

# PUBLIC PERFORMANCES AND ENTERTAINMENTS

1. Performances of plays and other entertainments *in public*, whether indoors or outdoors, may require a licence from a public authority such as the Cambridge City Council or the South Cambridgeshire District Council in the area immediately surrounding the City. Requirements and procedures are determined by the Theatres Act 1968 and the Licensing Act 2003, amongst other legislation. Guidance is available at:

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/alcohol-and-entertainment-licensing>

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/licensing/types-of-licence/licensing-act-2003>

2. Plays, musicals or ballets, concerts and recitals or readings, May Balls, sporting displays, and other such entertainments, all constitute performances in public, whether or not admission is by payment. Any such play, or other entertainment, that is held and ticketed, with an expectation of a profit being made, will require to be licensed.

3. Organisers of public performances and entertainments on University or College premises must seek advice and permission beforehand from the relevant authorities and for events held elsewhere obtain advice and permission the owner or operator of the premises. Even on premises where a licensing certificate is in force, a particular event or performance may require additional permission.

4. Those organising public performances and entertainments must inform themselves of and abide by any relevant requirements. Applications for licences must be made in advance to the relevant authority and events requiring a licence should not be advertised before any necessary licence has been obtained.

5. 'Fly-posting', i.e., fixing advertising material to buildings, trees, etc., without permission is contrary to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (on private property) and the Highways Act 1980 (in a public place) and a breach of discipline on University or College property. Material may be illegal for other reasons, or defamatory, even if the posting is authorized.

6. Even if an event does not require a licence, both the organisers and those making the premises available may be prosecuted if inadequate safety precautions are taken.

7. Promoters of plays or other entertainments are reminded that all concerned in a production may be liable to prosecution if words, actions or displays constitute an offence (e.g. obscenity, incitement to racial or religious hatred, or provocation likely to lead to a breach of the peace). They may also be liable to civil action for defamation.

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