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## **Globes**

From Page 1B

and Rosamund Pike ("Gone Girl")

The Globes are known for sometimes idiosyncratic choices that help populate its flashy red carpet with celebrities. But there weren't many odd picks in the mold of its infamous fondness for "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" or "The Tourist" in years past. The Globes wrapped up the attendance of one star — George Clooney — ahead of Thursday's nominations by selecting the actor-director for its honorary Cecil B. DeMille Award.

Meryl Streep added her 26th nomination (eight wins) with a best supporting actress nod for the Stephen Sondheim musical "Into the Woods." She joins Stone, Arquette, Knightley and Jessica Chastain for "A Most Violent Year."

"I have no words," said Stone, noting that she was honored to be a part of "the beautiful madness that is 'Birdman." "Now can someone please explain who this 'Meryl Streep' woman is?!"?

In supporting actor, J.K. Simmons ("Whiplash"), Mark Ruffalo ("Foxcatcher") and Robert Duvall ("The Judge") joined Hawke and Norton.

Among the TV categories, "Fargo" led with five nominations, including best TV miniseries or movie. HBO dominated with 15 nominations, while upstarts Netflix (seven nods) and Amazon (two) also made in-

The best drama series nominations went to "The Affair,"
"Downton Abbey," "Game of Thrones," "The Good Wife" and "House of Cards." The nominees for best TV comedy series are: "Girls," "Jane the Virgin," "Orange is the New Black," "Silicon Valley," and "Transparent."

For the third time in a row, the Globes telecast will be hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. The show will air live from the Beverly Hills Hotel in California on Sunday, Jan. 11.

Going into Thursday's nominations, "Boyhood" had emerged as the unlikely favorite in Hollywood's awards season, taking top honors from the New York Film Critics Circle and the Los Angeles Film Critics Association.

But support has also been strong for "Birdman," which topped the Gotham Independent Awards. On Wednesday, the Screen Actors Guild — a strong predictor of the Academy Awards — nominated the ensemble casts of "Birdman," "Boyhood," "The Imitation Game," "The Theory of Everything" and "Grand Budapest Hotel."

## Sony Studio Execs Debated 'The Interview's' Risk Long Before Hack

BY MEG JAMES, DANIEL MILLER AND JOSH ROTTENBERG

**ROTTENBERG**© 2014, Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Months before a devastating computer attack on Sony Pictures Entertainment, studio executives debated the risk of releasing the upcoming comedy "The Interview" amid threats from North Korea that the movie was tantamount to an act of war.

Studio executives were cautioned by the Department of Homeland Security this summer that the film — which depicts a fictional assassination attempt on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — could provoke retaliation, according to people with knowledge of the situation. Parent company Sony Corp. also expressed concerns to studio executives that the film could inflame tensions with North Korea

The concerns were taken seriously, prompting high-level discussions at the studio, according to these people, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the studio's internal debate.

A Sony Pictures spokesman said there was no warning from Homeland Security. A Homeland Security spokesman said he was unaware of any formal warning to the studio.

The incendiary nature of the film even came up at a table read of the script by actor Seth Rogen and others before it went into production in October 2013. Actor Jonah Hill, who is a friend of Rogen's, attended the session that day. Hill approached Sony Pictures co-Chairman Amy Pascal during a break and expressed his incredulity that the studio had greenlighted the project.

"I saw Jonah go up to her and go, 'Amy, you are (expletive) crazy?' She's like, 'Am I?'" Rogen recalled in an interview last month, before the breach was disclosed. "I was like, 'Don't say that to her!"

"It's pretty amazing what

they let us do," added Rogen, who stars in and codirected the film. "I don't know who else would let us

do it."
Federal law enforcement authorities say they are taking seriously the possibility that the North Korean government might have been behind the cyberattacks launched on Sony starting last month.

The breach has delivered one embarrassing blow after another to Sony Pictures, including the disclosure of Social Security numbers of thousands of current and former employees, confidential emails and other information. Five films, including the upcoming musical "Annie," were also leaked online.

The wave of leaks has caused chaos on the studio lot and sent morale plummeting. Hackers released the purported million-dollar salaries of 17 studio executives, code names used by celebrities when they travel and trashtalking communications about films in development.

"It appears Sony doesn't have its house together," said attorney Peter Toren, a cybersecurity expert who previously worked for the Department of Justice.

The breach is expected to cost Sony Pictures tens of millions of dollars as the company rebuilds its computer network, conducts a forensic investigation of the attack and deals with the legal fallout, including potential lawsuits from employees. It could also have an effect on the film industry's creative choices.

"I've got to believe that this will spook anybody from considering making the North Koreans bad guys in a film," movie producer Bill Gerber said. "Unless you were dealing with something that was fact-based and very compelling, it might not be worth it."

FBI Director James B.
Comey said Tuesday that the
FBI had not yet determined
who was behind the attack on
Sony. There has been speculation that disgruntled employees might be behind the
attack on the studio, which
went through several rounds

of layoffs last year.

"Anything cyber is very complicated, tracing back malware and signatures especially," Comey told reporters at a briefing. "It is complicated business and I want to make sure before we make an attribution that I have high confidence in it.... I'm not prepared to attribute it to any

particular actor."

North Korea has denied responsibility for the attack but praised the perpetrators. A hacking group called Guardians of Peace claims to be behind the assault. In June, North Korea called on the U.S. government to block the film's release or face a "decisive and merciless countermeasure."

Sony declined to comment on any discussions that may have occurred with executives at its parent company in Japan.

Internal discussions about potential complications with a movie are not uncommon in Hollywood, or at Sony.

Sony corporate executives in Japan previously had voiced concerns about how the 2012 film "Zero Dark Thirty," and its depiction of CIA interrogation tactics, would be received interna-

tionally, according to people not going to change that,"

The 2006 movie "The Da Vinci Code" prompted a discussion about whether that film might spark a backlash from the religious community. That picture centered on a bizarre murder involving a fringe Catholic group.

A decade ago, Howard Stringer, then head of Sony's U.S. operations, chastised studio executives for considering the possibility of distributing Michael Moore's controversial 2004 film "Fahrenheit 9/11," because of its political sensitivity, one of the people said.

Before production began on "The Interview," Sony executives had questioned whether the movie should depict a fictional country and dictator, and not North Korea and Kim Jong Un, Rogen said in the interview last month.

Sony executives discussed altering the script to make it more palatable politically. However, the filmmakers didn't want to modify the movie's plot — and pushed back when the studio wanted to explore changing

the ending.
"We were like, 'No, we're

not going to change that,"
Rogen said. "They were like,
'OK, guess there's nothing
we can do. We had to ask."

Pascal, who is known for her close rapport with Hollywood talent, supported the filmmakers in keeping the original construct, one per-

son said.

North Korea's threat to retaliate came in June, and soon afterward Homeland Security issued its caution, the people close to the situation said.

But by that time, the project was already complete and being screened to test audiences. The studio could have opted to not release the picture, or it could have digitally altered the movie to remove references to North Korea and Kim Jong Un.

Instead, the studio pushed back its release to Christmas Day. The film will premiere Thursday in downtown Los Angeles.

Tribune Washington Bureau staff writers Richard Serrano, Joseph Tanfani and Tim Phelps and Richard Verrier of the Los Angeles Times contributed to this report.

