



Consent and Intimacy Guidance



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
<i>Working with Consent in the classroom.....</i>	2
Specific Guidelines.....	2
Student Responsibilities.....	2
Staff Responsibilities.....	3
End-of-Class Warm-Down.....	3
<i>Protocols for Intimate Scenes in Performances.....</i>	3
Introduction.....	3
Definitions.....	4
Intimacy Management.....	4
Intimacy Captain Role.....	4
Wardrobe and Fitting.....	4
Additional Information.....	5
Social Distancing.....	5
Technical Rehearsal, Dress Rehearsal, and Show.....	5
Reporting Violations.....	5
Cultural Sensitivity.....	5
LGBTQ+ Considerations.....	6
Consent Workshops.....	6
Digital Intimacy.....	6
Addressing Power Dynamics.....	6



Introduction

Definition of Consent:

Consent is permission for something to happen or agreement to do something. In the context of actor training and performance, it refers to the agreement of all involved parties regarding physical and intimate actions.

In a creative working environment, everyone has the right to feel secure while exploring their full potential. This document outlines the guidelines for consent in acting classes and during the performance of intimate scenes. The goal is to ensure the physical and emotional safety of all participants while respecting individual boundaries and autonomy.

Working with Consent in the classroom

- Acting often involves physical and emotional contact. What may seem harmless to one person can be uncomfortable or invasive to another. Therefore, it's crucial to prioritize consent.
- Before starting any exploratory work involving physical or intimate actions, students should communicate and establish clear and agreed-upon boundaries with their partners.
- These boundaries should be flexible and can evolve as the work progresses. It is helpful to inform the tutor or project leader of any changes in boundaries.

Specific Guidelines

- a. Full nudity is strictly prohibited in any class under any circumstances.
- b. Deep or sexual kissing is not allowed within any class without the involvement of an intimacy director or movement tutor to facilitate.
- c. Partial nudity, such as being in a semi-state of undress while wearing concealing garments, is permissible only with the full consent of all parties involved. If anyone feels discomfort, adaptations must be made to ensure safety and autonomy.

Student Responsibilities

- Students are responsible for communicating their boundaries and conditions to their partners before any work begins.
- Students should disclose any physical injuries or conditions that could endanger themselves or others, such as illness or injury.



- Students are not obligated to justify or explain their boundaries to others, including tutors.
- Respect your partner's requests and view boundaries as opportunities to explore relationships and circumstances creatively.
- Students can change their level of intimacy consent at any time during a class, but they must communicate this change to their partner to avoid surprises.
- Do not take changes in intimacy boundaries as a personal slight; intimacy choices are personal and not reflective of the partner.
- Students have the right to slow down or stop an exercise if they feel unsafe.
- All disclosures about intimacy boundaries are strictly confidential and must not be shared outside of the class or rehearsal.

Staff Responsibilities

- Staff should be sensitive to the needs of individual students, especially in areas involving intimacy and consent.
- Allow time for students to disclose any concerns or boundaries before starting work.
- Listen without feeling obligated to give advice and ensure that all agreements are understood by everyone involved.
- Be vigilant during work to identify any signs of discomfort or distress in students.
- Use discernment and judgment to guide or stop work that may lead to discomfort or distress.
- Ask about consent and intimacy discreetly, respecting students' privacy.
- Avoid making light of consent or intimacy agreements, as this can discourage students from disclosing concerns.

End-of-Class Warm-Down

- At the end of each class or rehearsal, staff and tutors should conduct a warm-down session to help students re-center and stabilize themselves physically and emotionally.
- This session is essential for students' well-being and helps them transition to their next activity with an open and receptive mindset.
- In the first year of training, dedicate 15 minutes to the warm-down, reducing it to 5-10 minutes in the second and third years.

Protocols for Intimate Scenes in Performances

Introduction

- Teaching and training in drama often involve physical intimacy, making the safety and well-being of students paramount. This document outlines protocols for physical intimacy in performance and rehearsals at Collective Acting Studio to ensure the protection of students' autonomy, safety, and mental well-being.
- Students should have the opportunity to establish their personal boundaries before engaging in any physical or intimate work.

Definitions

Intimacy: Intimacy includes any stage action portraying intimate physical contact or engagement, such as kissing, embracing, touching, and more.

Consent: Consent is defined as a choice made freely with the capacity to do so. In live performance, only performers can consent to proposed actions.

Nudity: Full or partial nudity is not allowed in the first and second-year student performances. For third-year actors, consent must be obtained for any nudity, and the work must have minimal personnel present.

Intimacy Management

- Movement, including intimacy direction, will be guided by Collective Acting Studio's appointed movement director, and intimacy direction will be undertaken by the appointed Intimacy Co-ordinator.
- The Intimacy Co-ordinator will advocate for performers' safety and discuss intimate scenes in advance to ensure willing consent.
- Good practice includes ensuring performer safety, coordinating scheduling, avoiding mobile phones, and assigning an "Intimacy Captain" for the run.
- Directors and creatives should not step in during intimacy rehearsals, and all intimacy rehearsals must be run by the Intimacy Co-ordinator or Intimacy Captain.
- Choreograph all intimacy scenes and document rehearsals for reference and conflict resolution.

Intimacy Captain Role

- The Intimacy Captain, typically the stage manager, manages intimacy calls, is present during intimacy sessions, takes notes, and maintains consented choreography.
- The Intimacy Captain should be aware of how to seek mental health support for themselves and others in the company.

Wardrobe and Fitting

- Wardrobe staff and actors should communicate clearly during fittings, respecting actors' comfort and boundaries.



- Actors should wear appropriate undergarments, and fitting procedures should prioritize actors' comfort and privacy.

Additional Information

- Actors must receive a minimum of 24 hours' notice for rehearsals of intimate scenes.
- Protocols for intimacy sessions, privacy, and signage must be followed.
- Photography and distribution of intimate scenes require performers' prior written consent.

Social Distancing

- During times of social distancing, intimate actions may be restricted, but all protocols and student consent must still be followed.

Technical Rehearsal, Dress Rehearsal, and Show

- Conduct intimacy calls before each performance, with the option to alter choreography in consultation with the Intimacy coordinator and director, with the actor consent.
- Limit personnel during intimacy sessions and provide clear reminders of photography policies.
- Ensure intimacy kit availability and clear audience awareness of intimate content in the show.

Reporting Violations

Students who experience or witness violations of consent or feel uncomfortable in any situation related to intimacy work can report their concerns through the following channels:

- 1. Directly to the Intimacy Coordinator if applicable
- 2. To their personal tutor
- 3. To the Student Welfare Officer
- 4. Through an the reporting system outlined in the Complaints Procedure.

All reports will be treated confidentially and investigated promptly.

No student will face retaliation for reporting concerns in good faith.

Cultural Sensitivity

- Collective Acting Studio recognises the diverse cultural backgrounds of our students.
- Cultural differences in attitudes towards physical contact and intimacy will be respected.
- Students are encouraged to communicate any cultural considerations that may affect their participation in intimate scenes.
- Directors and Intimacy Coordinators will work to accommodate cultural sensitivities while maintaining the integrity of the performance.

LGBTQ+ Considerations

- The Studio is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- LGBTQ+ students may have specific concerns or needs regarding intimate scenes, which will be addressed with sensitivity and respect.
- Gender-neutral language will be used when discussing intimate scenes to ensure inclusivity.
- Students can request to work with an Intimacy Coordinator who has specific experience with LGBTQ+ performers if available.

Consent Workshops

- Collective Acting Studio will conduct annual consent workshops for all students and staff.
- These workshops will cover:
 1. Understanding and practising consent
 2. Boundaries and communication in intimate scene work
 3. Bystander intervention techniques
- Additional workshops may be scheduled before productions involving intimate scenes.

Digital Intimacy

- For virtual or recorded performances involving intimate content:
- The same principles of consent apply as in live performances.
- The Intimacy Coordinator will adapt techniques for virtual rehearsals and performances as needed.

Addressing Power Dynamics



- Staff members, including directors and teachers, must be aware of the inherent power imbalance in their relationships with students.
- They should never use their position to pressure students into uncomfortable situations or to override established boundaries.
- Students have the right to refuse any intimate action without fear of academic or professional consequences.
- An independent advocate (e.g., Student Welfare Officer) will be available to mediate any conflicts arising from power imbalances.