

Northern Onondaga Public Library Film Screening Policy

Purpose:

The Northern Onondaga Public Library may show films to enrich library programming and to increase awareness of DVD and Blu-ray collections for children, teens and adults. Users of library facilities who would like to show films at the library are responsible for adherence to copyright and public performance rights as well as the library's content considerations.

Public Performance Rights

Movies cannot be screened as programs unless we have public performance rights to show them. The library obtains licenses for public performance rights through Movie Licensing USA <http://www.movlic.com/> or the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation www.mplc.org. Additional public performance rights may be purchased if needed.

The library collects and screens movies with G, PG, PG-13, and R ratings. Under some circumstances, an unrated movie can also be collected and shown if we have a license for public performance.

Content Considerations

In addition to paying attention to ratings and critical reviews, selectors should be careful to examine content advisories for the films to be shown.

If the following keywords, or similar keywords, appear in the Internet Movie Database (IMDB) or Commonsensemedia.org descriptions, showing the film requires the Director's permission.

"disturbing violent content" "intense persistent violence" "sexual assault" "strong sexuality"
"graphic nudity" "frontal nudity" "torture" "highly disturbing" "disturbing"

If IMDB and/or CommonsenseMedia content advisories are not available, the film requires Director's permission before it is scheduled for public performance.

Note:

Before showing movies that are rated PG-13 or R, a staff member will introduce the movie and say a few words--usually from IMDB-- about the rating and why it was given this rating.

Example: "This film is rated R for language including some sexual references."

No R-rated films will be shown at times when children would likely want to be in attendance. In general, this means "R" rated film showings should not begin between the hours of 2:30 PM and 5:30 PM and should be avoided entirely on weekends. When in doubt please seek the guidance of the Library Director.

Approved 5/22/17