

Guide to Film Screening & Movie Night

For Departmental Student Union & Clubs

SFSS Student Union Organiser

Guideline to Film Screening and Movie Night

Organizing movie night can be fun and easy to do. If you are thinking of screening a movie in a public setting such as a classroom or lecture theater, you need to have a film license to hold such event. But, if you are screening a movie in a private setting such as your own home then you don't need to have the film license.

Fortunately, the SFSS has such license available for student unions, clubs or constituency groups to use. Here is how you can use the license with out getting into a legal lawsuit.

Important information about screening guide and the film license

It is exceptionally important that groups understand how the film license works and how to use it, as currently groups are showing films covered by the license and not reporting it, which is in fact a violation of the license and can have repercussions.

The SFSS has a license with Criterion pictures. This license makes it legal for student groups to show films on campus that are covered by the license. Movies covered by the license can be searched on the Criterion website. Any Club, Student Union or Constituency Group may access the license by following the steps below:

Step 1

After deciding on which movie you choose to screen, search for the title at <http://www.criterionpic.com/cpl/qsearch.htx> to find out if the license covers it.

Step 2

Once you find out that the movie is listed under by Criterion, you MUST contact the general office at go@sfss.ca prior to the screening and send the following information to them:

- Title of the movie
- Date of the screening
- Office Code (this is mentioned on the criterion website in the brackets beside the movie title)
- Studio/producer name (also provided on the criterion website)

Step 3

Remember screenings must have free admission, as stipulated by the license. If a group wants to charge admission, a certain portion of the admission must go to Criterion Picture, which potentially can be a big hassle for both.

It is exceptionally important that Club, Student Union and Constituency Group report their screenings, as the license requires the student society to report all films shown

each month to Criterion Pictures. If movies are not reported, the license could potentially be revoked, which means campus groups cannot show films on campus anymore.

We are generally only legally allowed to show films covered by the license. Public screening of films not covered by the license with Criterion is a violation of the Copyright Act, and can result in a lawsuit, which no one wants (this has happened in the past with groups at SFU). If your group wishes to show a film that is not covered by the Criterion license, you need to receive permission from the film production company – this can take some time, and may require a licensing fee. It's best to stick to Criterion films.

Good Luck!