**Money, Money: A Conversation in Ethics**

**Standards:**

*TAHSFT.CN.2 Examine the role of theatre in a societal, cultural, and historical context.*

*TAHSFT.CN.1 Explore how theatre connects to life experiences, careers, and other content.*

**Situation:**

*Before any company can legally perform a show they MUST obtain the rights from the appropriate licensing company. The process includes applying for a license, signing a binding contract, and following the guidelines set for by the licensing company.*

**Copyright:** the exclusive legal right, given to an originator or an assignee to print, publish, perform, film, or record literary, artistic, or musical material, and to authorize others to do the same.

**Grand Rights:** Grand Rights cover the right to present the show, in its entirety, on stage.

**Small Rights:** performances of individual songs in a concert or cabaret-type setting.

Discussion Questions:

1. Last year, a low income school in New Jersey produced a stage production of the movie “Alien”. The director rewrote the movie for the stage. The school did not gain permission to do this. The show pictures went viral (they did a found object sort of thing-very cool- article link on the weebly). Should the school be criticized for illegally producing the show or celebrated for their ingenuity?
2. During One Act Competitions, most schools select 2 act plays or musicals to perform in the competition. Many schools cut the show to 55 minutes without getting the rights from the licensing company. What are your thoughts on this practice?
3. A high school musical theatre awards show requires a video of each shows performance. Many licensing companies forbid this practice. What should directors do in this case?
4. You are snuggled in your bed cruising social media when someone texts you that there is a new bootleg of “Mean GIrls” up on youtube under the name “Girls that Aren’t Nice”. Considering the cost of a ticket to a broadway show ($80-$200), is it unethical to watch the video? Discuss the ethics of broadway bootlegs.
5. Your director is perusing shows for the next school year and needs to read 10ish musicals before making a selection. It costs $5-$20 to rent a perusal. Most shows can be found online by searching for a PDF. Is it unethical for the director to read those perusals? What if they use the PDF for auditions?