

# **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 thought 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, Liebneckt  
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