

# MAGNOLIA

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## Sara Arrhusius

Intimacy Coordinator

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### **About the role: Intimacy Coordinator**

For many of the international production companies (HBO, Netflix, Amazon, etc.), it has become more the rule than the exception to use an Intimacy Coordinator for scenes containing some form of intimacy. In the wake of #metoo, awareness has also increased and responsibility for the safety and well-being of actors and teams has been taken to a greater extent than before. In Sweden, it is still relatively new, but more and more Producers are seeing the great benefits of having an intimacy coordinator on the team.

As an intimacy coordinator, you work closely with the director and actors in all scenes that have some form of intimacy in them. Just as a stunt coordinator would work with a scene containing falls, fights or some form of risk-taking.

The intimacy coordinator has overall responsibility for the intimate scenes and is available throughout the process, from breaking down scripts, talking and planning with the director, choreographing and rehearsing with the actors, participating on set and being there to support actors, director and team. By choreographing the scene and breaking it down in detail, it creates security for the actors and space to deepen their character work while at the same time minimizing the risks of crossing boundaries or creating discomfort.

So when should you bring in an Intimacy Coordinator?

If a scene contains simulated sex or nudity, you should always have an intimacy coordinator attached to the project.

### **Biography:**

Sara (she/her) works to establish consent-based work environments, clear communication, brave spaces and exciting storytelling. She is an advocate for diversity, minority and identity rights, and for expanding perspectives on gender and sexuality. Sara is trained in communicative leadership, conflict resolution, mental first aid and bystander intervention alongside her physical theatre and urban dance training.

Before starting off her journey as an Intimacy Coordinator Sara worked as a dramaturg and assistant director within the tv, film and performing arts sector. She has a BA in Social Anthropology, and a MA in International Performing Arts. India has played a big part in Sara's professional life, where she is a founding member of The Intimacy Collective, the first Indian organisation working to improve intimacy work. Sara is looking to continue her international work and hopes to join hands with people with different expertise and skill sets across the globe.

**Directors** Alexis Weak, Angelika Abramovitch, Erika Calmeyer, Maceo Frost, Linn Mannheimer, Johan Rosell, Rojda Sekersöz, Hanna Sköld, Lina Åström, Gustav Möller

**Production Companies** Baluba, Filmlance International, Nexiko, Nexiko International, Stockholm University of the Arts, Tangram Film, Unlimited Stories, Art & Bob

**Features** Vinterviken (2021), Butiken, Tjejtoan, Too Beautiful - Our Right to Fight, Sex & Relationer

**TV/Series** Young Royals, Över henne, Sjukt, Heartbeats

# WORKFLOW

## INTIMACY COORDINATION

<b>1</b>	<b>Preparation</b>	Reading script	Script breakdown	Identifying intimate scenes			
<b>2</b>	<b>Liaison between actor/production</b>	Meeting with production: line producer, 1st AD, production manager etc.	Meeting with director: storytelling and artistic vision	Workshop or meeting with cast and/or crew: general information about intimacy coordination. Best practice and on set etiquette.	Individual meeting with actors: storytelling, artistic vision, personal and professional boundaries.		
<b>3</b>	<b>Protocols</b>	Risk assessment for each individual scene	Writing a nudity rider for producer and actor to sign before shooting day (if production hasn't done this already)	Sending out closed set protocols to go out with the call sheet	Keeping a log book		
<b>4</b>	<b>Collaboration with departments</b>	Make-up merkins, tattoos, makeup, hair etc.	Wardrobe, costume, modesty garments, robes between takes etc.	Props & set design	Any other necessary dept.		
<b>5</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	Exercise: agreement of touch before rehearsal	Choreography of the intimacy scene. Movement and touch based on actor's consent	Written documentation of the choreography	Use of barriers if needed	Exercise: closure after rehearsal	
<b>6</b>	<b>On set</b>	Ensure implementation of closed set protocols & nudity riders	Agreement of touch before going on set	Facilitate closed rehearsal with actor, director and DoP before technical rehearsal	Ensure that the rehearsed choreography is followed	Check with actors between takes	Closure after the scene has been filmed
<b>7</b>	<b>Aftercare postproduction</b>	Checking in with actors after 2-3 days	Further follow up if needed	Report back to production if further action needs to be taken		If the actor requests; verify that the scene is consistent with the agreement	