



IPEC Recommended Practices for Intimacy Professionals

Disclaimer: These are recommended practices, upheld by IPEC.

We know not all of these points are available in every situation. These are what an ideal world would look like, but we don't always work in ideal spaces.

For Intimacy Professionals holding or interested in IPEC-sponsored certification, these are the expectations and standards expected on an ongoing basis.

Scope of Work

- IC/IDs will **not** simultaneously be engaged in the production in a role that **increases their power** as ID/IC and therefore makes it more difficult for actors to confidently communicate their boundaries and/or needs, such as:
 - Producer
 - Director
 - Assistant Director
 - Board Member
 - For more information on power dynamics and how they appear and affect consent in performance and academic spaces, please see [this video](#).
- IC/IDs will **not** simultaneously be engaged in a production as an actor, as that would **increase the power dynamic between actors**.
 - For more information on power dynamics and how they appear and affect consent in performance and academic spaces, please see [this video](#).
- Scope of Work
 - ID/IC is expected to **fulfill only the role of an ID or IC for a production**, which means the scope of work does not include:
 - Trauma diagnosis or other psychological diagnoses
 - Delivery of therapy services
 - Conflict mediation
 - Child wrangling or tutoring



- Stunt or violence choreography
- Cultural Competency
- Specific knowledge and skills within the intimacy genre they do not have expertise in (eg Kink, Shibari, birthing, medical intimacy, etc)
 - Any of the above services may be able to be provided by an ID or IC, but **should involve a separate contract, scope of work, and rate.**
- For more information on the scope of work of an Intimacy Professional please see the Intro to [IC/ID/IE](#) videos and/or the [Trauma-Informed Practices videos in Module 3.](#)
- IC/IDs will work to provide performers with 48hrs to consider nudity, or acts of simulated sex or hyper exposure.
 - This 48hrs is a SAG-AFTRA rule for considering riders for nudity or simulated sex. We therefore feel it is best practice in any production.
- IC/IDs will **not** ask performers to entirely improvise scenes of nudity, simulated sex, or hyper exposure.
 - There is space for scored or devised work within Staged Intimacy, when that is appropriate.
 - For more on improvised, score, and devised work/container work, please see this video, Coming Soon!
 - Improvisation within limits and boundaries set by the Director, Actors, and ideally their Intimacy Professional. New ideas may happen on the day, and we want to have robust conversations so that the process is collaborative and joyful.

Working with Minors

- Working with minors and intimacy is a particularly challenging situation. We recommend you review our [Recommended Practices with Minor document here](#) and take the Specialty Lab on working with Minors from Module 5, Coming Soon.

Personal Accountability

- IC/IDs will **carefully consider their own positionality**, identity and specialities when approached with a show offer.
- IC/IDs will work in a space with another person present (director, stage manager, 1st AD, etc.).



- IC/IDs will use **rates comparable** to other Intimacy Professionals in their area and/or those on the production with a similar title (ie Stunt Coordinator or Dance Choreographer).
- IC/IDs will not **begin** a romantic or sexual relationship with anyone engaged in the production they are working on until the contract has concluded.
- IC/IDs **participate in ongoing training** in:
 - Movement Modalities
 - The Interplay of Power Dynamics and Consent, and Creating Consent Culture
 - Trauma-Informed Creative Practices
 - Movement / Choreography as Story-telling
 - Mental Health First Aid certification
 - Anti-Racism / Anti-Oppression / Anti-Othering
 - Gender, Sexuality, and Sex Education, including Anti-Harassment
 - Body Positivity / Body Inclusivity
 - Disability, Neurodiversity, and Accessibility
 - Communication, Advocacy, and/or Conflict Mediation
 - Cultural Competency
 - Boundary Practices
 - Closure Practices
 - Other trainings/study/experience for the specific media and/or genre in which the Intimacy Professional works
- IC/IDs keep current with:
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - Background Checks
- IC/IDs are **engaged in community**, both at a local level and in the Intimacy Profession. This may look like local collectives or membership organizations, Facebook groups for Intimacy Professionals, Affinity groups for Intimacy Professionals or in their community, or groups established by the certifying/accrediting body.
 - This is not a job you can do alone. You need folks to resource you, inspire you, and help you hone your skills.
 - Every production is different. A community can help you answer questions when presented with new scenarios.
 - This role is rapidly changing. A community is necessary for staying informed on best practices and industry shifts.
 - Engagement in the local community supports rate and work equity, as well helping to establish an ecosystem that values Intimacy work.



- IC/IDs are **willing to engage in accountability** methods. This may be through their certifying/accrediting body, a local Intimacy or related organization, and/or a personal accountability pod.
 - For IC/IDs holding IPEC-sponsored certification, participation in an accountability pod is an ongoing expectation.
 - IPEC's accountability procedures can be found on our [About Page](#)
 - For a personal example, please see IPEC's Director of Accessibility and Inclusion Chels Morgan's [website](#).

Please refer to the resources linked for more information, or reach out to a team member if you have questions or concerns about how your process fits into these practices.