

Chapter 11: Audio Engineering and Soundwriting in an Interdisciplinary Course

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2. Excerpt from *Live Nashville* “Episode 8” by Jackson Badgley, Benjamin Dufresne, and Shannon Harper



Podcast art created by student Shannon Harper.

Transcript

[Upbeat “What You Got” original theme music with drums and keyboards by student Kevin Campbell]

Dr. Overall: Nashville is so much more than just Music City, USA. So let’s pull back the curtain and look behind the scenes at this amazing city. This *[pause]* is Live Nashville. *[Music ends]*

Shannon Harper: Ghosts. They walk through walls. They drag chains. They move objects. Makes for a nice story around the campfire, right? And that’s exactly what they are: stories. Or are they?

[Creepy transition music with ghostly spirits howling]

Harper: On this episode of *Live Nashville*, we're going to address a conflict. Why is it that ghost stories have become such an integral part of our city and our culture, and why do some people want these stories to cease to exist? To answer these questions, we will be taking a look at 3 locations in Nashville and the nearby area: the Bell Witch Cave, the Belmont Mansion, and the Ryman Auditorium.

[Ambient transition music that sounds like the wind howling]

Harper: The first location that we'll stop at is the Bell Witch Cave. This is the oldest place on our list, and it's also the one which most embraces its paranormal history. In fact, the sole reason it's become well-recognized is its history. It's become so ingrained in our culture in our area that the story of this place is actually being taught in schools. Here's how it went down. It all started in 1817, when an unfriendly spirit who identified itself as Kate Batts began tormenting John Bell and his daughter Betsy. Sources say that Batts's ghost started making noises like rapping on the side of the house, then moved to chain-dragging and strangulation noises inside the house before finally making her appearance.

Harper: Past that *[background noises: a wolf howling and a witch cackling]* she would hit them, pinch them, choke them, and verbally abuse them. It's even said that when Batts would slap Betsy, observers claimed to have heard the sound and seen the pink marks on her face afterwards. *[Noises stop]* Batts claimed that she wanted two things: to kill John and for Betsy not to marry Joshua Gardner, a man who lived nearby. And she seemed to have gotten her wish. *[Creepy laughter and other sounds in the background]* Betsy broke off her engagement and Batts claimed to have force-fed John the poison that he died from in 1820. *[Sounds stop]*