

Intimacy Directing and Education: Staging Scenes of Sex and Violence for the Academic Performer

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Motivation

Support Chancellor Gallagher's initiative to help Prevent Sexual Misconduct on University of Pittsburgh campuses by:

- Employing Intimacy Directors on theatre productions where scenes of intimacy and violence are involved
- Educating students and faculty on the skills and techniques for consent and best practices when staging scenes of sex and violence in the classroom, rehearsals and theatre productions
- Creating respectful classrooms and safe space environments that demonstrate best practices when staging scenes of sex and violence

Project Description

- Host workshops on Staging Intimacy for University of Pittsburgh's Theatre Arts department students and faculty through Intimacy Directors International (IDI) and Theatrical Intimacy Education (TIE)
- Attend Intimacy Directing workshops and training sessions for accreditation to be a certified Intimacy Director

Two Tools of Intimacy Directing

*Button

Self care cue word for the performer when there is a question, a need for a pause in the action for an emotional, physical or mental self care when staging intimacy and sexual aggression

*F.R.I.E.S

Freely given Consent

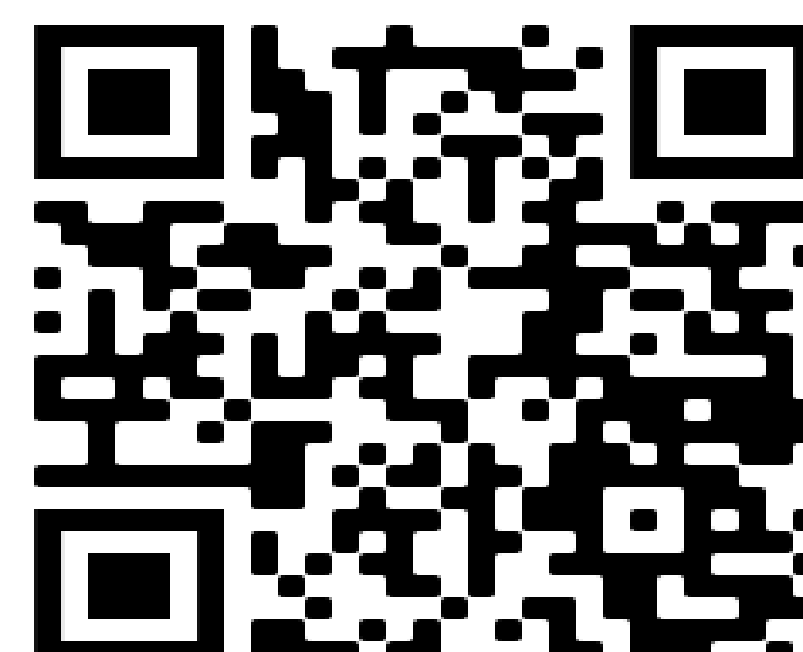
Reversal of Consent with no judgement

Informed about the storytelling and the use of staged intimacy or sexual aggression

Enthusiastic consent

Specific and choreographed action

BUTTON* AND F.R.I.E.S* INTIMACY EDUCATION TOOLS TO EMPOWER CONSENT AND BEST PRACTICES WHEN STAGING SCENES OF INTIMACY



Context

- Due to the growing number of plays that have staged sex and violence clear and established boundaries, positive body image and no judgement are newly ideas promoted by intimacy directing
- Teaching and creating a safe and supportive environment for staging sex and violence
- Inspiring students to demonstrate safe practices and incorporate best practices when staging scenes of sex and violence with or without an intimacy director

Project Deliverables

- Continue to attend Intimacy directing workshops and training sessions to complete the accreditation process
- IDI and TIE workshops will have been conducted and the system incorporated into the theatre department's policies, classrooms, curriculums and productions
- My certification in Intimacy Direction will allow me to serve as such for University of Pittsburgh productions
- Establish a relationship with Title IX on formalizing department policies on prevention of sexual misconduct

Potential Impact

- Staging Intimacy establishes ways to stage scenes of sex and violence that empower the performer's agency with collaborative and enthusiastic consent
- Puts a system in place when the actors are the agents in the staging with or without an intimacy director
- Changing the culture and creating an environment where established boundaries when staging scenes of intimacy are less "weird"

References and/or Acknowledgements

- Intimacy Directors International (IDI)
- Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (IDC)
- Theatre Intimacy Educators (TIE)