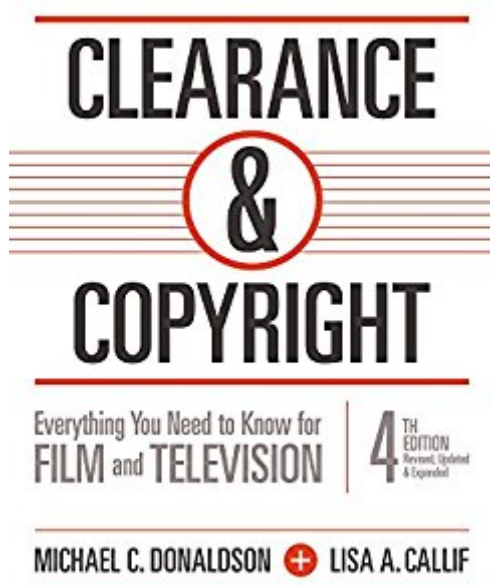


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# Clearance & Copyright, 4th Edition: Everything You Need To Know For Film And Television

"I love this book and use it often."  
— Tod Sarantis, Chief Content Officer, Netflix



## Synopsis

Clearance and Copyright is the industry-standard guide to almost every conceivable rights issue that filmmakers, videomakers, television producers, and Internet content creators might encounter. From the initial acquisition of material through the rights issues that arise during preproduction, production, postproduction, and release, this legalese-free guide "now extensively revised, updated, and expanded" will help you protect yourself and your work from disastrous legal actions. Among this edition's new features are links to 25 downloadable contracts and 50 illustrative film clips. Michael C. Donaldson is a Los Angeles-based, entertainment lawyer with more than 45 years of experience in copyright and entertainment issues. He has been called the Obi-Wan Kenobi of Fair Use by the American Bar Association Journal. Lisa A. Callif was named by The Daily Journal as one of the Top 100 Women Lawyers in California (2014). Her primary focus is on representing independent filmmakers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When we first bought this book, my colleague glanced at the cover with dread - the very thought of reading all that complex legal stuff was daunting. As I started reading, I found, to my surprise, that I

was totally engrossed. It was hard to put it down -- even when the phone rang. It is extremely well written with lots of stories of filmmakers and their challenges and successes. It resonated with me as a documentary producer/director. With my crammed schedule -- doing rights and clearances, work-in-progress screenings, and preparing to navigate the film-festival circuit, I was especially pleased at how well organized it is and that it didn't take much time for me to read the information pertinent to me. I highly recommend it for all film-makers. You don't have to leave it all to the experts -- you can become one! An enjoyable easy read -- how many law books can you say that about?

An invaluable tool for Filmmakers of any level from pro's to schmoes. Everything you could ever want to know about clearance issues and filmmaking in one place?? Awesome! The book reads like a good conversation and is stuffed to the gills with downloadable forms via email addresses and there's also URL Links you can enter into your web browser to see examples of film clips to reference the topics it discusses. Best of all, the links and download forms don't require any annoying sign ups or log ins or pass codes, it's just point and click and voila! It's totally awesome that this book exists. Highly recommend!

This terrific book is a "must-have" for filmmakers, be they fiction or non-fiction, documentary or dramatic. To those not in the legal profession, the matter of copyrights and clearances seems like a dark, scary jungle we all wish we didn't have to go through but authors Michael Donaldson and Lisa Callif are there like friendly guides to help you stay out of danger and get to the other side safely. Co-written by one of the master architects of "Fair Use" for documentarians, why make your film making journey all the more treacherous? Mr. Donaldson discusses his heroic efforts that brought Errors and Omissions Insurance companies into the world of documentaries. He certainly deserves a medal for that! This book is quite an enjoyable read, full of real-world examples that will often amaze you. Yes, even the big boys of the feature film world get bit from time to time. Learn from their mistakes. You'll be told quite clearly what you can do, can't do, must do and must not do. If I had read this before I started to make my film, I'd probably have enjoyed the journey a lot more!

As a CA attorney I know how useful this book is to attorneys and to the industry. It is informative and useable. Too many industry attorneys have this book at their desk for too many years for it to be a questionable purchase.

using this as a reference text while I'm in graduate school earning my MFA. I'm so glad I purchased

it. The book delves into fair use, familiarity, and basic copyright theory without giving me too much information. It is well-organized and written by an expert in the field. For film and television writers, this book, IMHO, is indispensable.

Great book and helpful information. Only problem is the table of contents didn't make for easy reference (it could have been more detailed by subject and sub-subject). For example, I wanted to find the copyright laws surrounding the non-diegetic use of a cover song in a film. I never did find the answer in this book on that.

I am the co founder of Chippendales and during that time dealt with our trademarks a great deal. After selling that I was a music lawyer and now I do business affairs and project development in films. Michael and Lisa's book is terrific. It is my go to bible for matters of clearance and copyright. It is so detailed that a screenwriter was having problems filing a copyright and I was able to open to the chapter in the book and walk her through it on the phone. The downloadable forms are an added plus. This book is a must for anyone involved in the business side of making films, TV or music

As someone who has worked on scores of documentaries around the world, this is THE best source of learning how to obtain clearance (and if you need it) for everything from footage, pictures and music... Michael Donaldson is one of the world's leading legal specialists on film and television clearance and copyright, and he is invited to many international speaking engagements and forums. I was recently blessed to work with him in person in Los Angeles to offer advice on the most recent documentary I worked on--invaluable. BUY IT!

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