

# Showing a movie on campus...what you need to know.

Hendrix College 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 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, may be used. Neither the rental nor the purchase of a videocassette or DVD carries with it the right to use the movie outside the home.

## "Fair Use"

In some instances, it is not required to obtain a Movie Copyright Compliance Site License when exhibiting copyrighted materials such as videocassettes or DVDs. This "face-to-face teaching exemption" applies only IF:

- A teacher is in attendance and
- The showing takes place in a classroom setting and
- The movie is used as an essential part of the current curriculum being taught

Examples of situations where a Movie Copyright Compliance Site License must be obtained are public libraries, day-care facilities, and non-classroom entertainment movies being used at schools for after school activities. This legal requirement applies:

- Regardless of whether an admission fee is charged
- Whether the institution or organization is commercial or non-profit
- Whether a federal or state agency is involved

If you are uncertain about your responsibilities under the copyright law, consult your school legal copyright representative.

## Why is copyright infringement a concern?

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 workmen 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, 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.

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

The Office of Student Activities works with different film companies that hold copyright licenses for almost any film. Renting these films can be quite costly (\$250-\$600) so Student Activities offers co-sponsorship opportunities and SIP grants to offset these costs for student organizations. If you have any questions on how to order a film, please contact our office.