



Guidelines for Touch and Consent for Dance Companies

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Create Touch Protocols for Choreographers, Rehearsal Assistants, Guest Artists, etc.

- How should guests plan to conduct class/rehearsal in your space?
- This should be included in contracts and posted in the studio.



Create Touch Protocols for Dancers

- How can dancers expect touch and hands on feedback to be used in your space?
- This should be included in contracts, registration, and posted in the studio.



Clarify Chain of Communication

- How and to whom does a dancer communicate if a boundary has been crossed?
- Consider multiple paths of reporting.
- This should be included in contracts, registration, and posted in the studio.
- Consider personal boundaries - only provide business emails/phone numbers.



Create a Check-in Procedure for each day

- Let dancers know what they'll be working on during this session and where touch/partnering may be encountered.
- Allow dancers time to check-in with their partner/group about general touch boundaries.
- Model asking for consent anytime choreographer/dancer touch is necessary.



Consent can Only Happen Between the People Doing the Action

- Check-in time allows for this.
- Make sure to include understudies in consent and boundary conversations, as they may be different between partners.



Ask on Approach

- If a choreographer, rehearsal assistant, etc. is going to touch a dancer, for any reason (other than a safety emergency), ask the dancer for consent to the touch.
- Ask open-ended questions to get past the automatic "yes" performers have often been conditioned to give i.e. "Would it work for you if _____?", "How would you feel about _____?", "What would work best for you here?"
- Be informative- what is being done to who, how, and why. I.e. "Would it work for you if Dancer B placed their right hand firmly on your hip to guide this?"



Create a Check-out Procedure for each day

- Allow dancers time to check-out with their partner/group to re-establish personal (vs character/partner) boundaries.
- Lead a brief exercise to ground the room, allowing the dancers to leave their experience in the studio before moving back out into their lives.