

THE PILLARS

GUIDELINES FOR NUDITY AND SIMULATED SEX FOR TV AND FILM

A NOTE ON THE ROLE OF THE INTIMACY COORDINATOR: Intimacy Coordinators certified with IDI are highly skilled collaborators trained in movement, acting theory, body language, consent, sexual harassment prevention, mental health first aid, and, our best practices for Intimacy Coordination. Due to the sensitivity of the material and areas for potential liability, we recommend seeking out a certified Intimacy Coordinator with IDI.

CONTEXT

Before any scene of intimacy can be addressed, we must first understand the story and the given circumstances surrounding a scene of intimacy. All parties must be aware of how the scene of intimacy meets the needs of the story and must also understand the story within the intimacy itself. This creates a foundation for consent and ensures that the intimacy is always in service of the story.

COMMUNICATION

There must be open and continuous communication between the intimacy coordinator, ADs, director, producers, costumers, and actors. This communication includes but is not limited to, discussion of the scene prior to the day of filming, understanding of barriers and masking techniques, frequent check-ins during the filming, and an openness to adjust actions in the process. Avenues for reporting harassment must be readily available and accessible to the entire cast and crew.

CONSENT

Consent must be established by all those on set - from the actors playing the scene to the crew who is witnessing the scene. True consent ensures that all parties have the right to work within their own boundaries and to remove consent at any time. Consent must be freely given, and cannot be given while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or while being coerced by those in power.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Each scene of intimacy must be anchored for the performers. Drastic changes to physical storytelling must first be discussed by the creative team. It is the job of the intimacy coordinator to assist the director in setting the physical anchors, monitor actor safety, and address any discrepancies that may appear. Should improvisation be deemed an appropriate approach to a scene - the intimacy coordinator will assist in setting actor boundaries, within which the improvisation can freely take place.

CLOSURE

At the end of every rehearsal or scene of intimacy, actors are encouraged to participate in a closing practice. This small moment can be used between takes and/or upon the close of rehearsal or shooting of an intimate scene. This simple moment can serve as a check in between artists and a reminder we are all here in a professional capacity. Likewise, we suggest all parties (including production and creatives) exercise proper self-care during and after the filming of intimate projects.