

The Pillars of Intimacy in Production

The five pillars of intimacy in production define key components for the safe and ethical creation of intimate content in live performance, tv or film. While these principles are defined with respect to a scene of intimacy, many of them can and should be applied beyond intimate scene work to contribute towards a collaborative and consensual rehearsal and performance culture.

Context

Context refers to the shared analysis of the given circumstances for both the piece and the production as a whole. Each scene of intimacy will require a slightly different approach, and context allows for the unique attributes of each situation to be named, addressed, and understood by all those involved.

Consent

Consent is a freely given and knowing agreement between two parties to participate in a specific predetermined action. Consent can only exist when it is voluntary and allows for all parties to change their mind. In a culture of consent, individuals can choose between "Yes" and "No" freely, because both are equally acceptable options.

Communication

Communication must be open and free flowing during the production process to ensure that everyone understands what is being asked of them. Clear and continuous communication that uses inclusive language affords every team member the opportunity to give their informed and confident consent to both the story being told and to the actions in which they are involved.

Choreography

Choreography is a roadmap for the physical movements and emotional journey of the scene. It is a framework, within which actors can safely and effectively work physically and emotionally with one another. Intimacy choreography is meant to be adaptable to fit the needs of the storytelling. It can be hyper specific, or it may create containers for consensual impulse exploration.

Closure

Closure is a specific ritual or practice for the purpose of containing, processing, and categorizing feelings and experiences that emerge while working on a project. Building opening and closing practices help practitioners more safely explore imagined scenarios without experiencing repercussions in their everyday lives. Closure practices support the wellness of the entire creative team, and promote sustainability in the workplace.