

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



Prologue

- Showman 2&3** Roll up! Roll up! Ladies and gentlemen!
- Showman 3** Behold this human tragedy! His name is...
- Showman 2&3** Franz Woyzeck!
- Showman 2** Part man...
- Showman 3** Part monkey...
- Showman 2** Part vicious killer!
- Showman 3** Watch in amazement as his many masters wrestle away his dignity using mockery (*Showman 2 mocks*), manipulation (*Showman 2 manipulates*) and molestation (*Showman 2 molests*).
- 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.
- Showman 2&3** How could the world be so cruel, ladies and gentlemen?
- 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 is released and takes on Showman persona

Showman 1 We'll show you the whole story in...

Showman 2&3 ... shocking detail.

Showman 1 This show's got everything, folks!

Madness (*Showman 3 demonstrates madness*)

Passion (*Showman 2 demonstrates passion*)

Jealousy (*Showman 3 demonstrates jealousy*)

Violence (*Showman 2 has to be restrained from attacking the audience*)

And... Death

All (*salacious*) Oooooohhhh! Death!

SCENE 1

Showman 3 Do you know what bit of a story I like best? The end! It's always the best bit, isn't it, the end. It's like pudding. Well, this time we're going to have pudding first. It's episode nineteen, 'A Woman is Killed'

SIGN: 'A Woman is Killed (19)'

Enter Woyzeck and Marie.

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

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

Woyzeck Not much further to go.

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

Woyzeck Do you know how long we've been together, 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.

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?

Music: music box.

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?

The music stops and everything is quiet.

Woyzeck That's better... That's better.

Music: music box.

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

He runs away.