



# Introduction to Staged Intimacy Terms

## Intimacy

While this work is most frequently thought about as choreographing simulated sex and working with moments of partial or full nudity. However, intimacy can be many other things. I tend to think of it any time there is touch with intensified emotions. This can be familial touch, medical scenes, a scene of childbirth, some physical comedy and more. Intimacy involves Boundary Setting Practices, choreography and closure practices.

## Boundary Setting Practice

There are several valid boundary setting practices developed by a variety of intimacy professionals. At their heart, they give the performer the opportunity to communicate their boundaries on a given day and clarify any questions around those boundaries.

### **Some important things:**

"Your boundaries are perfect wherever they are." - TIE

In class or a rehearsal, we never explain or justify our boundaries.

## Intimacy Choreography

Repeatable, recordable movement, communicated to the actors through desexualized language and aimed at compelling storytelling.

## Closure Practice

Closure practices can take anywhere from 5 seconds to 20 minutes.

Some examples are:

**Clap in/Out** - Created by Intimacy Directors International

**De-Roling** - Created by Theatrical Intimacy Education (TIE)

**The Actor's Warm Down** - My own curated closure practice





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## **Titles**

This is a new field, so the language is developing, even the titles folks go by. While this list isn't exhaustive, here are some common titles people use in this growing industry

### **Intimacy Choreographer**

Sometimes preferred because it implies repeatable, recordable movement. Also, the title used by SDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society) for the purpose of contracts.

### **Intimacy Director**

Often used in the theatre. Fun fact: Claire Warden, the first Intimacy Director on Broadway, used this in her bio, and it has quickly become a commonly used title.

### **Intimacy Coordinator**

Often used for TV and Film. Folks sometimes use it for Zoom or other online productions of theatre as well.

### **Intimacy Consultant**

Used when someone is consulting on a project that they might not be fully choreographing.

### **Intimacy Specialty**

Some intimacy professionals call themselves an intimacy specialist. Additionally, some intimacy professionals have an intimacy specialty. For example, I specialize in queer stories and BDSM/kink. Someone else might specialize in intimate violence or intimacy and stories about race.

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