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What's All the Buzz About?

CHILDREN'S COMEDY. Friends, bees, and fellow insects, lend me your antennae! Tomorrow is the Queen bee's birthday and Bentley, the beehive's *archive-ist*, has forgotten! But don't worry an antennae on your head. All the busy bees swarm together to make the hive jive just in time for Queenie's birthday: Beatrice polishes and cleans the honeycomb, Berry invites the butterflies, Bertram creates an assorted honey menu, Betty invites the ants, Bree arranges for the crickets to chirp the music, and the party-crashing grasshoppers tear up the dance floor with their dance moves. The party turns out to be the bee's knees and one *un-bee-lievable* party! Perfect for young children.

Performance Time: Approximately 20-30 minutes.

Characters

(2 M, 6 F, 12 flexible, opt. extras)

(With doubling: 2 M, 5 F, 12 flexible)

BENTLEY/BETHANY: Beehive's arc-*hive*-ist in charge of recording all of the hive's major events; flexible.

BARNABY/BARBIE: The hive's new arc-*hive*-ist in-training; flexible.

BERRY: Relaxed, chilled-out bee in charge of inviting the Butterflies to the party; flexible.

BERT: Lazy bee in charge of the party's theme and décor; male.

BERTRAM: Honey-loving bee in charge of planning the menu; male.

BOBBIE/BONNIE: Hardworking bee in charge of spreading the word about the party; flexible.

BEATRICE: Anxious bee in charge of polishing and cleaning the honeycomb for the party; female.

BETTY: Happy bee in charge of inviting the ants to the party; female.

BELLE: Indecisive bee in charge of inviting the crickets to the party; female.

BREE: Bee who likes puns and is in charge of the music for the party; female.

BESSIE: Taskmaster bee who tells the other bees what to do to help with party preparations; female.

QUEENIE: Queen bee of the hive; female.

BUTTERFLY 1, 2: Glamorous, fashionable butterflies that only eat raw, pesticide-free, organic, non-GMO foods; flexible.

GRASSHOPPER 1, 2: Grasshoppers who love to eat and dance; flexible.

ANT 1: Industrious ant who believes everyone should stay on a designated path; flexible.

ANT 2: Industrious ant who believes stopping to smell the flowers is an inefficient use of time; flexible.

CRICKET 1, 2: Music-loving crickets who can chirp the blues, jazz, opera, rock 'n' roll; flexible.

EXTRAS (opt.): As additional Bees, Butterflies, Grasshoppers, Ants, and Crickets.

Option for Doubling

BEATRICE/QUEENIE (female)

Setting

Inside a beehive.

Set

Beehive. A backdrop of a beehive may be used.

Synopsis of Scenes

Scene 1: Inside the beehive.

Scene 2: Beehive, a short time later. Hive is decorated with giant wildflowers for the birthday party.

Props

Giant assorted wildflowers, to decorate the hive

Sound Effects

“Flight of the Bumblebee” by Nikolai Rimsky-

Korsakov, opt.

Crickets chirping

Music for bee waggle

Jazz music, opt.

Blues music, opt.

Opera music, opt.

Rock ‘n’ roll song, opt.

**“A colony
that swarms together,
stays together.”**

-Barnaby

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Inside a beehive. Bentley enters, followed by Barnaby.)

BENTLEY: (To Barnaby.) Welcome to your first day of work in the arc-hives. It's every young pupa's dream to grow up and work here. Although, as an arc-hive-ist in-training, I will keep you very *buzzy*! So be ready to be as "busy as a bee"!

BARNABY: I'm happy to *bee* here, Bentley.

BENTLEY: Don't worry one antenna on your head. I'll take you under my wing. I'm sure you will *blossom* here as a *budding arc-hive-ist*! Now, here at the arc-hives, we have the important task of recording all of the hive's major events.

BARNABY: Major events? Oh, oh, oh, like the time the colony flew around and collected all that pollen and nectar and made it into honey? That was so sweet!

BENTLEY: Yeah, that was pretty sweet. But it's not all roses. We've had some real catastro-*bees*...like the time it got so cold we had to swarm together for warmth, or that time when it was so hot we couldn't work at all.

BARNABY: Yeah, I was on wing-beating duty that day to circulate air through the hive and reduce the temperature. Although, I did join the forager bees for a bit to bring water into the hive.

BENTLEY: Or that terrible afternoon, which shall forever live in infamy, when some of our honey was stolen by that bear!

BARNABY: That was certainly a *grizzly* day for our colony. What a *bar-bear-ian*!

BENTLEY: I can *bear-ly* stand to think about it.

BARNABY: Do you think we will see that *fur-some* beast again?

BENTLEY: It's *paws-able*. Why, I could *drone* on and on about all the misfortunes that have befallen our colony, but we just have to "keep on buzzing," as I always say.

BARNABY: I'll *bee* on my guard...stinger ready.

BENTLEY: Now, Barnaby, this isn't some garden-variety job. As the colony's historians, we record and remember absolutely everything of importance.

BARNABY: Everything?

BENTLEY: Where the best wild flowers are. How many eggs, larvae, and pupa are *bee-ing* cared for in the nursery. How many wax cells are in the honeycomb of this hive. Nothing is too big or small for the hive's historians.

BARNABY: It's so good, really – the bee's knees – to know that the colony has someone to remember important things like, let's say, for example, that the Queen's birthday is tomorrow!

BENTLEY: Huh?

BARNABY: Tomorrow. It's the Queen's birthday.

BENTLEY: Tomorrow...as in the day after today?

BARNABY: Well, yeah! The day after today is always tomorrow, except when it becomes today. And then today becomes yesterday.

BENTLEY: I'm confused.

BARNABY: "Tomorrow" as in "the day after today," will be Queenie's birthday?

BENTLEY: My heart is *bee*-ting fast! I'm feeling lightheaded and a bit *daisy*! Get buzzing! Send out a distress signal pheromone! Call the colony! We have to remind the rest of the hive!

(Bentley and Barnaby buzz loudly, flap their wings, and "fly" around. Berry, Bert, Bertram, and Bobbie enter.)

BERT: What's all the buzz about?

BARNABY: Tomorrow is Queenie's birthday and Bentley forgot.

BENTLEY: I didn't forget. I just sorta remembered a little later than I would have liked.

BOBBIE: *(Panicking.)* Queenie's birthday?! But we need to scout out all flowers in a five-kilometer radius from the hive in search of nectar, water, pollen, and propolis. Secrete and produce beeswax for the construction of comb! Take care of the eggs, larvae, and pupae! Guard the hive from invaders! We don't have time for a birthday celebration!

BENTLEY: But it's Queenie's birthday! She is our regaling ruler...magnificent monarch...our sweet sovereign!

BERRY: All right, Bentley, just breathe in and out...
(*Breathes in and out.*) ...in and out. (*Breathes in and out.*) Relax.

BERTRAM: We should do a party! But not just any party...a surprise party!

BERRY: A surprise party would be the bee's knees! Far out! Totally awesome!

BERTRAM: I'll plan the menu. (*Gets an idea.*) Oh, oh! I know! Let's serve honey!

BOBBIE: Ooooh, my favorite!

(*Bees nod in agreement.*)

BERTRAM: Blackberry honey is so deep and rich while still being fruity, but clover is such a classic honey...so light, sweet, and floral. Blueberry honey has a lot of flavor, but with that tang, it's really an acquired taste.

BERRY: You are making my mandible water.

BOBBIE: Bertram, do you always think with your abdomen?

BERT: Shouldn't we take a nap first...rest up a little bit? Beating my wings 200 times per second, or 12,000 beats per minute, really wears me out.

BOBBIE: There's no time! Bert, you go collect flowers to decorate the inside of the hive.

BERT: But that's so much work. Can't I take a nap first?

BOBBIE: There's no time!

BERT: But I need time to consider the party's theme. Should it be English garden chic? Elegant and sophisticated? Or maybe more rustic and casual like a country garden theme? *(Gets an idea.)* Oh, oh! What about "woodland wonderland," more off a wild, fun style?

BOBBIE: We don't have the luxury of time, Bert. Queenie's birthday is tomorrow. Just decorate! Berry, you deliver an invitation to the butterflies. See if they can flutter by.

BERRY: Way cool! You can't have a hip and happening party without butterflies.

BERTRAM: As long as we don't have to invite the grasshoppers. They always eat so much.

BOBBIE: And me! I'll start spreading word around the hive about Queenie's surprise party. You know, letting everyone know that Bentley forgot to tell everyone that tomorrow was Queenie's birthday.

BENTLEY: *(Annoyed.)* I didn't forget! I just didn't remember as much as I would have liked, that's all!

BOBBIE: *(To Bees.)* Enough standing around *droning!* Away! We have serious *buzz-ness* to do. No *bumbling* around! Fly straight and sure! Work those wings! *Buzz off, Bees!* We have a surprise party to prepare for!

(Berry, Bert, Bertram, and Bobbie exit. Bentley buzzes loudly.)

BENTLEY: *(To Barnaby.)* A surprise party! How can the colony possibly plan this in time?!

BARNABY: Don't worry an antennae on your head segment, Bentley. A colony that swarms together, stays together. We'll get this party planned in time, you'll see!

(Beatrice, Betty, Belle, Bree, and Bessie enter.)

BESSIE: *(To Bentley.)* Bobbie just told us that you forgot that Queenie's birthday is tomorrow, Bentley.

BREE: *(To Bentley.)* Wasp was she talking about? She was *pollen* our legs, right? It can't be tomorrow.

BENTLEY: *(Annoyed.)* I didn't forgot, Bessie. I was just waiting to see if anyone else remembered, that's all.

BREE: Un-*bee*-lievable!

BEATRICE: What are we going to do?! This is worse than that un-*bear*-able time that that *paws*-itively *fur*-some bear stole our honey!

BETTY: Don't fret, Beatrice.

BREE: *(To Beatrice.)* Yeah, *bee* positive!

BETTY: Bobbie kept *droning* on and on about how they were planning a surprise party for Queenie.

BEATRICE: A surprise party? Do you think we can plan a party fit for our marvelous monarch in time?

BETTY: Well, Bert is working on the decorations, Berry is *buzzing* off to invite the butterflies, and Bertram is planning the menu.

BELLE: Should I help Bertram with the menu...or maybe Bert with the decorations? What should we use as decorations? Are buttercups still in fashion? Maybe daisies? I do like daisies! (*Remembers.*) Wait. No white flowers after Labor Day.

BESSIE: Friends, bees, fellow insects, lend me your antennae. Beatrice, start polishing and cleaning the honeycomb. We need this wax sticky and sweet for tonight's big party.

BEATRICE: So much honeycomb to clean...so little time.

BREE: This hive will be a place to *bee*-hold! What should I do? *Hive* never helped plan a surprise party *bee*-fore!

BESSIE: Bree, you are in charge of the music.

BREE: I was thinking some light buzzing? (*Does some light buzzing.*) The background music can't be sha-*bee*. Maybe *Bee*-toven? Or *Bee*-yoncé? Or we could invite a cricket trio?

[END OF FREEVIEW]