

Excerpt from Splendid Productions' 'Woyzeck'
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adapted by Ben Hales & Kerry Frampton



INTRODUCTION

- Both** Roll up! Roll up! Ladies and Gentlemen
- Showman 3** Behold this human tragedy...
- Both** FRANZ WOYZECK!
- Showman 2** Part Man
- Showman 3** Part Monkey
- Showman 2** Part vicious killer... oooooooooohh
- Showman 3** Watch in amazement as his many masters; wrestle away his dignity using mockery, manipulation and molestation.
- Showman 2** See this pitiful man betrayed by the woman he loves
- Showman 3** Gawp open mouthed as a 'real man' brutally reduces him to an embarrassment
- Both** How could the world be so cruel Ladies and Gentlemen...?
- Showman 2&3** Woyzeck!
- Showman 2** He IS Nothing
- Showman 3** A nothing man
- Showman 2** But when pushed to his limits, just how far will he go?
- Showman 3** Oh no he wouldn't!
- Showman 2** Oh yes he will!
- Showman 2&3** Woyzeck!
- Showman 2** Alive and unchained...
- Showman 3** Careful madam his bite is worse than his bark...
- Woyzeck comes down off his box and takes on Showman persona
- Showman 1** We'll show you the whole story in...

Showman 2&3 Shocking detail.

Showman 1 It's got everything folks!

Madness
Passion
Jealousy
Violence
Death

All Oooooohhhh Death

Showman 3 Do you know what bit of the story I like best?
The End!
It's always the best bit.
This time we're going to have pudding first.
It's Episode 19:
A Woman is Killed

Enter Woyzeck and Marie.

Marie wears the Drum Major's sash around her neck.

Music: music box.

Marie Franz, where are we going? The town's that way. It's dark.

Woyzeck Not much further now...

Marie *(Takes his head in her hands)* Look at me. What's wrong?

Woyzeck Do you know how long it's been, Marie?

Marie Three, four years? Why?

Woyzeck Do you know how long we've got left?

Marie I have to go. Christian needs me... our son needs me Franz.

Woyzeck Your hands are cold Marie. But your lips are so hot. Blistered. The hot breath of a whore... Even so, I'd give heaven and earth to kiss them again.

Marie What are you saying?

Woyzeck Nothing.

Marie The moon's coming up, red as red.

Woyzeck Like a bloody knife.

Woyzeck pulls out the knife.

Marie No, Franz, stop, merciful God... help me!

Woyzeck *(stabbing her repeatedly)* There, there, there! Can't you die? Still twitching? There, there. *Draws the knife across her throat*) Are you dead yet? Are you dead? There... That's better.

Music: music box.

Woyzeck *(Hearing something)* Who's that?

He runs away.