



PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT ARE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS?

- Public Performance Rights are the legal rights held by film distributors over the showing of a film outside of one's home. The rights-holder can grant others the temporary right to show the film by selling them or granting them a Public Performance License.

WHEN DO I NEED TO OBTAIN A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE LICENSE?

- Anytime a film is shown outside a person's personal home, the screening is considered "public." It does not matter if admission is not charged or if the entity screening the film is a non-profit organization, school, or library.

I BOUGHT A DVD OR BLU-RAY. DOES IT INCLUDE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS?

- NO. Tapes, DVDs, and Blu-Rays are for personal use only.

I BOUGHT A DVD FROM A FILM DISTRIBUTOR FOR MY SCHOOL OR LIBRARY. DOES IT INCLUDE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS?

- Most formats are sold WITHOUT Public Performance Rights, but some are sold with limited Public Performance Rights. They may enable you to play the DVD for its lifetime in public screenings on FSU's campus. However, you may NOT copy it or lend it to other institutions, organizations, or charge admission for the screenings you hold with that DVD. These rules may vary, so check carefully with each film's distributor when purchasing a DVD of this kind to make sure you understand all applicable rules.

WHAT ABOUT THE TEACHING EXEMPTION?

- The Copyright Act allows film to be screened in face-to face teaching situations, defined by specific criteria. To be eligible for this exemption, the screening is limited to students who are enrolled in a class in which the film is a part of systematic mediated instructional activities, the instructor is present, & the screening is an integral part of the classroom session. Playing films for a department, for honors students, a "film series" or lecture series does NOT qualify for the teaching exemption, & requires a license.

HOW CAN I OBTAIN A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE LICENSE FOR MY SCREENING?

- You must contact the distributor to negotiate terms and fees for the film screening. There are many distributors, but you can check out the links on movies.fsu.edu for some of the larger non-theatrical ones. Most distributor websites have an online catalog to search for a particular film. You can also search for the title on IMDB & select the *Company Credits* link to determine the distributor. For more info, call 850-644-4504.