As you may know films and TV programmes, whether broadcast on television (terrestrial television, Freeview or satellite services), on home entertainment DVD/Blu-ray or viewed from the internet via streaming sites are intended for private, domestic use only. Under the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, those shown outside of one’s home, qualify as a ‘public performance’ and are illegal unless correctly licensed. The film and television industry realised there needed to be an easy, low cost licensing options.

The solution became the MPLC Umbrella Licence.

The licence gives unlimited use of thousands of films and TV shows throughout the year.  It represents over 4000 (four thousand) Hollywood producers, independent film studios and TV producers

Key restrictions:

1. No commercial advertisement may be made of the film title outside of the licensed premises and to no one other than the licensed group.

2. No direct income may be made to view the film, but you may

i) Charge a ticket price that includes  food, drink, raffle etc.

ii) Have no entry fee, but raise funds through the sale of food, drink, raffle ticket etc. at each film event.

3. The licence is only applicable to the named organisation and location.

4. The films shown must be a legal copy of that film.

5. This licence is unfortunately not suitable for a film society or similar since it does not cover cinema style events.

Key benefits:

1. Allows the use of films and TV shows broadcast, downloaded or streamed together with any legally obtained DVD/Blu-ray copies- either your own library or those purchased/rented.

2. Unlimited showings all year round.

3. No reporting of title use or audience figures.

4. Low administration as the licence agreement renews automatically.

It is questionable when an organisation provides equipment such as TV, Laptop etc. that may be used for streaming. You need to be assured and make it clear that no MPLC material would be shown on the equipment.

**If you have the equipment you need a disclaimer - will not be used to show any licenced materials**

The fee for the MPLC Umbrella Licence to legally screen film and TV shows is £326.27 + vat per year.

Wendy Hand

28.08.24