

LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THEATRES AND DANCE HALLS ACT

CHAPTER 21:03

**Act
39 of 1934**

**Amended by
26 of 1935
15 of 1951
45 of 1979
47 of 1980**

Current Authorised Pages

<i>Pages (inclusive)</i>	<i>Authorised by L.R.O.</i>
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LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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Chap. 21:03

Theatres and Dance Halls

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Note
on
Adaptation

Under paragraph 6 of the Second Schedule to the Law Revision Act (Ch. 3:03) the Commission amended certain references to public officers in this Chapter. The Minister's approval of the amendments was signified by L.N. 120/1980, but no marginal reference is made to this Notice where any such amendment is made in the text.

Corrigendum

At page 4, in section 3(1), under the marginal reference thereto, insert the reference "47 of 1980".

Interpretation.
[15 of 1951].

2. In this Act—

“dance hall” means any building, tent or other erection open to the public gratuitously or otherwise, where public dancing or singing takes place;

Schedule.

“licence” means a licence granted in the form in the Schedule, and “licensed” shall be construed accordingly;

“Licensing Authority” means any Magistrate assigned for duty in the magisterial district in which a theatre or dance hall is situate;

“specified area” means any area to which the provisions of this Act have been applied in accordance with section 1(2);

“stage play” includes any tragedy, comedy, farce, opera, burletta, interlude, melodrama, pantomime, prologue, epilogue, concert or other dramatic or musical entertainment or any part thereof;

“theatre” means any building, tent or other erection open to the public, gratuitously or otherwise, where a stage play is performed, presented or held and includes a dance hall.

Grant and conditions of licences.
[45 of 1979].

3. (1) After the commencement of this Act a place within a specified area shall not be used as a theatre or dance hall without a licence.

(2) A Licensing Authority may grant licences for any period not exceeding twelve months to such persons as it thinks fit to use places as theatres or dance halls on such terms and conditions as may be imposed by Regulations made under this Act or as may be endorsed on the licence by the Licensing Authority.

(3) A Licensing Authority may transfer any licence to any person whom it thinks fit.

(4) A Licensing Authority may, in its discretion refuse to grant a licence or transfer of a licence or may grant it subject to such terms and conditions as it may think desirable.

(5) The following fees shall be payable to the Licensing Authority granting a licence or transfer of a licence in respect of a theatre or dance hall:

	\$
For a licence for one specific occasion	5.00
For a licence for a period not exceeding 14 days ..	10.00
For a licence for a period not exceeding 1 month ..	15.00
For a licence for a period not exceeding 6 months ..	30.00
For a licence for a period not exceeding 12 months ..	50.00

(6) Except where the period for which a licence is in force does not exceed fourteen days, there shall be affixed and kept affixed in some conspicuous place and so as to be easily legible on or immediately over and on the outer side of the main entrance of every licensed place, the words "Licensed in pursuance of the Theatres and Dance Halls Act."

4. Where a theatre or dance hall has been licensed in pursuance of this Act, a Licensing Authority, on complaint in writing by any member of the Police Service, any person resident within half a mile of the theatre or dance hall, or any person specially aggrieved, that the activities carried on there constitute a nuisance or are injurious to public morals, may cancel the licence issued in respect thereof or suspend the licence for any period not exceeding six months.

Cancellation
and suspension
of licences.
[15 of 1951].

5. (1) If any place is used as a theatre or dance hall without a licence the owner or occupier thereof, unless he proves to the satisfaction of the Court that the place is so used without his consent or connivance, is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of two hundred dollars for every day on which the place is so used.

Penalties.

(2) If the holder of a licence acts in contravention of or fails to comply with this Act or any regulation made thereunder or with any term, condition or restriction on or subject to which the licence is granted, he is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of one thousand dollars, and in the case of a continuing offence to a fine of two hundred dollars for each day on which the contravention continues after conviction, and the licence of any person so convicted may be revoked by the Licensing Authority.

6. Any constable detailed for the purpose, may at all reasonable times enter upon any licensed premises with a view to seeing whether the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder or the conditions of any licence, are being or have been complied with. Any person preventing or obstructing such entry is, on summary conviction, liable to a fine of four hundred dollars.

Power of entry.

7. (1) Any person aggrieved by any decision of a Licensing Authority refusing the grant or transfer of, or cancelling or suspending, a licence under this Act may appeal from the decision to the Court of Appeal.

Right of appeal.
[15 of 1951].

Ch. 4:20.

(2) The procedure in respect of any appeal under this section shall be such as is laid down in the Summary Courts Act, except that it shall not be obligatory to give any notice of reasons for appeal.

(3) In this section "any person aggrieved" means the applicant for the grant or transfer of a licence, a person whose licence has been cancelled or suspended, or any person entitled under this Act to make a complaint with a view to cancellation or suspension of a licence.

Regulations.

8. (1) The Minister may make regulations—

- (a) prescribing conditions to be observed in reference to the erection, alteration and equipment of any theatre or dance hall;
- (b) prescribing conditions to be observed in reference to the safety from fire or otherwise of any theatre or dance hall or for the safety, convenience and control of persons attending a theatre or dance hall;
- (c) generally for the more effective carrying out of this Act.

(2) Regulations made under this section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament.

Savings and exemptions.

9. Nothing in this Act shall exempt any person or place from the provisions of any other written law requiring the licensing for any purposes of that person or place or shall apply to any place in the control of any municipal authority or in any building thereon.

Section 2.

SCHEDULE

FORM OF LICENCE

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The Theatres and Dance Halls Act

Licence is hereby granted to....., of....., to use the premises situate at....., as a Theatre/Dance Hall for the period of..... from the.....day of....., 19....., subject to the provisions of the Theatres and Dance Halls Act and any Regulations made thereunder or any conditions endorsed hereon.

Dated this.....day of....., 19.....

Licensing Authority.

Fee paid \$.....

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

THEATRES AND DANCE HALLS REGULATIONS

G. 14.3.35.

made under section 8

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Theatres and Dance Halls Regulations. Citation.

2. No theatre or dance hall shall be licensed unless it is provided to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority with an adequate number of clearly indicated exits in such position and so maintained as to afford safe and speedy egress for the audience. Licensing.

3. The seating accommodation in any theatre or dance hall shall be so arranged as not to interfere with free access to the exits, and the gang-ways, staircases and passages leading to the exits shall be kept clear of obstructions, whether permanent or temporary, during the presence of the audience. Seating accommodation.

4. Where electric light is reasonably available for use, no other means of lighting shall be used in any theatre or dance hall without the express permission in writing of the Licensing Authority. Lighting.

5. The following conditions shall be strictly observed in any theatre or dance hall during the presentation or performance of any stage play or the holding of any dance: Conditions.

- (a) no profane, indecent or obscene songs or ballads shall be sung or spoken;
- (b) no stage play or song shall be presented or sung which is insulting to any individual or section of the community, whether referred to by name or otherwise;
- (c) no acting or representation calculated to hold up to public ridicule or contempt any individual or section of the community shall be presented or performed;
- (d) no lewd or suggestive dancing shall be performed;
- (e) all performers and dancers shall be decently attired;
- (f) no violent, quarrelsome or disorderly conduct shall be permitted.

Presence of
licensee or
representative.

6. The licensee of the theatre or dance hall, or some person authorised by him in writing to represent the licensee shall be present throughout the performance of any stage play or the holding of any dance.

Hours.

7. No performance of a stage play or a dance shall extend beyond such hours as may be specified in the licence.
