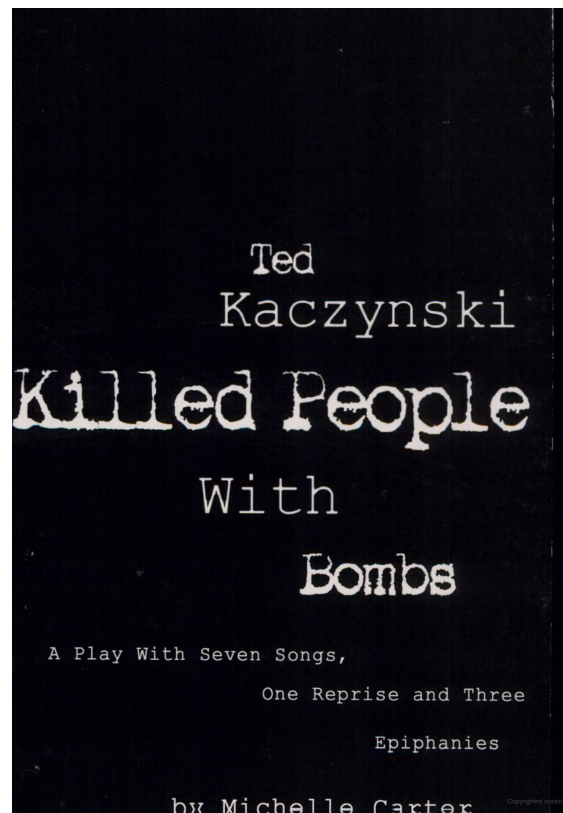


Ted Kaczynski Killed People With Bombs (Preview)

A Play With Seven Songs, One Reprise and Three Epiphanies



2006

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[Front Matter]

[Title Page]

**Ted Kaczynski Killed People
With Bombs
A Play With Seven Songs, One Reprise
and Three Epiphanies
By
MICHELLE CARTER**

Dramatic Publishing
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A Play with Seven Songs, One Reprise
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[Past showings]

[Magic Theatre performance (2002)]

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

PRODUCTION STAFF

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

Composer	Michelle Carter
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[Summer Play Festival performance (July 2005)]

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

PRODUCTION STAFF

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

MUSIC

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

[Donmar Warehouse performance (Sept 2005)]

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

Director Residency Coordinator Stage Manager Assistant Director Casting Director	Angus Jackson Sarah Nicholson Sarah Waling Chris Rolls AnneMcNulty
--	--

MUSIC

Composer Ukulele	George Hinchliffe George Hinchliffe
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[Latest Sript]

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.

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 wanning, locusts swarming, rivers foul and silty—

Just say the word "environment" and everyone feels guilty.

It's so *Third World*,

Old shoe,

Passel...

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 wom 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 *(cant'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 *(cant'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 ignoramuses 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 skyraping—

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 skyraping—

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*), *rd 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 (*cant'd*).

Was it Mama's nagging when he didn't clean his room?
Was it Papa's bragging from the day he left the womb?
Was it leftist teachers and their liberal arcana?
Or the quadrupedded creatures that he tortured in Montana?

Could've been that sophomore girl for whom he skinned a cat
Or the comely truck-stop waitress who politely told him "Scat"
Or the sounds of sex through dorm room walls that made him call police
Or that plans of mutilation gave him sexual release

ALL.

Mystifying crimes
Complicated times

WILD NATURE.

Was it nerds with laptops and their droll enthusiasms?
Or scientists in labcoats doing tricks with genoplasms?
Or jumbo jets and aeroplanes creating noise pollution?
Or was it that he hoped to instigate a revolution?

ALL.

Mystifying crimes
Complicated times

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WILD NATURE (*cont'd*).

Trust the questions you have answers to
Read the books that tell you what is true
Wrong is wrong and right is really right!
Dark is dark and light is really bright!
Stay away from people who are bad
Sing a song that's happy when you're sad
Think up thoughts you like and tell your friends!
(*Big Broadway lights and effects...*)
Love the children!
They're your future!
They're my future!
They're our future!—

(*DAVID KACZYNSKI steps into WILD NATURE'S path. TEDs bedroll on his back. His face—the pain, the confusion—stops her.*)

WILD NATURE moves to a different part of the stage. When she's about to resume singing, MRS. KACZYNSKI appears, watching her in puzzlement. The music stops.

She moves to a different part of the stage. DAVID GELERNTER wheels into her path. She turns and LINDA KACZYNSKI appears, facing her. She doesn't know where to turn.

A paper airplane lands at WILD NATURE'S feet TED appears and she goes to him. He takes down her hair. She takes off a layer of her costume, revealing the wild WILD NATURE beneath WILD NATURE sound rises:

The Ted K Archive

A critique of his ideas & actions



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Google Books

Full book links: Worldcat + AbeBooks. Also, here is a snapshot of the magic theatre event.

www.thetedkarchive.com