

# Welcome to the JCBP

## Chelsea Pace, Laura Rikard, and Amanda Rose Villarreal

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### **About the Authors:**

Chelsea Pace (she, her) is a leading intimacy choreographer, coordinator, and educator. As Co-Founder and Head Faculty of Theatrical Intimacy Education, she has shared her work with thousands of theatre and film artists around the world from major studio sets and international workshops to indies and off-broadway. Chelsea has been developing ethical, efficient, and effective systems for staging intimacy for more than a decade. In 2021, Chelsea, along with Laura Rikard, was honored with The Kennedy Center Gold Medallion for work "revolutionizing rehearsal rooms and classroom spaces by implementing systems that center the most vulnerable" and for "bringing never-ending clarity and practicality to the art and process of intimacy direction." Her book, *Staging Sex: Best Practices, Tools, and Techniques for Theatrical Intimacy* has been adopted by dozens of university theatre, dance, and film programs and professional training programs internationally. Chelsea is a co-founder of *The Journal of Consent-Based Performance*.

Laura Rikard, MFA, MA (she, her) is an intimacy choreographer and coordinator, director, actor, and professor. She is Co-Founder and Head Faculty of Theatre Intimacy Education. Laura choreographs, consults, and teaches workshops on best practices for staging intimacy for professional and educational theatre and film across the country. She serves as the primary Intimacy Choreographer for the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She has served as an Intimacy Coordinator with NBC Universal/Amazon and Killer Films. She has been named by Academic Keys as a "Who's Who in Fine Arts Education," and was honored with the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion for work "revolutionizing the vulnerable" and "bringing never ending-clarity and practicality to the art of intimacy direction."

Amanda Rose Villarreal, PhD (she, they) is a director, intimacy specialist and immersive artist, as well as a scholar and Assistant Faculty with Theatrical Intimacy Education. She is co-founder and Managing Editor of *The Journal of Consent Based Performance*. As an intimacy specialist who has crafted intimacy choreography for theatrical, devised, and immersive productions across the United States, they have specialized in researching and developing consent-based practices for the unscripted encounters that texture immersive and interactive performance, devising processes, and playable theatre. With over a decade of experience, they have created and performed in immersive and devised productions throughout the U.S and in London. In her role as Assistant Professor of Theatre Education at CSU Fullerton, she is training upcoming theatre educators to infuse their classrooms and directing practices with consent-based performance techniques.

If you have attended Theatrical Intimacy Education workshops or seminars, or have chatted with us over coffee, you may have heard us say that our long-term goal has always been to put ourselves out of business.

It seems counter-intuitive, but we mean what we say.

We don't think the world will ever stop needing ethical, efficient, effective intimacy work and qualified, thoughtful people to do it. Nor do we think that the work is close to done in changing the culture of consent in training, in rehearsal, or on set.

We want to put ourselves out of business by building a groundswell of artists who think critically about the practices we've inherited. We want to gather those artists together to interrupt harmful imbalances in our art forms and to speak out when something isn't right. We want to see the whole community work together to spread and act upon the values we hold rather than the financial interest of a few. We want to empower *everyone* in the rehearsal room or on set, regardless of their training background or years of experience, to make changes for the better.

*We have a long road ahead, but thanks to you, we are on our way there.*

Things are changing. Consent and factors that complicate consent are finally being recognized as central, foundational considerations in production processes and in performing arts education. People are beginning to think critically about how they approach intimacies in the rehearsal room, in the classroom, on set, in theory, in practice, and in pedagogy. As theatres and producing organizations hire more and more intimacy professionals, we need to meet the educational, resource, partnership, and access needs of this growing, learning community.

*And no one organization, school of thought, or individual has all of the answers.*

*We need this community's knowledge, big ideas, and resources to be accessible in order for the field of consent-based performance to grow.*

We need to work together to learn from--and to teach--one another to pause, interrogate what we're doing, and then create more equitable and competent consent-based practices. As a collective, we need to recognize the value of the work that has come before us and the work our peers are doing now, and consciously recommit ourselves to growing, learning, and doing better now and in the future.

In service of this aim of strengthening and growing the accessible body of knowledge of intimacy professionals, practitioners, and educators, we are proud to launch *The Journal of Consent-Based Performance*.

This journal will promote community-based learning among intimacy professionals, without the gatekeeping often associated with scholarly models and the arts industry.

**The *JCBP* will stand firmly rooted in the study, practice, and pedagogy of consent-based performance practices, with one foot planted in theory and scholarship, and the other foot planted in public knowledge generation.**

Our hope is for the *JCBP* to become a resource for all, fueled by the intimacy community's collective input and discoveries.

In alignment with our commitment to accessibility, our writing will always be open to the public, rather than behind paywalls or for "members only". And when we say "our writing," *we are including you*.

*JCBP* will solicit and publish the discoveries of artists, theorists, and educators engaging with consent-based performance. We will open the journal with works by the TIE faculty, but we will shortly invite submissions from the public community of intimacy professionals from all perspectives and approaches.

Writing is hard and for many practitioners seems inaccessible. If you want to share your ideas, but don't know where to start or where to go, Amanda Rose Villarreal, an Assistant Faculty on the TIE team, has been hired as the editor of this journal to be a resource for you. It is our aim to lower the barrier to "scholarly writing" and bring theorists, artists, practitioners, and educators from our community of intimacy professionals and mentor those authors towards publishing public scholarship in this journal.

We look forward to collaborating with our community and to continue learning from one another and sharing our discoveries. Because we at TIE believe that the center of knowledge cannot be held by any one person, organization, or lived experience. We must all work to inform one another and improve our practice, together. Articles already in the works and calls for new submissions will be rolling out over the coming months.

We can't wait to go out of business with all of you.

Welcome to *The Journal of Consent-Based Performance*.