



Questions & Answers - Exploring a Career in Intimacy Coordination or Intimacy Direction

If you're considering a career in intimacy coordination (IC) for film/TV or intimacy direction (ID) for live performances, this guide will help answer common questions and offer advice to get you started.

First, Decide: What Industry Do You Want to Work In?

The type of intimacy work you want to do determines the certification path you should take.

- **Intimacy coordinator** - is suited for film, television, photography, music videos, mocap etc.
- **Intimacy director** - focuses on live performance, including theatre, dance, opera, fashion, performance art etc. .

It's essential to align your training with the industry you wish to pursue. For instance, taking intimacy coordination training while aiming to work in theatre could leave you unprepared, as the practices and protocols differ significantly.

Is This Role Right for You?

Before committing, it's vital to understand the role and what it entails.

The majority of IC and ID work focuses on managing nudity states and choreographing simulated sex and simulated sexual assault scenes. While romantic and familial intimacy scenes may occasionally require your expertise, producers and directors will usually book you for higher-risk content that requires a nudity & simulated sex rider.

So consider the following questions:



- Are you comfortable working with actors in various states of nudity?
- Can you creatively and responsibly choreograph simulated sex (with or without nudity) and manage the emotional, technical, and safety aspects involved?
- Are you prepared to choreograph and handle scenes depicting sexual violence, ensuring actors feel safe and supported?
- Would you be okay assisting actors to tape and attach modesty garments if costume staff are unavailable or uncomfortable to do so?
- Are you ready to advocate for actors even when faced with resistance from directors or producers? Sometimes, such advocacy may cause you to lose the job or choose to walk away from an unsafe job.
- Can you thrive as a "department of one," maintaining professional & social boundaries while often working alone?

This role can be both rewarding and challenging. Taking time to assess whether these responsibilities align with your skills, boundaries, and values is crucial.

Pursuing a certification programme or doing a series of workshops?

While IC and ID fall under the broader movement umbrella, they are specialised roles that require specific training. We recommend certification programs with in-person training contact hours, mentoring and production hours over stand-alone workshops (which many tend to be online only).

What to Look For in Training:

- Programs with **in-person modules** and **one-on-one mentoring** are essential, especially for choreography and consent-based practices.
- Avoid fully online training; hands-on experience is critical to mastering the craft.
- Seek transparency about fees, programme length, certification renewals, and whether additional training may be required before, during, or after the program.



How to Choose the Right Training Provider

Your choice of training should suit your learning style, schedule, and professional goals.

- Do you prefer a year-long program, a six-month intensive, or a series of one day workshops spread over a longer period?
- Can the programme support your access needs?
- Can you realistically balance training with your other commitments?

Steps to Evaluate Training Providers:

- Attend open days or intro workshops to connect with instructors.
 - Speak with graduates about their experiences.
 - Confirm that the lead trainers have extensive experience in IC/ID credited roles as well as in teaching adults/higher education courses within your chosen industry. A great practitioner is not necessarily a good teacher and so experience in both is vital.
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Meeting Industry Standards

To ensure your training meets industry expectations, refer to established guidelines:

- [SAG-AFTRA Approved Programs](#)
 - [BECTU Intimacy Branch Guidelines](#)
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What If I Lack Experience in Movement, Physical Storytelling or Anatomy Instruction to Actors?

Directors and producers expect ICs and IDs to bring expertise in consent-based practices and intimacy choreography. If you're unfamiliar with instructing movement or anatomy:



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- Consider additional training in movement, adjusting movement to injuries, choreography, or actor coaching.
 - Recognise that experience with the body in motion is crucial for both film sets and live rehearsals, particularly when staging intimacy efficiently and safely.
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Can I Shadow or Assist an Intimacy Professional?

Unfortunately, opportunities for shadowing or assisting are rare due to the private nature of closed sets and intimacy rehearsals. Most productions only allow essential personnel on set during intimacy scenes.

Can I Learn as an Mentee/Trainee On-The-Job Instead of Doing a Certification Programme?

While mentoring can be valuable, it should not replace formal training. The intimacy community has encountered instances where apprenticeships lacked structure or accountability. A transparent, classroom-based program with structured teaching, mentoring and policies is the most reliable way to learn.

Where Can I Attend Introductory Workshops?

- [Moving Body Arts](#)
- NFTS Short Courses
- London Film School