

Staff/Faculty and Student Relationships Policy

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Currently Being Updated

Staff/Faculty and Student Relationships Policy

The integrity of the staff/faculty-student relationship is a key part of the Academy's educational mission. This relationship vests considerable trust in the staff/faculty member, who, in turn, bears authority and accountability as a mentor, educator, and evaluator. This pedagogical relationship must therefore, be protected from influences or activities that can interfere with learning and personal development.

BADA regards it as unethical and inappropriate for a member of staff/faculty to enter into a romantic or sexual relationship with a student, even if consensual.

In addition to creating the potential for coercion, any such relationship jeopardises the integrity of the educational process by creating a conflict of interest and may impair the learning environment for other students. Finally, such situations may expose the Academy and the staff/faculty member to liability for violation of laws against sexual harassment and sex discrimination.

This policy applies to:

- All BADA staff/faculty, as well as external contractors, directors and masterclass instructors.
- All students enrolled on a BADA program.

The policy applies even if the staff/faculty member and student have no direct teaching contact and/or the two parties are involved in separate programs.

BADA recognises that the individual support offered throughout our training invites a strong bond between staff/faculty and students. However, BADA must ensure that this relationship remains professional at all times. All staff/faculty are expected to uphold this policy and be aware that they are in a position of authority and influence. Therefore, no intimate relationship should occur between a member of the BADA staff/faculty and a BADA student, either on or off the premises.

Violations of the above policy by any staff/faculty member will lead to an investigation and may result in disciplinary action and possible dismissal for gross misconduct.

Staff/faculty or students with questions about this policy are encouraged to consult with one or other of the Academy's Deans or Managing Director.

Formal or informal complaints regarding an alleged violation of this policy should be brought to either BADA's Dean or Managing Director. They should in turn ensure the others are made aware that a complaint has been made.

Should a student, staff/faculty member experience unwanted or inappropriate behaviour or if they consider that they have been adversely affected by a misuse of power, authority, or conflict of interest, they should refer to BADA's Bullying and Harassment Policy for the full reporting procedure.

Student and Faculty Grievances

All matters concerning students and faculty should be brought to the attention of the Dean in the first instance, who will also keep the Managing Director informed of the issue and any action taken to resolved it.

When applicable, Yale School of Drama should also be informed regarding the issue and the action being taken by BADA at every stage, If the issue is resolved informally within BADA, a short report should be sent to Yale School of Drama keeping them informed and advising that the matter as been resolved.

Protocols for actors rehearsing scene for class

When a rehearsal is private i.e. with no faculty present, it is especially important to acknowledge and respect boundaries in rehearsing scenes with sexual content or consensual sexual touching, including kissing. Early in the process, actors will talk about the sexual content of the scene and will say what is physically acceptable to them within the context of the rehearsal.

If the actor feels unsafe at any point the actor may say *'Hold'* to temporarily suspend the rehearsal, and the sexuality, sexual touching, or protocols should be discussed. If an agreement on rehearsing such moments cannot be reached, then the actors may rehearse other moments, or may agree to suspend the rehearsal. They should then, either individually or together, take their concerns to the class faculty member.

In rare circumstances, actors may be assigned or choose to work on a scene for class that gives rise to a depiction of sexual assault. Actors should only choose such work in consultation with the teachers; teachers should only make such assignments in consultation with the actors; and all parties should be confident that theses protocols will be used by the actors to rehearse the scene safely for the purposes of the class.