Bio
My name is Dr Joanna Jayne Bucknall, I am a senior lecturer and course leader for drama and performance in the Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries, School of Media & Performing Arts. My research interests include production and reception theory of experimental contemporary performance; specifically immersive, one on one, micro performance & participative dramaturgies, documentation of performance, augmented reality in performance and digitalised immersive technologies. I am interested in explicating the nature of risk and investment in such dramaturgies and the implications of that upon the nature of the audience’s role. Practice as research (PaR) in performance that interrogates the nature of the audience in liminal spaces through liminoid acts and invitations. PaR theory, specifically the documentation of PaR through performative and intermediality. I am also concerned with exploring performative ways to document and archive a variety of localised histories and heritage. I am artistic director of Vertical Exchange Performance (VEX), a live art collective, (http://verticalexchange.wix.com/wishbox) and co-artistic director of KeepHouse a PaR performance company with Dr Karen Savage, (www.keephouseperformance.org). I have been working as a practice – based scholar since 2006 and in that time have produced many PaR public performances with VEX and KeepHouse in collaboration with venues such as The Barbican in Plymouth, Camden People’s Theatre, The Basement in Brighton, Performing Arts Centre Lincoln and the New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth. I have published in the international journal Performing Ethos, Performance Research and Felt Acts. I am an active member of the IFTR working group Performance as Research. I am also an active member of the TaPRA Documenting performance working group

About Vertical Exchange Performance Collective
Vertical Exchange, (VEX) was founded by Joanna Bucknall & Nigel Tuttle in 2005. We make work that aims to explore the contemporary experience and all the intricate moments that our lives present. We are committed to exercising difficult questions through art in provocative ways, pushing the boundaries of performance both aesthetically and culturally. Our aim is to produce performance work that involves its audiences at a fundamental level. By employing experimental and compelling performance devices we hope to offer the audience a truly participatory experience. Our works seek to explode the liminal space and offer our audiences the role of creative participant through the offer of a liminoid invitation.

http://verticalexchange.wix.com/wishbox
https://www.youtube.com/user/VerticalExchange

About Wish Box:
Wish Box is a participative live art durational performance, designed to gives the audience the opportunity to share their hopes, dreams and wishes. The audience takes on the role of guests attending a wedding reception, watching a newlywed couple delivering those hopes, dreams and wishes. The newlyweds are inside the wooden frame of a house, positioned centrally in the space. The newlyweds and
their guests work together to create a home out of wishes. Once each wish has been performed, they will be pegged to the frame house until it becomes a home. The wedding photograph supports the newlyweds by making sure their special day is documented, encouraging guests to take and share their pictures of the day with the couple’s social media presence. The matron of honour encourages the guests to share hopes, dreams, and wishes with the happy couple, ushering the couple and their guests through the speeches, toasts, and the all-important first dance. The guests are invited throughout the reception to present the couple with their wishes. The wishes generated in the performance will be added to the wishes collected from previous performances and social media. We build our lives on from hope, dreams, and wishes. Wish box works to expose, collect, and testify of the neurosis and aspirations of our times, through the lens of live art performance. Vertical Exchange and driven by the desire to capture, share and build something collectively through the form of live art.

**Wish Box is driven by the following research questions**

When Wish Box started as a PaR project in April 2014 I was interested in gaining insight into both the dramaturgy of liminoid invitations and the reception of the resulting liminoid acts. My research concerns for exploring the ontology of participative dramaturgy were informed by the following questions:

In what ways are liminoid invitations reliant upon liminal space?

Is immersion a central aspect of a liminoid invitation or is it the ‘participative’ gesture of the mode of the invitation that generates agency?

What devices are employed in order to generate the role of ‘vessel’ for the performers?

In addition to the research concerns that hoped to address and gain insight into dramaturgical aspects of production, I also had a series of research objectives that would drive my approach to developing understanding for the implication of those tropes and performance devices on the nature of the audience’s role:

What does it mean to accept or take up a liminoid invitation?

Do all acceptances to commit a liminoid act generate agency for the participant?

Are the participants aware of the nature of their role in the moment of committing or choosing not to commit a liminoid act?

What role does this awareness play in the agency of the liminoid act?
I employed participative, immersive and micro-performance devices to develop a durational performance situation in which I could explore and address the research questions that I have outlined above.

Wish Box has had three development performances over the last two years. The first development stages of the piece began in April 2014 with a workshop performance at Wiltshire Arts Building in Portsmouth on the 27th of May, 2014 and another more fully realised performance on the 29th May in The University of Portsmouth’s Faculty opening in the new Eldon building. After a year of further development there was a 7 hour durational presentation of the work on the 27th May, 2015 in the University of Portsmouth UniFest that was open to the general public.

Wish Box will be presented as an 8 hour durational performance event on the 21st October 2016, at the New Theatre Royal’s Creative Lab Space.

Vertical Exchange cordially invites you to come and make a wish!

A forlorn Bride and Groom work within a task-based dramaturgy over a durational period to deliver their own and the wishes of others in an endless cycle of hopes and regrets. Stood in their flagging finery as Postfeminist cyphers they work to expose, collect and testify of the neurosis and aspirations of our times through the lens of live art performance.

‘Wish I may
Wish I might
Share my wish
With you tonight’

What do you wish for?

Twitter:
#wishbox
@PlaywithMeArt

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/wishboxperformance/

Website:
http://verticalexchange.wix.com/wishbox#!home/mainPage