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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Northern District of California

NEW SENSATIONS, INC.,

No. C 11-2770 MEJ

Plaintiff,

**ORDER DENYING MOTION TO
QUASH**

v.

DOES 1-1,474,

Docket No. 51, 52

Defendants.

On June 7, 2011, Plaintiff New Sensations, Inc. (“Plaintiff”) filed this lawsuit against 1,474 Doe Defendants, alleging that Defendants illegally reproduced and distributed a work subject to Plaintiff’s exclusive license, (“*Big Bang Theory: A XXX Parody*”), using an internet peer-to-peer file sharing network known as BitTorrent, thereby violating the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101-1322. Compl. ¶¶ 6-15, Dkt. No. 1. On September 22, 2011, the Court granted Plaintiff’s Application for Leave to Take Limited Expedited Discovery. Dkt. No. 13. The Court permitted Plaintiff to serve subpoenas on Does 1-1,474’s Internet Service Providers (“ISPs”) by serving a Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45 subpoena that seeks information sufficient to identify the Doe Defendants, including the name, address, telephone number, and email address of Does 1-1,474. *Id.* at 11. Once the ISPs provided Does 1-1,474 with a copy of the subpoena, the Court permitted Does 1-1,474 30 days from the date of service to file any motions contesting the subpoena (including a motion to quash or modify the subpoena). *Id.*

Now before the Court is an Objection filed by a Doe Defendant.¹ Dkt. Nos. 51, 52. In his

¹Under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A), a magistrate judge has jurisdiction to hear and decide nondispositive matters without the consent of the parties. A motion to quash is normally considered

1 filing, the Doe Defendant provides no basis for his objection, merely stating as follows:

2 I object to my Identifying Information to be given out to the Plaintiff.

3 I have notified Charter Communications of this decision.

4 DO NOT RELEASE ANY OF MY PERSONAL INFORMATION.

5 Dkt. Nos. 51, 52.

6 Under Rule 45(c)(3), a court must modify or quash a subpoena that, inter alia, “requires
7 disclosure of privileged or other protected matter, if no exception or waiver applies, or subjects a
8 person to undue burden.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(c)(3)(A). A court may modify or quash a subpoena
9 that, inter alia, requires disclosing confidential information. Fed.R.Civ.P. 45(c)(3)(B). As the Doe
10 Defendant has provided no argument in support of his objection, the Court is unable to determine
11 whether any protection under Rule 45(c)(3) should be afforded. Accordingly, the Doe Defendant’s
12 Motion to Quash is DENIED.

13 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

14
15 Dated: November 30, 2011

16 
17 _____
18 Maria-Elena James
19 Chief United States Magistrate Judge

20 a non-dispositive matter, *Arista Records, LLC v. Doe 3*, 604 F.3d 110, 116 (2d Cir. 2010), and
21 therefore, the undersigned has jurisdiction to rule on the Defendant’s motion(s) to the extent they
22 seek to quash Plaintiff’s subpoena. In addition, a magistrate judge has jurisdiction to consider the
23 question of whether joinder of unserved defendants is proper, including whether unserved
24 defendants should be severed and dismissed from the action, because defendants who have not been
25 served are not considered “parties” under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). *Neals v. Norwood*, 59 F.3d 530, 532
26 (5th Cir. 1995) (holding that magistrate judge had jurisdiction to dismiss prison inmate’s action
27 under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 as frivolous without consent of defendants because defendants had not been
28 served yet and therefore were not parties); *see also United States v. Real Property*, 135 F.3d 1212,
1217 (9th Cir. 1998) (holding that magistrate judge had jurisdiction to enter default judgment in an
in rem forfeiture action even though property owner had not consented to it because 28 U.S.C. §
636(c)(1) only requires the consent of the parties and the property owner, having failed to comply
with the applicable filing requirements, was not a party). Here, Plaintiff has consented to magistrate
jurisdiction and the Doe Defendants have not yet been served. Therefore, the Court finds that it has
jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) to decide the issues raised in the instant motion(s).