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12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
13 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
14 **WESTERN DIVISION**

15 HOLLYWOOD INNOVATIONS  
GROUP, LLC, a California corporation,  
16 Plaintiff,

17 v.

18 NETFLIX, INC., a Delaware  
corporation; ZIP CINEMA CO., LTD., a  
19 South Korea corporation; KAKAO  
ENTERTAINMENT CORP., a South  
20 Korea Corporation; PERSPECTIVE  
PICTURES CO., LTD., a South Korea  
21 corporation; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,  
22 Defendants.

Case No. 2:21-cv-9423

**COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT  
INFRINGEMENT  
(17 U.S.C. § 501)**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1 Plaintiff Hollywood Innovations Group, LLC (“Plaintiff” or “HIG”) complains  
2 against Netflix, Inc. (“Netflix”), Zip Cinema Co., Ltd. (“Zip Cinema”), Kakao  
3 Entertainment Corp (“Kakao”), Perspective Pictures Co., Ltd. (“Perspective  
4 Pictures”), and DOES 1 through 10 (collectively, “Defendants”), as follows:

### 5 INTRODUCTION

6 1. Once upon a time, Netflix was the innovative upstart, playing the role  
7 of “David” to Blockbuster Video’s “Goliath.” Netflix ultimately won that battle and,  
8 in the process, became a dominant force in video entertainment content production  
9 and distribution. Unfortunately, however, in its desperate quest to remain on top,  
10 Netflix has combined its power and innovation with unscrupulous business  
11 practices. This lawsuit, like other recent civil actions against the company, concerns  
12 these illicit activities.

13 2. Netflix identified the South Korean market as its next cash cow. But in  
14 its effort to grab valuable market share, it had to return to its innovative roots.  
15 Regrettably, it innovated in the most nefarious way – by weaponizing breakthroughs  
16 in language dubbing technology to steal content, repackage it as its own, and release  
17 the content to a massive global audience, thereby reaping tens of millions of dollars  
18 in ill-gotten profits along the way.

19 3. Plaintiff, Hollywood Innovation Group (HIG), was the victim of this  
20 carefully orchestrated campaign by Netflix and its partners to usurp HIG’s valuable  
21 intellectual property rights for their unlawful commercial exploitation. Specifically,  
22 and among other things, HIG owns the exclusive rights to produce and market all  
23 versions, save Korean language, of a prescient original screenplay, *Devour*, written  
24 before the COVID-19 outbreak about one young man’s struggle for survival during  
25 a global viral pandemic. In 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 crisis, a  
26 Korean-language motion picture, *#Saraidta*, based on the *Devour* screenplay  
27 became a blockbuster hit in South Korea. HIG was preparing to release an English  
28 language motion picture, *Alone*, that was based on the *Devour* screenplay, and

1 which featured A-list Hollywood talent and a renowned director. But Netflix, along  
2 with Korean producers, Zip Cinema and Perspective Pictures, beat HIG to the  
3 marketplace with an unauthorized and unlawful direct competitor to HIG's movie.  
4 Specifically, they used new language dubbing technologies to quickly and cheaply  
5 undermine HIG's rights by releasing, under the name *#Alive*, multiple dubbed  
6 versions (in numerous non-Korean languages, including English) of the original  
7 Korean title (*#Saraitda*) on Netflix. So, while Netflix and its partners profiteered  
8 handsomely from an illicit global streaming smash hit, HIG was left holding a  
9 worthless property.

10 4. Netflix has known for over a year that it did not own the rights to  
11 produce the content in question. It knew or was reckless in not knowing that it had  
12 no rights to distribute *Saraitda* dubbed into English or any other non-Korean  
13 language and that such new versions of *Saraitda* constituted unlawful derivative  
14 works. It knew or should have known it was breaking the law, committing flagrant  
15 copyright infringement. But that did not matter, apparently. Profits, market share  
16 and subscriber growth were deemed more important, leaving HIG with no choice  
17 but to litigate this matter.

#### 18 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

19 5. This is a civil action against Defendants for acts of copyright  
20 infringement under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq.* This Court has  
21 subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 17 U.S.C. § 501(a), and 28  
22 U.S.C. § 1338(a) and (b).

23 6. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)  
24 and (c) and 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) in that the claim arises in this judicial district and  
25 the injury suffered by Plaintiff took place in this judicial district. Defendants are  
26 subject to the general and specific personal jurisdiction of this Court because of  
27 their systematic contacts with, and purposeful avilment of, the State of California.  
28

1 Specifically, and among other things, Netflix is headquartered in Los Gatos,  
2 California and has a primary office in Los Angeles, California. Zip Cinema and  
3 Perspective Pictures, as alleged below, repeatedly reached out to Plaintiff in this  
4 forum seeking information about Plaintiff's movie production to further the  
5 infringement alleged herein. And on information and belief, Zip Cinema and  
6 Perspective Pictures regularly contract and do business in the State of California,  
7 including with corporations headquartered in the state. Each of the following Zip  
8 Cinema productions is distributed by Netflix, which is headquartered in Los Gatos,  
9 California: *Crazy Romance* (2019), *Golden Slumber* (2018), *Default* (2018), *The*  
10 *Priests* (2015), *Cold Eyes* (2013), *All About My Wife* (2012), and *Haunters* (2010).  
11 Moreover, certain of these films, such as *All About My Wife*, were released in  
12 theatres throughout North America, including Los Angeles. The Perspective  
13 Pictures productions *Night Moves* (2013) and *Martha Marcy May Marlene* (2011)  
14 were distributed by Fox Searchlight Pictures and Cinedigm, respectively, both of  
15 which are headquartered in Los Angeles, California. Furthermore, Perspective  
16 Pictures is, in its own words, "based in Los Angeles."<sup>1</sup>

### PARTIES

17  
18 7. Plaintiff Hollywood Innovations Group, LLC ("HIG") is a limited  
19 liability corporation existing under the laws of California, with its principal place of  
20 business in Los Angeles, California. HIG is a multi-service entertainment company,  
21 providing film production services domestically and abroad.

22 8. Defendant Netflix, Inc. ("Netflix") is a corporation existing under the  
23 laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Los Gatos, California.  
24 Netflix is an American subscription-based streaming service offering a vast library  
25 of films and television programs for streaming to millions of subscribers across the  
26 world.  
27  
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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., <https://www.perspective-pictures.com/company>

1           9.     On information and belief, Defendant Zip Cinema Co., Ltd. (“Zip  
2 Cinema”) is a corporation existing under the laws of South Korea, with its principal  
3 place of business in Seoul, South Korea. Zip Cinema is a leading Korean film  
4 production company, known for several popular titles in Korean cinema.

5           10.    On information and belief, in a transaction announced in September  
6 2021 and concluded thereafter, Zip Cinema was acquired by Defendant Kakao  
7 Entertainment Corp. (“Kakao”), a corporation existing under the laws of South  
8 Korea with its principal place of business in Seongnam, South Korea. Also on  
9 information and belief, as a result of the transaction, Kakao has succeeded to or  
10 otherwise become responsible for the liabilities of Zip Cinema and is thus  
11 responsible for Zip Cinema’s acts of copyright infringement alleged herein.

12           11.    On information and belief, Defendant Perspective Pictures Co., Ltd.  
13 (“Perspective Pictures”) is a corporation existing under the laws of South Korea  
14 with offices in Los Angeles, California. Perspective Pictures is a film and television  
15 production company with several popular independent film titles under its name.

16           12.    DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore  
17 sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will ask leave of Court to  
18 amend this Complaint and insert the true names and capacities of said Defendants,  
19 individual or corporate, when the same have been ascertained in discovery. Plaintiff  
20 is informed and believes and, upon such, alleges that each of the Defendants  
21 designated herein as a “DOE” is legally responsible in some manner for the events  
22 and happenings herein alleged, and that Plaintiff’s damages as alleged herein were  
23 proximately caused by such Defendants.

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

#### ***Plaintiff’s Copyright in the Script and Development of the Movie Alone***

26           13.    Matt Naylor (“Naylor”) is the author of an original screenplay entitled  
27 *Devour*, also known as *Alone* (the “Script”). Written before the COVID-19  
28

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