



PUBLIC PERFORMANCES AND FLY POSTING

1. Performances of plays and other entertainments *in public*, whether indoors or outdoors, may require a licence from the Cambridge City Council or from the South Cambridgeshire District Council for 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.scams.gov.uk/licensing/>



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. Events requiring a licence should not be advertised before the licence has been obtained.

5. 'Fly-posting', i.e., fixing posters and other items to buildings, trees, etc. on University or College property without permission is a breach of the Rules of Behaviour for Registered Students and of the General Regulations for Discipline for other members of the University. Fly-posting is also contrary to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (on private property) and the Highways Act 1980 (in a public place) and material may be illegal for other reasons (obscenity, incitement to racial hatred etc.), or defamatory, even if posting is permitted. The City Council acts against fly-posting within the City and those who fail to remove illegal postings after notice from the Council may be prosecuted.

6. Even if an event does not require a licence, both the organisers and those controlling the premises may be prosecuted if adequate safety precautions are not taken. Promoters are also 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) and may also be liable to pay civil damages for defamation.

Andrew Hammond
St John's College
Senior Proctor 2023-24

Charles Read
Corpus Christi College
Junior Proctor 2023-24