

Georg Buchner

Woyzeck

**Translated by Henry J. Schmidt
With arrangements by Kevin Asselin**

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Scene I – The Captains

Woyzeck drilling with the Captain and Sergeant

Captain: Take it easy, Woyzeck, take it easy! One thing at a time. You're making me dizzy. You're going to finish early today – what am I supposed to do with the extra ten minutes? Woyzeck, just think, you've still got a good thirty years to live, thirty years! That's 360 months, and days, hours, minutes! What are you going to do with that ungodly amount of time? Have you ever thought about it, Woyzeck?

Woyzeck: Yes, sir, captain.

Captain: I fear for the world when I think about eternity. Busyness, Woyzeck, Busyness! Eternal – that's eternal – that is- eternal – you realize that, of course. But then again it's not eternal, it's only a moment, yes a moment. Woyzeck, it frightens me to think that the earth rotates in one day. What a waste of time! What will come of that? Woyzeck, I can't look at a mill wheel anymore or I get melancholy.

Woyzeck: Yes, captain.

Captain: Woyzeck, you always look so upset. A good man doesn't act like that, a good man with a good conscience. Say something, Woyzeck. What's the weather like?

Woyzeck: It's bad Captain, bad – wind.

Captain: I can feel it, there's something rapid out there. A wind like that has the same effect on me as a mouse. (Cunningly) I believe it's coming from the south – north.

Woyzeck: Yes Captain

Captain: Ha ha ha! South – north! Ha ha ha! Oh, he's a stupid one. Horribly stupid! (Moved) Woyzeck, you're a good man, a good man – (with dignity) but Woyzeck, you've got no morality. Morality – that's when you are moral, you understand? It's a good word. You have a

child without the blessing of the church, as our Reverend Chaplain says.....

Sergeant: Without the blessing of the church!

Captain: I didn't make that up.

Woyzeck: Captain, the good lord isn't going to look at a poor soul only because amen was said over it before it was created. The lord said: "Suffer little children to come unto me."

Captain: What's that you're saying? What kind of crazy answer is that? You're getting me all confused. When I say you, I mean you – you!

Woyzeck: Us poor people. You see, Captain – money, money. If you don't have money.....just try to raise your own kind on morality in this world. After all, we're flesh and blood. The likes of us are unhappy in this world and the next. I guess if we ever got to heaven, we'd have to help with the thunder.

Captain: Woyzeck, you have no virtue. You're not a virtuous person. Flesh and blood? When I'm lying at the window after it has rained, and I watch the white laced stockings as they go tripping down the street – damn it, Woyzeck, then love comes all over me. I've got flesh and blood, too. But Woyzeck, virtue, virtue! How else could I make time go by? I always say to myself, "You're a virtuous man, (sentimentally) a good man, a good man.

Woyzeck: Yes, Captain, Virtue! I haven't figured it out yet. You see, us common people, we don't have virtue. We act like nature tells us. But if I had a nice hat and a watch, and a warm coat and I knew all the proper words, I could be virtuous too. Virtue seems nice, Captain. However, I'm just a poor soul.

Captain: That's fine, Woyzeck. You're a good man, a good man. But you think too much, that's unhealthy. You always look so upset. This discussion has really worn me out. You can go now – and don't run! Slowly, nice and slow down the street.

Scene II - Open field. Town in the distance

Woyzeck and Andres working

Woyzeck: Andres? Hey Andres? That streak across the grass – that's where heads roll at night. Once somebody picked one up, though it was a hedgehog. Three days and three nights, and he was lying in a coffin. (Softly) Andres, the communists. That's it – the communists! Shh!

Andres: (sings)
I saw two big rabbits
Chewing up the green, green grass.....

Woyzeck: Shh! Something's moving!

Andres: (sings)
Chewing up the green, green grass
Till it all was gone.

Woyzeck: Something's moving behind me – under me. (stamps on the ground) Hollow! You hear that? It's all hollow down there. The communists!

Andres: You're frightening me.

Woyzeck: It's so quiet – that's strange. You feel like holding your breath. Andres!

Andres: What?

Woyzeck: Say something (stares off) Andres! Look how bright it is! There's fire raging around the sky, and noise is coming down like trumpets. It's coming closer! Let's go! Don't look back! (drags him off)

Andres: (after a pause) Woyzeck! Do you still hear it?

Woyzeck: Quiet, everything's quite, like the world was dead.

Andres: Listen! They're drumming. We've got to get back!

Scene III – The town. Marie's house

Marie, her child, Margaret. A parade goes by with Drum Major leading.

Marie: (encouraging her son) Hey, look there! Ta-ra-ra- ra! You hear it? They're coming.

Margaret: What a man, like a tree!

Marie: He stands on his feet like a lion. (Drum Major salutes them)

Margaret: Say, what a friendly look you gave him, neighbor. We're not used to that from you.

Marie: (sings)
A soldier is a handsome fellow.....

Margaret: You eyes are still shining.

Marie: So what? Why don't you take your eyes to the jeweler and have them polished – maybe they'll shine enough to sell as two buttons.

Margaret: What? Why, Mrs. Virgin! I'm a decent woman, but you – you could stare through seven pairs of leather pants!

Marie: Bitch! Come on boy. What do they want from us, anyway? You're only the son of a whore, and you make you mother happy with your bastard face! Ta-ta (sings)

*Maiden, how sorrow can sting,
You've got a son but no ring!
Oh, who cares what is right,
I'll sing to you all night,*

*Rockabye baby, my baby are you,
Nobody cares what we do.*

(Woyzeck knocks before entering)

Marie: Who's that? Is that you, Franz? Come on in!

Woyzeck: I can't stay. Have to go to roll call.

Marie: What's the matter with you, Franz?

Woyzeck: Marie, there was something out there again – a lot! Isn't it written: "And lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace?"

Marie: Franz....

Woyzeck: It followed me until I reached town. What's going to happen?

Marie: Franz

Woyzeck: I've got to go. (leaves)

Marie: That man! He's seeing things. He didn't even look at his own child. He'll go crazy with those thoughts of his. Why are you so quiet, son? Are you scared? It's getting so dark, you'd think you were blind. Only that street lamp shining in from outside. (sings)

*Maiden, how sorrow can sting,
You've got a son but no ring!*

(exits)

Scene III – A Fair. Carnival

Musicians and ensemble cross throughout. Singing

*How long we live, just time will tell,
We all have got to die,
We know that very well!*

Marie: My god, when fools still have their senses, then we're all fools.
Oh, what a mad world! What a beautiful world!

Barker: Ladies and gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen, come one, come all, marvel and behold the monkey! Come see this creature as god made it, he's nothing, nothing at all. See the effect of art: he walks upright, wears coat and pants, carries a sword! Ho! The monkey is musical. Ladies and gentlemen, here is to be seen the astronomical horse and the cannery-birds – they're favorites of all potentates of Europe – they are members of all learned societies. Observe the progress of civilization. Everything progresses – a horse, a monkey, a cannery-bird! The monkey is already a soldier. That's not much – it's the lowest level of the human race. Enter! The presentation will begin. The commencement of the beginning will start immediately.

Woyzeck: Want to?

Marie: All right. It ought to be good. Look at the tassels on him! And his wife's got pants on!

(They enter she dances across the stage with her child)

Sergeant: Hold it! Over there, look at her! My god she's a piece!

Drum Major: Goddam! Good enough for the propagation of cavalry regiments and the breeding of drum majors!

Sergeant: Look how she holds her head- you'd think that red hair would pull her down like a weight. And those eyes, black.....

Drum Major: It's like looking down a well or a chimney. Come, after her!

(Inside the booth)

Marie: Those lights! My eyes!

Woyzeck: Yeah, like a barrel of black cats with fiery eyes. Strange night.

Announcer: Show your talent! Show your beastly wisdom. Put human society to shame. Gentlemen, this animal that you see here, with a tail, with his four hoofs, is a member of all learned societies, is a professor of philosophy at our university with whom the students learn to ride and fight. That is simple intelligence. Now think with double reason. What do you do when you think with double *raison*? Is there in the learned society an ass? (Horse shakes it's head) Now you understand double reason? *Raison*? That's bestiognomy. Yes, this is no dumb animal, a person! A human being, a beastly human being, but still an animal, une bête! (Horse defecates) That's right, put society to shame. You see, the beast is still nature, not ideal nature of course. Take a lesson from him! But ask your doctor first, it may prove highly dangerous. What we have been told by this is: Man must be natural! We are created of dust, sand, and dung. Why must you be more than dust, sand, and dung? Observe his reason: he can add, but he can't count on his fingers. How come? He simply can't express himself, explain himself. A metamorphosed human being. Tell the gentlemen what time it is! Which of you has a watch – a watch?

Sergeant: A watch? (Slowly and grandly he pulls a watch out of his pocket) There you are.

Marie: This I've got to see. (She climbs over the stage. The Drum Major helps her)

(The announcer shows that the watch says eight. The crowd confirms verbally. The horse then stomps it's hoof eight times)

Announcer: Eight o'clock! I ask you, is that not remarkable? Ladies and gentlemen, this amazing feat concludes the performance. Thank you all, thank you!

(The Drum Major and Sergeant watch Marie as she passes them. Woyzeck follows her. The Sergeant stops him.)

Sergeant: Give the man a hand, soldier.

Woyzeck: Yes Sergeant. *(Woyzeck helps the announcer with horse and tent)*

(The Drum Major presents a gaudy pair of earrings, picks up the child and leads Marie off)

Woyzeck: (Left alone) Marie? Marie? (Exits)

Scene IV - Maries Room

Marie with child and a broken piece of mirror

Marie: These stones really sparkle! What kind are they? What did he call them? Go to sleep, son! Shut your eyes tight *(The child covers his eyes with his hands.)* Tighter – stay quiet or he'll come get you *(Sings)*

*Close up your shop, fair maid,
A gypsy boy's in the glade.
He'll lead you by the hand
Off into gypsyland*

It must be gold. The likes of us only have a little corner in the world and a little piece of mirror, but my mouth is just as red as the great ladies with their mirrors from top to toe, and handsome lords who kiss their hands. I'm just a poor woman. *(Child sits up)* Shh, son, eyes shut! Look, the sandman! He's running along the wall. Eyes shut, or he'll look into them, and you'll go blind.

(Woyzeck enters from behind and startles her)

Woyzeck: What's that you got there?

Marie: Nothing

Woyzeck: Something's shining under your fingers.

Marie: An earring. I found it.

Woyzeck: I've never found anything like that. Two at once.

Marie: What am I – a whore?

Woyzeck: It's all right, Marie. Look, the boy's asleep. Lift him up under his arms, the chair's hurting him. Those shiny drops on his forehead; everything under the sun is work. Sweat, even in our sleep. Life in poverty. Here's some more money, Marie, my pay and some from the captain.

Marie: God love you Franz.

Woyzeck: I have to go. See you tonight, Marie. Bye.

Marie: (Long pause) Such a bitch. Why are you such a whore? I could stab myself. What a world! Everything goes to hell anyhow, man and woman alike.

Scene V – The street

Woyzeck enters and Pisses in the street. The Doctor stares and takes notes

Doctor: I don't believe it, Woyzeck! And a man of your word! A man of honor?

Woyzeck: What is it, Doctor?

Doctor: I saw it Woyzeck. You pissed on the street, you pissed on the wall like a dog. A horse piss! And you get two cents a day. Woyzeck, that's bad. The world's getting bad, very bad.

Woyzeck: But Doctor, the call of nature.....

Doctor: The call of nature, the call of nature? Nature! Haven't I proved that the *musculus constrictor vesicae* is subject to the will? Nature? Woyzeck, man is free. In man alone is individuality exalted to freedom. Couldn't hold it in? (Begins to pace) Did you eat your peas already Woyzeck? Nothing bu peas!! I'm revolutionizing science, I'll blow it sky-high. *Urea Oxygen*. Ammonium hydrochloratem hyperoxidie. Woyzeck, couldn't you just try to piss again? (He empties a piss jar and hands it to him) Go over there and try.

Woyzeck: I can't, Doctor.

Doctor: (Disturbed) But you could piss on the wall? I have it here in black and white. Here's the contract. I saw it all – saw it with my own eyes. I had my nose in the air, letting the sun's rays hit it, so as to examine the process of sneezing. (Goes up to him) No, Woyzeck, I'm not getting angry. Anger is unhealthy, unscientific. I am calm, perfectly calm. My pulse is beating at it's usual sixty, and I tell you this in all cold-bloodedness. Now, who would get excited about a human being, a human being? If it were a Proteus that were dying.....! But you shouldn't have pissed on the wall.

Woyzeck: You see, Doctor, sometimes you've got a certain character, a certain structure. But with nature, that's something else, you see, with nature. That's like.....how should I put it.....for example.....

Doctor: Woyzeck, you're philosophizing again.

Woyzeck: Doctor, have you ever seen anything of double nature? When the sun's standing high at noon and the world seems to be going up in flames, I've heard a terrible voice talking to me!

Doctor: Woyzeck, you've got an aberratio!

Woyzeck: (Puts finger to his nose) The toadstools, Doctor. There – that's where it is. Have you seen how they grow in patterns? If only someone could read that.

Doctor: Woyzeck, you've got a marvelous aberration mentalis partialis, second species, beautifully developed. Woyzeck, you're getting a raise. Second species: fixed idea with a generally rational condition. You're doing everything as usual? Shaving your captain?

Woyzeck: Yes, sir.

Doctor: Eating your peas?

Woyzeck: Same as ever.....

Doctor: Only peas!!

Woyzeck: Only peas Doctor. My wife gets the money for the household.

Doctor: Going on duty?

Woyzeck: Yes sir.

Doctor: You're an interesting case. Subject Woyzeck, you're getting a raise. Now behave yourself. Show me your pulse! Yes. Very interesting case, subject Woyzeck.

Scene VI – Maries

Marie. Drum Major. Child

Drum Major: Marie!

Marie: (Looking at him expressively) Go, march up and down for me. A chest like a bull and a and a face so chiseled. Nobody else is like that. No woman is prouder than me.

Drum Major: Sundays when I have my plumed helmet and my white gloves – goddamn, Marie! The prince always says: man, you're quite a guy!

Marie: (Mockingly) Aw, go on! (Goes up to him) What a man!

Drum Major: What a woman! Hell, let's breed a race of drum majors, hey? (He embraces her)

Marie: Leave me alone.

Drum Major: You wildcat!

Marie: (Violently) Just try to touch me!

Drum Major: You've got the devil in your eyes.

Marie: What do I care. What does it matter?! (She gives in)

Scene VII – Street

Captain. Doctor. The Captain comes panting down the street, stops, pants, looks around.

Captain: Doctor, I feel sorry for horses when I think that the poor beasts have to go everywhere on foot. Don't run like that! Don't wave your cane around in the air like that! You'll run yourself to death that way. A good man with a good conscience doesn't go so fast. A good man.....(he catches the Doctor by the Coat) Doctor, allow me to save a human life. You're racing.....Doctor, I'm so melancholy. I get so emotional. I always start crying when I see my coat hanging on the wall – there it is.

Doctor: Hm.....bloated, fat, thick neck, apoplectic constitution. Yes Captain, you might be stricken by an apoplexia cerbralis. But you might get it just on one side and be half paralyzed, or – best of all – you might become mentally affected and just vegetate from then on. Those are approximately your prospects for the next four weeks. Moreover, I can assure you that you will be a most interesting case, and if, God willing you tongue is partially paralyzed, we'll make immortal experiments.

Captain: Doctor, don't frighten me! People have been known to die of fright, of pure, sheer fright. I can see them now, with flowers in their hands – but they'll say, he was a good man, a good man. You damn coffin nail!

Doctor: (Holds out his hat) What's this, Captain? That's brain-less!

Captain: (makes a crease in the hat) What's this, Doctor? That's increase!

Doctor: I take my leave, most honorable Mr. Drillprick.

Captain: Likewise, dearest Mr. Coffin Nail.

(Woyzeck comes running in)

Captain: Hey, Woyzeck, why are you running past us like that? Stay here, Woyzeck. You're running around like an open razor blade. You might

cut someone! You're running like you had to shave a regiment of castrates and would be hanged while the last hair was disappearing. But about those long beards – what was I going to say? Woyzeck – those long beards.....

Doctor: A long beard on the chin. Pliny speaks of it. Soldiers should be made to give them up.

Captain: (Continues) Hey? What about those long beards? Say, Woyzeck, haven't you found a hair from a beard in you soup bowl yet? Hey? You understand of course, a human hair, from the beard of an engineer, a sergeant, a – a drum major? Hey, Woyzeck? But you've got a decent wife. Not like others.

Woyzeck: Yes, sir! What are you trying to say, Cap'n?

Captain: Look at the face he's making! Now, it doesn't necessarily have to be in the soup, but if you hurry around the corner, you might find one on a pair of lips – a pair of lips, Woyzeck. I know what love is, too, Woyzeck. Say, you're white as chalk!

Woyzeck: Cap'n, I'm just a poor devil – and that's all I have in the world. Cap'n if you joking.....

Captain: Joking? Me? What do you think you are?

Doctor: Your pulse, Woyzeck, your pulse – short, hard, skipping, irregular.

Woyzeck: Cap'n the earth is hot as hell – for me it's ice cold! Ice cold – hell is cold, I'll bet. It can't be.....god.....god. It can't be.

Captain: Listen fellow, how'd you like to be shot, how'd you like to have a couple of bullets in your head? You're looking daggers at me; but I only mean well, because you're a good man, Woyzeck, a good man.

Doctor: Facial muscles rigid, tense, occasionally twitching. Posture erect, tense.

Woyzeck: I'm going. A lot is possible. A man. A lot is possible. The weather's nice cap'n. Look: such a beautiful, hard, rough sky – you'd almost feel like pounding a block of wood into it and hanging yourself on it, only because of the hyphen between yes, and yes again – and no. Cap'n, yes and no? Is no to blame for yes, or yes for no? I'll have to think about that. (Goes off with long strides, first slowly, then ever faster)

Doctor: (Races after him) A phenomenon! Woyzeck! Another raise!

Captain: These people make me dizzy. Look at them go – that tall rascal takes off like the shadow before a spider, and the short one – he's trotting along. The tall one is lightning and the short one is thunder. Ha-ha. After them. Grotesque.....grotesque.

Scene VIII – The Street

Woyzeck, Marie, Child

(Woyzeck comes upon Marie and Child)

Woyzeck: (stares at her, shakes her head) Hm! I don't see anything, I don't see anything. I should be able to see it; I should be able to grab it with my fists.

Marie: (Intimidated) Whats the matter Franz? You 're out of your mind Franz.

Woyzeck: A sin so fat and so wide – it stinks enough to smoke the angels out of heaven. You've got a red mouth Marie. No blister on it? Good-bye Marie. You're as beautiful as sin. Can mortal sin be so beautiful?

Marie: Franz, you're delirious.

Woyzeck: Damn it! Was he standing here like this, like this?

Marie: As the day is long and the world is old, lots of people can stand on one spot, one after another.

Woyzeck: I say him!

Marie: You can see all sorts of things if you've got two eyes and aren't blind, and the sun is shining.

Woyzeck: With my own eyes!

Marie: So what! (grabs child and exits)

(Andres plays and sings)

Scene VIV

Woyzeck. Andres

(Andres sings)

*Our hostess has a pretty maid,
She's in her garden night and day,
She sits inside her garden.....*

(Woyzeck runs in)

Woyzeck: Andres!

Andres: Huh?

Woyzeck: (pause) Nice weather.

Andres: Sunday weather. There's music outside town. All the broads are out there already, everybody's sweating – it's really moving along.

Woyzeck: (restlessly) A dance, Andres. They're dancing?

Andres: Yeah, at the Horse and the at the Star.

Woyzeck: Dancing, dancing.

Andres: Big deal. (Plays and sings)

*She sits inside her garden,
Until the bells have all struck twelve,
And stares at all the soldiers.*

Woyzeck: Andres, I can't keep still.

Andres: Stupid.

Woyzeck: I've got to get out of here. I can't see straight. Dancing, dancing. With their hot hands. Damn it Andres!

Andres: What do you want?

Woyzeck: I've got to go.

Andres: With that broad?

Woyzeck: I've got to get out. It's so hot in here.

Andres: Fucking slut.

Scene X – The Inn/Bar

Journeyman. Margaret. Gypsy. Ensemble. Drum Major. Marie. Child

(All sing, play, and dance)

*A hunter from the west
Once went riding through the woods.
Hip-hooray! A hunter's life is always gay,
O'er meadow and o'er stream,
Oh, hunting is my dream!*

(Journeyman alone with woman)

*This shirt I've got, I don't know whose,
My soul it stinks like booze.....*

Journeyman 1: (Interrupting) Brother, shall I in friendship bore a hole in your head? Onward, I want to bore a hole in your nature. I'm a force, a force of nature, you know. I'm going to kill all the fleas on his body.

(Fight)

Journeyman 2: My soul, my soul it stinks like booze. Even money must eventually decay. Forget me not! Oh, is this world beautiful! Brother, I could cry a rain barrel full of tears. I wish our noses were two bottles and we could pour them down each other's throats.

(Fight)

(All play and sing)

*A hunter from the west
Once went riding through the wood.
Hip-hip hooray! A hunter's life is always gay,*

*O'er meadow and o'er stream,
Oh, hunting is my dream!*

(Woyzeck observing as Marie and Drum Major dance)

Marie: On! And on, on and on!

Woyzeck: On and on! On and on! On and on, on and on! (beats hands together) Spin around, roll around. Why doesn't god blow out the sun so that everything can roll around in lust, man and woman, man and beast. They'll do it in broad daylight, they'll do it on our hands, like flies. Woman! That woman is hot, hot! On and on, on and on. The bastard! Look how he's grabbing her, grabbing her body! (Drum Major and Marie exit) He-he's got her now, like I used to have her! (He starts to leave, bumps into Journeyman)

Journeyman 2: (Knocking Woyzeck to the floor – places foot on him)
Brothers and Sisters, our sermon for today is.....Think upon the Wanderer! Yet when the wanderer stands learning against the stream of time and/or gives answer in the wisdom of god, asking himself: Why does man exist? Why does man exist? But verily I say unto you: how could the farmer, the machinist, the shoemaker, the doctor exist if god hadn't given man a feeling of shame? How could the soldier exist, if men didn't feel the necessity of killing on another? Therefore, do not ye despair, yes, yes, life is lovely and fine, yet all that is earthly is passing, even money must eventually decay. In conclusion, my dear friends, let us piss crosswise so that a Jew will die.

(Music and dancing)

(Action fades to silence and a freeze)

Woyzeck: On and on! On and on! Shh! Music!

Crowd: (Whispered) Stab – stab

Woyzeck: Ha? What? What are you saying?

Crowd: (Whispered) The bitch – stab – hot –stab!

Woyzeck: Stab – stab the bitch to death? Should I? Must I?

Crowd: (Whispered) On and on, stab, stab, on and on, the woman is hot!

Woyzeck: Do I hear it over there, is the wind saying it too? It goes on and on – stab her to death.....to death.

(Music and Dance resumes – some fighting)

Drum Major: (reenters with Marie – clearly the moment after) I'm a man. A man, you hear? Who wants to play? If you're not drunk as a lord, stay away from me. I'll shove your nose up your ass. I'll.....(to woyzeck) Man, have a drink. A man gotta drink. I wish the world was booze, booze.

Woyzeck: (Whistles)

Drum Major: You bastard, you want me to pull you tongue out of you throat and wrap it around you? (Major beats on Woyzeck) You want me to leave you enough breath to fart with?

(Woyzeck sits, exhausted, trembling)

Drum Major: He thinks he's so great. Ha! (Sings)

*Oh, brandy, that's my life,
Oh, brandy gives me courage!*

Onlooker: He sure go his.

Margaret: He's bleeding

Woyzeck: One thing after another. (Lies down to sleep)

(Music and Dancing, which leads to people exiting)

(We are left with just Andres playing accordion)

Scene XI- Woyzeck and Andres

Woyzeck tying to sleep, Andres Singing

Woyzeck: Andres? Andres? I can't sleep. When I close my eyes, everything starts turning, and I hear the fiddles, on and on, and there's a voice from the wall. Don't you hear anything?

Andres: Oh yeah. Let them dance! God bless us, amen. (Tries to sleep)

Woyzeck: It keeps saying: Stab, Stab! And it floats between my eyes like a knife.

Andres: Drink some brandy with a painkiller in it. That'll cut your fever.

Scene XII – Pawnbroker's Shop

Woyzeck. Pawnbroker

Woyzeck: The pistol costs too much.

Pawnbroker: Well, do you want it or don't you.

Woyzeck: How much is the knife?

Pawnbroker: It's good and straight. You want to cut your throat with it? Well, how about it? I'll give it to you as cheap as anybody else. Your death'll be cheap – but not for nothing. How about it? You'll have an economical death.

Woyzeck: That can cut more than just bread.

Pawnbroker: Two cents.

Woyzeck: There (exits)

Pawnbroker: There! Like it was nothing. But it's money. The dog.

Scene XIII – Maries room

Marie, Child, Margaret

Marie: (Leafs through the Bible) “ And no guile is found in his mouth”My God! My God! Don’t look at me. (Pages further) “And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery, and set her in the midst.....and Jesus said unto her, ‘Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.’” (Clasps her hands together) My god! My God, I can’t. God, just give me enough strength to pray. (Child comes to her) You are like a knife in my heart. Margaret, he’s sunning himself.

Margaret: (pulls the child away from Marie and reads from a Fairy Tale book pointing to pictures) This one has a golden crown – he’s a king. Tomorrow I’ll go get the queen’s child. Blood sausage says, come on, liver sausage, come on. (They continue in silence)

Marie: Franz hasn’t come, not yesterday, not today. It’s getting hot in here. “And stood at his feet weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with ointment.” (Beats her chest) It’s all dead! Savior, Savior, I wish I could anoint your feet.

Scene XIV– Barracks

Woyzeck. Andres

Woyzeck: This jacket isn't part of the uniform, Andres. You can use it, Andres. The crucifix is my sister's – so's the little ring. I've got an icon, too – two hearts in beautiful gold. It was in my mothers Bible, and it says:

May pain be my reward,
Through pain I love my lord.

Lord, like thy body, red and sore,
So be my heart forevermore.

(continues) My mother can only feel the sun shining on her hands now. That doesn't matter.

Andres: (Blankly, answers to everything) Yeah.

Woyzeck: (Pulls out a piece of paper) Friedrich Johann Franz Woyzeck, soldier, rifleman in the second regiment, second battalion, fourth company, born on the Feast of the Annunciation. Today I'm thirty years, seven months, and twelve days old.

Andres: Franz, you better go to the infirmity. You poor guy – drink brandy with a painkiller in it. That'll kill the fever.

Woyzeck: You know, Andres, when the carpenter nails those boards together, nobody knows who's going to be lying between them.

(Andres begins to play, sing and exit)

Scene XV – Doctors

Doctor, Woyzeck, Students dressed as Doctors

(Doctor steps up on step ladder)

Doctor: Gentlemen, I am on the roof like David when he say Bathsheba, but all I see are panties hanging in the garden of the girls' boarding house. Gentlemen, we are dealing with the important question of the relationship of subject to object. If we take only on the things in which the organic self-affirmation of the Divine manifests itself to such a high degree, to the planetary system.....gentlemen, if I throw a cat out of the window, how will it relate to the *centrum gravitationis* and to its own instinct? Hey Woyzeck? (shouts) Woyzeck!

Woyzeck: Doctor, I've got the shivers.

Doctor: (elated) Say, that's wonderful Woyzeck! Gentlemen, take note of this man – for half a year he hasn't eaten anything but peas. Nothing at all, except peas! Notice the result. Feel how uneven his pulse is. (They all come to feel Woyzeck) There – and the eyes.

Woyzeck: Doctor, everything's getting black. (Sits)

Doctor: Courage! Just a few more days, Woyzeck, and then it'll be all over. Fell him gentlemen, feel him. (students feel his temples, pulse, and chest.) Apropos, Woyzeck wiggle your ears for the gentlemen. I meant to show it to you before. He uses two muscles. Come on, hop to it!

Woyzeck: Doctor, please I.....

Doctor: You dog, do I have to wiggle them for you? Are you going to act like the cat? This, gentlemen, represents a transition to the donkey, the ass, frequently resulting from being brought up by women and from the use of the mother tongue. How much hair has your mother pulled out for a tender memory? It's gotten very thin over the past six months. Yes, the peas, gentlemen.

Scene XVI – Street

All women and child

(Three women sing in harmony)

*How bright the sun on Candlemas Day,
On fields of golden grain.
As two by tow they marched along
Down the country lane.
The pipers up in front,
The fiddlers in a chain.
Their red socks....*

Margaret: I don't like it!

Woman 1: What do you want, anyway?

Woman 2: Why'd you start it?

Woman 1: Yeah, why?

Margaret: Because!

Woman 2: Why because?

Gypsy: Who's going to sing it?

Margaret: I can't, I won't, you all can go to hell!

Marie: (To women 1) You can, you know you can!

(Woman 1 sings, woman 2 plays oboe)

*Down the country lane,
The pipers up in front,
The fiddlers in a chain,
Their red socks*

*Drowned in crimson blood,
Returning from the ancient wars*

Marie: (cutting them off – to the Gypsy) My friend, tell us a story.

Gypsy: (places the child on her lap) Well, here we are now. Once upon a time, there was a poor little child with no father and no mother. Everything was dead, and no one was left in the whole world. Everything was dead, and the child went and cried day and night. And since nobody was left on the earth, he wanted to go up to the heavens, 'cause the moon was looking at him so friendly, and when he finally got to the moon, the moon was a piece of rotten wood, and then he went to the sun, and when he got there, the sun was a wilted sunflower, and when he got to the stars, they were little golden flies stuck up there like the shrike sticks them on the blackthorn; and when he wanted to go back down to the earth, the earth was an upset piss pot, and the child was all alone, and he sat down and cried, and there he sits to this day all alone.

(Woyzeck enters breathless, sweating – child comes to him. He ignores the child)

Woyzeck: Marie!

Marie: (Startled) What is it?

Woyzeck: Marie, we have to go. It's time.

Marie: Where to?

Woyzeck: How do I know?

(Resume singing and Oboe)

Scene XVII – A field

Woyzeck. Marie

Marie: That must be the town back there. It's dark.

Woyzeck: Stay here. Come on, sit down.

Marie: But I have to get back.

Woyzeck: You won't get sore feet.

Marie: What's gotten into you.

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

Marie: Two years since Pentecost.

Woyzeck: Do you know how long it's going to be?

Marie: I've got to go make supper.

Woyzeck: Are you freezing Marie? But you're warm. How hot your lips are! Hot – the hot breath of a whore – but I'd give you heaven and earth to kiss them once more. Once you're cold, you don't freeze anymore. The morning dew won't make you freeze.

Marie: What are you talking about?

Woyzeck: Nothing. (silence)

Marie: Look how red the moon is.

Woyzeck: Like a bloody blade.

Marie: What are you up to: Franze, you're so pale. (He pulls out the knife) Franz – wait! For god's sake – help.

Woyzeck: (Begins to stab her) Here, I brought this for you, take it! Can't you die? There, here! Ah – she's still twitching. Not yet? Not yet? Still alive? (Keeps stabbing) Are you dead? Dead? Dead? On and on, on and on!

(Noise as people approach)

Man: Wait!

Woman: You hear something? Shh! Over there!

Woyzeck: (dragging Marie's body off) On and on, dead, dead!

Man: Wait, wait.....there. Did you hear that?

Woman: It's the water, it's calling. It's been a long time since anyone drowned here. Let's go. I don't like hearing such sounds.

Man: Hold.....there it is again. Like a person dying!

Woman: It's uncanny. So foggy, nothing but grey mist as far as you can see – and the hum of beetles like the broken bells. Let's get out of here!

Man: Let's go up this way, come on!

Scene XVIII – The Inn

Andres, Ensemble, Margaret, Gypsy, Child, Drum Major

(Singing and Dancing)

*Oh, daughter, my daughter
And didn't you know
That sleeping with coachmen
Would bring you low?*

Woyzeck: (rushes in) Dance! Everybody! Don't stop! Sweat and stink!
He'll get you all in the end!

(Woyzeck aggressively takes over sing the song)

*Oh, daughter, my daughter
And didn't you know
That sleeping with coachmen
Would bring you low?*

(He dances with Margaret) Ho, Margaret! I'm so hot, so hot! That's the way it is: the devil takes one and lets the other get away. Margaret, you're hot as coals! Why, tell me why? Margaret, you'll be cold one day too. Be reasonable – can't you sing something?

(She sings reluctantly)

*That Swabian land I cannot bear
And dresses long I will not wear
For dresses long and pointed shoes
Are cloths a chambermaid never should choose*

Woyzeck: No shoes, no shoes! We can get to hell without shoes.

(Margaret continues)

*To such and like I'll not be prone
Take back you gold and sleep alone*

Woyzeck: Sure, sure! What do I want to get all bloody for?

Margaret: Then what's that on your hands?

Woyzeck: Me? What, me?

Margaret: Red! It's blood. (Crowd gathers around)

Woyzeck: Blood? Blood?

Journeyman: Blood!

Woyzeck: I think I cut myself. Here, on my right hand.

Woman: Then why is there blood on your elbows?

Woyzeck: I wiped it off?

Woman: Your right hand and you wiped it on your right elbow?
Impossible!

Drum Major: (with child and Gypsy) And then the Giant said:

Child: "I smell, I smell the flesh of Man."

Gypsy: Pew, it stinks already.

Woyzeck: What do you want from me? Is it your business? Out of my way or the first one who.....Damn you! Do I look like I murdered somebody? Do I look like a murderer? What are you looking at? Look at yourselves! Look! Out of my way! (He runs off)

Scene XVIV – The Field/Pond

Woyzeck. Maries body

Woyzeck: The knife? Where's the knife? I left it here. It'll give me away. Closer and closer. What is this place? What's that noise? Something's moving! It's quiet now – it's got to be here, close to her. Marie? Ha, Marie. Quiet. Everything's quiet. Why are you so pale, Marie? Why are you wearing those red beads around your neck? Who was it gave you that necklace for sinning with him? Your sins made you black, Marie, they made you black. Did I make you so pale? Why is your hair uncombed? Did you forget to twist your braids today? The knife, the knife! I've got it. There! (he runs to the water) There, into the water. (Throws the knife into the water) It dives like a stone into the black water. No, it's not out far enough for when they swim! (He wades into the pond and throws it out father) There! Now! But in the summer when they dive for mussels? Ha, it'll get rusty, who'll ever notice it. Why didn't I break it first! Am I still bloody? I've go to wash myself. There, there's a spot, and another indeed.....keep going, scrub clean, need to go further.....(he moves further and further into the water)

Scene XX – The Street

Margaret. Journeyman 1-2.

(Passing by each other)

Journeyman 1: Let's go find Marie!

Margaret: What happended?

Journayman 2: Don't you know? Everybody's out there. They found two bodies, one stabbed one drowned.

Margaret: Where?

Journey man 1: By the pond, out in the woods.

Journeyman 2: Hurry so we can still see something. Before they take away the bodies.

Scene XXI – The Street

Woyzeck. Gypsy. Child

(Gypsy with Child, points to Woyzeck as he enters. Woyzeck, all in white, soaked)

Gypsy: Looky there, he fell in the water, he fell in the water, he fell in the water.

Woyzeck: (reaching out to the Child) Boy.....Christian.

Gypsy: He fell in the water.

Woyzeck: (wanting to embrace the child, but it turns from him screaming) My god! My god!

Gypsy: He fell in the water.

Woyzeck: I'll buy you a new train, Christian. There, there. (Child runs out) Here, buy the boy a new train. (Gypsy stares blankly at him) A train!

Gypsy: He fell in the water! (Exits opposite of child, Woyzeck alone)

Scene XXII – The morgue

Doctor. Captain. Others.

(following two stretchers)

Doctor: What murder! A good, genuine, beautiful murder!

Captain: Beautiful a murder as you could hope for! It's been a long time since we had one like this!

(The Child follows behind. As the Doctor and Captain exit the boy stays center alone, with a broken train.)

END