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11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
12 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

13 DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.;  
14 UNIVERSAL CITY STUDIOS  
15 PRODUCTIONS LLLP; WARNER BROS.  
16 ENTERTAINMENT INC., et al.,

17 v.  
18 Plaintiffs,

19 MINIMAX, et al.,

20 Defendants.

21 Case No. 2:25-cv-08768-SB-E

22 **PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO**  
23 **ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE**  
24 **LACK OF PROSECUTION (ECF**  
25 **NO. 17)**

1 Plaintiffs Disney Enterprises, Inc., Marvel Characters, Inc., MVL Film Finance  
 2 LLC, Lucasfilm Ltd. LLC, Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, Universal City  
 3 Studios Productions LLLP, DreamWorks Animation L.L.C., and Warner Bros.  
 4 Entertainment Inc., DC Comics, The Cartoon Network, Inc., Turner Entertainment Co.,  
 5 Hanna-Barbera productions Inc. (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) hereby respond to the Court’s  
 6 December 23, 2025 Order to Show Cause re Lack of Prosecution, ECF No. 17 (“Order to  
 7 Show Cause”) as follows:

8 **I. Introduction**

9 Plaintiffs filed this action to address the rampant copyright infringement of  
 10 defendants MiniMax, Shanghai Xiyu Jizhi Technology Co. Ltd. (“SXJT”), and Nanonoble  
 11 Pte. Ltd. (“Nanonoble” and with MiniMax and SXJT, “Defendants”). As alleged in the  
 12 Complaint, Defendants operate a Chinese artificial intelligence (“AI”) image and video  
 13 generating service that pirates and plunders Plaintiffs’ copyrighted works on a massive  
 14 scale. All three defendants are foreign companies. The Complaint alleges that defendants  
 15 MiniMax and SXJT are Chinese companies and that Nanonoble is a Singaporean company.  
 16 As a result, the 90-day service limit of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(m) is not  
 17 applicable. Moreover, as set forth in the corresponding declaration of David R. Singer,  
 18 Plaintiffs have been diligent in their attempts to effectuate service on these foreign  
 19 companies under the Hague Convention. Therefore, this Court should not dismiss the  
 20 Complaint and should instead discharge the Order to Show Cause.

21 **II. Plaintiffs Have Made Diligent Efforts To Serve The Complaint**

22 Plaintiffs have been diligent in their attempts to serve the Defendants in this  
 23 litigation since the summons issued on September 23, 2025. Plaintiffs promptly engaged  
 24 specialist in service of process in Singapore and China to coordinate service under the  
 25 Hague Convention. Declaration of David R. Singer (“Singer Decl.”), ¶ 5. On October 28,  
 26 2025, Plaintiffs submitted a request for service of the Summons, Complaint, and additional  
 27 case initiating documents on Nanonoble with the Singaporean Ministry of Law pursuant to  
 28 the Hauge Convention. *Id.*, ¶ 7, Ex. A. Plaintiffs have been informed that service of

1 process under the Hague Convention in Singapore may take eight to ten months. *Id.*, ¶ 7.  
 2 Nanonoble did not respond to an October 14, 2025 email inquiry from counsel for Plaintiffs  
 3 regarding service of process. *Id.*, ¶ 6.

4 With respect to SXJT, Plaintiffs conducted additional investigation to determine the  
 5 accurate entity addresses, as required for service with the Chinese authority. On October  
 6 22, 2025, Plaintiffs submitted a request for an updated summons on SXJT. That summons  
 7 was issued by this Court on October 27, 2025. On November 10, 2025, Plaintiffs submitted  
 8 a request for service of the Summons, Complaint, and additional case initiating documents  
 9 on SXJT with the Chinese Ministry of Justice of China pursuant to the Hague Convention.  
 10 *Id.*, ¶ 8, Ex. B. Plaintiffs have been informed that service of process under the Hague  
 11 Convention in China may take eighteen to twenty-four months. *Id.*, ¶ 8. Notably, for both  
 12 SXJT and Nanonoble, the requisite documents were submitted for service well within the  
 13 90-day period of Rule 4(m).

14 With respect to MiniMax, Plaintiffs' investigation has not yet revealed a formal  
 15 corporate entity or service address.<sup>1</sup> *Id.*, ¶ 9. Plaintiffs continue to diligently investigate  
 16 defendant MiniMax to determine the information necessary to effectuate service.

### 17 **III. Rule 4(m) Does Not Apply Because Each Defendant Is A Foreign Company**

18 Under Rule 4(m), “[i]f a defendant is not served within 90 days after the complaint  
 19 is filed, the court . . . must dismiss the action without prejudice against that defendant or  
 20 order that service be made within a specified time.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m). However, the  
 21 rule expressly states that, “subdivision (m) does not apply to service in a foreign country  
 22 under Rule 4(f), 4(h)(2), or 4(j)(1).” *Id.*; *see also Lucas v. Natoli*, 936 F.2d 432, 433 (9th  
 23 Cir. 1991); *Guifu Li v. A Perfect Day Franchise, Inc*, 281 F.R.D. 373, 388 (N.D. Cal. 2012)

24  
 25 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs are informed and believe that MiniMax is a foreign entity located in China.  
 26 Compl., ¶ 32; *see* <https://techcrunch.com/2025/01/15/chinese-ai-company-minimax-releases-new-models-it-claims-are-competitive-with-the-industrys-best/>. The Complaint  
 27 alleges that MiniMax is a privately held Chinese company, or alternatively, a subsidiary,  
 28 division, or d/b/a of SXJT. Compl., ¶ 32.

1 (“The plain language of Rule 4(m) clearly exempts service in a foreign country.”). This  
 2 exception “recognize[s] that the timeliness of foreign service is often out of the plaintiff’s  
 3 control.” *Nylok Corp. v. Fastener World Inc.*, 396 F.3d 805, 807 (7th Cir. 2005). Instead,  
 4 a plaintiff service a foreign entity need only “demonstrate[] due diligence in attempting  
 5 service.” *Digital Mktg. Corp. v. Manufacturas Post Form, S.A. de C. V.*, No.  
 6 220CV06223RGKAFM, 2021 WL 8820224, at \*2 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 19, 2021).

7 Here, each defendant is a foreign entity that must be served outside of the United  
 8 States as set forth in Rule 4(h)(2) and 4(f)(1). Compl., ¶¶ 32–34. As discussed above,  
 9 Plaintiffs are diligently pursuing service under the Hague Convention consistent with Rule  
 10 4(f)(1). Therefore, the 90-day service requirement under Rule 4(m) is not applicable and  
 11 the Court should not dismiss Plaintiffs’ Complaint.

12 **IV. Conclusion**

13 Therefore, Plaintiffs respectfully that the Court discharge the Order to Show Cause.  
 14

15 Dated: December 24, 2025

JENNER & BLOCK LLP

16  
 17 By: /s/ David R. Singer  
 18 David R. Singer  
 19 Julie A. Shepard  
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