

Bellasphere

Stellaria Productions

Bellasphere

Book and Lyrics by Jeanette Prather

in collaboration with Caitlin Lackey, Dejon Weldon, Kendall Argast-Watson, Kristin Wyatt, Melanie Camras and Ruby Straehley

Music composed by Michael Chorvat and Amanda Loveland

Light and sound design by Craig Vilbig



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ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

NEWSCASTER is the TV personality standing in front of closed curtain. She is explaining to the audience about the mansion and what will be taking place later that evening while the Producer climbs moon House Right.

NEWSCASTER

Welcome back to the Nightly News, where Santa Cruz stays informed. Tonight we have an exciting story unfolding about a group of four individuals from around the country, hand selected by our network's very own producer. These lucky few will be celebrating the grand re-opening of our city's Bellasphere property, abandoned 15 years ago by the eccentric heiress to the Vickerson estates, Bella Vickerson. For those of you who don't know, Bella had a wild heart for superstition and made a fortune from her family's investments in world class bubblegum.

PRODUCER

(Song #1 Newscast/Commentary from inside the moon.)

Did you hear of Bellasphere?

Bella, the owner, was crazy.

She made loads of money from bubblegum,

she liked to drink, or so we think

15 years ago, she died,

I'm pretty sure that I know why.

She had a daughter, but then she lost her, the story is too long to tell.

For now, just hush and listen, so we don't have to yell.

NEWSCASTER

For the first time in 15 years the Bellasphere will open its doors and welcome in the lucky four who will be filmed overnight on their venture into this uncharted property. This event kicks off an entire grand opening weekend endorsed by the City of Santa Cruz for the launch of the new Bellasphere Museum, which will be open to the public this Monday.

PRODUCER

(Continues singing from inside crescent moon.)

Ah, we're having visitors!
How delightful, it's been years.
And you know that all of them will have to face their fears.

Bellasphere is haunted,
and so they will be taunted
By spirits from another world
So sad for these five girls
Now see the tale and the veil unfold...

(Producer dismounts moon.)

NEWSCASTER

We've carefully selected these lucky four who will be staying in the Bellasphere Mansion for the first time because their applications stood out among the rest. The mute, Ophelia, what's her deal? Y'know she hasn't talked in years. Helena, on edge is she. Oh anxiety! Queenie the collector. She's a doll. And last but not least, the empath. I wonder if she knows what she's in for...

(Continuing after a beat.)

Make sure you stay tuned to get exclusive live coverage from our very own Producer. The groups is in for an adventure of a lifetime. Here, we enter into the mysterious Bellasphere..

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SCENE TWO

PRODUCER stands in front of the Bellasphere Mansion on stage. We see the backs of the lucky four in front of the stage. Paparazzi (strobe lights) are snapping images of the group as they are welcomed to the Bellasphere.

PRODUCER

Welcome to the Bellasphere Mansion! Tonight you four will experience what nobody else in the world has ever or will ever get to experience; an overnight journey into the cryptic world of Bella Vickerson.

Should you all come out of this alive and well, you will have an intimate glimpse into her psyche and why the Bellasphere mansion is such an important piece of architecture.

So, without further ado, please join me in a night full of wonder and mystery...

PRODUCER stands aside and motions the group to enter up the stairs to stage right while the curtains open behind her. Producer lingers a moment, staring at the Paparazzi as flashes of the camera goes wild before turning around and following the group into the Bellasphere.

SCENE THREE

THE group enters into the Bellasphere and they all gasp with shock at the magnitude of everything.

HELENA

Holy cow! Look at this place, it's huge.

(Under breath.) I don't remember it being this big.

QUEENIE

Right! Bella definitely had it made here. I can't believe she lived here on her own.

(Smirks.) I mean she's just got so much stuff!

SERENA

There's an insane amount of energy coming from Bellasphere (short pause). It's SO intense, like the house is trying to scream a message... (pause) but nobody's listening.

(Cast rolls their eyes and snickers. Helena and Ophelia remain silent and motionless.)

PRODUCER

Well, they do say that the house is haunted with Bella's restless spirit. She did die on the property. Some even say that she still wanders around looking for her long lost daughter, like she doesn't even know she's dead. Eerie, right? (Glances at Ophelia, who remains silent but makes eye contact.)

HELENA

What!? That daughter must have been too young to remember anything.

PRODUCER

In theory, yes, but if this mystery daughter ever turned up and remembered what happened to her mother - imagine the headlines! I mean whoever cracks that open will gain immediate fame. Even more; some say that Bella was murdered but the only person who could ever really attest to that is her daughter. Mr. Vickerson is already dead so that leaves the daughter as the legacy to the mystery of Bella Vickerson as well as the sole heir to Bellasphere Mansion and all the bubblegum investments... duh duh duh!

(Cast remains silent in contemplation.)

PRODUCER

(Glancing down at his watch and startling the Group.)

You four have about one hour to head to your rooms, get cleaned up and then meet in the main room for our 5 pm séance. Mrs. Vickerson began every evening with her 5 pm séance and I'm sure the world would want to witness this event with you four.

THE GROUP heads upstairs to their individual rooms and begins unpacking their bags;

(SONG #2 - Unpacking Song begins with Ophelia & Crystal Ball humming Reprise and then fades into the actual song. Lights up on individuals during solos and all stage lights up during chorus.)

SERENA

(Singing while she wanders outside Bellasphere near moon House Right.)

I sense feelings and voices beyond the living
And they drown out my own ... so unforgiving.

'Whenever I'm afraid I will trust in thee,'

My own image and voice I no longer see.

As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

'I will fear no evil: thou art with me; thy rod and
thy staff are my sanctuary'

But these phantoms of the living cast a shadow in my
being and I'm not sure I like what I see.

CAST

(Reprise.)

...And she does not like what she sees.
In this house of dreams
Is anything as it seems?
Will I find what I'm looking for,
Or could I hope for something more?
Tonight... (long)

QUEENIE

I keep collecting,
I keep on searching.
I really want to meet a ghost tonight.
To learn their secrets,
To solve a mystery,
I really want to meet a ghost tonight
Ghosts are you here tonight?

CAST

(Reprise.)

Ghosts are you here tonight?
In this house of dreams
Is anything as it seems?
Will I find what I'm looking for,
Or could I hope for something more?
Tonight... (long)

PRODUCER

Bella's story not so much a mystery,
But my payday tomorrow is gonna make history!
I'm gonna sell the book and the movie rights
And live off the royalties for the rest of my life.
This eclectic group of guests

Will disturb the ghostly rest in the Bellasphere

CAST

(Reprise.)

In the Bellasphere tonight
In this house of dreams
Is anything as it seems?
Will I find what I'm looking for,
Or could I hope for something more?
Tonight... (long)

HELENA

What am I doing here?
Was a good idea?
Am I just being paranoid?
I've got to face my fears!
These uneasy thoughts that haunt me are just uneasy
thoughts / aren't they? (spoken)
Don't let anyone see just how nervous you are
Helena, Keep yourself together (spoken)

CAST

(Reprise.)

Keep yourself together, Helena...
In this house of dreams
Is anything as it seems?
Will I find what I'm looking for,
Or could I hope for something more?
Tonight... (long)

CRYSTAL BALL

Bella's Sphere surrounds you... encompassing
Spirits haunting...
She will rise and return,
She will brighter burn

GRANDFATHER clock sounds and finishes
the Unpacking Song. Serena wanders
stage right and exits while the rest
of the cast exits stage left. Curtains
close. Lights out.

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