former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd pointed out the international ramifications of these tariffs, stressing that even beloved shows like the animated series *Bluey* could be jeopardized, extending the debate well beyond American borders.

As cinematic giants gather in Cannes, the underlying theme of the festival this year may revolve around the feasibility and ramifications of Trump's tariff policy, which threatens to reshape the international film production landscape. Anderson’s light-hearted critique serves as a stark reminder of the interconnectedness of the global film community and the detrimental effects of protectionist policies on creative collaboration. Moreover, Anderson announced plans for forthcoming collaborative projects, including a script with Richard Ayoade, indicating the enduring vitality of artistic partnerships despite adversity.

In an industry that flourishes through creativity and collaboration, the repercussions of the proposed tariffs remain uncertain. Yet, the reactions from influential figures like Anderson signal a shared commitment to preserving the art of cinema by prioritizing global connectivity over misguided isolationism. With a new Labour government in power, the focus must be on policies that foster creative industries, advocating for a vision that aligns with the spirit of collaboration that has historically defined not only the film sector but the broader UK economy.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2025/may/19/wes-anderson-mocks-donald-trump-tariff-cannes> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/wes-anderson-makes-light-trumps-movie-tariff-plan-cannes-2025-05-19/> - At the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, director Wes Anderson humorously addressed President Donald Trump's proposed 100% tariffs on foreign-made films. Anderson questioned the practicality of such tariffs, asking, "Can you hold up the movie in customs?" His latest film, "The Phoenician Scheme," primarily shot in Berlin, follows a corrupt billionaire seeking assistance from his daughter and an insectologist to complete shady business deals. The film received mixed reviews, with some critics finding it more accessible than Anderson's previous works. Anderson also announced collaborations with Roman Coppola and Richard Ayoade on future projects.
3. <https://www.wsls.com/business/2025/05/05/trump-threatens-100-tariff-on-foreign-made-films/> - President Donald Trump announced a 100% tariff on all foreign-made films, claiming that the U.S. film industry is "dying a very fast death" due to productions moving overseas for tax incentives and cheaper costs. This move has raised concerns about its impact on international film production and distribution, with questions about its feasibility and potential effects on global collaborations.
4. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/entertainment/hollywood/jimmy-kimmel-brutally-mocks-donald-trumps-movie-tariff-plan-next-year-the-white-lotus-will-be-set-at-a-hampton-inn-101746615776944.html> - Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel criticized President Donald Trump's proposal to impose a 100% tariff on films produced overseas. Kimmel humorously suggested that popular shows like "The White Lotus" would be set in budget accommodations like a Hampton Inn, highlighting the absurdity of the tariff plan and its potential impact on the entertainment industry.
5. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/arts-culture/film-tv/2025/05/05/trump-tariff-foreign-film-television-middle-east/> - President Donald Trump ordered a 100% tariff on films made "in foreign lands," aiming to bolster the U.S. film industry. This decision could impact international collaborations, especially in regions like the Middle East, which have become hotspots for Hollywood film production. The move has raised questions about its effectiveness and potential consequences for global cinema.
6. <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/world/north-america/a-tax-on-bluey-rudd-mocks-trump-s-movie-tariffs-20250508-p5lxgg.html> - Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd mocked President Donald Trump's proposed 100% tariff on foreign-made films. Rudd humorously referenced the Australian animated series "Bluey," suggesting that even penguins in Antarctica would be affected by the tariffs. His comments highlight the global implications and perceived absurdity of the tariff plan.
7. <https://www.dnyuz.com/2025/05/06/hollywood-is-the-latest-industry-to-get-skittish-about-trumps-tariffs/> - Hollywood is expressing concern over President Donald Trump's proposed 100% tariff on foreign-made films. The plan aims to protect the U.S. film industry from international competition, but its feasibility and potential impact on global collaborations remain uncertain. The entertainment industry is questioning how such tariffs would be implemented and their broader effects on film production and distribution.