

## Copyright and the Creative Commons and *Comics Will Break Your Heart* by Erin Faith Hicks

The tension between the Warrick and Kendrick families is really caused by a legal dispute over copyright. Copyright falls under Intellectual Property Law, and there are still many complex and even confusing areas surrounding copyright law. In 2002, the Creative Commons was created to try to help artists navigate these grey areas of copyright.

The Creative Commons website (<https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/History>) says:

Too often the debate over creative control tends to the extremes. At one pole is a vision of total control — a world in which every last use of a work is regulated and in which “all rights reserved” (and then some) is the norm. At the other end is a vision of anarchy — a world in which creators enjoy a wide range of freedom but are left vulnerable to exploitation. Balance, compromise, and moderation — once the driving forces of a copyright system that valued innovation and protection equally — have become endangered species.”

A great example of how copyright is actually influencing culture can be found in animator Nina Paley’s work.

- 1) Watch her TED Talk called “Copyright is Brain Damage”: <https://youtu.be/XO9FKQAxWZc>

Discuss these questions:

- a) Do you agree that culture is like a brain network?
- b) Where should the lines be drawn about public domain? How many years after the artist is dead should their music or art be available into the public domain for remixing? Or should the artist’s family be able to receive money for the rest of eternity?
- c) At one point, Nina Paley says she has declared legal sovereignty over her brain, so that she can’t live in fear for singing a song that she remembers from her childhood.
- d) Nina Paley calls herself a copyright abolitionist saying that it’s easier for her to abolish all of it than to navigate the “Kafka-esque” system of copyright permissions.
- e) Nina Paley says that we’re living in a world of Permission Culture where the fear of being punished is preventing us from making art. Do you agree or disagree? Can you think of any examples to support your point of view?

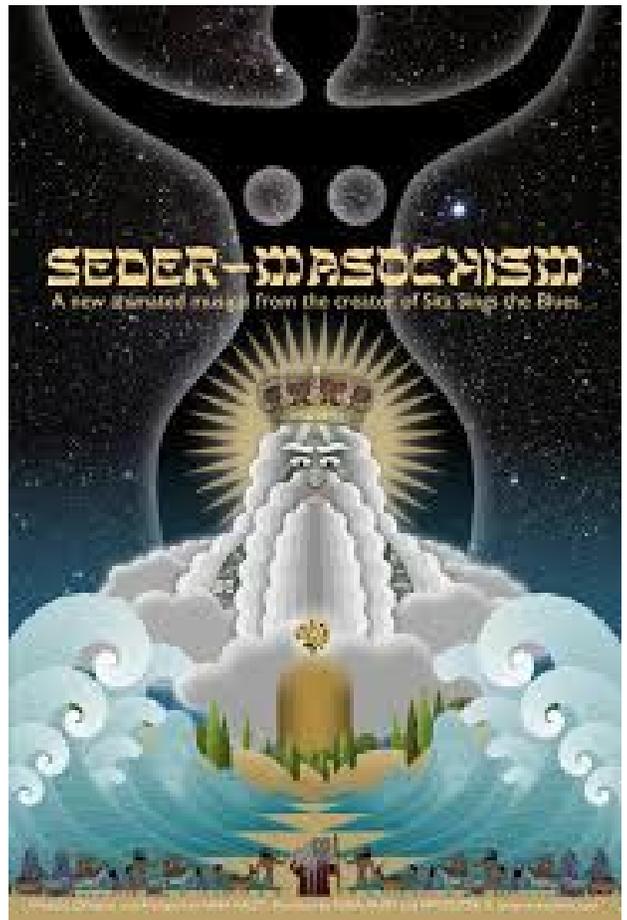
If you want to learn more about Nina Paley, visit her website about her first film:

<https://www.sitasingingtheblues.com/>

Her second film: <https://sedermasochism.com/>

Check out her blog:

<https://blog.ninapaley.com/>



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