

Nudity and Simulated Sex Rider Basics

For actors new to the industry,
actors without representation,
background actors, and day players

Nudity Riders

A nudity rider, or simulated sex rider, is a contract between an actor and the production they are hired by, that defines what will happen on set when filming nude, intimate, simulated sex, or simulated sexual assault scenes. It might also be called a nudity waiver, simulated sex act rider, simulated sex waiver, intimate scene rider, or proposed written consent. Any actor filming a nude, intimate, simulated sex, or simulated sexual assault scene, or appearing nude or simulating a sex act on set even if not depicted in the film, **should negotiate terms for a nudity rider before filming begins**. The casting professional who hires you will tell you if the role requires intimacy or nudity. In the US these are separate contracts, in the UK British actors state in their contract drawn up at the beginning of their employment, along with their agent, regarding their nudity waivers etc. This is not so good as a blanket agreement has to be given at the start of a production, where an actor or their agent may not know what is going to be required as scripts can sometimes get written during a production or adapted. It is recommended that all productions move to working with individual Nudity/ Simulated Sexual Content Waiver for each scene involving nudity, intimacy or simulated sexual content.

The Basics

Below are the basic terms that should be included in a nudity rider. Producers are required to provide principal performers with proposed riders in advance of call time. It falls on the casting agencies supplying background actors to obtain as much information as possible from the producer regarding nudity or simulated sex acts in the role and inform you prior to booking. If working with an Intimacy Coordinator, the production will give the casting agencies supplying background actors a **Supporting Artists Intimacy and Nudity Checklist**, that will set out the nudity/ simulated sexual content that may be required, giving the background artist the ability to state what are within their boundaries before the day on set and have that written into their Nudity/ simulated sexual content waiver. If you are NOT notified of nudity or simulated sex in advance of your call time, you may refuse to engage in the performance and still get paid for the day. You (or your representative, if you have one) should discuss the terms with the person the production has designated to manage nudity riders. They can provide further clarity on the details of the scene(s), walk you through its choreography, and address any questions about on set safety. If the production has an Intimacy Coordinator, they may be your point of contact and can help negotiate your rider terms. Otherwise, if you are unsure of who to speak to, ask the production coordinator or producer.

MUST INCLUDE

These terms should be included in your nudity rider/contract

- ▶ The relevant script pages for all scenes that the actor is agreeing to perform.
- ▶ A general description of the degree of nudity, contact, or simulated sex the actor consents to have on-film, for example:
 - ▷ Full rear nudity, nudity above the waist only;
 - ▷ Hand placement over front of genital area while covered by a cloth, nudity above the waist and to perform
 - ▷ simulated sexual activity, such as simulated oral sex;
 - ▷ Closed mouth kissing, open-mouth kissing, open-mouth kissing with tongue
 - ▷ Wearing a swimsuit, wearing a G-string or pasties, body parts you are unwilling to show
 - ▷ Places you consent or do not consent to be touched, such as your breasts, chest, bottom, or neck
 - ▷ Places on other people's bodies you consent or do not consent to touching

ADDITIONAL RULES

It is reasonable to request that these terms also be included in your nudity rider

- ▶ If you have agreed to be in a scene, but then withdraw your consent, the producer can double you for the remaining scenes.
- ▶ If a body double is used, the actor can negotiate to have approval of the body double chosen. The nudity, simulated sexual content, and agreed choreography of the intimate scene portrayed through doubling shall be limited to what was originally agreed to by the actor. This applies to digital or body doubling.
- ▶ While shooting the scenes, the set shall be closed to anyone who is not essential to the filming or rehearsal of the scene, including on-crew visitors, journalists, videographers, and photographers. All non essential monitors and QTAKER access to be turned off. These rules also apply to essential personnel and anyone observing via monitor and should be defined in the rider
- ▶ For all intimate scenes, the actor has the autonomy to halt the action for any reason during a take. A 'time out' word chosen by the actors will be agreed with the Intimacy Coordinator, if employed on the production, or with the 1st AD before closing down the set.
- ▶ No BTS footage or unit photography is allowed without the actor's prior written consent.
- ▶ You must be provided with the name and phone number of a designated producer representative who can address questions about the interpretation or application of the proposed consent.
- ▶ You must be provided with the name and phone number of a designated producer representative who can address questions about the interpretation or application of the proposed consent. Suggested discussion topics include:
 - ▷ Assurance that hygienic sex barrier(s) will be required and will be made available, with the option for you to bring your own.
 - ▷ Clarity on what a production's guidelines are for a "closed set."

In addition to those above, the production may include the following terms in the rider:

- ▶ Acknowledgment that the filmmakers (producer and/or director) can make changes to the nudity or physical contact as long as it's similar.
- ▶ Acknowledgment that while the production owns the filmed scenes and has exclusive rights to the footage, it is essential that the scenes filmed are not shown out of context or used outside of the intended scene within the storyline of the script, without the artist's written consent.

Beyond the Basics

Depending on the prominence of your role in the film, you may be able to negotiate additional or different terms. However, as a day player or a background actor, negotiating for more extensive rights outside of the basic terms listed above may be difficult. To learn more about your rights at work, including during nude, intimate, simulated sex, and simulated sexual assault scenes, visit our [TIME'S UP Guide to Working in Entertainment](#) (Volumes 1-3). Important things to remember:

- ▶ Keep a copy of the nudity rider signed by you and the production for your records
- ▶ You have the right to be physically and emotionally safe while filming a sex scene
- ▶ You are never expected to have genital-to-genital or skin-to-genital contact

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