

CHAPTER 30. No. 9.

THEATRES AND DANCE HALLS.

Ordinance
Ch.30. No.9-
E. 1940.

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE USE OF THEATRES,
DANCE HALLS AND OTHER PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT
AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSING THEREOF.

Commence-
ment.

[1st January, 1935.]

Short title.

1. (1) This Ordinance may be cited as the Theatres and Dance Halls Ordinance.

Application.

(2) This Ordinance shall apply only to such towns or other areas as may be specified by the Governor in Council by proclamation in the *Royal Gazette*. A proclamation made under this subsection may be varied or revoked by proclamation made in like manner.*

Interpre-
tation.

2. In this Ordinance—

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

* The following towns and areas have been proclaimed:—

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| (i) The County of St. George. | |
| (ii) The County of Victoria. | |
| (iii) The Police districts (as defined by section 2 of the Police Ordinance) served by the following Police Stations— | |
| (a) Couva. | } G.N: 10-1946 |
| (b) Chaguanas. | |
| (c) Siparia. | |
| (d) Fyzabad. | |
| (e) La Brea. | |
| (f) Penal. | |
| (g) Point Fortin. | |
| (h) Sangre Grande. | |
| (i) Scarborough. | |
| (j) Roxborough. | |
| (k) Palo Seco. | } G.N. 104-1949. |

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

" Licensing Authority " means any person or body of persons appointed by the Governor by notice in the *Royal Gazette* to be a Licensing Authority for any proclaimed area specified in such notice;*

" proclaimed area " means any area to which the provisions of this Ordinance have been applied in accordance with subsection (2) of section 1;

" 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.

3. (1) After the commencement of this Ordinance a place within a proclaimed area shall not be used as a theatre or dance hall without a licence. Grant and conditions of licences.

(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 Ordinance 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.

* The undermentioned have been appointed Licensing Authorities:—

The Police Officer in charge of the division in which each of the several proclaimed areas is situate, has been appointed the Licensing Authority for the purpose of regulating the use of Theatres, Dance Halls and other places of entertainment therein, and to provide for the licensing thereof.

R.G.
31.12.42

(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 occasion50
For a licence for a period not exceeding 14 days	1.00
For a licence for a period not exceeding 1 month	1.50
For a licence for a period not exceeding 6 months	3.00
For a licence for a period not exceeding 12 months	5.00

(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 Ordinance."

Penalties.

4. (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 shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of twenty-four dollars for every day on which the place is so used.

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

Power of entry.

5. 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 Ordinance 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 shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine of forty-eight dollars.

6. (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations— Power to 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 any such theatre or dance hall;
 - (c) generally for the more effective carrying out of the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2) Regulations made under this section shall have no force or effect until they have been approved by the Legislative Council.

7. Nothing in this Ordinance shall exempt any person or place from the provisions of any other enactment 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. Savings and exemptions.

SCHEDULE.

(Section 2.)

FORM OF LICENCE.

COLONY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

The Theatres and Dance Halls Ordinance.

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 Ordinance and any regulations made thereunder or any conditions endorsed hereon.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 19____.

Licensing Authority.

Fee paid \$ _____

CHAPTER 30. No. 9.

THEATRES AND DANCE HALLS.

R.G.
14.3.1935.

Regulations made under section 6 of the Theatres and Dance
Halls Ordinance.

1. These regulations may be cited as the Theatres and Dance Halls Regulations.
2. In these regulations "the Ordinance" means the Theatres and Dance Halls Ordinance.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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:—
 - (1) No profane, indecent or obscene songs or ballads shall be sung or spoken;
 - (2) 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;
 - (3) 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;
 - (4) No lewd or suggestive dancing shall be performed;
 - (5) All performers and dancers shall be decently attired;
 - (6) No violent, quarrelsome or disorderly conduct shall be permitted.
7. 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.
8. No performance of a stage play or a dance shall extend beyond such hours as may be specified in the licence.