

Guidelines for Guest Directors to Shoot for Erika Lust

PLEASE SHARE WITH CAST
& THE CREW BEFORE THE SHOOT.

Casting & Contacting the performers

We will help you and guide you in the casting process and make suggestions of performers that could fit the roles for your film. **We will pass on the performers contacts to you, and you will need to contact them directly.** We suggest setting up a time to do a Skype call, or if they are in the same city as you, meet them in person. Things to talk about in the meeting would include: the idea you have for the film, the fee, the script, their limits and sexual preferences, your ideas for the sex scene, etc. It's important you feel comfortable with each other and clarify any doubts before moving forward in casting. Also while discussing limits, it's good to inform how you will "represent" the performer in the sex scene, and that the performer won't have any problems with the key shots you are looking for. Once discussed and agreed upon the sexual acts, it's important that there aren't last minute changes that could make a performer feel coerced into doing them.

In cases where you have talked with various performers, **it's important to confirm if they have successfully got the part, or to kindly inform them that you have cast another person for the role.**

In cases where you are talking with a first time performer, **it's important you explain to them the implications of making porn,** that

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it can permanently affect their lives, careers, relationships, etc. **It's super important to stress the permanence of the film** and the after effects that could (and will) happen as a result. Once they shoot and sign the model release, the material of the film is out of their hands.

Ask for a list of anyone that performers would feel uncomfortable working with. Keep it confidential (you don't know why they feel uncomfortable). **Although film-making is a collaborative effort, be aware of the power relation between you as a producer / director / employer and the performer as employee**

Performer's Transport and Accomodation

If the performers are flying to the shoot from a different city, make sure they are accommodated in a comfortable hotel or apartment, as close to the shoot as possible, and ideally have someone pick them up from the airport or from their accomodation to get them to the shoot. To maintain professionalism, it's best that a performer have their own private accommodation, rather than in shared situation.

Accommodation, flights and transport to and from the shoot need to be paid for. If you have a runner, make sure they have all the contact details of the performers and their flight information to meet them at the airport/hotel/etc. Keep in mind for the morning, performers will often need more bathroom time to prepare their bodies than you might imagine before the shoot. Remember, a calm and rested performer will be a better performer.

Performer fees

The performer's fee should not change from what was agreed on the budget attached to the production contract, and **it shouldn't be less than €650/day**. If this fee has to change for whatever reason, you will need approval from the Lust Team. **This fee doesn't include transportation, accommodation or sexual health testing costs.**

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Wardrobe, Hair and Makeup

Inform performers what they need to bring / provide for themselves.

We usually ask them if they want to bring any special lingerie/ underwear that makes them feel good as a second option. Wardrobe must always have various options anyway, but it's nice to have a safe option in case all else fails. You need to let them know in advance and give them a reminder to bring it.

Most performers will be happy to do their own hair and makeup, Often performers (especially POC performers) will be able to do their hair better than makeup artists.

We suggest that the makeup artist and wardrobe both have previous contact with the director/performers to discuss the plan. It's important that a performer feel beautiful/sexy/well represented in front of the camera, as this is their final image! Check in that the performer feels comfortable with the plan for hair, makeup and wardrobe and if they don't, find a solution!

The Sexual Health Testing

Performers normally get tested regularly. **The production budget pays for the tests, unless the performer already has a valid test for the timing of the shoot.**

The test samples must be taken within the 13 days prior to the final day of shooting. For example, if you have a shoot date on the 14th of July the tests are only valid from the 1st of July, a test on the 30th of June ISN'T valid.

Apart from this, we highly suggest that you ask performers to submit their test to you one week before the shoot date. This gives you time to find a replacement if needed, in case the test results were to show up positive for any STI.

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THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- **Real life partners** don't need to get tested if they are just performing with each other and not a third person.
- **All performers need to get tested** if they will be having sexual interaction with another person, even if there isn't penetration but they will be performing any form of genital-oral contact including oral sex/rimming/fingering/scissoring/etc.... “
- The certificate needs to be issued by a certified clinic, hospital or laboratory, with a signature. **It needs to have the real name of the performer that coincides with their identification.** It needs to show “NEGATIVE” in every test for: HIV, Hep C, Hep B, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Syphilis.
- **Important information about Hep B** since a lot of people have done vaccination. Anti-HBs [sometimes written as HBsAb] (antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen): when this is “positive” or “reactive,” it means the person is immune to hepatitis B infection, either from vaccination or from past infection. Read more here: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4090.pdf>. If you have doubts about a result, **it's important you call the clinic to clarify.**
- You need to **print the tests** and bring them to the shoot to show the performers before the start of the shoot.
- Depending on the clinic/lab, **the tests can cost anywhere between 50-200 Euros.**
- Also be aware that the more regularly performers test, the more likely a test will produce a false positive. Remember that the early test is for production benefit and not for the benefit of performers' safety, which is best served by having as late a test as possible.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TEST RESULTS COME BACK POSITIVE?

Above all, keep calm, it's not the end of the world! These things happen. Sometimes, they could be false positives. Kindly tell the

performer that unfortunately we will not be able to work with them until their results come back negative. Respect their privacy, and don't discuss this with people that don't need to know. Let the Lust Team know immediately so we can work on filling in the role. **You should have back-up performers** that you/we can contact if this happens, and if they are not available, we can always contact other people. To have a back-up performer ready and tested implies the performer having that day free and on standby, **in this case, it's important that they are compensated in some way for that.** That can be negotiated and discussed with them. This is part of the ongoing risk management plan.

Some resources to check out for yourself:

<https://beforeplay.org/stds/>

Our template email to send to performers:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eye040H1bt-cHCEdQB5SYF4JalzkZ9W5ihkKgmE4alc/edit?usp=sharing>

What To Bring To Set

On each Xconfession production we **bring a “sex box” with various items.** Make sure someone is in charge of bringing this box!

CONDOMS: Different brands, sizes and types (non latex, etc.)

LUBES: water based, silicone based.

LATEX GLOVES: safer sex item for fisting, fingering (non latex if anyone is allergic).

SOFT TAMPONS: These are soft sponges that women with their period can insert in their vaginas so that the blood doesn't show during the sex scene. Most female performers use them, but it is good to double check with them to confirm that they are happy to use them, as they can present some problems for them afterwards (they can get stuck up in the cervix, etc.) They are sometimes available at pharmacies, but the best bet is to get them from a sex shop. They can be hard to find, so don't wait until the day before to try to find them!

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TOYS: Sterilized and fully charged. Also bring along toy cleaner for after the scene. Double check that the toys are safe. See <http://dangerouslylilly.com> for references. It's important to take into consideration that this toy will be inside someone and it's vital that we take the necessary precautions in terms of health. **Make sure if someone handles the toy, they use gloves, not only to protect themselves, but also the performer.**

BABY WIPES: for the performers, objects, etc.

TOWELS/ROBES: You need to provide this to all performers before and after the sex scene.

NOTE: Ask the performers about any allergies and intolerances to food or items (such as gluten, lactose, latex, etc.) so that the catering can be prepared for them during the shoot. Be aware of what you feed performers for lunch. A big sit-down meal is probably something they want AFTER the shoot, not in the middle making them bloated and lethargic for the afternoon. We always suggest a variety of healthy, nourishing snacks during the day.

On Set: The Beginning Of The Day

Make your call times reasonable. If you don't need a performer on set to start preparing until 9am, don't give them a 7am call time. Remember, a rested performer is a better performer. If you are worried about them getting to set on time, send a car to collect them.

When the performers arrive on set, **welcome them and introduce them to the team.** It's good to offer them tea/coffee/breakfast and get them settled in. Give them a rundown of the day, more or less a rough schedule of how everything will go. **Sign the Contracts & Image Releases with them and take photos of them with two pieces of ID,** also take photos of just their IDs (make sure these photos are clear and the IDs readable!). **Show them the sexual health test** of the other performer(s) and send them off to hair, makeup and wardrobe.

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Make sure language is not an issue on set, so that the performers feel comfortable and can communicate with everyone. Try to hire crew that can properly speak their language (English should work with most).

*NOTE: **the Supporting Cast (or extras) and the Crew** should also feel comfortable on set, so try to generate a nice environment for all. Also, they will need to sign their own Image Release documents, so make sure these are all signed at the beginning of the shoot day.*

Check in with performers throughout the day and ask how they are feeling about the shoot, if they need anything, if they have any feedback to offer. This will help avoid situations where performers feel uncomfortable (at any given point of the day outside the sex scene) and also takes a lot of the pressure off performers so they don't feel like they are "bothering" anyone.

Before The Sex Scene

Give the performers advance notice before the sex scene (half an hour or more) so they can prepare, go shower if needed, get changed and relax. Make sure you have already shown them the tests results of the other performer(s). Have a quick overview of the sex scene and clarify any doubts or questions beforehand.

The sex scene should be shot ideally in the first half of the day, as after lunch and at the very end of the shoot day can be difficult for them to perform comfortably

(after lunch their belly is full, after hours of shooting they are tired...).

During The Sex Scene

As we have noted before, **everything about the sex scene should be discussed in advance and agreed-upon.**

Make sure the performers and the crew know what kind of shots you want to produce but **give them freedom so that the sex feels and looks natural.**

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Ensure that your crew know that **you need to capture enough explicit and non explicit shots** so that you can create the two versions (hard & soft) that we require on delivery.

Limit the set to **have the minimum essential crew while shooting the sex scene** (DOP/camera, sound, still photographer, etc) so that the performers (and yourself) feel completely comfortable and safe. Many performers are exhibitionists and are comfortable or more content with a large (controlled) audience. Don't expect performers to have the same take on intimacy in front of people as you do. Ask them what is best for them. If there is crew at the combo(screen)/at the sex scene, **please remind your crew that they must not take/upload photos to their social media or the director's social without performer's consent...** this includes makeup artists/stylist/art/press, etc. It's good practice that everyone has their phones put away for this part, so that this intimacy is respected.

If the sex lasts more than what you expected (because you already have everything that you needed for your film) **let them finish naturally**, don't force them to stop. If they take a bit too long to stop, kindly mention to them that they can start finishing as you already have what you needed, so they can end the scene naturally.

If at any point the performers need to stop, let them stop! Sometimes they might feel uncomfortable and you need to respect their timings. Do anything that you can to make them feel comfortable again before continuing with the sex scene.

The cum shot is a good asset to have, but not the most important asset. If a male performer can't naturally achieve this, don't force them to make it happen. Instead, simulate an internal ejaculation. Regarding female orgasm, you can not force it but you can talk with the female performer and kindly ask to simulate it. Always remember to get good shots of their faces experiencing pleasure. This can be done as a new pick up shot after the sex has ended.

If a male performer can't get it hard, don't pressure him. He probably feels uncomfortable and might need some time. Try to do anything

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that you can to make him feel comfortable again before continuing. If this doesn't help, then you probably will need to **fake some sexual positions** so that you get enough shots for the sex scene but ensure that they are happy doing so.

*NOTE: Please make sure that the **still photographer is present during the sex scene** to capture explicit shots.*

After The Sex Scene

We all know that sex can be tiring and full of sensations. Please respect that, **after the sex scene, the performers will need some time to rest, recover, and clean up**, so leave them this time before you ask them to continue with the shoot (i.e: don't ask them to do the interviews right after the sex scene!). Let performers know during casting that they will need to do an interview for XC and it's nice to share the questions with them in advance. Few people like to have an interview sprung on them!

Make sure there are towels, soap and showers. If the location doesn't have showers, it might be necessary to think of a plan B (rent an air b'n'b that's close to set, etc).

The End Of The Day

After all the excitement from the day, it's easy to forget about the small details. Arrange for someone to bring the performers back to their accommodation or pay for their taxi and personally **thank them for their work before they go home** (also remember to thank the crew). Sometimes these small details can be forgotten in the production chaos, but they make a big difference.

Social Media

Please do not post anything on social media about the shoot, the performers or the crew **without the consent from everyone (especially the performers)**. Ask everyone for the social media profiles that they want you to use, and ask for permission for tagging, etc.

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Also its very important to ONLY use the performers “stage name”, and NEVER their birth name, not just on social media but also when talking to press or just working on set. **This is a very sensitive subject**, and we need to avoid any situations where a performer’s real identity could be “outed”.

NOTE: Be aware of this also when writing and sending the Credit List to the Lust team, specially when performers also participate as crew members. Ensure that everyone is credited as they want.

Shooting The Interviews For XC

This is the part where the performers and the director get to show us a little more about their lives and their personalities. **Choose a nice looking and bright location** to shoot the interviews and **make sure it is as silent as possible**.

Please don’t ask performers to shoot the interviews right after the sex scene! If that’s the only available moment to shoot it, give them time after the scene to rest, clean up, retouch makeup, etc. before you shoot the interview. Also make sure they know they will be shooting an interview in advance. It’s a good idea to give them the questions before so they can have a look at them.

Preferably the interview should be shot in English, but if the performer doesn’t speak English well, it’s okay to shoot the interview in their mother tongue.

Make sure you ask all the questions detailed in the interview document, but also add any extra questions that you may feel are interesting to add!

You can see some **GOOD examples** here (nice location, use of tripod, little background noise, good sound and image quality...):

<https://xconfessions.com/collaborators/guest-directors/florence-barkway>

<https://xconfessions.com/collaborators/guest-directors/goodyn-green>

<https://xconfessions.com/collaborators/guest-directors/travis-matthews>

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<https://xconfessions.com/performers/kali-sudhra>

<https://xconfessions.com/performers/eze>

<https://xconfessions.com/performers/heidi-switch>

<https://xconfessions.com/performers/owen-gray>

And a **BAD example** here:

<https://xconfessions.com/performers/mickey-mod>

(hand held so too much movement, bad location, lots of background noise...)

Still Photographs

The still photographer is one of the most important crew members in our shoots, and so should be in yours. Their photographs will be used for various marketing purposes including the creation of the cover art for your film. This means that we need top notch photographs from the shoot and **they should include:**

- **Action** photos from the various **non sexual scenes** as well as **the sexual scenes**.
- **Explicit and non explicit shots**.
- **Behind The Scenes**.
- **Headshots** of the performers and Director.
- Good variety of photos **creatively and technically outstanding**.

PLEASE READ THESE GUIDELINES AND SHARE WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHER BEFORE THE SHOOT:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1PHrXY0DsnPMvDp_Og5tu7Xs-pWsJyQ0fMb08bcuLXYg/edit?usp=sharing

Also, you can see some **MORE GOOD examples** here (with quality, variety, aesthetics...):

<https://xconfessions.com/collaborators/photographers/adriana-eskenazi>

<https://xconfessions.com/collaborators/photographers/xavier-baragona>

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<https://xconfessions.com/collaborators/photographers/chio-lunaire>

<https://xconfessions.com/collaborators/photographers/vera-rodriguez>

<https://xconfessions.com/collaborators/photographers/serena-salvadori>

Other considerations

We really recommend that personal relationships between performer/director do not conflict with a shooting. This can create a power imbalance and can really affect the dynamic of a movie and also the well being of a performer. To keep things professional on set, it's better to not have a romantic/physical relationship that could be a conflict of interest with the performer/director.

There needs to be a risk management plan in place. Many of the problems on these sets are from risks not considered. Ask yourself these questions:

What happens if...

How likely is it that...

What are the consequences of...

Can I reduce that risk...

Remember performers are a part of the team. **We must be aware of the power relations that might be abused, about treating them with dignity and respect and not treating them as just another prop for the set.**

If you are **shooting in a public space** be sure that you have the proper permissions to shoot there and let the Lust Team, your crew and the performers know.

On our own sets at Lust films, we have a **Talent Manager** who takes care of anything related to the performers. **We highly suggest that you have one "in charge" person who is an "agent" for the performers.** Someone who can be there to support the performers, take care of signing the contracts with them, doing the ID photos, be there for the sex conversation and consent, take care of the sex box/towels/

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robes, doing check ins throughout the day, and to generally be there to discuss any concerns they may have. This gives the performers one trusted person to go to, and also keeps everything more organised.

After the shoot: performers will fill out a questionnaire/feedback form about their experience with you as a Guest Director on set, as well as comment on aspects of production. **Please be aware that this information will be shared with us** as a means to evaluate and be able to address any issues or concerns that the performers may have had on set. It is important in creating ethical porn that we try to **balance the power between directors and performers**, and create a safe space where performers can express their concerns. We will also give you a chance to offer us feedback about your shoot and what you felt went well, and what could be improved, as well as any concerns you had with the performers.

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Lust Performer Checklist

- Skype with performer, talk about all the details of the sex scene, pay, transportation, sexual health testing, condom use etc.
- Book performer's hotel and flight if applicable.
- Remind performer about sexual health testing well in advance before the shoot, remind them the results should be in 1 week before the shoot. Remember to give the money to the performer for the tests if they paid out of pocket. Print the tests and bring them to the shoot.
- Contracts signed and photos of the performers with their IDs, and separate photos just of IDs.
- Check in with performers during the day to gauge how they are feeling and see if they need anything, or have any feedback.
- Get consent of the performers about their social media, any photos tagged, etc. Remember to ONLY use performer's "stage name" on set and in social media.
- Bring extra copies of the script in case someone forgot to print out their copy.
- Have someone translate for the performer if they don't speak Spanish/English etc.
- Pre sex scene talk, go over last minute details, concerns, etc.
- Sex box: condoms, lubricants, gloves, soft tampons, baby wipes, towels/robes for after sex scene, sterilized toys, (douches only if there is anal scene).
- XC Interviews.
- Transportation for the performer to and from the hotel (taxi or runner).
- A few printed copies of the Lust's Model Bill of Rights to bring to set for performers in case they want to review it before the shoot.