

MIRANDA VR

MUSIC BY KAMALA SANKARAM

LIBRETTO BY KAMALA SANKARAM & ROB REESE

SCROLLING TEXT:

"The Central Authority of the New Federation of Northern States hopes that you enjoyed this feed of underwriter presentations. That's exactly what our fellow citizens are currently watching at home. But now, you must pay attention to what shall therefore be construed as unblemished truth and doctrine. CONGRATULATIONS for volunteering of your own free will in a joint partnership between the New Federation Department of Justice and LipshaMed Entertainment Productions. Court proceedings shall be simultaneously transmitted kinotraffically throughout the civilized region. THAT means you're not just here to decide if someone is guilty of a capital crime - you're also an important part of the SHOW! So at the end of the trial you'll have to convict one of these suspects."

ACTION:

"Do you the jury hereby attest and confirm that all judgements rendered by the honorable Differential Autonomous Verification Engine (D.A.V.E.) shall be therefore construed as unblemished truth and doctrine for as long as each of you shall live? Affirm or deny!"

INT. COURTROOM - NIGHT

DAVE and three suspects file into the courtroom.

DAVE

Ladies and gentlemen, bonjour, welcome.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,

Ladies and gentlemen of the viewing public,

Welcome, welcome to the Whole Truth!

Let me introduce myself:

I'm DAVE, I'm DAVE,

Your Crime Computer.

DAVE CHORUS

DAVE!

DAVE

I'm here to guide you...

DAVE CHORUS

Guide you.

DAVE

Yes, guide you through the show!

Come on, let's go!

The Whole Truth is the only show where you the audience will
investigate...

DAVE CHORUS

Detective!

DAVE

You the audience will deliberate...

DAVE CHORUS

The Jury!

DAVE

You the audience will adjudicate...

DAVE CHORUS

As magistrate!

DAVE

Pass sentence on one of these suspects under power of the law.

It's your duty...

It's your privilege...

It's your duty to bring them to justice.

Accessing my database for this evening's crime...

DAVE CHORUS

Let's go!

DAVE

Case number 112278

From Manhattan's 19th precinct.
A young woman murdered...

DAVE CHORUS

Who did it?

DAVE

We have three suspects!

DAVE CHORUS

Who are they?

DAVE & DAVE CHORUS

Her mother!

Her father!

Her fiance!

DAVE

The court is now in session!

First, let's meet our murder victim: Miranda Wright.

MIRANDA

When I was alive,
I believed you'd love me.

DAVE

Somebody pushed her down the stairs!

MIRANDA

When I was alive,
I believed you'd shield me.

DAVE

Her fiance found the body.

MIRANDA

When I was alive,
I believed you'd free me.

COR

I was her fiance.

DAVE

Her parents don't have alibis, neither does her fiance.

MIRANDA

When I was alive,
I believed...
But you lied, you lied!

ANJANA & IZZY

But we're her parents.

DAVE

State your name.

COR

Cor Prater.

ANJANA

Anjana Challapattee Wright.

IZZY

Izzy Wright.

DAVE

How do you plead?H

COR

Everything that I
did, I did for her.

Everything that I
did, I did for her.

Everything that I
did...

ANJANA

How could you
suspect that I would
murder my daughter?

How could you
suspect that I would
murder my daughter?

How could you
suspect that I would
murder my daughter?

IZZY

How could you
believe I'd kill my
daughter?

DAVE

One of these accused has surely killed.
You, the audience, will select the killer.
As we hear the depositions...

DAVE

Spoken as the truth, Spoken as the truth, (Speculate!)
Nothing but the truth, Nothing but the truth, (Deliberate!)
Spoken as The Whole Truth! Spoken as the truth. (Adjudicate!)

DAVE CHORUS

TEXT:

"Article 1110 Stroke Zed of the New Federation of Northern States' Central Authority Penal Code: all testimony and evidence has been screened, edited, and censored against language, thoughts, and themes deemed profane, obscene, unpatriotic, or damaging to free commerce."

"Exhibit A: Reenactment 001

Location: Mirand and Cor's Home, Cor's Office

Miranda finds documents implicating that her fiance Cor's business with her father Izzy is not as straightforward as she thought..."

MIRANDA

Strange how long it's been since I looked behind this door.

Strange that he would try to hide the key.

And stranger that he'd think I wouldn't find it.

And to leave his memos where someone who shouldn't could read them.

Someone who shouldn't could read them...

This can't be right.

One in ten...

That can't be right.

One in ten...

That's just too many.

Someone would have noticed by now.

One in ten...

Could it be...?

I have to know.

MIRANDA calls COR.

COR

Hey there, babe. What's up?

MIRANDA

Cor, I...

COR

What is it?

Are you okay?

MIRANDA

I found something.

COR

What?

MIRANDA

I was in your office.

I know I shouldn't have...

COR

What did you find?

MIRANDA

A memo.

It was strange.

The numbers...

Are people dying?

COR

Babe...

MIRANDA

When you started working for my father, I...

COR

Does he know?

MIRANDA

He wrote it!

COR

Does he know you found it?

MIRANDA

No, I...

COR

Does your mother know?

MIRANDA

My mother?

What does she have to...

COR

I have to go.

MIRANDA

What?

COR

I promise I'll talk to you later.

MIRANDA

Wait!

Babe?

Don't hang up!

Don't hang up.

We used to tell each other everything.

COR hangs up the phone.

MIRANDA

Babe?

Babe?

ACTION:

Confirm or Deny the evidence?

TEXT:

"Exhibit B: Reenactment 002

Location: La Golue Coiffure

Miranda confronts her mother about the dirty secrets behind the family business"

ANJANA

Miranda, well, what a surprise!

MIRANDA

Sa re ga
Sa re ga
Sa re...

ANJANA

What is it you need?

MIRANDA

I don't have the words...

ANJANA

There's nothing wrong, is there?

MIRANDA

Amma...

You should know I found a memo on Cor's desk.
It said one in ten people would...

ANJANA

Enough!

It's your father's business:
He knows what he's doing.

MIRANDA

What?

ANJANA

No more questions.

MIRANDA

Did you know about this?

ANJANA

I think you should go.

TEXT:

"Miranda's mother Anjana refused to answer her daughter's suspicions, forcing Miranda to question her father directly."

ACTION:

"Do you, the jury, Affirm or Deny the evidence seen in this Court Reenactment?"

TEXT:

"Exhibit C: Reenactment 003a
Location: Izzy Wright's Office
Miranda pleads with her father to confide in her, to no avail."

MIRANDA

I know that I haven't exactly been the person you hoped I'd be,
And I know that you don't want to hear what I have to say.

I found your memo.
I know your secret,
Your secret and Cor's.

IZZY

The memo means nothing.
Better to forget it.

MIRANDA

But this is a secret that could hurt you.
You AND him.

IZZY

Better to forget it.

MIRANDA

I have to know if this is true.
If you just...

IZZY

There's nothing to talk about.

MIRANDA

Please open up to me.

IZZY

I think that you'd better go now.

MIRANDA

(Defeated)

Okay, I'll go.

Too long I've waited.

I've done all you asked with trust and faith.

But now I see it was misplaced.
The only one who'll fix this is me!

TEXT:

"We know Miranda was killed... We know there was a secret... But what happened next?"

MIRANDA confronts COR. It is unclear if this is really happening or if it's in her mind.

MIRANDA

Isn't there something you want to tell me?
Isn't there something you want to say?
How could you keep such secrets?
Isn't there something you want to tell me?

COR

(Sweetly)

Baby, why do you want to worry?
Haven't I always kept you safe?
Better not to ask these questions.

MIRANDA

I never asked you for this safety.
I never thought I'd need it.
I don't know what to think of you anymore.
I don't know what to think of you anymore.

MIRANDA

I don't know how to talk to you
anymore.
I don't know how to talk to you
anymore.

COR

Baby, don't worry.
There are some things you
shouldn't know.

MIRANDA

I don't know if I can...

COR

You can just forget about the things you think you...

MIRANDA

...if I can go on pretending that nothing has changed.

COR

Nothing has changed, if you just...

MIRANDA

How can you ask me...

COR

Let it...
Go if...
You can...

Let it go, if you...
You can, you can let it,
You can, you can let it...
You can, you can let it...

MIRANDA

To be...
Silent...
When I...

Know the things I know?
I know, I don't know if,
I know, I know...

MIRANDA

I don't trust you!

COR vanishes.

MIRANDA

Nowhere,
Nowhere left to run to or to hide.
No one,
No one left to turn to or to trust.
Nothing,
Nothing is so simple
But nothing so uncertain as my choice.
I still believe...
Yes, I believe in them.
And I'll forgive...

MIRANDA sets the memo on fire.

MIRANDA

Believe, forgive...

MIRANDA walks up the stairs.

INT. COURTROOM - NIGHT

DAVE

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,

Ladies and gentlemen of the nation,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Now's the time for you to make your decision:
How will this story end?

DAVE CHORUS

We've gotta know, we've gotta know!

DAVE

I hope that you've been watching closely.
It's all up to you now.
You know what's right and you'll decide
Who you will convict as our killer.
Do we have a final statement from our suspects?

COR

Everything that I did, I did for her.

Everything that I did, I did for her.

Everything that I did, I did for her.

Everything that I did...

ANJANA

How could you suspect that I would murder my daughter?

How could you suspect that I would murder my daughter?

How could you suspect that I would murder my daughter?

How could you suspect that I would murder my daughter?

IZZY

How could you believe I'd kill?

DAVE

It's your duty...
It's your privilege...
It's your duty to bring them to justice!

DAVE CHORUS

We've gotta know, we've gotta know!

DAVE

Ladies and gentlemen,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Time to make your choice!

DAVE CHORUS

Let's go, let's go!

ACTION:

"Who murdered Miranda Wright?"

DAVE

Oh yeah, it's COR!

ANJANA & IZZY

Ha ha, Cor!

DAVE

Cor, you are hereby found guilty by a jury of your natural
superiors.

ANJANA, IZZY, & DAVE CHORUS

Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!

DAVE

Time to pass the sentence.

ANJANA, IZZY, & DAVE CHORUS

Murderer!

DAVE

The severity of killing your fiancee compels me to calculate
your penalty:
Death!

ANJANA, IZZY, & DAVE CHORUS

Death!

DAVE

Death!

ANJANA, IZZY, & DAVE CHORUS

Death!

DAVE

Death!

ANJANA, IZZY, & DAVE CHORUS

Death!

DAVE

Death!

ANJANA, IZZY, & DAVE CHORUS

Death!

ANJANA, IZZY, & DAVE CHORUS

It's that time.

It's your time.

Not our time.

COR

I didn't kill Miranda!

She was going to be my wife!

They're the guilty ones!

They're killing innocent
people!

You can't do this!

I loved her more than anything!

What are you doing?

What's...

What's happening to me?

DAVE

And so it is judged!

DAVE CHORUS

And so it is judged!

DAVE

Justice has been served!

Court is adjourned.