

THE TEMPTATION OF TIM

A Pop Opera

by  
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THE TEMPTATION OF TIM

Cast:

Tim - adult male - baritone - A bit nerdy, yet kinda cool

She - (the Devil) - adult female - mid range - temptress

Time:

Christmas, 1990. Place - Tim's computer terminal

Empty stage - except for one chair.

Performed to recorded tracks.

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Black Stage

Board Op starts recorded track;

VOICE

On Christmas Day, 1990, Tim Berners-Lee implemented the first successful inter network communication via the Internet. He named his creation W3, the World Wide Web. He insisted on no patents or royalties, making W3 easily adopted by anyone.

Music starts. Tight spot up on TIM, sitting in his chair miming work at a computer terminal. He curses and groans in frustration.

SONG: I'M SO CLOSE

TIM

I'M SO CLOSE!  
BUT THE DETAILS ARE WRONG!  
IT'S LIKE A PUZZLE  
WITH A FEW PIECES GONE.

THIS WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.  
BRING DARKNESS INTO LIGHT  
I'VE GOT TO FIND THOSE PIECES.  
THIS IS THE NIGHT.  
WHERE'S MY MUSE?  
WHY CAN'T A NERD HAVE A MUSE?

SONG: CALL OUT MY NAME

Tight follow spot up on SHE, who's been standing in the dark. TIM is surprised, but curiously pleased. SHE slinks towards him.

SHE

CALL OUT MY NAME.  
I WILL APPEAR.  
LEAD YOU FROM DARKNESS.  
VANQUISH YOUR FEAR.

GUIDE YOU TO GREATNESS.  
SHOW YOU THE WAY.  
I KNOW THE ANSWERS.  
BUT TO MY GOD YOU'LL PRAY!

TIM approaches her. She circles around him.

TIM

I CAN'T SEEM TO GET THIS.  
WHERE DO I GO?  
HOW DO I SEPARATE?  
WHAT WE DO AND DON'T KNOW?

SHE

(Moving to the imaginary computer)

THE PUZZLE PIECE YOU LOOK FOR.  
IT'S RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.  
IF I SHOW IT TO YOU.  
YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE.

TIM

NO, I CAN DO THIS.  
I DON'T LIKE YOUR RULE.

TIM/SHE

I DON'T NEED YOU / YES, YOU NEED ME  
I'M NOT YOUR FOOL! / YOU ARE MY FOOL!

I CAN SOLVE THIS / YOU CAN'T SOLVE THIS  
I KNOW JUST WHERE TO GO. / I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE TO GO.

TIM

I CAN USE THIS TO SEPARATE  
ALL THAT WE KNOW.

TIM/SHE

(at the same time)

I got it! Slash Slash! / Okay, I'll give you this one. Slash Slash!

SLASH SLASH! SO SIMPLE SO PURE!/  
SLASH SLASH! SO SIMPLE SO PURE!  
I'VE SEEN IT USED BEFORE.  
SLASH SLASH! SEPARATES FOR SURE /  
SLASH SLASH! SEPARATES FOR SURE  
NOW HYPERTEXT WILL SOAR! /NOW HYPERTEXT WILL SOAR!

TIM/SHE

NOW, I'M SO CLOSE.  
/ YOU OWE IT ALL TO ME!  
THE KNOWLEDGE OF MANKIND / THE KNOWLEDGE OF MANKIND  
TO EV'RYONE FOR FREE!

SHE is shocked and offended. She gets in his face.

SONG: CRAZY?

SHE

FREE! ARE YOU CRAZY?  
THERE'S A GOLD MINE HERE FOR YOU.  
YOU PATENT, YOU LICENSE, YOU RAKE IN THE DOUGH.  
THAT'S WHAT THE RICH FOLKS DO.

BUT HOLD ON, YOU'RE NOT THERE YET.  
YOU STILL LACK ONE CRUCIAL PART.  
HERE'S WHAT YOU DO. I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU.  
YOU'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH ME IF YOU ARE SMART

TIM

(Pulling away from her)

NO WAY! YOU'RE CRAZY!  
W3 WON'T WORK THAT WAY.  
IF I GIVE IT AWAY, MAKE IT EASY TO USE,  
THE WIDE WIDE WORLD WILL SEE A NEW DAY.

BUT WHO ARE YOU REALLY?  
TELL ME WHY YOU ARE HERE?  
I THOUGHT I'D HAVE A FRIENDLY MUSE.  
NOW, YOU FILL ME WITH FEAR..

SHE

(Closely circling)

FINALLY, YOU'RE CATCHING ON.  
I'M THE ONE WITH MANY NAMES.  
I'M GETTING TIRED OF TOYING WITH YOU.

IT'S TIME TO END THESE GAMES.

I COULD JUST ZAP YOU.  
TURN YOU TO A GLOB OF GOO.  
BUT I NEED A HUMAN TO OPEN THE DOOR  
TO DO THE WORK I WAS MEANT TO DO.

SONG: LAST SHOT

Tightening her circles. Winds up slithering her  
body on his.

SHE

OK. HERE'S YOUR LAST SHOT.  
I'LL GIVE YOU TILL THE END OF THIS SONG.  
IF YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S YOURS TO GIVE AWAY.  
I GET CONTROL AND YOUR SOUL IF YOU'RE WRONG.(held notes)

TIM breaks free. Walks Down Stage Center  
trying to think. SHE sings seductively by the  
chair. As he sings, he end up at the chair.

TIM

ONE LAST PIECE.  
THE MYSTERY OF WITHIN.  
AN ADDRESS IN AN ADDRESS.  
WHERE DO I BEGIN?

ONE LAST PIECE.  
THE MYSTERY OF WITHIN.  
AN ADDRESS IN AN ADDRESS.....

The hash sign!

TIM sits and quickly mimes typing into his  
computer. With a flourish, hits SEND.

IT'S OFF IN AN EMAIL  
OUT INTO THE WORLD.  
THE BANNER OF PROGRESS  
THE WORLD WIDE WEB UNFURLED

SONG: W3!

SHE is mad. SHE strides a few steps away,  
storming about the stage. SHE circles TIM  
tighter and tighter.

SHE

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART!  
THIS ISN'T OVER YET  
I'LL FIND A WAY  
TO GET YOU IN MY DEBT.

YOU'RE JUST A LUCKY HACK!  
JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE..  
I'LL BE BACK.

TIM/SHE

TIM stands up to her. SHE is repelled by his power. SHE starts spinning in circles away from TIM, like a balloon losing its air.

DEVIL BE GONE!  
I'VE GOT WORK TO DO. / THIS ISN'T OVER YET!  
A NEW AGE HAS DAWNED.  
WITH NO THANKS TO YOU! / I'LL GET YOU IN MY DEBT.  
ANYONE ANYWHERE  
ANYONE ANYWHERE / JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE.  
W3! / I'LL BE BACK!

SHE

Out of control.. She exists screaming..

There's still Pop Ups !!!

Black Out!