

Welcome to Hear/Now, a season of audio theater from Keen Company!

We're an award-winning nonprofit theater in New York City, championing identification and connection through stories about the decisive moments that change us.

I'm Jonathan Silverstein, the Artistic Director, and it's my pleasure to welcome you to *1993* by Finkle, the 1st production in our season of audio theater.

Join us in embracing the virtual Off-Broadway experience. Take a moment to find your seat, silence any distractions, and lower your house lights.

It's time to settle in for a night at the theater, and enjoy *1993*...

**NARRATOR**

Previously on 1993...

*Slight sound of radio static*

**STEVEN**

Fuck Loreena, this radio is so *old*. Is it valuable?

**LOREENA**

It is to me. It was my grandma's, Giga.  
It was her most prized possession and now it's mine

*Static builds, then stops*

**LOREENA**

What the fuck?

*Click of radio knob.*

**LOREENA**

Turn on.

*Deep breaths.*

**LOREENA**

I'm not going to be able to sleep at all without Giga's radio, I need to get this fixed right away.

*Static. Deep breaths. Sound of car on the street flying by.*

**LOREENA**

I don't know what the fuck I'm doing right now.  
What the fuck am I doing?  
Going to Jersey City?  
It's after midnight.

*Radio switch.*

**LOREENA**

hi....

**FOREIGN MAN**

What are you doing here?

**LOREENA**

I'm lost.

Sound switch.

**LOREENA**

Run! Run! Run for your fucking life!!!

*Footsteps running away then the smash of the radio.*

**LOREENA**

(screaming) GIGA'S RADIO!!!!!!GIGA'S RADIO! GIGA'S RADIO! GIGA'S RADIO!

*Sound of footsteps and ominous music*

**LOREENA**

Who's there?

*Static reverb into silence*

*Theme music plays*

♪1993♪

**NARRATOR**

And now Episode Four - The Last Lonely Nights Of Loreena - TERROR

*A static news cast plays*

**VOICE**

It happened shortly before 12:30 the blast that rocked much of lower Manhattan

*News station theme.*

**VOICEOVER**

This is Channel 2 news at 5.

**ERNIE**

Good afternoon everyone I'm Ernie Anastos

**CAROL MARTIN**

And I'm Carol Martin, we continue now our coverage of the terror that has struck the twin towers of the World Trade Center

Police say it may in fact have been a **bomb**

A massive bomb

That caused an explosion ...

*Sound interference.*  
*News caster voices all mix and play at the same time*

**FEMALE NEWSCASTER**

More than seven hours after the rescue and evacuation effort began emergency workers were worried

**ANOTHER FEMALE VOICE**

But the biggest bomb was near the epicenter of the explosion  
The horror story was in the garage level of the World Trade Center

**MAN**

We could hear some guy yelling to us on the other side of this tremendous hole.

**ANOTHER VOICE**

You worked on an office on the 25<sup>th</sup> floor what did you hear?

**VOICE**

That's where the explosion was that's where the fire was  
That's where firefighters were seriously injured and they found people

**VOICE**

There was a man still sitting in his car

**VOICE**

Hundreds were stuck on elevators in the World Trade center only  
some of those –

**VOICE**

And they waited in vain

**VOICE**

Workers trapped on the highest floors of the World Trade  
Center say they kept waiting for rescuers to arrive and they  
waited in vain.

**VOICE**

We had people in wheelchairs we had no help for them at all.  
We're walking down dark –

**VOICE**

Where they too had to take the dangerous trek down the long darkened  
smoke filled stairway.

**FEMALE VOICE**

Watch out watch out

*Sound of crowd panic*

**FEMALE VOICE** (very upset)

They had cigarette lighters and on and off they would give us light and that's all the kids  
wanted was a little bit of light. You couldn't see your hand in front of your face

*Radio show music.*

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

And we're back on WWCS, Your world, Your city, Yourself.

I'm your host Adam Don'tgiveadamn. It is April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:12 in the am in the year 1993. For  
those just tuning in we're talking about the Feb 26<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack on the World Trade  
Center.

6 people were killed and thousands of others injured.

Is our government to blame?

Has the government done enough to make us feel safe?

On the line right now we have Loretta from the East Village.

Hi Loretta thank you for coming on the show.

**LOREENA**

Its Loreena you fucktard.

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

Whoa whoa whoa whoa whoa Loreena, we can't curse on the radio, the FCC -

**LOREENA**

*Fuck* the FCC! No one listens to this piece of shit show anyway dude so...

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

*(cutting off Loreena)* We're talking about the World Trade Center bombing tonight and our  
government's response – Loreena, do you believe our government is to blame?

**LOREENA**

I think you're asking the wrong question Adam. This isn't about our government response.  
The government is just the fucking government. The issue here is that America is fucking  
capitalist. That's what is to blame *Capitalism*. **Capitalism**, greed!, that's what caused the  
bombing. That's the problem here. America is the fucking greediest country in the entire  
fucking world! fucking take take take make make make and the World Trade Center. Let me

tell you something from someone who works in the World Trade Center, worked... I quit, I'm never walking back into that building as long as I live or as long as it stands, the World Trade Center is fucking demonic-

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

Whoa whoa whoa whoa whoa, let's just pause for a sec here Loreena. You work in the World Trade Center?

**LOREENA**

Like I *said*, I did, but I don't anymore. The day of the bombing, when I got out of the building I vowed that I'd never walk back---

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

So you were *there* the *day of the bombing*.

**LOREENA**

Ah yea dude. I was there. I was inside the building. I was in the fucking elevator. I was halfway down when the bomb went off.

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

And what was that like?

**LOREENA**

What was that like?

What was that *like*? What do you *think* it was like?

It was most terrifying moment of my life.

I don't wanna talk about what it was like though man, I've called in because -

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

Folks if you're just tuning in we are talking with Loreena who was **in** the World Trade Center on the **day** of the bombing. Loreena can you walk us through your experience a little bit.

**LOREENA**

Oh come on man, I don't wanna -

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

- you lived through something almost none of us have ever even fathomed experiencing. You said you were in the elevator when the bomb went off. **Why** were **you** in the elevator?

**LOREENA**

I was on my way down to the parking lot.

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

You were headed down to the *parking lot*?!

**LOREENA**

That's what I just said.

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

The *very* parking lot that the terrorists were in, the *very* parking lot where they left the truck with the bombs. You could have been *killed*.

**LOREENA**

Yea I know I could have been killed. It's all I fucking think about. That my life almost ended. If I'd taken one elevator earlier I would have been dead. Thank *god*, I was not in a fucking rush because I was doing some shit work for my boss. *Ex* boss. Carl - wanted me to get something out of his Camry. Who the fuck buys a Camry. Well my idiot ex boss Carl that's who. Drives it in from Teaneck. So yea I was like fuck it I'll just let the first elevator go. I worked on 107<sup>th</sup> floor, Windows on the World, it was lunchtime, a lot of people were heading down so I just let the first elevator go and I waited for the second one.

*Sound of elevator opening. Busy. Voices of the restaurant.  
Ominous low music starts playing as well.*

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

How close were you to the parking lot when the bomb went off?

**LOREENA**

I think we were about halfway down, maybe the 55<sup>th</sup> floor, somewhere around there. I don't really remember.

*Quiet beeps as each floor is passed.  
The sound of the bomb reverberates through an elevator shaft.*

**ADAM DON'TGIVEADAMN**

And what did it *feel* like.  
What did the *bomb feel* like?

And now the sound of vibrations grows and grows.

**LOREENA**

it wasn't so much a feeling Adam as much of a- *sensation*.  
I heard the boom.  
But it wasn't the boom it was the vibrations.  
They filled my ears down into my feet.

I still feel it.  
The vibrations.

*Reverberating vibrations grow louder and continue throughout*

Like I'm there you know.  
Back in the elevator.  
I was frozen.  
All these people around me screaming and panicking and I was stone still.

*People panicking. Unrecognizable voices yelling. Then vibration rises, filling our ears and light, ominous music blends with the vibrations.*

And then I flashed on this thing that had happened to me the night before in Jersey City. I was lost. I saw these guys. A group of them. They were packing something into the back of a *Ryder* Truck. I wasn't paying attention to what they looked like. I was frantic. I talked to this one guy.  
He scared me.

*The MAN's voice – What are you doing here? - echoes*

**LOREENA**

Not him exactly. More the way he talked to me. He scared me. He was foreign. I got a bad feeling. The other guys were yelling at me.

*Sound of men yelling in a foreign language.*

**LOREENA**

So I ran. They were chasing me. I *think* they were chasing me. They were yelling at me. I think they were. I ran and ran and ran... and ran and then I tripped... and Giga's radio broke, smashed to pieces.

*The sound of the radio breaking*  
GIGA's RADIO!---- NO!!!!

**LOREENA**

Then some guy, a cabbie, just off duty, helped me, drove me home, didn't charge or anything. But I didn't tell him, the cabbie – what I saw. I didn't tell him anything. I was – I think I was in shock. I didn't tell anyone. And then I was in the elevator and the vibrations and it was like it hit me- what *happened* to me. I don't remember much of what happened after that.

I don't remember how I got out of the elevator. I don't remember coming home. I don't remember *any of it*. I stopped going to work after that. I didn't call in or anything. Just stopped



going. I was kind of like a zombie you know but then but then but then but then but then – in like March when Mahmud Abouhalima was caught trying to get the fucking deposit back for the Ryder truck rental –and I saw his picture in the paper, I realized, I was like

*(getting more agitated and excited)* That's him! That's the guy!

I talked to him. I was three feet from him. I was even, closer than that. And that's when I realized: I saw the fucking terrorists the night *before* they bombed the World Trade Center.

That building, those buildings - and the letters Yousef sent before the attacks. This is just the fucking beginning for these guys man. They are going to *blow those buildings up*.

I know they are.

I saw it on their faces, when I saw them in Jersey City,

I wouldn't have been able to explain it then but now looking back on it, I can see it clear as - fucking - these are men who are **serious**.

I had a boyfriend once when I was young, this is before I moved to the city, this is back home, he was an Olympic level athlete, a swimmer, the 500 freestyle.

*Beautiful* strokes and beautiful man, just I probably peaked with him.

My point is- when he had a goal, like that involved swimming, like to get his time faster or to improve something or beat someone, he'd get this *look* in his eye.

If you've never seen the look you may not understand but it's the look of determination. *Steely*.

They only see you as a shape in front of their goal.

And if you're in the way - -

*(pause)*

That's what these men looked like to me.

They have a goal.

And they failed.

And they are going to come back and finish it.

It's already happened for them.

They are already celebrating it.

And *man*, this is what trips me out, it's like no one even cares here.

Like it was a big inconvenience for everyone that the power was knocked out for a little while.

And yea Adam maybe that's – you know-- maybe that's what you were saying earlier about the government being to blame. Maybe that's the government, downplaying this, pushing our attention to other things, but like I was saying at the heart of it, this points to a *sickness* in us you know?

We are sick.

America is sick.  
The entire system by which we live.  
The very fact that money is at the heart of everything.  
Why did we build two massive phalluses up to the sky and fill them with money?  
I'm complicit, you know.  
I fucking worked there for 13 *fucking* years.  
I *literally fed the machine*.

Maybe it's because I live in Alphabet City the most beautiful fucked up last remnant of bohemian purity in New York and I see how capitalism and greed and money money money (*words echo*) has been slowly quietly destroying my neighborhood and if it's destroying where I live it's destroying where you live too?  
You may not notice it yet but it's happening.  
It's happening all over the *entire* world.  
And *America* is to blame.

*The sound quality shifts sounding robotic and distorted.  
Loreena and Adam's voices becomes echoey, reverbed, and manipulated.  
The vibrational sound increases as well, until it hits a crescendo*

America isn't just here.  
America is everywhere.  
America is fucking people's lives up wherever they are.  
All around the world America is fucking people's live up.  
The Gulf War man.  
The fucking Gulf War!  
And we're not fucking listening to them.  
What do people do when they don't feel like they are being heard.  
They do shit to get our attention.

**ADAMDON'TGIVEADAMN**

So let me get this straight. You think the terrorists did the right thing.

**LOREENA**  
What? No. I –

**ADAMDON'TGIVEADAMN**

You just said we should listen to them.  
You sound like you sympathize with them.

**LOREENA**  
I – look I'm not saying I agree with their action, you know?  
I was just saying they are pissed off and I'm just thinking maybe we need to look at why they are pissed off, you know?

**ADAMDON'TGIVEADAMN**

*We were attacked.*

**America was attacked** and you want to invite them to group therapy?

**LOREENA**

Did you hear a fucking word I just said?

That's not what I said.

**ADAMDON'TGIVEADAMN**

**Sympathizer.**

**LOREENA**

No man, I don't – it's not about what they did, it's why they did it, why they would want to attack us, why they feel –

**ADAMDON'TGIVEADAMN**

That sounds like sympathy to me.

**LOREENA**

Then you're not fucking HEARING ME!

*Shifting of channels echoing through different realities.*

*We hear Loreena's heavy and quick breathing*

**ADAMDON'TGIVEADAMN**

And we're back tonight on WWCS Your world, Your city, Yourself.

I'm your host Adam Don'tgiveadamn. It is April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:12 in the am in the year 1993.

For those just tuning in we're talking about the Feb 26<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

6 people were killed and thousands of others injured.

Is our government to blame?

Has the government done enough to make us feel safe?

On the line right now we have Loretta from the East Village.

Loretta are you there?

Hello?

I can hear you breathing.

Do you have something to say?

**LOREENA**

*(in a whisper)*

Fuck this.

*Phone receiver slams down.*

*Heavy breathing*  
*Footsteps.*  
*Picks up keys.*  
*Door open.*  
*Heavy breathing continues*  
*Door close, lock*  
*Footsteps.*  
*Front door open.*  
*Heavy breathing continues*  
*Sound of street*  
*Footsteps.*  
*Another door open.*  
*Heavy breathing continues*  
*Sound of a quiet bar.*  
*Stool being pulled up.*  
*Sitting down.*  
*Heavy breathing continues*

**LOREENA**

Hey Jim, gimme the regular.  
Make it a double.  
And keep em coming.

*The vibrational sound increases and then disappears as music takes over.*



**NARRATOR**

Do you remember the attack in 1993?  
Do you remember what else happened in that year?  
If you were *alive* do you remember what happened to you?  
Do I remember what happened to me?  
Or have I chosen to forget?  
Do you remember the attack in 2001?  
If you could forget it, *would you*?  
Are you a forgetful person?  
Or do you remember everything?  
  
If you never share what you remember do you eventually forget it happened?  
Or does the opposite occur?  
I think maybe that's a leading question.

Aren't *all* these questions leading?

If so, what do you think they are leading to? they are leading to... they are leading to... they are leading to... they are leading to... they are leading to... they are leading to... they are leading to... they are leading to...



This has been Episode 4 of 1993 by finkle.

Directed by Jonathan Silverstein.

All voices, music, sound, noise, and silence created and compiled by finkle.

Publishing Assistance by Garrett Schultz.

This performance is part of Keen Company's Hear/Now Season of Audio Theater, led by Artistic Director Jonathan Silverstein.

The Season's Audio Consultant is Garrett Schultz.

The Hear/Now theme is composed by Billy Recce.

Enjoying what you've heard so far? Hit the subscribe button in your podcast app. And please take a moment to rate us and leave a review.

Want exclusive perks, bonus content, and invites to virtual opening night parties? Sign-up for a Hear/Now Season Membership. Packages start at just \$1 a month.

Looking to support Off-Broadway theater artists? Make a tax-deductible gift to Keen Company, and contribute to stories of connection.

Learn more at [www.keencompany.org](http://www.keencompany.org).

Thank you for listening. I look forward to joining you at the virtual theater again soon!