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Ted
Kaczynski
Killed People
With
Bombs

A Play With Seven Songs,

One Reprise and Three

Epiphanies

by Michelle Carter

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Ted Kaczynski Killed People With Bombs

A Play With Seven Songs, One Reprise and Three Epiphanies.

Drama by Michelle Carter.

Cast: 3m., 3w. In awarding the 2003 **PEN USA Literary**

Award for drama, the judges wrote: "Carter has constructed a kaleidoscopic postmodern exploration of the real-life events and influences that unleashed the **Unabomber**. Her comprehensive research and **keen eye** for insightful details result in **vivid, gripping** portraits of the alienated terrorist and those who knew him ... Carter lulls us into thinking that the disturbed mind of a **homegrown terrorist** is explainable, perhaps even forgivable—before lowering the emotional boom as the focus shifts from the eccentricities of the bomber to the **horror inflicted** on his victims ... Carter's **cautionary drama** uncovers deeper truths that endure long past the limited shelf life of a media event." *Flexible staging. Approximate running time: 90 minutes.*

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Ted Kaczynski Killed People With Bombs • Michelle Carter • Dramatic Publishing



Ted Kaczynski Killed People With Bombs

**A Play With Seven Songs, One Reprise
and Three Epiphanies**

By
MICHELLE CARTER

This excerpt contains sexually explicit



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Woodstock, Illinois • England • Australia • New Zealand

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(TED KACZYNSKI KILLED PEOPLE WITH BOMBS
A Play with Seven Songs, One Reprise
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Ted Kaczynski Killed People With Bombs was commissioned by the Magic Theatre and Z-Space and premiered at the Magic Theatre—in a very different form—in 2002 (Larry Eilenberg, artistic director).

CAST

K Merle Kessler
Wild Nature Celia Schuman
Mrs. K and others Anne Darragh
David K and others Mark Rafael Truitt
David Gelernter and others David Cramer
Sixth Actor Robert Parsons

PRODUCTION STAFF

Casting Director Jessica Heidt
Sound Designer Maribeth Back
Lighting Designer Jim Cave
Costume Designer Kira Kristensen

MUSIC

Composer Michelle Carter

The play was also produced at the Summer Play Festival in New York in July 2005 (Arielle Tepper, festival producer; Rachel Neuburger, artistic director; Kara Medoff and Marisa Sechrest, producers).

CAST

Ted Andrew Dolan
Wild Nature Jessica Boevers
Mrs. Kaczynski Kathleen Doyle
David Kaczynski et al. Ian Kahn
David Gelernter et al. Vin Knight
Linda Kaczynski et al Barbara Pitts

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Jeremy Dobrish
Assistant Director Jillian Apfelbaum
Stage Manager Sid King
Set Designer Steven Capone
Lighting Designer Michael Gottlieb
Sound Designer Jill BC Du Boff
Costume Designer Heather Dunbar
Casting Director Mark Simon

MUSIC

Composers Gabriel Kahane, Michael Friedman
Musician and Foley Artist Gabriel Kahane

The play was also presented in the context of a residency at the Donmar Warehouse in London in September 2005 through the generous support of Jill Shaw Ruddock (Michael Grandage, artistic director).

CAST

Ted John Light
Wild Nature Catherine Tate
Mrs. Kaczynski. Sian Thomas
David Kaczynski et al. Geoffrey Streatfield
David Gelernter et al. Stanley Townsend
Linda Kaczynski et al. Claudie Blakley

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Angus Jackson
Residency Coordinator. Sarah Nicholson
Stage Manager. Sarah Waling
Assistant Director Chris Rolls
Casting Director. Anne McNulty

MUSIC

Composer George Hinchliffe
Ukulele George Hinchliffe

TED KACZYNSKI KILLED PEOPLE WITH BOMBS

For 3 men, 3 women

CAST

TED (m), 35-50

DAVID KACZYNSKI (m): 7 years younger than Ted
(also plays Jeff, Turk, Sixties Guy and Math Department
Chair)

DAVID GELERNTER (m): 40-55
(also plays Clark, Childhood Friend, Researcher 1,
Singer, Freud, Unabomber 1, Kid, Cowboy 2 and
Enraged Spouse)

WILD NATURE (w): Age is less important than a sexy,
charismatic presence.

MRS. KACZYNSKI (w): 55-70

LINDA KACZYNSKI (w): 30-40
(also plays Jimmy, Elderly Neighbor, Researcher 2,
Student, Ellen, Katie Couric, Unabomber 2, Interviewer,
Comedian, Mom, Cowboy 1 and Unfaithful Spouse)

MUSIC

Creative teams are welcome and encouraged to compose their own music for the songs. Information regarding music composed by Gabriel Kahane and Michael Friedman for the Summer Play Festival production can be obtained from the playwright's agent, Bruce Ostler of the Bret Adams Agency in New York.

A musician and foley artist remains onstage throughout the play.

RUNNING TIME:

Approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

Ted Kaczynski Killed People With Bombs

Scene i

(The iconic image of the Unabomber appears. Sound: A typewriter typing, cued by an onstage musician and foley artist who cues sound throughout the play.)

*Text appears: **The positive ideal is Nature. Wild Nature: those aspects of the functioning of the Earth and its living things that are free of human interference and control.***

WILD NATURE sound rises—jungle noise, animal calls, etc. Text continues:

Wild Nature includes human nature, those aspects of the functioning of the human individual that are not subject to regulation by organized society but are products of chance. Or free will. Or God. Or whatever.

WILD NATURE appears.)

WILD NATURE. I'd just kill to get published. (Beat.) A little in-joke. It'll make sense later.

*(Text appears: **She's Wild Nature.**)*

(WILD NATURE pauses, taking in the WILD NATURE sounds. To the musician:)

WILD NATURE *(cont'd)*. The National Geographic soundtrack? A little *trite*, perchance? *(The musician cuts the sound.)* Thank you. *(Out to audience.)* You have no idea what I go through. *(WILD NATURE cues the musician.)*
(She sings:)

Of my image, I am well aware—
My reputation's quite beyond repair:
Wild Nature, dame of famine, flood, and frigid winters,
Piss her off and with a cough
She'll blow your house to splinters.
Global warming, locusts swarming, rivers foul and
silty—
Just say the word "environment" and everyone feels
guilty.
It's so *Third World*,
Old shoe,
Passé!...
But nature's at your service in the U.S.A.!

(Costume evolves. Music up-tempo...)

WILD NATURE *(cont'd)*.
I'm your cruise control,
Your GPS,
Your blues patrol,
To shield you from dejectedness.

The times are terrifying
Your nerves are worn and frayed;

Who says it's edifying
To be worried and afraid?

Cruise control
The times are complicated
Blues control
Angst is just so dated

Once upon a simpler time,
Wild Nature reigned:
Tooth or claw, freeze or thaw,
She could not be contained.
Oceans swelled expertly,
Just because they could;
Oil welled inertly,
Doing no one any good.
Nature made a monkey out of man in days of old—
But the times have tamed and trained her:
Now she does just what she's told.

Neanderthal,
Or Naked Chef?
Virgin sprawl,
Or a fuel gauge all the way to F?

Feeling fragile? timid? spooked?
Alarmed? In need of mending?
Overawed?—well that's why god
Begot the happy ending

Yang is cruel,
Yin a mite depressing—

As a rule,
Spin is quite a blessing

This story's dark
This story's true
Let's find a way to tell it so its spell won't torment
you

(End of song.)

WILD NATURE *(cont'd)*. This is the story of a man who did horrible things and had many quaint, obsolete ideas.

(FOUR SCHOOLCHILDREN enter with school desks.)

WILD NATURE *(cont'd)*. Let us begin where all improving tales begin: the children.

(A recess bell rings.)

Scene ii

(WILD NATURE is a SCHOOLTEACHER. JEFF, CLARK and JIMMY take their places for the math bee. After each correct answer is given, the winner will remain standing and the loser will sit.)

SCHOOLTEACHER. Settle, boys. Take your seats. Time for this morning's math bee. *(They take their seats for the math bee.)* Ready? *(JEFF nods.)* Jeff. *(JEFF stands.)* Jimmy. *(JIMMY stands.)* Twelve times four.

JEFF. Forty-eight. (*JIMMY sits.*)
SCHOOLTEACHER. Clark. (*CLARK stands.*) Nine times eight.
JEFF. Seventy-two. (*CLARK sits.*)
SCHOOLTEACHER. Jimmy. (*JIMMY stands.*) Fifty-six divided by seven.
CLARK (*feeding JIMMY the answer*). Eight.
JIMMY. Eight! I knew that!
SCHOOLTEACHER. Jeff. (*JEFF stands. JIMMY sits.*)
Thirty-two plus twelve.
JEFF (*instantly*). Forty-four. (*JIMMY sits.*)
SCHOOLTEACHER. Clark. (*CLARK stands.*) Fifty-nine plus twenty-one.
CLARK. Eighty. (*JEFF sits.*)
SCHOOLTEACHER. Jimmy. (*JIMMY stands.*) Seventy-nine minus twelve.
CLARK. Sixty-seven. (*JIMMY sits.*)
SCHOOLTEACHER. Ted. (*Beat.*) Ted? (*Beat.*) *Ted!*

(*TED appears.*)

TED. There once was a woman named Ellen
Whose private parts kept on a-swellin'
Men far and wide
Had explored her inside
Till it could not be mapped by Magellan
(*Brightly.*) I wrote that! (*He steps out of the shack and paces the room.*)
SCHOOLTEACHER. Let f denote a continuous function defined on the open unit disk in the complex plane.
TED. Then the boundary function for f is obtained by taking the limits of f at arc p . (*CLARK sits, confused.*)

SCHOOLTEACHER. Jeff. (*JEFF stands, also baffled.*)

TED. The curvilinear convergence of f is the largest set on which a boundary function can be defined.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Clark. (*JEFF sits and CLARK stands.*)

TED. The set of all points inside the bounded function include set H , axis X , point p , and arc v :

SCHOOLTEACHER. Jimmy. (*CLARK sits and JIMMY stands.*)

TED. —indignity, loneliness, powerlessness, and rage.
Thus:

SCHOOLTEACHER. Children! (*All stand.*)

TED. The industrial revolution and its consequences have been a disaster for the human race. (*An explosion. The students dive under their chairs. Silence. Gently.*) It's okay. Come on out now. (*Warily, they take their seats.*)

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date. (*The students continue going through the motions of the math bee.*)

TED. May 26, 1978.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Description.

TED. Smokeless powder pipe bomb, brown paper, ten one-dollar Eugene O'Neill stamps.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Target.

TED. Lazy fat ignoramuses rejecting *my paper*.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Victim.

TED. Terry Marker, security guard. (*Indicating the shack upstage.*) Get to work!

(The musician plays an amiable, engaging, toe-tapping number. Two students rush to the playhouse shack. As TED continues, they pull bombs from the shack and set

them one by one about the stage. The pace of the following accelerates as it moves, becomes frenetic.)

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. May 9, 1979.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Description.

TED. Booby-trap bomb, Phillies-brand cigar box.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Target.

TED. Lazy fat ignoramus rejecting *my paper*.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Victim.

TED. John Harris. Student. Civil engineering.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. November 15, 1979.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Description.

TED. Smokeless powder mail bomb, "America's Light Fueled By Truth and Reason" one-dollar stamps.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Target.

TED. Fuel-guzzling smoke-spewing noise-belching sky-raping—

SCHOOLTEACHER. Victims.

TED. Fourteen passengers. Smoke inhalation. Small potatoes.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. June 10, 1980.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Description.

TED. Booby-trapped book: *Ice Brothers* by Sloan Wilson.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Target.

TED. Fuel-guzzling smoke-spewing noise-belching sky-raping—

SCHOOLTEACHER. Victim.

TED. United Airlines president Percy Wood. *Wood*. Get it?

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. October 8, 1981.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Description.

TED. Smokeless powder pipe in gasoline can.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Target.

TED. Bloodless arrogant ivory-tower—

SCHOOLTEACHER. Victim.

TED. Janitor. Unhurt. No one even injured.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. May 5, 1982.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Description.

TED. Pipe bomb, three forwarding addresses.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Target.

TED. Bloodless arrogant ivory-tower—

SCHOOLTEACHER. Victim.

TED. Secretary. Lacerations from shrapnel. Can't seem to
make a lethal bomb.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. July 2, 1982.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Description.

TED. Note enclosed: "Mackenzie—it works! I told you it
would." Get it?

SCHOOLTEACHER. Target.

TED. Arrogant, smug, self-important—

SCHOOLTEACHER. Victim.

TED. Mangled hands, face, and so on. Gasoline failed to
ignite and kill.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. Next.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. Next.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. Next.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Date.

TED. Next! December 11, 1985.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Description.

TED. Eight long years of painstaking work.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Target.

TED. Lethal at last!

SCHOOLTEACHER. Victim.

TED. Hugh Scrutton. Computer store owner. Quick, clean, painless, and humane.

SCHOOLTEACHER (*aside*). *I'd just kill to get published. Get it?*

TED. February 20, 1987.

SCHOOLTEACHER. The victim's mother watching from the window.

TED. June 22, 1993.

SCHOOLTEACHER. Professor at a medical school.

TED. June 24, 1993.

SCHOOLTEACHER. A musician who loved Palestrina's Missa Brevis.

TED. December 10, 1994.

SCHOOLTEACHER. The children asleep in the next room.

TED. April 24, 1995. The peak, the summit.

SCHOOLTEACHER. The beginning of the end.

TED. *We have a long article that must be published in the New York Times, Time, or Newsweek.*

SCHOOLTEACHER. Penthouse says they'll publish you!

TED (*firmly*). The New York Times, Time, or Newsweek.

SCHOOLTEACHER. The demand was met.

TED. The Industrial Society and its Future is published by the New York Times and the Washington Post. My manifesto.

SCHOOLTEACHER. It was a trick. The FBI wanted to see if someone would recognize your writing. Someone did.

(Music off.) That's it. It's over. So. *Why?*

SCHOOLCHILDREN. Yeah...*why?*

(Word appears: Why?)

TED. Why, children? *(TED begins to exit, whistling a melodic line we're to hear him whistle throughout the play. He turns back to them.)* The clothes on my back, a bedroll, and a sky full of stars.

(He disappears into the shack. WILD NATURE cues the musician, sings:)

WILD NATURE.

There are worms that never have to eat—
They grow as long as thirty-seven feet.
There's a fish that changes sex at will:
We can't explain that nifty skill
A freak of nature's never what he seems—
He'll spook the cats and clutter up your dreams.
So as you're tickled, teased, and entertained,
Relax!, each foul and fearsome act will henceforth be
(a grand arpeggio...)
...explained!

(Music shifts. The musician gives the schoolchildren instruments.)

WILD NATURE *(cont'd)*.

Was it Mama's nagging when he didn't clean his
room?