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### **Experiences of audiences and performers in the science improv show “Lines of Best Fit”**

#### **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

##### **(1) What is this study about?**

You are invited to take part in a research study about your experiences as an audience member at the science improv show “Lines of Best Fit”.

You have been invited to participate in this study because you have attended or will be attending a “Lines of Best Fit” show. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don’t understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

By giving your consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read.
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

Please save a copy of this Participant Information Statement for your records.

**(2) Who is running the study?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Olivia McRae (PhD candidate, School of Chemistry, University of Sydney)
- A/Prof Alice Motion (Westpac Research Fellow, School of Chemistry, University of Sydney)
- Dr Reyne Pullen (Education-focused lecturer, School of Chemistry, University of Sydney)

Olivia McRae is conducting this study as part of her PhD studies at The University of Sydney. This will take place under the supervision of A/Prof Alice Motion and Dr Reyne Pullen.

This study is being funded by a Westpac Fellowship (A/Prof Alice Motion). The PhD studies of Olivia McRae are supported by Research Training Program scholarships.

**(3) What will the study involve for me?**

You must be aged 18 or over to participate in this study and be able to give fully informed consent.

If you participate in this study you will be asked to answer some questions about your experience with the 'Lines of Best Fit' event you attended, your perceptions of science and how you engage with science in your life. Your participation in this study will be anonymous.

This event is also being recorded for research purposes and you may appear in these recordings. These recordings will only be available to the research team. You can also choose to participate by answering some questions before or during the show. After the show, you may be asked to participate in a three minute exit interview so that you can briefly give us your thoughts on the show. This exit interview will be audio-recorded.

**(4) How much of my time will the study take?**

To the best of our abilities, we have integrated the data collection from this event into the event itself, so the time commitment is mostly included in your attendance at a 'Lines of Best Fit' event. You may also opt to answer some questions about your perceptions of science prior to the event (2-3 minutes), and some questions about the event afterwards (2-3 minutes).

**(5) Who can take part in the study?**

To take part in this study, you must be aged 18 years or over, and have attended a 'Lines of Best Fit' event.

**(6) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?**

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind later, you are free to withdraw. By registering for the event, you give consent for the researchers to film you, and your registration and subsequent attendance at this event is an indication of your consent to be filmed for this study. You can choose not to attend the event if you do not want to be filmed for

the purposes of this research. Please note that we cannot withdraw show recordings in which you may appear if you choose to withdraw from the study.

You can also choose not to participate in active data collection (i.e answering questions) or to end your participation in this at any time. Once you have answered the questions, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are anonymous.

**(7) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?**

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

**(8) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?**

We hope that your participation in this study will provide information that could help us understand how to improve public science outreach and education experiences in the future.

**(9) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?**

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information about you and your experiences with the science improv show “Lines of Best Fit” for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise.

Your answers to the questions asked during this event are the information gathered in this study. We are also filming the events to collect audience observations on reactions to the event. Only the named researchers will have access to all the information.

Anonymous data collected from questions and snapshot interviews will be shared with [Dr James Dolan](#) at Cambridge University to assist with his own research, which also focuses on improvised theatre about science (science improv). Given the small community of science improv, our research team and James’ research team have opted to share data from our respective studies to increase our data pool and allow us to compare data from different shows and locations. Please note that film recordings from shows are not being shared to protect the identity of individuals.

The data collected at this event will be stored securely and will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Paper records will be stored in a secure cabinet in a locked office which is only accessible to the research team. Digital records and film/audio recordings of the event will be stored securely on the University of Sydney Research Data Store. The data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years or for the lifetime of this project.

Study findings may be published in journal articles or as part of a PhD thesis. The findings may also be presented at conferences or made publicly available online. You can opt in to a mailing list if you would like to be notified of any published materials from this study from the researchers listed here.

We will keep the information we collect for this study, and we may use it in future projects. By providing your consent you are allowing us to use your information in future projects. Future use of data may involve analysing existing data through new frameworks or lenses to answer

research questions not addressed in this study. We will seek ethical approval for future uses of this data not outlined in this Participant Information Statement.

**(10) Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

**(11) What if I would like further information about the study?**

When you have read this information, Alice Motion will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact Alice Motion (Associate Professor, School of Chemistry, University of Sydney) at [alice.motion@sydney.edu.au](mailto:alice.motion@sydney.edu.au) or by phone (+61 2 8627 0823).

**(12) Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. Any feedback and publications resulting from this study will be available on the SCOPE group GitHub (<https://github.com/alintheopen/SCOPE/projects>). This website will also have a general summary of the published research findings. You will be able to access this information after the study is complete.

**(13) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?**

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney [Protocol number: 2022/191]. As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** [ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au)
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

*This information sheet is for you to keep. Please download a copy and save it for your records.*