Showing a Movie on Campus

What you need to know about movie and television viewings on campus:

Trinity University takes the law seriously when it comes to copyright laws. Please read the following information to find out what the law says and how your organization can legally show a movie or television show on campus.

What the law says

The Federal Copyright Act (Title 17, United States Code, Public Law 94-553, 90 stat. 2541) governs how copyrighted materials, such as movies and television, may be used. Neither the rental nor the purchase of a DVD or BluRay carries with it the right to use the movie outside the home.

Why copyright infringement matters?

The concept of "public performance" is central to copyright and the issue of protection for intellectual property. The men and women in the films' production receive royalties as part of their compensation for their labor and skill. Such royalties are the only way publishers, writers, composers, and many industry employees are paid for their work.

Copyright infringement can result in costly penalties

It is important to comply with copyright law when using any media, such as movies, television, software, and music, to protect your reputation and avoid the costs and hassles of copyright infringement.

Copyright infringers can be prosecuted

The Motion Picture Association of America and its member companies are dedicated to stopping film and video performance theft in all its forms, including unauthorized public performances. By its very mission, a school should not appear to encourage copyright violation less it be considered a contributory infringer.

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work.

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*Adapted from Hendrix College's: "Showing a movie on campus...what you need to know"
In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than $750 and not more than $30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to $150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to $250,000 per offense.

For more information, please see the Web site of the U.S. Copyright Office at [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov), especially their FAQ's at [www.copyright.gov/help/faq](http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq).

**How can my organization show a movie without violating these laws?**

*Purchase a license.* For movies, this can be done through companies such as [Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.](http://www.swankmotions.com) or [Criterion Pictures](http://www.criterion.com). Purchase price can range widely depending on the movie, its popularity, and the year in which it was made. If a student organization chooses to purchase the copyright license, it is recommended that the organization seek funding from the Student Activity Fee allocation process through the Student Government Association.

Campus & Community Involvement has yet to find a company that sells licensing for television shows. Live television broadcasts are acceptable for organizational activity, but any television episodes on Netflix, Amazon, Hulu Plus, any online television service that requires a fee or payment, via DVD or BluRay, other streaming websites, or any non-public broadcast outlets are NOT permitted without express consent from the appropriate television network.

If an organization finds another way to purchase movie licensing or finds a way to purchase television episode licensing, we ask that the organization please provide Campus & Community Involvement with the written agreement between the organization and the film distribution company, the television network, or the third party licensor.

**OR**

*Show a movie from Coates Library.* The organization may show a film or television episodes from the Coates Library, for which the university already has a license. Not all movies at the library or all movies that you can check out are covered by licenses. To search for movies for which the university already has a license, please follow the instructions below:

For discovery, go to [our catalog](http://library.hendrix.edu/) and use a keyword search in quotes, "public performance rights" and limit it to Video Collection [using the Collection limiter](http://library.hendrix.edu/system/e-journals/journals2.aspx). The results will be DVD's where we input performance right information in the marc record. Also keep in mind that our [Films on Demand](http://library.hendrix.edu/demand/) streaming video collection includes all public performance rights.
Think “private/home” versus “public”

If you are showing the movie in what you consider to be your private home, residence hall room, apartment, house, etc., then you may show the film or television episode, as that is considered “private home viewing.” If the movie or television show is being shown anywhere public, residence hall lounges, reservable spaces on campus, etc., then you must have a license to show the media.

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