

College of Liberal and Creative Arts Policy for Creative Work Engaged in Intimacy and/or Nudity

Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines and protocols to ensure the safety, consent, and professionalism of students, faculty, and staff when working on projects involving physical intimacy and/or nudity. Projects include filmed content, live performances and other creative works that may include intimate actions and/or nudity. The policy aligns with professional standards used by industry unions such as SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity Association, as well as leading professional intimacy organizations such as Theatrical Intimacy Education and the Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (IDC).

Definitions

Intimacy: Although intimacy can and does include a variety of physical contact, for the purposes of this policy, "intimacy" refers to sexual and/or romantic physical contact such as kissing, simulated sexual acts (inclusive of representative acts of intercourse and outercourse), or sensual body positioning wherein the pelvis might make contact with another individual's body. "Simulated intercourse" refers to choreographed movements that depict the act of penetration, whether involving a person, object, or other implement. "Simulated outercourse" refers to choreographed movements that depict sexual acts occurring without penetration.

Nudity: Full or partial exposure of the body as part of a performance, rehearsal, or production. In the professional world, "full nudity" refers to seeing the entirety of the front and/or back of a human body; "partial nudity" refers to seeing part(s) of the rear pelvis, front pelvis, and/or chest.

Intimacy Choreographer/Coordinator/Director (IC/ID): A trained professional who oversees the choreography and execution of intimacy and/or nudity to ensure informed consent.

Consent: Clear, informed, and voluntary agreement to participate in specific actions or scenes, with the right to withdraw consent at any time.

Rider: A formal, written agreement that explains the terms, conditions, and boundaries regarding a performer's participation in scenes involving intimacy and/or nudity within a production. The rider describes in as much detail as possible: the physical acts the performer will be expected to do as part of their participation and/or what they will be wearing as part of a presentation of full and/or partial nudity.

Best Practices

Pre-Production Planning

- Scripts or projects involving intimacy or nudity must be reviewed and approved by the Department Chair/School Director (or other designated administrator) before production.
- Students and required third-parties (stage manager, assistant director, production assistants and others holding similar positions must be given advanced notice of a creative work's potential for physical intimacy and/or nudity prior to being cast. This might happen during casting notices, auditions, and in the signing of rider(s). Any potential third parties are permitted

to decline serving in this capacity for any reason (e.g., cultural, religious, moral, etc.) with no penalty.

- During the casting process, actors will not be expected to perform any kind of nudity or simulated sexual acts.
- Once an actor has been offered a role, production must write a detailed account of the intimacy/nudity the actor is expected to do.
- Actors will be encouraged to ask clarifying questions before signing the rider acknowledging that they are aware of production's needs.
- Performers who no longer wish to participate in the production shall be permitted to leave without fear of academic penalty.
- In the example above, production is encouraged to work within a performer's boundaries, but they are also allowed to re-cast if needed.
- At minimum a project requires two weeks clearance (i.e., signing off by all stake holders).
- All performers, actors, and "closed set" personnel will be required to sign a rider as a requirement for participation on the project.
- Riders and project descriptions shall be held at the Department/School office offering the course for which the project is being completed. Riders will be retained by the College in accordance with CSU and SF State record retention guidelines.

Intimacy Directors/Coordinators/Choreographers

- Productions involving intimacy and/or nudity (as defined above) must make an effort to hire an intimacy professional to choreograph scenes and mediate concerns. However, in the event that hiring a professional is impossible (due to scheduling, budgetary, or other issues), the director and/or choreographer on the project must take a foundational intimacy course (sometimes called a "Best Practices" course) to ensure that they understand how to incorporate consent-based practices into the work. The College of LCA will identify the intimacy course (or courses) satisfying this requirement. Such course shall be selected from the "approved" course list, and its completion confirmed, by the School Director. Documentation of successful completion of the course must be provided to and retained by the College in accordance with CSU and SF State record retention guidelines.
- If hired, intimacy professionals must be consulted in advance and be present during rehearsals of relevant scenes. The IC/ID must also be available to return at a later date if choreography or nudity aspects need to be adjusted.

Establishing Boundaries

- Prior to working out specific intimacy choreography or nudity, production must provide an opportunity for performers to establish personal boundaries. Performers must be permitted to share their boundaries without fear of penalty or judgment.
- Boundary practice policies differ among intimacy professionals, but may include the physical touching of one's own body to establish where the person is providing permission to touch and verbiage such as "green, yellow, red" to establish "yes, maybe, no."
- Boundaries are sometimes flexible. They are allowed to shift over time, becoming more open and/or more restrictive.

- Boundaries are often different between different groups of people.
- Performers always have the right to withdraw their consent at any time. In these cases, production should adjust choreography to work within newly established boundaries.

Setting Choreography

- Intimate or scenes involving nudity must be rehearsed and filmed/performed on a closed set/rehearsal room, meaning only essential personnel are present. There must always be a third-party (stage manager, assistant director, production assistant, etc.) during intimacy/nudity scenes.
- Personal cellphones and other recording devices beyond what are necessary for the production are prohibited during intimacy and nudity rehearsal/performance. Personal photography and recording of any kind are prohibited.
- Participants may pause rehearsals or scenes at any time if they feel uncomfortable.
- Directors/IC/ID should never “step in” to stage intimate moments or have any physical contact with performers during the staging or rehearsal process of intimacy.
- Choreography notes should outline all physical actions in intimate scenes to ensure consistency and safety.
- Once choreography has been agreed upon and set, it should be noted only in written form or in a spoken audio recording. Due to privacy concerns, participants should not take video of intimacy rehearsals.
- Performers must not deviate from the agreed upon choreography unless boundaries have changed. If a performer’s change in boundaries alters the choreography, they should notify the person who initially set the choreography so that appropriate modifications can be made.

Additional Prohibited Actions

- Coercing or pressuring participants into engaging in intimacy or nudity against their will.
- Deviating from agreed choreography or boundaries without prior consent.
- Recording or disseminating intimate or nude scenes without explicit written permission.

Reporting and Resolution

If you experience or observe inappropriate behavior or sexual harassment, report it immediately to the Department Chair/School Director, your supervisor, and the Title IX Office. Reports can be filed with the Title IX office in the following ways:

- Submit [an online Incident Report](#) (preferred)
- Email equityprograms@sfsu.edu
- Leave a voicemail at (415) 338-2032
- Make a report in person at Suite 403 in the Student Services Building

Each reported incident will be investigated by the appropriate department/agency.

Annual Communication of Policy to College of Liberal and Creative Arts Faculty

This policy will be provided to College of Liberal and Creative Arts department chairs annually with instructions to disseminate the policy to all College of Liberal and Creative Arts faculty prior to each Fall semester.