

To Our Students:

WHAT IS AN INTIMACY DIRECTOR?

“Intimacy” is industry-speak for representations of physical intimacy, sex, and sexual violence. Intimacy directors, choreographers, and coordinators are trained artists who specialize in creating consent-based rehearsal rooms for staging this material.

WHAT ARE THE 5 PILLARS?

While at JMU, Claire gave workshops for faculty, staff, and students, about the **5 Pillars** or 5 principles for establishing healthy, consent-based creative work:

1. Context
2. Consent
3. Choreography
4. Communication
5. Closure

HOW WILL WE USE THE 5 PILLARS AT JMU?

Neither faculty nor students will assume the title/role of “intimacy director,” “intimacy coordinator,” or “intimacy choreographer” on STAD productions. Instead, all of us—you, staff, faculty, and each member of the production team—will **share responsibility** for creating **dynamic, consent-based spaces for creative work**. The faculty recognize that the director/performer, choreographer/dancer, and student/teacher relationships create unequal power dynamics that complicate the notion of consent, and we will do our best to acknowledge and ameliorate them in our work with students. In this effort, **we hope to model clear protocols** in class and rehearsal for staging intimate scenes and/or choreographic material.

WHO IS CLARE WARDEN?



Claire Warden is Broadway's first Intimacy Director, a founding member of Intimacy Directors and Choreographers, and was a JMU Guest Artist in 2019. Intimacy direction credits include *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *Slave Play*, *Jagged Little Pill*, *The Inheritance and Company*. She serves as a consultant for HBO, Hulu, Amazon, Showtime, and 20th Century Fox.

CLICK LINKS FOR MORE RESOURCES

[Heartland Intimacy Design & Training](#)

[Intimacy Directors & Choreographers \(IDC\)](#)

[Staging Sex by Chelsea Pace](#)

[Theatrical Intimacy Education \(TIE\)](#)

WHAT IS OUR COMMITMENT?

- **Consent-based protocols** for auditions and casting in student and faculty handbooks
- Audition notices will list **intimate scenes and nudity**
- Hiring of **pro intimacy directors** for particularly challenging productions
- 5 Pillars will be taught to **every** Theatre major in Basic Acting
- **Training for faculty** working with nudity, sexual violence, and/or physical intimacy in production
- Research **grants to undergrads** interested in intimacy training
- Studio/Lab productions: process for **faculty advisors and student teams** to attend rehearsals **together** and share responsibility for staging intimacy.
- Mainstage faculty directors accompanied by other, **differently gendered** faculty when staging intimacy
- Increased **sensitivity by designers** regarding costumes, bodies, hair, undergarments, exposure, fit, and so forth