On Set Intimacy Scene Best Practices
Provided by the
INTIMACY PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

- If the production is working under a SAG-AFTRA contract, the producer must make “best efforts” to engage an intimacy coordinator for scenes involving nudity or simulated sex and will consider in good faith any request by a performer to engage an intimacy coordinator for other scenes. “Best efforts” is a legally binding obligation on the part of production and the only way a production can exclude and intimacy coordinator for scenes involving nudity and simulated sex is if no intimacy coordinator is available to support the production.
- Producers working under a SAG-AFTRA contract cannot retaliate against a performer for requesting an Intimacy Coordinator.
- The producer, director, and actor should meet, discuss, and agree on the content of all intimate scenes. If an intimacy coordinator is engaged, the director and producer will meet privately with the intimacy coordinator to discuss the vision for each intimate scene as well.
- If an intimacy coordinator is engaged, they will meet privately with each actor involved in the intimate scenes to discuss the director’s vision and to obtain the performers consent. The intimacy coordinator will report the relevant information from the conversation back to the director and production.
- After such meeting/s a nudity and/or simulated sex rider will be written up for each performer in each scene of intimacy and approved by the actor’s representatives and the actor. This rider is to include all of the provisions agreed to in the conversation including, at a minimum, a description of the scene, a precise description of the type of nudity (if applicable), and whether or not a body double can be used.
- If the production is working under a SAG-AFTRA contract, the nudity and/or simulated sex rider must be presented to the performer and their representatives at least 48 hours in advance of the scene filming. Nothing can be added to the rider within that 48 hour period (e.g. no additional nudity or simulated sex acts can be asked of the performer without resetting the 48 hour clock to film the scene).
- Even if a performer signs a nudity and/or simulated sex rider they are not obligated to perform what is contained within the rider. The rider only allows production to use the footage obtained if the performer consents to filming.

- Actors should not be asked to rehearse intimacy scenes without a third party present, such as the producer or intimacy coordinator.
- Intimacy scenes should be rehearsed with the director and given some blocking prior to filming. If an intimacy coordinator is engaged, they can assist with choreography and blocking if requested.
- Actors should be encouraged to talk to one another about their physical boundaries during rehearsal.
- A closed set is enforced for all scenes of intimacy (see closed set memo template for more details).
- All closed set scenes are marked as such on one-liners and on call sheets.
- A closed set memo should be distributed with the call sheet so that everyone is aware of and has access to closed set protocols.
- If anyone is to be added to the list of approved personnel to be on a closed set, the actors must be informed and give their consent.
- Actors performing nudity are provided with robes to wear between takes.
- Actors wait to disrobe until after the camera has slated.
- Once the director calls “cut” no one will be allowed to enter the set until the actors are robed and the 1st AD says the cue “covered.”
- The camera operator will turn the camera lens away from the actors or cover the lens once the director calls cut.
- Actors will be required to wear proper modesty garments during scenes involving simulated sex and there will be no genital contact between actors at any point.
- Actors will not be asked to perform real sex acts. All sex acts must be simulated.
- Background actors are granted the same protections as speaking roles when it comes to nudity and simulated sex.
- If an intimacy coordinator is engaged under a SAG-AFTRA contract, read through the bulletin attached to their contract for other best practices for supporting the intimacy coordinator’s role in production.
- All footage shot under a closed set should be separated from other footage and only those who are essential to viewing the footage are allowed to have access to it.
- If still photos of actors nude or engaged in simulated sex acts are required for the story, strict protocols should be enacted for the storage of such photos, and those protocols should be communicated to the performers.

- There will be no still photography that isn't part of a scene during nudity or simulated sex scenes without the prior written consent of the performers.
- Behind the Scenes (BTS) crew and studio still photographers will not be present on a closed set.
- For intimate scenes that are being captured by still photography, no photos should be shared over platforms that connect to the internet or the cloud, such as DropBox or email. All photos should be uploaded manually to a designated computer or hard drive in post-production and then deleted from the device used to capture the images.
- Minors (defined as anyone under the age of 18) cannot be present on set for scenes involving nudity or simulated sex, but they can be doubled.
- Minors cannot participate in nudity or simulated sex.
- If an actor is experiencing symptoms of HSV-1 or HSV-2 (Herpes Simplex Virus 1 or 2) on a day in which intimacy is scheduled to occur, the scene will be rescheduled to a time when the symptoms are no longer present, or the scene will be modified so that no health risk is posed to the actor's scene partner.
- Dailies for intimacy scenes should be put on a separate camera card and should be pulled off of the dailies viewing platform after one week.
- Access to dailies for intimacy scenes should be limited to only essential personnel.