

SOMEBODY BLEW UP AMERICA BY ABDULRAHMEN “RAY” ALCODRAY

(A dramatized presentation of the poem by the same name, written by poet Amiri Baraka – Poet Laureate of the State of New Jersey)

CAST:

Commanding officer – White male.

Soldier 1 – White male.

Soldier 2 – White male.

Captive 1 –African.

Captive 2 –Native Indian.

Captive 3 –Arab.

The stage is simple. Black platforms with some at different heights. On these are black pedestal platforms at various heights around eye level. On the pedestals are large TV monitors. The monitors will present video and still frames that are timed with the delivery of the poem’s stanzas. On the back wall of the stage is a large surface suitable for the projection of images. This will be used in the same fashion as the TV monitors.

Three captives are led by the Commanding officer - C.O. - and two soldiers dressed in military garb. They are hot, sweaty, and dirty. Their attitudes reflect contempt for their situation and the captives they hold. The captives are dressed in orange jump suits, are shackled, handcuffed, and blindfolded. This is intended to give precisely the image of the “enemy combatants” taken from Afghanistan to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for imprisonment. Confused and terrified, they are led center stage facing the audience, and with the two soldiers behind them, forcibly made to kneel. The “Jack Nicholson” type C.O. assesses the situation, and while inspecting the captives, grumbling under his breath, seething with anger and just about to start a tirade of ethnic and racial slurs when....

C.O.

I think I’m going to be sick.

SOLDIER1

Sir?

C.O.

(Shouts) SOMEBODY BLEW UP AMERICA!

(Both Soldiers come to attention and salute)

SOLDIERS

YES SIR!

C.O.

And I want to know who did it – am I clear?

SOLDIERS

YES SIR – SIR – WHO SIR.

C.O.

That's right – who.

SOLDIERS

WHO SIR! SOMEBODY BLEW UP AMERICA – WHO SIR!?

C.O.

(snaps back at soldiers) That's what I'm trying to find out! – whooo?

SOLDIERS

YES SIR!

(The cadence of the soldiers starts to mimic that of a gospel revival)

C.O.

These filthy pieces of shit have the answer. They know who blew up our country. And I swear on the graves of my ancestors....

SOLDIERS

ANCESTORS SIR!

C.O.

....that crossed the Atlantic on a ship.....

SOLDIERS

ON A SHIP SIR!

C.O.

....that endured unbearable hardship, and came to the “U” “S” of “A”

SOLDIERS

TO MAKE IT WHAT IT IS TODAY!

C.O.

.....On this and all that is holy....

SOLDIERS

Amen!

C.O.

....I'm going to find out. I'm going to punish the bastards.

SOLDIER1

(quietly to soldier 2) Ironic isn't it.

C.O.

How's that?

SOLDIERS

Good for nothing bastards sir!

C.O.

Niggers. (soldiers hesitate to repeat) Go ahead - it will set you free.

SOLDIERS

(half hearted) Niggers sir.

C.O.

You're on an island for God's sake!

SOLDIERS

NIGGERS SIR!

C.O.

That's right - if they ain't white. Find out what they know.

SOLDIER1

Everything?

C.O.

Yes. (hands both soldiers a syringe with truth serum, and walks behind the captives. Each soldier and C.O. taking his place behind one captive).

SOLDIER2

The truth juice? (referring to syringe).

(When the three soldiers are behind the captives, the C.O., with syringe in right hand, raises the syringe – almost as if taking an oath – and the others follow, like he is leading the band)

C.O.

The whole truth and nothing but the truth. Do you understand?

SOLDIERS

I do (as the two plunge the syringes simultaneously into the backs of the unsuspecting captives).

(The captives with some agony, come under the influence of the drug, fall forward, and become lifeless)

C.O.

Somebody blew up America and I want to know who.

(Plunges his syringe in the last captive, begins to leave, suddenly stops, turns to soldiers – with

syringes still in their right hands – and they salute. C.O. leaves).

SOLDIER2

We haven't got much time.

(They hurriedly begin taking off the shackles, handcuffs, and blindfolds, when nearly done...)

SOLDIER1

Wait!!

(Soldier2 confused stops as Soldier1 runs down stage of captives, pulls out an instant camera, and snaps a picture. Then they switch places, only Soldier1 sets up his photo with rabbit ears behind two of the captive's heads – flash. Suddenly from the audience area we hear...)

C.O.

Hey – (soldiers freeze as though caught doing something wrong) I almost forgot!! This will make it interesting.

(Walks back in with an Indian headdress, Afro wig, Arab headdress, white gloves, and white face paint. The soldiers unzip the orange jumpsuits remove their arms and start to put on the gloves. Then they smear white face paint on them and place headdresses on the captives).

SOLDIER2

I think we're ready - let's watch the show.

(Soldiers start to exit into audience, soldier still holding camera suddenly stops, turns for one last picture, sets up, and on his flash – blackout. In the darkness, a drum starts to beat a-rhythmically, like a heart beat pulsing. As the drum pulses, the lights pulse, slowly to higher levels. The captives begin stirring to life, complete the removal of the jumpsuits. They are dressed in tight fitting all black clothes with the white gloves and white face paint in stark contrast. The rap, synchronized video, begins).

(All thinking people
oppose terrorism
both domestic
& international...
But one should not
be used
To cover the other)

They say its some terrorist, some
barbaric

A Rab, in
Afghanistan

It wasn't our American terrorists
It wasn't the Klan or the Skin heads
Or the them that blows up nigger
Churches, or reincarnates us on Death Row
It wasn't Trent Lott
Or David Duke or Giuliani
Or Schundler, Helms retiring

It wasn't
the gonorrhoea in costume
the white sheet diseases
That have murdered black people
Terrorized reason and sanity
Most of humanity, as they pleases

They say (who say? Who do the saying
Who is them paying
Who tell the lies
Who in disguise
Who had the slaves
Who got the bux out the Bucks

Who got fat from plantations
Who genocided Indians
Tried to waste the Black nation

Who live on Wall Street
The first plantation
Who cut your nuts off
Who rape your ma
Who lynched your pa

Who got the tar, who got the feathers
Who had the match, who set the fires
Who killed and hired
Who say they God & still be the Devil

Who the biggest only
Who the most goodest
Who do Jesus resemble

Who created everything
Who the smartest
Who the greatest
Who the richest
Who say you ugly and they the goodlookingest

Who define art
Who define science

Who made the bombs
Who made the guns

Who bought the slaves, who sold them

Who called you them names
Who say Dahmer wasn't insane

Who/ Who / Who/

Who stole Puerto Rico
Who stole the Indies, the Philipines, Manhattan
Australia & The Hebrides
Who forced opium on the Chinese

Who own them buildings
Who got the money
Who think you funny
Who locked you up
Who own the papers

Who owned the slave ship
Who run the army

Who the fake president
Who the ruler
Who the banker

Who/ Who/ Who/

Who own the mine
Who twist your mind
Who got bread
Who need peace
Who you think need war

Who own the oil
Who do no toil
Who own the soil
Who is not a nigger
Who is so great ain't nobody bigger

Who own this city

Who own the air
Who own the water

Who own your crib
Who rob and steal and cheat and murder
and make lies the truth
Who call you uncouth

Who live in the biggest house
Who do the biggest crime
Who go on vacation anytime

Who killed the most niggers
Who killed the most Jews
Who killed the most Italians
Who killed the most Irish
Who killed the most Africans
Who killed the most Japanese
Who killed the most Latinos

Who/Who/Who

Who own the ocean

Who own the airplanes
Who own the malls
Who own television
Who own radio

Who own what ain't even known to be owned
Who own the owners that ain't the real owners

Who own the suburbs
Who suck the cities
Who make the laws

Who made Bush president
Who believe the confederate flag need to be flying
Who talk about democracy and be lying
WHO/ WHO/ WHOWHO/

Who the Beast in Revelations
Who 666
Who decide
 Jesus get crucified

Who the Devil on the real side
Who got rich from Armenian genocide

Who the biggest terrorist
Who change the bible
Who killed the most people
Who do the most evil
Who don't worry about survival

Who have the colonies
Who stole the most land
Who rule the world
Who say they good but only do evil
Who the biggest executioner

Who/Who/Who ^^

Who own the oil
Who want more oil
Who told you what you think that later you find out a lie
Who/ Who/ ???

Who fount Bin Laden, maybe they Satan
Who pay the CIA,
Who knew the bomb was gonna blow
Who know why the terrorists
 Learned to fly in Florida, San Diego

Who know why Five Israelis was filming the explosion
 And cracking they sides at the notion

Who need fossil fuel when the sun ain't goin' nowhere

Who make the credit cards
Who get the biggest tax cut
Who walked out of the Conference
 Against Racism
Who killed Malcolm, Kennedy & his Brother
Who killed Dr King, Who would want such a thing?
 Are they linked to the murder of Lincoln?

Who invaded Grenada
Who made money from apartheid
Who keep the Irish a colony
Who overthrow Chile and Nicaragua later

Who killed David Sibeko, Chris Hani,
the same ones who killed Biko, Cabral,
Neruda, Allende, Che Guevara, Sandino,

Who killed Kabila, the ones who wasted Lumumba, Mondlane , Betty
Shabazz, Princess Margaret, Ralph Featherstone, Little Bobby

Who locked up Mandela, Dhoruba, Geronimo,
Assata, Mumia, Garvey, Dashiell Hammett, Alphaeus Hutton

Who killed Huey Newton, Fred Hampton,
Medgar Evers, Mikey Smith, Walter Rodney,
Was it the ones who tried to poison Fidel
Who tried to keep the Vietnamese Oppressed

Who put a price on Lenin's head

Who put the Jews in ovens,
and who helped them do it
Who said "America First"
and ok'd the yellow stars
WHO/WHO/ ^^

Who killed Rosa Luxembourg, Liebnecht
Who murdered the Rosenbergs
And all the good people iced,
tortured , assassinated, vanished

Who got rich from Algeria, Libya, Haiti,
Iran, Iraq, Saudi, Kuwait, Lebanon,
Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine,

Who cut off peoples hands in the Congo
Who invented Aids Who put the germs
In the Indians' blankets
Who thought up "The Trail of Tears"

Who blew up the Maine
& started the Spanish American War
Who got Sharon back in Power
Who backed Batista, Hitler, Bilbo,
Chiang kai Chek who WHO W H O/

Who decided Affirmative Action had to go
Reconstruction, The New Deal, The New
Frontier, The Great Society,

Who do Tom Ass Clarence Work for
Who doo doo come out the Colon's mouth
Who know what kind of Skeeza is a Condoleeza

Who pay Connelly to be a wooden negro
Who give Genius Awards to Homo Locus
Subsidere

Who overthrew Nkrumah, Bishop,
Who poison Robeson,
who try to put DuBois in Jail
Who frame Rap Jamil al Amin, Who frame the Rosenbergs, Garvey,
The Scottsboro Boys, The Hollywood Ten

Who set the Reichstag Fire

Who knew the World Trade Center was gonna get bombed
Who told 4000 Israeli workers at the Twin Towers
To stay home that day
Why did Sharon stay away ?

Who, Who, Who/
explosion of Owl the newspaper say
the devil face cd be seen Who WHO Who WHO

Who make money from war
Who make dough from fear and lies
Who want the world like it is
Who want the world to be ruled by imperialism and national oppression and
terror
violence, and hunger and poverty.

Who is the ruler of Hell?
Who is the most powerful

Who you know ever
Seen God?

But everybody seen
The Devil

Like an Owl exploding
In your life in your brain in your self
Like an Owl who know the devil
All night, all day if you listen, Like an Owl
Exploding in fire. We hear the questions rise
In terrible flame like the whistle of a crazy dog

Like the acid vomit of the fire of Hell
Who and Who and WHO (+) who who ^

Whoooo and Whoooooooooooooooooooooo!

(AMIRI B 10/01)

(As the poem comes to a close, the captives return to their positions on the ground. Soldiers return and begin putting handcuffs, shackles, blindfolds back on. CO enters).

C.O.

What did you learn?

SOLDIERS (together)

Nothing.

Blackout.

(At this point, the lights would come up, but not to full. Video, statistics, images, etc., keep rolling on the monitors. The audience should be charged up, and in a state of needing to discuss what they just watched. The audience will mingle in and around the set, the video monitors providing discussion centers. At some point, all monitors will signal "the end," and lights up full. This is the real end of the production.)

THE END