



Written By:

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Black Box Theater OYE Festival

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LCCT One Act Play Festival

Las Cruces, New Mexico

MEN ARE BUILT CHEAP

A play in one act

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MEN ARE BUILT CHEAP

CHARACTER LIST

DR. TINKER Physician, male, 45+

MOTHER NATURE Female, ageless

ADMIN Female, 30+

TECH Male, 30+

Synopsis

Admin and Tech enlist the support of Dr. Tinker to find out 'what' is wrong with Mother Nature.

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ACT 1

Scene 1

We are in the foyer area of the office of Mother Nature. A table with a chair adorns the left two-thirds of the stage. A sign on the table indicates 'The Office of Mother Nature.' The stage is divided into two areas with an imaginary door/wall dividing the stage. Mother Nature's office is to the right of the door and has a chaise couch. The foyer is lit and Mother Nature's office is dark as Scene 1 opens.

(Two assistants are discussing a report on a tablet, both are standing. Each in a white t-shirt with their names on the front of the shirt)

(DR. TINKER enters the foyer from stage left. He is carrying a black bag...dressed in a lab coat.)

ADMIN, TECH : (Together) Welcome, Dr. Tinker! (Both extend hands)

DR T: (Puts bag down on desk and shakes hands with Admin first, then Tech)

ADMIN: I'm glad you understood the urgency. She has been in quite a depression of late – (she looks at Tech) ever since Tech gave her the latest report on the planet.

TECH: (Sighs) Mother Nature is quite distraught over the massive migrations, the devastating drought, horrific sectarian violence, contagious diseases...all increasing in the Middle East and Africa. But, it was the report of the sex ratio imbalance and the testosterone-infused males dragging humanity back to Bible times that set her into a spin. She asked me to leave.

ADMIN: To further her upset, the climate change deniers are undermining all efforts to cool her down. She is expecting you. I told her you were coming to bring her some relief.

DR T: Thank you for the information. That coupled with the reports you forwarded to me have given me enough background to proceed. I am ready to see her.

(He walks towards the door. He stops and looks at Admin and Tech)

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DR. T: Anything else?

TECH: Yes. Be careful in there, the place looks like a cyclone hit it!

(Dr. Tinker knocks on the door gently and enters. The right area of the stage is lit and the left foyer area is in the dark. Mother Nature is fanning herself on the couch....with a hand held fan. She is wearing a robe.)

DR T: Good to see you, Mother Nature. Please tell me what is going on.

MN: Dr. Tinker, I am so hot! (She rises from the couch) It comes in flashes. I've been hurling huge storms, (Mother Nature waves her arms through the air) like giant ceiling fans in the atmosphere, just to cool down. I've melted ice caps and still no cool down. And the air is so foul. The humans relentlessly burn fossil fuels. (Fanning continues)

DR T: (nods) Ah, you are in the climate change.

MN: Mega corporations with their massive machines and intelligence rule the day. Government is in gridlock, greed is growing and rising corruption fills human life. Life on the planet is in awry and a global *feng shui* Master couldn't fix the mess of the human existence and it this ugly footprint on the planet. Quality of life? There are eight billion humans living on the planet – I call that quantity of life!

DR T: The Supreme Court of the United States has declared corporations are people, too, just adding to pile!

MN: Humph! (Scowls and fans herself)

DR T: Perhaps you should bring back the dinosaurs?

MN: Oh no! (Shakes head). They were too enormous, but I must admit I loved the sleek feathers, the giant head plumage. No, I have always favored the humans, but now with the power of their machines? I am not so sure.

DR T: There must be a way to achieve a global balance, calm the climate and rein-in the humans and their machines.

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MN: (Sits down). I am tired, Dr. Tinker. I am reacting to the years of gang raping my resources, poisoning the water and air along with causing animal and plant extinctions everywhere.

DR T: But of late, Mother Nature, things are out-of-control with you, too. The earthquakes, the floods, the tornadoes, the hurricanes, the missing airplanes – it's too much!

MN: (Rises) I am a woman scorned... (raises her finger) a woman scorched, denuded, dredged, pumped, drilled and yes, fracked! And more fracking, more fracking...it makes me shudder!! (MN begins to shudders)

DR T: Oh no, please, Mother Nature...no more earthquakes! (Holding hands up to stop)

(Mother Nature sighs and clutches her chest in resignation and shakes her head)

DR T: I think I understand what is going on with you Mother Nature and I can help. Please excuse me one moment.

(Foyer lights go on as MN's room goes dark. Dr. Tinker goes through door into the foyer. Both Admin and Tech look at him)

DR T: (In a loud voice) MOTHER NATURE IS IN MENOPAUSE! Quickly, I need my bag.

(He goes to the bag on the desk and grabs it as he quickly heads to the MN's room. The stage goes black as he is going through the door. Lighting and thunder following....you hear Dr. Tinker's voice.

DR T: Estrogen! More estrogen!

(Stage goes black)
End of Scene 1

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ACT 1

Scene 2

The scene opens and ends in the foyer of the Mother Nature's office. Tech is reading on his tablet when Admin walks in with a box that has 'The Road to the Singularity' written on it. Mother's Nature's room is in total darkness.

ADMIN: I am expecting Dr. Tinker any moment now. (She places the box on the desk with the writing toward the audience.)

TECH: (Tech looks up.) I am almost finished with Mother Nature's presentation.

ADMIN: It has been over a year since the great calming of Mother Nature, thanks to Dr. Tinker. The change in Mother Nature has been phenomenal.

TECH: To think, tomorrow, she is hosting The Road to Singularity conference. A year ago she would have never thought of working with the humans on their next biggest challenge – artificial intelligence.

ADMIN: It is Mother Nature's new nurturing way. Even the Pope is coming to the conference

TECH: He is her biggest supporter!

ADMIN: When she first read the paper on *Fear Artificial Intelligence – The Singularity is Coming!!!* – Mother Nature knew she had to help.

TECH: Well, six months ago, few humans knew or even cared about the Singularity these men were fretting about. (Raises finger) 'Simply, the technological singularity is the day the machine's artificial intelligence begins to surpass human's own intelligence...leaving them in their intellectual dust!'

ADMIN: It *is* a scary thought for humans. They will be 'number two' (Admin does 'air quotes.') in brain power on the planet when that day dawns! It questions the

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very existence of humans going forward. How ironic that after causing much extinction, the final mass extinction might be themselves!

TECH: It is 'why' Mother Nature needs to intervene. She had to get the attention of the scientists and tech billionaires who made their fame and fortune on automated machines and electronics with such devices as the auto, computer, robot and rocket. These men are the generating force behind the doctrine of fear regarding artificial intelligence in the very machines they built!

ADMIN: These same brilliant men who helped promote science and technology also built the machines in their image. They infused the male analytical function into the design and let the machines evolve. Now they are losing control to a machine of their own making...forgetting the laws of Mother Nature.

TECH: Well, Mother Nature knows how to deal with the machine's intelligence explosion!

(He turns as he hears someone enter the room.)

(Dr. Tinker walks in the foyer carrying a box. 'Digital Estrogen' is written on the box; this is facing away from the audience and will not be revealed until it is placed on the desk by Dr. Tinker.)

ADMIN: (Turns to greet Dr. Tinker) Hello Dr. Tinker.

TECH: Hello Dr. Tinker, glad to see you brought the *special sauce*.

DR TINKER: Good to see you both. I know Mother Nature is busy, so I will leave the package with you. (He puts the box he is carrying on the desk with the 'Digital Estrogen' facing the audience.)

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TECH: Thank you. We are discussing tomorrow's conference, please join us. (Tech turns to Admin and continues with the discussion) Once Mother Nature realized men were neglecting the female essence and its power in creating a safe and superior intellect, she called on you, Dr. Tinker for a solution. (Looks to Dr. Tinker) Your idea of digitizing estrogen to insert into the machine and joining its existing maleness is brilliant. That way the humans will never have to worry about controls or laws of robotics! Balance is achieved when the Yin and the Yang of life are in perfect harmony.

ADMIN: Yes, including women as an intellectual partner is still a novel idea for many men of science and technology.

TECH: Mother Nature knows that all too well. The idea to infuse a female component into the machine is so simple and eloquent. It makes the road easy to follow, the map clearly drawn and humankind has a sense of direction without the destruction. The technology will result in a perfect merging of male and female intellect, reasoning and reaction.

ADMIN: Mother Nature was wise to call the conference.

DR. T: Yes, above all, Mother Nature knew that even on the Road to the Singularity, men would *never* stop and ask for directions!

(All laugh and the stage goes black. Fading laughter is heard as the actors continue as they walk off stage.)

End of play

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Notes

Lines dropped from Scene Two for May, 2016 performance.

ADMIN: Mother Nature believes artificial intelligence will be life, too.

ADMIN: You know, Mother Nature always said men were afraid of the dark. Now they seem to be afraid of things that go beep in the middle of the night.

TECH: Hah! That's probably just the batteries in the smoke detectors!