

## Behind the scenes at Winchester Mystery House's Fright Nights

Silicon Valley / San Jose Business Journal

Date: Monday, October 22, 2012, 5:00am PDT - Last Modified: Monday, October 22, 2012, 5:15am PDT



Photo: Vicki Thompson

From left, lighting designer Jeff Butcher, producer Brett Tomberlin and visual effects specialist Sabour Amirazodi prepare for the start of Fright Nights at the Winchester Mystery House.

There's good money in scaring people senseless.

Ask the goblins over at [Winchester Mystery House](#). Organizers of this year's Fright Nights are expecting 40,000 people to visit Sarah Winchester's mansion for its annual interactive maze and flashlight tour this Halloween season.

Tickets range from \$35 to \$60.

[Brett Tomberlin](#) of Imagination Design Works is running point on this year's production, which has a \$1 million budget not including labor. Tomberlin is also the man behind the feature film taking place at the mansion, "Winchester."

More than 100 characters will be hiding in dark corners and following you around that maze. Photographer Vicki Thompson got up close and personal with a few of them. Check out the behind-the-scenes slideshow to see what ghosts and ghoulies lie in wait for you.

Then head over to [the Winchester Mystery House website](#) for more information.



Make-up artist Gina DeMatteo gets one fearsome character ready for the maze.



Another character sees red.



The Winchester Mystery House Fright Night includes a 40-minute maze.



This is one of the ghouls who might catch you during the outdoor maze.



More than 100 characters will be making bumps in the night.



Fright Nights goes until Nov. 3.