

Warner Brothers block release of 'pro-John McCain film'

Warner Brothers has delayed the re-release of a film about American prisoners of war in Vietnam in case it influences the outcome of the US presidential election.

By Jon Swaine

Last Updated: 11:56AM BST 15 Oct 2008

The studio has temporarily blocked the release of the DVD version of the 1987 film *Hanoi Hilton*, which will feature an interview with John McCain, the Republican presidential candidate, about his imprisonment in Hoa Lo prison during the war.

The film, which gave a favourable portrayal of US prisoners, will now be released on November 11 - a week after the election.

Warner Brothers's decision is likely to raise suggestions that it did not want to aid Mr McCain's campaign by highlighting his wartime acts. The Republican candidate, who was a Navy pilot, was tortured during his imprisonment after being shot down over North Vietnam in October 1967.

Barry Meyer, the company's chairman and chief executive, last month attended a fundraising dinner for Barack Obama, Mr McCain's Democratic opponent.

The move has angered Lionel Chetwynd, the film's writer and director, who is a well-known conservative.

"Finding someone in Hollywood who says they don't want to affect the election is like finding a virgin in a brothel," Mr Chetwynd told the *New York Times*.

The film-maker also complained that other film studios were willing to release and promote films with potential for political influence. *W*, a biopic of President George W Bush directed by Oliver Stone, is set to be released on Friday.

Ronnee Sass, a spokesman for Warner Brothers, told the *New York Times*: "It's just us trying to be cautious and not affect the election one way or the other."



The re-released version of the film features an interview with John McCain Photo: GETTY

Related Content

[Sarah Palin's husband was warned about Troopergate](#) (/news/newsttopics/uselection2008/sarahpalin/3201546/Sarah-Palins-husband-was-warned-about-T-roopergate.html)

[War for the White House](#) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/uselection2008/funnyvideosfromtheonion/>)

[Satirical videos of the US election campaign from The Onion.](#)

[Back to top](#)

© Copyright of Telegraph Media Group Limited 2008