



*Make visible what, without you, might never have been seen* Robert Bresson

## LICENSING FILM SCREENINGS

*The following is intended as a guide to copyright and licensing for anyone thinking about arranging a film screening outside their home. Information on the equipment needed is not provided here, however we list some useful web-links below.*

All commercially available DVDs are subject to copyright legislation. When screening films outside a private home, it is important to obtain the correct license, depending on the specific circumstances. We list the two most likely options below:

### 1) NO ENTRY FEE CHARGED AND SCREENING IS NOT ADVERTISED TO THE PUBLIC

This is by far the more straightforward option, and is intended for screening films for entertainment purposes in pre-existing groups and organisations such as schools, after-school clubs and youth centres. **We recommend exploring this option first for 8 ½ screenings.**

In such cases an annual licence called a Public Video Screening Licence (PVSL) is required. A PVSL entitles the holder to screen unlimited films throughout the year using their own DVDs purchased from any legitimate retail outlet. With the PVSL you will be covered for the use of films from most of the major Hollywood and independent studios.

The annual cost of a PVSL is dependent on the size of the total group (in the case of a school, the total group is the entire school, even if a film is to only be shown to a single class). For groups of up to 249, the cost for 2010/11 is £81 + VAT. For groups between 250 and 749 the cost is £135 + VAT.

To learn more or to apply for a PVSL for your group, please visit [www.filmbank.co.uk](http://www.filmbank.co.uk)  
School groups can visit [www.cefm.co.uk/licensing/pvsl](http://www.cefm.co.uk/licensing/pvsl)

### 2) ENTRY FEE CHARGED AND/OR SCREENING IS PUBLICLY ADVERTISED

This is most commonly the case for film societies, whether open access or comprised of a paying membership. An individual licence for each film must be obtained, and in addition the venue itself should hold a cinema licence.

The British Federation of Film Societies can offer advice on all aspects of setting up a film society, including licensing and technical requirements. In addition, Regional Screen Scotland offers advice and support to groups in remote, rural, coastal and under-provided communities throughout Scotland. Filmbank is the primary provider of films and licences for film societies.

[www.bffs.org.uk](http://www.bffs.org.uk)  
[www.regionalscreenscotland.org](http://www.regionalscreenscotland.org)  
[www.filmbank.co.uk](http://www.filmbank.co.uk)

For further guidance, or if you feel neither option fits your circumstance, please visit [www.filmbank.co.uk](http://www.filmbank.co.uk) for more info. Alternatively, you can contact us for help:

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