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# industrial strength parody – fair use and musicals

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On May 12, 2022, Judge Laura Taylor Swain of the Southern District of New York held that *Vape*—a parodic retelling of famous musical *Grease* through a feminist lens—constitutes fair use. ***See Sketchworks Industrial Strength Comedy, Inc. v. James H. Jacobs, et al.***, No. 19-CV-7470-LTS-VF, 2022 WL 1501024 (S.D.N.Y. May 12, 2022). The case was initiated by Sketchworks, a Georgia-based sketch comedy company, after the copyright owners of *Grease* served them with a cease-and-desist letter days prior to a 2019 performance of its musical *Vape* in New York City. Sketchworks sought declaratory relief and moved for a judgment on the pleadings, arguing that their production is a parody of *Grease* and constitutes fair use under Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976. The Defendants argued that *Vape*'s use of *Grease*'s character names, settings, and storyline, as well as portions of nine *Grease* songs clearly violated their copyright.

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