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Title of Project:

Bury the Wren

Sponsor:

This consent form, a copy of which has been given to you, is only part of the process of informed consent. If you want more details about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has approved this research study. Participation is completely voluntary and confidential. You are free to discontinue participation at any time during the study.

Purpose of the Study

Reality is often blurred in drama and computer science. Telling a story on the stage has evolved with digital technologies. As these changes reach further into the live space of the theatre, the perception and experience of the performance changes. We seek to study the ability of virtual reality to affect the perception of reality during a live theatre performance.

What Will I Be Asked To Do?

Before the performance, you will be asked to fill out a short survey about your previous experience with virtual reality and live theatre. Once completed, you will be introduced to the theatrical stage by a guide. A wireless virtual reality (VR) headset that is WiFi enabled, will be placed on your head where you will be immersed in a 360-degree virtual reality experience. Digital audio and visual elements will be used to guide your experience as the story unfolds. An actor will enter the physical space and speak as you are immersed in the VR environment. The actor will tell you the story and guide you through the experience. When the performance ends you will be asked to fill out another survey about your thoughts on the performance and your experience in virtual reality. You will be guided to another room to watch another participant experience the performance. After you see the performance a second time as an observer you will be asked to complete the survey with questions about how this different perspective

affected your thoughts on the performance and virtual reality.

The performance and survey will take approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes in total (15 minutes pre-show, 15 minutes in the performance, 15 minutes observing, 30 minutes answering the survey questions).

We want to take your photograph as well as video record the performance as you participate and observe. These will be used to compare and analyse your experience and observation of the performance with the information provided by your survey answers. The video recordings will not be used for dissemination of the data in order to maintain the protection of your privacy.

Participation in the study is completely voluntary and you may refuse to participate altogether, refuse to participate in parts of the study, decline to answer any and all questions, and may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

What Type of Personal Information Will Be Collected?

No personal identifying information will be collected in this study, and all participants shall remain anonymous.

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to provide your gender and age.

All photographs and video recordings will not be shown in public and will be encrypted to maintain privacy and security.

There are options for you to consider if you decide to take part in this research. You can choose all, some, or none of them. Please review each of these options and choose Yes or No:

I grant permission to be photographed: Yes: ____ No: ____
I grant permission to be video recorded: Yes: ____ No: ____

Are there Risks or Benefits if I Participate?

Acknowledging the potential risk of motion sickness while in VR, the researchers have chosen to limit the exposure time in VR. The overall approach to the design of the virtual experience has also been crafted to reduce the potential for disorientation. The performance has been designed to eliminate or limit exposure to any excessive motion, vertigo inducing height or visually intense visual effects. You will be reminded of the risks of disorientation before entering the VR environment and you will never be alone in the room while in the VR headset. Also, you may stop the performance at any time by providing a verbal request (e.g. "I'd like to stop") and the actor and/or observers will intervene to assist you. Like all theatrical experiences, participation in this research may include some surprising and emotionally impactful experiences. These elements may be felt even more intensely in a virtual reality environment. If you are at all concerned that you may find such experiences upsetting, please do not participate.

What Happens to the Information I Provide?

The information collected will only be available to the principal investigator and the research assistants who make up the totality of the research team.

Your anonymity will be ensured by using a coded system to reference the data collected where no personal information is revealed.

You may choose to withdraw from the study up to two weeks from the date of your participation. At the time of your withdrawal, your data will be deleted.

No one except the researchers and their supervisor will be allowed to see or hear any of the answers to the questionnaire, view the photograph or the video recordings. There are no names on the surveys. Only group information will be summarized for any presentation or publication of results. The surveys are kept in a password protected and encrypted database only accessible by the researchers and their supervisor.

Your signature on this form indicates that 1) you understand to your satisfaction the information provided to you about your participation in this research project, and 2) you agree to participate in the research project.

In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from this research project at any time. You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

Participant's Name: (please print) _____

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Researcher's Name: (please print) _____

Researcher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Questions/Concerns

If you have any further questions or want clarification regarding this research and/or your participation, please contact:

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Supervisor
Dr. Christian Jacob, PhD
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(403) 220 7682 cjacob@ucalgary.ca

If you have any concerns about the way you've been treated as a participant, please contact the Research Ethics Analyst, Research Services Office, University of Calgary at (403) 220-6289/220-4283; email cfreb@ucalgary.ca. A copy of this consent form has been given to you to keep for your records and reference. The investigator has kept a copy of the consent form.