



Intimacy Direction

1. WHAT IS INTIMACY DIRECTION (ID)?
2. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
3. TESTIMONIES & EXPERIENCES
4. THE FUTURE...

Creating repeatable, specific choreography for intimacy while working around actors' boundaries in a trusting and creative environment.

INTIMACY DIRECTION

1. Culture of Consent

- Respecting boundaries of the actors throughout the process
 - Removing pressure and expectation
 - Continuing to communicate through the process
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2. De-sexualise the process

- Reducing discomfort and inappropriate language
 - To more easily understand the difference between what a character is going through and what the actor must do in order to achieve that
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3. Choreographed

- Moments that are reliably repeatable
 - Like fight choreography – to keep everyone safe
 - Expectations are managed
 - Variations are more easily addressed
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Why is it Important?

- “It has worked up until now” ...?

- But has it? Take a moment to think about your own experiences. Has it been ignored, skipped over, did your director step in, did your scene partner make you uncomfortable, were you anxious about making your scene partner uncomfortable?

- Non-verbal moments deserve as much attention as spoken moments

- It's a shame to put so much work into character, lines etc and often skip over intimacy

- Safeguarding

- Actors used to saying yes and pushing boundaries when there is no need

The actor is more important than the production

Testimonies & Experiences

“I felt at ease each time I performed this scene and I knew my fellow actors felt the same. The scenes hit new levels due to the [intimacy] rehearsal.”

“It...made me feel safe and comfortable.”

“This is the first time in all the years I have been doing theatre that anyone has approached intimacy scenes in such a professional, sensitive way that ***made everyone feel extremely comfortable*** and I feel produced the best results for the play itself”

“I think it’s a brilliant way to safeguard everyone and brings an important structure...which is easily understandable and allows for safe collaborative working.”

There is no reason why
Intimacy Direction shouldn't be
as important amongst amateur
theatres.

It should be more important.

Who Am I?

- Archway Theatre for 20+ years
 - Actor, director, playwright, youth leader, council member
- Work in theatre
 - Both on and off stage (marketing etc)
- Intimacy Directing for ~8 months
 - Continuously growing knowledge through workshops, books etc
- Have intimacy directed 4 productions,
~25 actors



2022

The Future

- Increasing demand for ID

- Actors and directors are going to increasingly want to have ID – and they have every right to it

- Training is important

- dealing with things are delicate as boundaries and difficult content (you might trust someone to cook you a burger, but probably not a steak tartar if they didn't know what they were doing)

- Discounted service to non-professional theatre

- My goal is to begin my training (hopefully supported by the LTG), and once trained offer my services to LTG theatres at a discounted rate

We should be paving the way and setting an example, as well as protecting and nurturing the actors in our communities

“I really hope this can become standard practice...wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to say as a whole theatre company, we work across the board in this way, in all our productions!”

- INTIMACY REHEARSAL ATTENDEE