

# THE DJW SCHOOL OF ACTING

## RESPECT IN THE REHEARSAL ROOM



The DJW School of Acting endeavours to continue our efforts in educating our staff, students and parents by keeping things right in the workspace and ensuring a smooth running of the School. DJW pride ourselves on offering outstanding communication on the running of the School and Agency. We encourage feedback to help us improve all aspects of the running of the company.

This document has been created for all students and parents so that there is a clear outline of expectations from our actors and tutors in the rehearsal space. In this instance 'rehearsal space' includes all venues and instances where DJW teaching is taking place and includes but is not limited to; class rehearsals and productions of which DJW is responsible for.

Please be aware that any breach in safety is taken incredibly seriously and will result in the following action(s) being taken.

A verbal warning, a written warning and as a final call to action, instructions to leave the school and agency with immediate effect.

DJW Talent are passionate about being fair and transparent whilst focussing on educating everyone in an inclusive, non-judgmental way when it comes to 'physical approaches to acting' - It is not always obvious and we are dedicated to ensuring that information is readily available to everyone, to minimise confusion in the future.

We should all have the right to voice concerns and be provided with an honest, inclusive, open space for communications, Q&A's and conversations to ensure everyone feels comfortable with physicality in the rehearsal room and when performing at DJW.

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY NO.**

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO STOP A REHEARSAL.**

**YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO STOP A SCENE.**

**YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO RAISE CONCERNS.**

**YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE.**

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE OPEN, HONEST, NON-JUDGEMENTAL GROUP DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHAT WORKS FOR YOU IN THE REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SPACE AND WHAT DOESN'T WORK FOR YOU.

Please make sure you have spoken at length with your scene partners if any physical touch will take place in the scene. Your boundaries might differ from someone else's. Please do not just assume that your physical approaches to acting are innocent and appropriate, without confirming with everyone else in the scene.

We appreciate that spontaneity occurs within scenes but you still need to be mindful of other actors 'safe zones' on the body. Which should always be discussed, agreed, addressed and rehearsed before any physical touch can be brought into a scene.

The industry differs in how they approach this subject matter, but for simplicity, we always start with a traffic light system.

Are you comfortable being touched here?

**RED - NO**

**AMBER - POSSIBLY (Let's discuss it)**

**GREEN - YES**

Please also note that safe zones might change on a weekly basis and conversations should happen every single week if physicality is to be included in the scene.

One week an actor may announce that their arm is in the GREEN ZONE and the next week it might be in the RED ZONE.

'Physicality' must be addressed / spoken about during rehearsal. ALWAYS. No excuses.

When you are acting using physical touch, please be aware that this can trigger some actors and they have a right to stop the rehearsal, the scene or make a formal complaint in person or in writing if their requests have not been respected.

DJW Talent have made it clear many times that any physical touch must be consensual and agreed upon and a 'comfort zone' must be established and discussed so all actors know their limits and boundaries to avoid these incidents.

Actors must also be aware of 'HORSEPLAY' which can be just as triggering as physical touch when it comes to creativity. DJW Talent are mindful that we do not want to restrict actors being 'in the moment' and we acknowledge that comments are sometimes not fuelled with much punch, but rather exploration of thought, however: We must still be mindful of others in the space who might interpret your words differently.

Horseplay is rough play (physical and verbal) in which people push and hit each other or behave in a silly way. [old-fashioned] Synonyms: rough-and-tumble, clowning, romping, fooling around and engaging in foolish behaviours which can often lead to the crossing of barriers and boundaries. (physical and verbal)

This can include: Being suggestive, Joking about someone's appearance (positively or negatively) Intimidation (Joking or serious) Threatening, manipulating or suggesting and not making clear that you were 'acting'.

It's a complex minefield, but please always air on the side of caution.

This is something we all need to focus on so we do not step over the invisible marker.

If you need to make a complaint, please refer to your 'Keeping Things Right' portfolio pages and please raise concerns immediately or when the next appropriate time presents itself or in writing to someone in Management.

Please note that we want you to explore creativity and open your imaginations to the possibilities that are out there, but we just need to 'keep things right' and work collectively to make sure we are striving for 'company effort' and not wandering off in our own ideas.

If anyone at any time whilst under training at DJW and within a DJW rehearsal space feels that their personal boundaries are not being respected, you must report the issues immediately to a member of DJW staff who will contact management.