

WOYZECK OF SARAJEVO

(excerpt)

by

Doyle Avant

Woyzeck of Sarajevo

was presented through the Director's Lab at Lincoln Center, June 3, 1997.

CAST

Woyzeck	Kevin Isola
Marie	Anney Giobbe
Major Radovic	Ted Marcoux
Saleem	Michael Port
Andres	Damen Scranton
Grandmother	Amelia Campbell
Sergeant	Matte Osian
Doctor	Todd Peters
Captain	Jeff Ricketts
Katrin	Tanya Selvaratnum

Set	Gordana Svilar
Costumes	Linette Del Monico
Lights	Tyler Micoeau
Stage Manager	Mathew Silver

WOYZECK OF SARAJEVO

CHARACTERS

Franz Woyzeck -- a man of compassion
 a private in the Bosnian Serb Paramilitary
 a football (soccer) goalie
 a man with a vision

Marie - his wife, ex prostitute, a kind woman
Katrin - Marie's neighbor

Doctor - a psychiatrist with a vision
Karl - the village idiot
Saleem - a Muslim street vendor

Vlade - The Hero of our Story
Captain
Sergeant
Major Radovic - a man's man

Andres - Woyzeck's friend, a soldier
Various Bosnian Serb Paramilitary Men
Grandmother
Others

LIGHTS - SOUND - ACTION

are fast, weird, and mean.

SCENE 1

Darkness. Silent.

Gunfire in the distance. Dim lights flash.
Artillery fire. Explosions.

Distant shrieks and moans of pain --
slowly melting into sexual passion.

Lights up on

WOYZECK and MARIE in bed -- fucking.

Another explosion outside.
Simultaneously, Marie explodes -- goes into rapture.
Then they are still.

MARIE
I think that was the one.

WOYZECK
Which one?

MARIE
I can feel it.

WOYZECK
Feel what?

MARIE
You've given me a child, Franz.

Woyzeck hops up. He wears olive green underwear.
He lifts up Marie's dress.

WOYZECK (dumbfounded)
In there?

MARIE
The world's youngest creature.

WOYZECK (troubled)
The world's youngest Serb.

MARIE
What's wrong?

He pulls his briefs open, looks down.

WOYZECK
Time passes.

(sees it)
There it goes.... Going, going -- gone.
All out of time and your whole life still in
front of you.

Pause.

MARIE
I love you Franz.

WOYZECK (hushed)
-- I know.

SCENE 2

ARMY BARRACKS

DOCTOR and WOYZECK

Burly DELIVERY MEN bring in crates of CANNED PEAS --
stack them in a corner.

DOCTOR

So let's go over this one more time.
Your morning meal will be?

WOYZECK

Peas.

DOCTOR

Lunch?

WOYZECK

Peas.

DOCTOR (trick question)

And dinner?

WOYZECK

-- Peas.

DOCTOR

Excellent, Woyzeck, excellent! Now don't
even *think* of selling these things on the
black market!

WOYZECK

How about liquids?

DOCTOR

Sure, water's fine.
Now, is everything understood?

WOYZECK

No.
Why do you want me to do this?

DOCTOR

This isn't about *me*!
It's not what *I* want Woyzeck!
It's what the *world* wants.
(hushed)
Just between me and you though, this pea
thing is a UN funded study.

SCENE 3

Barracks Yard
WOYZECK and ANDRES sleep.

The SERGEANT appears with a BLINDFOLDED MAN.

SERGEANT

Kukoc!

ANDRES (sleepily)

What the fuck?

(hops to attention)

Yes Sir!

SERGEANT

Take this man down to the edge of the woods
and tie him to the old oak tree.

ANDRES

Yes sir!

(gruff)

Alright Omar, shake a leg.

SCENE 4

SERGEANT with heavily armed SOLDIERS.

SERGEANT

Alright men. Today I'm going to walk you through the finer points of sharpshooting, or sniping as it's more popular known.

Woyzeck, step forward and look sharp! -- Christ, Woyzeck, put on some weight already.

Now then private, when shooting at a condemned man half a klick away, what's a soldier to do? How does one compensate for gravity -- the earth's pull on a flying bullet?

WOYZECK

Imagine the man's twin brother standing atop his head, sir!

SERGEANT

And then?

Woyzeck points between his eyes.

WOYZECK

Aim for the twin, sir.

SERGEANT

Very good, Woyzeck. Now lock and load.

(Woyzeck does)

AIM!

WOYZECK

Sergeant sir... that man there is... that man is a prisoner of war.

SERGEANT

That man is a *speck*, Woyzeck -- You two are a real life rhyming couplet. Now take aim! And...

FIRE!

Woyzeck closes his eyes and shoots.
The Sergeant looks through his field glasses.

SERGEANT
Woyzeck!!! The speck is still with us.

WOYZECK
Sir -- that man...

SERGEANT
Fucked your mother, Woyzeck!

WOYZECK (truly puzzled)
-- That can't be. I'm orphan sir.

Sergeant puts PISTOL to Woyzeck's head.

SERGEANT (calm)
I have it on good authority that the animal
fucked your mother. Then he fucked your
sister. Then he proceeded to fuck your wife.
And they all thanked him, Woyzeck. In fact,
they *begged* him to fuck them again.

But you know what? He wouldn't.
He *denied* them.
Said he just didn't have the time.

(cocks pistol)

What'd'ya think about that?

Woyzeck shoots off five rounds.
Sergeant looks through field glasses.

SERGEANT
Now *that's* some shooting.

SCENE 5

Barracks

WOYZECK shaves the CAPTAIN at breakneck speed.

CAPTAIN

Slow down, Woyzeck, not so fast.
You're making me dizzy! If you finish early
-- what am I going to do with the ten extra
minutes?

Think about it Woyzeck. You still have
thirty beautiful years in front of you.
Thirty years. Three hundred and sixty
months. And days. Hours. Minutes. --
What do you think you'll do with all that
unbearable stretch of time?

Woyzeck considers this.
As he does -- the RAZOR takes on a life of its own.
It slashes toward the CAPTAIN'S NECK.
Woyzeck struggles -- pulling the razor back just in time.
The Captain sees none of this.
Woyzeck resumes shaving uneasily.

WOYZECK

Oh, I suppose 'I'll stumble through it one
way or anther.

CAPTAIN

Woyzeck, you always seem so
hounded. A man with a clear conscience
isn't like that.
(confidential)
Anything you'd like to tell me, Woyzeck?

WOYZECK

I can't think of anything offhand, sir.

CAPTAIN

How's the weather?

WOYZECK (severe)

Bad mi Kapeta'n, sir, very bad!
(meaningful)
There's a wind!

CAPTAIN

I feel it. Sounds like something pretty
swift out there.

WOYZECK

Yes sir!

CAPTAIN

I think it must be something out of the...
north south.

WOYZECK

Yes sir, mi Kapeta'n!

CAPTAIN

Ha ha ha! North south! Ha ha ha!
Jesus, is he stupid. I mean *stupid*!

Woyzeck, you're a good man, but.. you have no
morality. That's when you have... morals.
You know? It's a good word to learn,
Woyzeck, because you, my friend, have a child
without `the blessings of the church'

WOYZECK

Kapeta'n, the good Lord's not gonna look down
on a poor worm just because they said Amen
before they got down to business.

CAPTAIN

The fuck are you talking about?

WOYZECK (incoherently)

Well, that, you know... it's us see, the poor
people that... that when we... well,
life... You know what I'm saying here,
Captain?

CAPTAIN

In a word -- no.

WOYZECK

Money. If you got no money, you got no
morals. 'Cause let's face it, nobody with
any morals is gonna bring something like me
into the world.

(taps chest)

Our kind is flesh and blood, and nothing.
Our kind is miserable only two times.
In this world and in the next. Hell, if
I ever get to heaven, the Lord'll put me
to work helping with the thunder.

CAPTAIN

Woyzeck, you have no virtue!
(contemptuous)
Flesh and blood....
I know what you're up to here!

(suddenly emotional)

Whenever I lay at a window after a good rain... and gaze after the white stockings as they hurry across the street....

DAMNATION, Woyzeck, I feel love rising up in me!! I'm flesh and blood myself you know!

But *control* Woyzeck! *That's* the difference between us. I can control myself.

Whereas you....

(waves it off)

Look, you're a good man, Woyzeck. But you think too much. It eats you. Try not to think so much.

WOYZECK

Uh....how sir?

CAPTAIN

Just *try*! Whenever, you think of something -- *don't*. Think of something else.

(pauses meaningfully)

I want you to know that our discussion has ...moved me. Deeply. You can go now.

Woyzeck races off.

CAPTAIN

But don't run!! Slowly!
That's right -- nice and slow.

SCENE 6

Woods. Night.

ANDRES and WOYZECK drag two DEAD BODIES.
They stop. Dig a grave.

WOYZECK

This place is cursed Andres. Look how those
flares fall over the swamp. That's where
the toadstools grow. That's where the head
rolls every night. One day some poor soul
picked it up, thought it was a hedgehog.

Three days and three nights he was cooling
his heels in a coffin.

(low)

It was the Turksas Andres. The Muslims.

ANDRES (sings)

Two young ladies
out resting their eyes,
they were watching for soldierboys
and dreaming up lies.

WOYZECK (terror)

Shhhh! You hear it Andres?....
Something's moving. Behind me,
Andres..... under me.

(pounds on the ground)

Hollow!

All hollow down there. Nothing but
Bodies and air. The *Muslims*.

ANDRES

I'm scared.

WOYZECK

How still it is here. You almost wanna hold
your breath..... Andres!

ANDRES

What?

(pause)

WOYZECK

Say something.

(silence)

WOYZECK

They're out there.

Woyzeck hit the deck -- gun poised.

He pulls out a WALKIE TALKIE.

WOYZECK (into radio)
Blue Leader, this is Red Dog over.

A Voice responds.

RADIO O.S.
We copy. Go ahead Red Dog.

WOYZECK
My squad is surrounded. Requesting artillery
cover... Over.

RADIO
What's your position Red Dog?

WOYZECK
-- I'm lying down.

RADIO
WHERE are you!!

Woyzeck checks his map.

WOYZECK
Charlie 16 on Alpha 3 sector.

RADIO
Radja. Sit tight.
Angels are on the way.

The soft distant thump of ARTILLERY.
Lights flash.

WOYZECK (rapturous)
Yes, Andres! Look how bright it is!
Glowing all over the town. Fire sailing
through the sky.

The shells descend, whistling....

ANDRES
Let's go!

They run.

WOYZECK
Don't look back. You'll turn to burning salt

water.

The shells land -- explode -- cutting them off.
They jump back into the graves -- pull the BODIES over them.

A terrifying silence. They poke their heads out.

WOYZECK

It's quiet now. So quiet.
As if the world was dead.

Silence.

WOYZECK (a little melancholic)

You know -- one day this war's gonna end.

ANDRES

Jesus, what'll we do then?!

They think about it.

ANDRES

When *will* it end Franz?

WOYZECK

Soon as we've killed everyone.

Silence. Andres tells a joke.

ANDRES

Know the difference between a serb and a muslim?

WOYZECK

-- No, what?

ANDRES

The serb's got a gun.

SCENE 7

Outside Marie's House

MARIE with WOYZECK'S INFANT SON and KATRIN, a neighbor.
They listen to the Radio.

RADIO

....confirmed reports of military atrocities.
Muslim soldiers were seen rounding up Serbian
residents of Sarajevo and herding them into
the soccer stadium. Machine gun fire was
then heard coming from the stadium throughout
the night. As many as 25,000 corpses are
now believed to be strewn throughout the
complex.

KATRIN

Fucking Muslim perljav !
Jesus, I'd like to...

Suddenly a column of BOSNIAN SERB SOLDIERS march past.

KATRIN

Oh my! Look at them.

MARIE

Hey boys!

MAJOR RADOVIC passes. He's a man's man -- a soldier's soldier.

KATRIN

What a man! Built like a Russian tank!

He salutes Marie.

KATRIN

He sure gave you a look.

MARIE (calling out)

Good luck!

KATRIN

Your eyes are shining!

MARIE (angry)

So what if they are!
Take your eyes to the Muslim's for a shine
and trade em in on a pair of buttons

KATRIN

Look who's talking -- Ms. Virgin on High
herself. I'm a decent woman. But you,

you could stare your way through seven pairs
of leather pants.

MARIE

Bitch.

KATRIN

Slut.

Marie goes inside with the boy.

MARIE

Come on! The hell does she care?
So what if you are a poor child's baby?

(sings)

Whatcha gonna do now, girl
Tell me, what's the plan
Gotcha a baby
Ain't gotcha no man.

A sound outside.

MARIE

Who's there? Is it you Franz?

Woyzeck rushes in desperately. Marie embraces him passionately.
She tries to pull him onto her bed.

WOYZECK

I can't.
I've got roll call.

MARIE finds BLOOD on Woyzeck's uniform.

MARIE

Were you fighting?

WOYZECK

Burial detail.

MARIE (solemn)

Oh... How many?

He holds up two fingers -- then gazes intently at them as though
they don't belong to him.

MARIE

What is, Franz?

WOYZECK

It happened again, Marie. Only this time it was worse. Isn't it written somewhere --
`and there arose a smoke out of the pit,
as the smoke of a great furnace.'

But *what* are they burning, Marie?!

MARIE

Oh Franz!

WOYZECK

Shhh - quiet! I've got it! I've got it.
It's the Shiites.

I'm on the trail of something big here.
It followed me all the way to the town -- its
teeth in my heels. Something we can't even
imagine. Something that drives us mad.
What'll come of it?

MARIE

Franz!

Woyzeck hears a sound. He wheels around -- gun poised.

WOYZECK

What's there?!!!

MARIE

It's your son.

WOYZECK

My god, my boy.

Woyzeck brushes his hands over the baby's eyes -- the way you do
a dead person. Gives a small bag to Marie.

WOYZECK

Have you eaten today, Marie?

MARIE

There's nothing.

Woyzeck gives her a hunk of bread and cheese.

WOYZECK
I stole this from the mess hall.

Marie eats ravenously.

WOYZECK
And guess what?

MARIE (hopeful)
What?

WOYZECK
The captain's buying the whole squad tickets
to the fair.

MARIE (deflated)
Oh. That's.... very nice of him.

WOYZECK
I'll see you there tonight.

Woyzeck races off.

MARIE
Christ, that man! Seeing things.
He'll go crazy if he keeps this up...
He terrifies me.

(looks around at the room)
It's so gloomy here.

She looks down at her son.
Puts a piece of cheese into his mouth.

MARIE
Why are you so quiet, boy?
Are you frightened?

Looks outside. Haunted:

MARIE
It's getting so dark here.
We're all going blind.

SCENE 8

The Street

WOYZECK and a ANDRES play SOCCER -- Woyzeck at goalie.
Andres kicks penalty shots at him.

The SERGEANT appears, angry.

SERGEANT

Why aren't you in church, Woyzeck?!
The Padre's blessing the troops.

WOYZECK

Big game's this week sarge.
I gotta get ready.

Andres kicks.

The Sergeant steps in and snatches the BALL out of the air.

SERGEANT

And I don't need any bad luck charms in my
squad. Now go get your ass in line!

SCENE 9

THE CATHEDRAL

WOYZECK and other SOLDIERS kneel at the altar.
The PRIEST blesses a bottle of WINE.

(in the name of the father....)

PRIEST

U imi oca, i sina is duha svetoga....

Priest goes down the line -- pouring a swig of wine down each soldier's throats.

Approaches WOYZECK -- trips, and spills red wine all over him.
Woyzeck runs out as though on fire.

SCENE 10

THE CARNIVAL

MARIE and WOYZECK wander through the drunken crowd past fire eaters, fortune tellers in hysterics, a blindfolded man shooting an apple off his wife's head, and the like.

SALEEM the MUSLIM VENDOR hawks condoms.

SALEEM

Give the gift that gives and takes away.
The gift that holds on even when you're
letting go.

OLD MAN (sings)

There's nothing at all in the world that
lasts.
We all gotta die, it's a well-known fact.
One day we wake up, hop outta bed...

(stops singing)

And we're knee-deep in horse shit.

MARIE

I tell you what, when fools get wise, the
wise get foolish. Yessiree, what a world!
What a crazy madcap world!

A SHOW BARKER enters with an APE dressed in an army uniform.

BARKER

LADIES.... and your diametric opposites!
You see here before you a creature as god
created it. Absolutely nothing!
-- But look what a little art can do.

Barker kicks the APE. It hops up

BARKER

It walks upright. Wears coat and pants.

Barker tosses the APE a RIFLE.
He catches it and `shoots' the crowd.

BARKER

This monkey here's a regular soldier. So
what if he's still on the bottom rung of the
human ladder food chain? Take a bow.
(Ape bows)
That's the ticket. Now you're a baron...
or a politician at the very least.
Give us a word of hope, Mr. Presidenjik.

The APE farts on the crowd.

BARKER
Yes, a visionary too!

MAN
That's disgusting.

WOYZECK (to man)
What's wrong? Don't you believe in God?

BARKER
Ladies and the rest of you -- step inside and
this child of Man will reveal your future.
With but one sniff he'll tell whether
you'll live or die. Whether you'll
find happiness and love.
Or if you've got a shorter view, just
tell you if you're gonna get laid tonight.

And that's not all. This wonder of science
has the vision to balance your budget --
shape domestic policy -- and call in allied
air strikes

For God's sake folks, get your lazy asses
inside! We're just about to get rolling!

MARIE
You wanna go in?

WOYZECK
Sure. I've got a couple questions I wanna
ask this thing.

They go inside.
MAJOR RADOVIC and SERGEANT watch them.

SERGEANT (lascivious)
Whoa!! You see her?
Now there's a piece of piece.

MAJOR
Woman's got an ass that could bring down the
whole government.

SERGEANT
And those eyes! Like looking down a well...
or up a chimney. Hell she could

MAJOR
breed an army of soldiers.

They go inside after her.

SCENE 11

MARIE'S HOUSE

Woyzeck and Marie fucking like there's no tomorrow.
Outside, MAJOR RADOVIC approaches -- peeks in.

MAJOR

WOYZECK!

Woyzeck rushes outside -- buttoning himself up.

WOYZECK

Yes, my Major Sir!

MAJOR

What the fuck are you doing?!!!

WOYZECK

Doing sir?
I'm on ah....

MAJOR

You're on Patrol tonight!

WOYZECK

No, Major, sir -- I'm on -- week's leave.

MAJOR slaps Woyzeck.

MAJOR

Woyzeck, do you understand Serbo-Croatian?

(Woyzeck nods weakly)

You - are - on - PATROL!

WOYZECK

Yes sir.

MAJOR

Now move.

Woyzeck goes sheepishly toward Marie.

MAJOR

NOW!!!!!!

Woyzeck rushes off. Marie turns away -- disgusted.

MAJOR

Not so fast!

MARIE

What the fuck do you want?

MAJOR (charming)

The fuck do I want? My dear woman,
I want to.... give you something.

He holds out a small BOX.

Marie turns away.

Inside the baby begins to cry.

Slowly, Marie turns around, drawn toward the box.

She is drawn toward it. She reaches out -- takes the box.
Radovic tries to kiss her. She dodges him, runs inside and
slams her door. Major Radovic laughs, leaves.

SCENE 12

MARIE'S HOUSE

She opens up the box: DIAMOND EARRINGS
She puts them on -- looks at herself in a small mirror.

MARIE (delighted)
Ahh! Look how they glitter and shine.
What kind are they, I wonder.

MARIE'S SON rouses.

MARIE
Sleep boy.
Close your eyes tight. Tighter.
Now stay still or he'll get you.

(sings)

Quick young lady, close the shutters tight
A gypsy lad is out there tonight.
He'll come and take you by the hand
And lead you off into gypsyland

(looks at EARRINGS)

These things must be gold.
I bet they'd look good on me at the dance.
(dejected)
Ah what's the difference? I'm just Serbo
Trash. Our kind only gets a little corner
of the world and a piece of broken mirror.
(angry)
Hey, fuck that! My mouth is just as red as
any of those swank bitches with their top to
toe mirrors and their fine gentleman kissing
their hands..... and licking their throats.

The child stirs.

MARIE
Stop your crying.
See that?

She reflects some light onto the wall. Playful:

MARIE
That's the sandman! Watch him run across
the wall. Eyes tight, or he'll look into
them and make you go blind!

WOYZECK enters quietly -- MACHINE GUN poised.
Marie tries to hide the earrings.

WOYZECK
What's that?

MARIE
Nothing.

WOYZECK
There's something shining in your hands.

MARIE
Oh this? Just an earring I found.
Pretty lucky huh?

WOYZECK (sarcastic)
I'll say.

Woyzeck finds the other one, explodes.

WOYZECK
And look here! Another one!
You're are lucky!

He slaps her.

MARIE
Am I not human?!

Woyzeck crumbles with shame. He tries to take Marie into his arms. She pushes him away.

WOYZECK
Yes. You are....
I'm so sorry, Marie

MARIE (quiet)
I didn't touch him.

WOYZECK (resigned)
No, not yet.

MARIE
We're dying, Franz.
We're starving to death.

WOYZECK
I know.

MARIE

We've got to get out of here!
Let's go to Belgrade. Let's go anywhere!
Anywhere that's not here!

WOYZECK (humiliated)

You know we can't. Not now. Not yet.

MARIE

Christ!

WOYZECK

As soon as the war is over.

MARIE (laughs bitterly)

You really think it's going to end?

(beat)

Look at you. All dressed up in your monkey
suit and your monkey's gun.
Whose war are you fighting?

WOYZECK

Ours.

MARIE

Not mine!

(beat)

Do you even know why you kill Muslims?

WOYZECK

Of course I....

Look if those people ever...

Woyzeck falters.

He turns away. Goes to the BOY.

WOYZECK (gently)

Look at him. Lift his arm. He's hurting
himself. Look at the shiny drops on his
forehead. Everything under the sun is work.
We even sweat in our sleep. Poor us.

(gives Marie a small purse.)

Here's some money, Marie. My pay and a
little something extra from the Captain.

MARIE

God bless you, Franz.

Marie embraces Woyzeck, kisses him.
They move awkwardly over to the bed.
Woyzeck caresses Marie's breasts.
He then glances down at his pants.
Apparently nothing stirs there.

WOYZECK

Time is passing. I've got to get back.

MARIE

You don't have to go back, Franz.

Tell them you can't do it.

They can't make you.

WOYZECK

-- I'll see you tonight.

He flees.

MARIE

I should cut myself open with a knife.

What a life. What shit!

What happened to us? We went to sleep one
night... and woke up in hell.

Man, woman and child.

SCENE 13

WOYZECK lies on an army cot, with a SOCCER BALL on his stomach.
The DOCTOR sits, taking notes.

WOYZECK

I had this really weird dream last night.

DOCTOR

Tell me everything, Woyzeck.

WOYZECK

I dreamt that I went to Church one fine day,
ended up sitting next to this really nice
looking call girl. Preacher finished the
sermon but wouldn't let anyone leave til I
married the woman. So I did. She moved in
later that day. I knocked her up that night
and she had a son. Then the war started and
money got a little tight and she asked me if
it would be okay for to turn a few tricks and
bring in a little extra income.

DOCTOR (breathless)

Yes?! And? What'd you tell her?

WOYZECK

Nothing. I woke up.

Doctor deflates -- takes notes.

DOCTOR

Woyzeck....

WOYZECK

Yes.

DOCTOR

How often do you do you and your wife...
you know?

WOYZECK (flustered, lying)

-- Oh five or six times...

DOCTOR (hopeful)

A month?

WOYZECK

Are you kidding? A week.

DOCTOR (admonishing)

That's way too much Woyzeck.
Try not to.... you know -- so much.

WOYZECK

Yes sir.

SCENE 14

FOREST

Woyzeck enters pulling a WOMAN on a ROPE.
Her clothes are torn. She's been badly beaten.
A RED STAR and CRESCENT is painted across her white blouse.

We hear VOICES from before.

SERGEANT'S VOICE

Woyzeck, take this prisoner to the woods.

WOYZECK'S VOICE

Yes, Sir, Sergeant.

(waits)

What then, sir?

SERGEANT (whispers)

Do your magic.

WOYZECK

Sir?

SERGEANT

Make her disappear.

WOYZECK

-- Yes sir.

SERGEANT

Salamaleku baby.

Woyzeck continues leading the women on.

SERGEANT

And Woyzeck!!

WOYZECK

Yes sir.

SERGEANT

You take your life far too seriously.
Try to have a little fun, eh?

WOYZECK

I'll try, sir.

WOYZECK and the MUSLIM WOMAN continue to stumble along.
She collapses to the ground. Woyzeck looks down at her with
compassion.

WOYZECK

I'm sorry.....
This isn't what I wanted.

I never imagined anything like this.

Mercifully, Woyzeck aims his gun at the back of her head.

SERGEANT (off)

FUN, Woyzeck!!

I'm watching you with my field glasses.

WOYZECK reluctantly rolls the WOMAN onto her back.

He unbuttons his pants, lets them fall.

Looks inside his underwear.

Nothing stirs. He tries to make things stir. No luck.

He makes the sign of the cross.

(in the name of the father, son.....)

WOYZECK

U imi oca, i sina is duha svetoga....

Allah Akhbar.

He aims his GUN at her head.

Lights out.

Gunshot.

SCENE 15

THE STREET

Woyzeck wanders madly back and forth -- in anguish.
 Clenches his eyes shut -- as though keeping out some terrible
 vision. It gets worse. He's about to explode.

He undoes his pants and pisses. A torrent.

WOYZECK

Ahhhhh.

The DOCTOR comes on - furious.
 He carries a CAMERA. Photographs Woyzeck.

DOCTOR

I cannot believe it, Woyzeck. Here I am
 giving you ten dinars a day plus board and
 you're pissing on the wall like a stray dog.
 This is un-fucking-forgivable, Woyzeck.

An artillery explosion.

DOCTOR

Where's the world headed?

WOYZECK

But Doktor, when nature calls, what can a
 man...

DOCTOR (venomous)

Nature Woyzeck?!!!
 What the hell's nature got to do with it?
 Did I not prove to you beyond reasonable
 doubt that the musculus constrict vesicase
 is slave to the will.

(scoffing)

Woyzeck, man alone is the master of his will.
 And you can't even hold your piss.

Have you eaten your peas today, Woyzeck?

Woyzeck nods.

DOCTOR (threateningly)

Nothing but peas?

Woyzeck nods again -- terrified.

DOCTOR (ecstatic)
 Cruciferae! There's going to be a
 revolution in science. I'm going to blow it
 sky high!

Woyzeck, couldn't you piss just one more
 time? Go into the alley there and give it
 another try.

Woyzeck goes off. Silence.

DOCTOR
 I'm waiting.....
 (silence)
 Think of... rain... drowning the whole
 world... your lungs filling with water.
 (silence)
 Forty days and forty nights... and all
 that business....
 (silence)

WOYZECK
 Doktor, sir, I can't

DOCTOR (explodes)
 But you sure could piss on the wall,
 couldn't you!!!

WOYZECK (re-enters)
 Doktor...

Doctor angrily holds up the CAMERA.

DOCTOR
 We had a contract, fellah.
 But what did I see?

Just as I stuck my nose out the window,
 letting the sun hit it straight on so I
 could observe the process of a sneeze --
 and there....!

(calms)
 No, Woyzeck. I'm not going to vex myself over
 a man. Anger is unhealthy, not to mention
 unscientific. I'm calm now. Completely
 calm. My pulse is sixty and I am speaking to
 you in utmost tranquility....

But Woyzeck, you really shouldn't have pissed
 on the wall!

WOYZECK
 You see, Mr. Presidenjik....

DOCTOR

Please, call me Doktor, Woyzeck.

WOYZECK (inarticulate)

You see Doktor, sometimes a man has a certain character, you know. But his nature, well his nature, that's a whole different ball game. His nature is like... a football soaring through space...

DOCTOR

Woyzeck, you're philosophizing again.

WOYZECK (confiding)

Doktor, sir. Did you ever see anything with double nature?

Like when the sun stops at the top of the sky and it's like the whole world will burn up in a huge fire? That's when I hear it -- a terrifying voice, whispering to me.

DOCTOR (suddenly pleased)

Terrifying voice??

Woyzeck, you have an aberration!

Woyzeck places his finger on his nose.

WOYZECK

It's all there in the toadstools, Doktor. They key to everything.

You ever notice the shapes the toadstools make when they shoot up out of the earth? If only somebody could read what they're saying.

DOCTOR (rapture)

Oh Woyzeck, you have a most beautiful aberratio mentalis partialis! Wonderfully developed, and with a generally rational state. Woyzeck, you just got yourself a raise...

Are you still shaving the captain?

WOYZECK

Yes sir.

DOCTOR

Let's feel the pulse.

Ah yes. Yes!

(ecstatic)

Nothing.... nothing at all.

SCENE 16

THE STREET

Woyzeck and SOLDIERS lounge.
VENDOR appears.

VENDOR
Cooooooooold Beer.

SALEEM the MUSLIM appears, selling sandwiches.

SALEEM
Falafel, get your falafel sendvic.

SOLDIER (disgusted)
Get out of here you dirty svijna!

They run Saleem off.

A SOLDIER enters with HOT DOGS, hands them out.
Gives one to Woyzeck.

Woyzeck stares dumbly at it -- as though it might speak.

He looks around -- makes sure no one's watching.
Slowly takes a bite. Chews cautiously -- then more easily --
then stops -- a sudden look of pure terror on his face.
He looks up into the sky -- sees a vision.
He races off.

SOLDIER
The hell's a matter with him?

SOLDIER 2
He's fucken nuts!

SOLDIER 3
Nah, he's just nervous before the big game.

Off: Woyzeck vomits.

SCENE 17

Angry crowd sounds.

Lights up on RADIO ANNOUNCER.

ANNOUNCER

It has come down to the last penalty kick --
after the sloppiest fucking hour of football
I've ever seen in my life.

Lights up on a humiliated WOYZECK -- on goal.

ANNOUNCER

Pale's Woyzeck has been abysmal on goal --
allowing seven easy scores. It's a miracle
somebody hasn't shot the motherfucker. --
Karadzic will kick for Gorazde.

Woyzeck gets set.

ANNOUNCER

here's the shot.

Without moving, he watches the ball float right by his head and into
the goal.

The Crowd erupts in fury.

Sounds of gunfire -- people shooting at Woyzeck.

He runs for cover.

SCENE 18

MARIE'S HOUSE

The RADIO plays the post-game show -- the host talking trash about Woyzeck.

Meanwhile, WOYZECK and MARIE are in bed -- trying to make love. Woyzeck, distracted by the show -- can't. He gets up, angrily shuts off the radio.

MARIE

Don't worry about it.

WOYZECK

Hey, what do you expect when I'm living on a diet of peas?

MARIE

It's okay.

WOYZECK

Don't *okay* me.
Those peas are bringing home the bacon!

MARIE

Alright, Franz!

Silence.

MARIE

Katrin's on her way to Belgrade.
Her boyfriend got them seats on a military flight.

WOYZECK

Jesus -- don't start with this again!

MARIE

What *would* you like to start with?

Silence.

MARIE

I'm sorry.
I'll make you dinner.

She takes out a can of peas -- begins opening it.

SCENE 19**BLACK MARKET**

Woyzeck enters, carrying a Picnic Basket. He wanders through the crowd of shady characters selling gasoline, guns, TV's, T-bones -- you name it, you got it.

A Man holds out a small ROCKER LAUNCHER.

BLACK MARKETEER

Hey pal, you need one of these?

WOYZECK

Ah... no. I wanna arrange transit through the lines.

BLACK MARKETEER

You've come to the right place.
I got seats on a flight to Belgrade leaving in twelve hours.

WOYZECK

That's where I want to go.

BLACK MARKETEER

Just you?

WOYZECK

Me, the wife and kid.

BLACK MARKETEER

No problem. What'cha got to trade?

Woyzeck uncovers his basket -- a dozen CANS OF PEAS.

BLACK MARKETEER (incredulous)

Jolly Green?

WOYZECK

How far will these get me?

BLACK MARKETEER

About five meters.

He hurls Woyzeck several feet, storms off.

SALEEM the MUSLIM TRADER appears with his wares.

SALEEM (to Woyzeck)

Condom? -- No, I hear you don't really need em these days.

WOYZECK
You got any baby formula?
(Saleem nods)
Trade you peas.

SALEEM
I don't know...

WOYZECK
What exactly don't you know?

SALEEM
I can do you three for one.

WOYZECK
Ya fucking thief!

SALEEM (compassionate)
What am I gonna do with peas, Woyzeck?
I'm not a scientist.

Look, I know you're having a hard time.
I'm trying to do you a favor, here.

WOYZECK
I don't need any favors.

SALEEM
Fine.

Saleem starts off.

WOYZECK
Wait.
I'm sorry.
I was wrong.

They trade.

WOYZECK
Thank you.
I'm sorry about everything that's happening.

SALEEM
It's okay.

WOYZECK
These are dark days.

Saleem nods. Gives Woyzeck an extra can.

SCENE 20

DARKNESS

Sounds of fighting in the distance.

A NEWS REPORT over the Radio:

ANNOUNCER

And in sports.... Pale Football GM has announced that in the wake of his pathetic performance in Sunday's game -- Franz Woyzeck has been suspended for the next fifty-two games.

LIGHTS UP ON:

THE STREET

Woyzeck lies on an Army Cot.

The Doctor sits nearby, taking notes.

DOCTOR

I know it's painful, but tell me about the game.

Woyzeck weeps.

DOCTOR

It's alright, Woyzeck.

WOYZECK

It's *not* alright. Everyone hates me.
The neighbors laugh at me.
My wife won't fuck me.

DOCTOR

Don't listen to them, Woyzeck. They don't understand. They don't appreciate the sacrifice you're making. Someday when all the facts come to light, they'll fall to their knees and thank you.

But what happened, Woyzeck?! How on earth did you let that easy shot get past you?!

WOYZECK

It was a ball of fire Doktor -- the sun -- coming right for me. Pulling me in. I tried to move but my feet were sucked into the mud. My hands were nailed to my sides.

(looks at his palms)

I can still feel the holes.

DOCTOR

Messianic delusions. Excellent!

Don't fight them, Woyzeck!

Just lie back and let 'em happen to you.

SCENE 21

MARIE'S HOUSE

Marie alone -- cleaning.

The door swings slowly open.

MAJOR RADOVIC stands there holding his gun on her.

MAJOR

So where's your little warrior husband?

MARIE

Off fighting your battles, I would imagine.

What can I do for you?

MAJOR

I want you to show me something.

MARIE

Okay. There's the door.

She turns from him, resumes cleaning.

Major Radovic creeps over, tries to take her in his arms.

Marie lashes out. He steps back, just avoiding her blows.

MARIE

Get your hands off me!

He takes out a wad of money, holds it out.

Marie doesn't take it.

MAJOR

Your baby's sick.

MARIE

I know.

You made him sick.

Pause.

MARIE

Tell me what I have to do.

MAJOR

It's not what you have to do.

It's what you have to do *two* times.

She is motionless.

Then out of nowhere her hand flies out and snatches the money from the Major's hand.

Silence.

From the distance, we hear the muffled sounds of Women screaming.

MARIE

That's how you do it, isn't it?

(no answer)

Are you going to practice on me?

He moves slowly toward her.

Caresses her cheek.

She forces herself to remain perfectly still.

MAJOR

No, with you.... I'm going to be very sweet.

As he leans in to kiss her, Marie closes her eyes.

SCENE 22

STREET

The DOCTOR sits reading.

CAPTAIN enters in a manic fit, pacing nervously.
Gunfire. Woyzeck races past and out.

CAPTAIN (to woyzeck)
Hey you -- not so fast! A good man with a
good conscience never....
Oh never mind.

He spots the DOCTOR --

CAPTAIN
Doctor, allow me to save a human life!

DOCTOR
I'm in a hurry, Captain.

CAPTAIN
Doctor, I'm so melancholy! I'm assaulted by
these ghastly fantasies.
(hushed)
There's horrible rumors filtering back
from the front. Talk of a ceasefire.
It's monstrous!

I start to weep every time I see my coat
hanging on the wall.

The Doctor has an idea.

DOCTOR (hopefully)
What have you been eating?

CAPTAIN
Sausage, beer -- the usual.

Doctor deflates -- disappointed.
He does a cursory examination.
A look of concern comes to his face.

DOCTOR (grave)
Hm.... Oh... Oh my. Yes, Captain,
I'm sorry to tell you you'll be having
Apoplexia Serberia any time now.

CAPTAIN

Come again?

DOCTOR

Completely paralyzed on one side of your body.

CAPTAIN (devastated)

Jesus!! One side. How about my -- my.....

He meekly points down to his reproductive area.

DOCTOR

Split personality, I'm afraid.
Of two minds altogether.
One side boldly going where it's never gone
before and another side that couldn't get up
if you put a gun to it's head.

CAPTAIN

Christ, will I still be able to.....?

DOCTOR

No, but we'll conduct the most titillating
experiments.

The Captain is destroyed.

DOCTOR

Just kidding.

CAPTAIN

Fucking hell Doctor!! Don't scare me like
that! People've been known to die of nothing
but fright! Pure sheer fright. I can see
them now, standing in the rubble with lemons
in their hands.

Woyzeck races on.

CAPTAIN

Hey Hey Hey! Where's the fucking fire,
soldier? Slow down Woyzeck! You run
through life like an open razor! You're
liable to cut someone!

(to Doctor)

He runs as if he had to shave a castrated
regiment and would be hung for cutting a hair
that isn't even there...

And speaking of hairs...

Tell me, Woyzeck, have you found any long hairs from any... *long beards* in your soup bowl lately?

(to Doctor)
I don't think he gets me.

(to Woyzeck)
A hair from a human face, from the long beard of an engineer perhaps... or a sergeant maybe, or possibly a.... *Major*.

Woyzeck is shaken -- but pretends not to understand.

CAPTAIN
Well, Woyzeck?

(laughs -- to Doctor)
But then he's got a good wife.

Woyzeck stands still, in a tormented daze.

WOYZECK
Yes sir, Kapeta'n. What was it you wanted to say to me, Kapeta'n, sir?

CAPTAIN
If you hurry home, I bet you might find one on a certain pair of lips. Eh Woyzeck? -- Look at him! White as chalk.

WOYZECK
Kapeta'n sir, I'm just a poor soldier. I've got nothing else in world but her. Kapeta'n, if you're just making a fool of me...

CAPTAIN
a fool of you, Woyzeck?!

Doctor feels Woyzeck's wrist.

DOCTOR
Your pulse, Woyzeck.
Short, hard, skipping, irregular.

WOYZECK
Kapeta'n sir, the earth's hot as coals .
But I'll bet you hell is cold as ice.

CAPTAIN

Hey you son of a bitch!! Your eyes are
stabbing me to death and I'm only trying to
help.

WOYZECK

The pain!

CAPTAIN

You're in so much pain, how'd you like me to
put a bullet in your head?

DOCTOR

Facial muscles rigid, taut, occasionally
twitches. Conditions strained, excitable.

WOYZECK

The bitch!

(starts off -- stops on a dime)

The weather's nice, Kapeta'n, sir.
A beautiful hard gray sky. You almost wanna
pound a nail up there and hang yourself on
it. And only because of a tiny dash
between yes, and yes and no. Did yes make no
or did no make yes.... I'll have to think
about it.

Woyzeck flies off.

DOCTOR

Sensational, Woyzeck! You get another raise.

CAPTAIN

These kinda people make me dizzy.

SCENE 23

MARIE'S HOUSE

Woyzeck weeps like a child. Across the room, Marie sits, staring straight ahead, shellshocked. The money that Major Radovic gave her is strewn all over the floor.

Woyzeck crumples down to the ground, his cries slowly dying to a whimper.

In a daze, Marie gets up, starts to scoop the money up off the ground. She stops, gazes absently ahead, holding the bills to her chest. Then lets the money fall to the floor again.

SCENE 24

BARRACKS

Soldiers drinking. WOYZECK sits glumly to one side.
 MAJOR RADOVIC staggers in -- drinking from a bottle, loaded.
 He's humming a guitar riff from the blues song: 'I'm a Man.'

MAJOR

I'm a MAN!
 I'm a hoochie coochie man.

I'm a MAN!

You know what I'm saying?
 I'm a man and I wish the world was a barrel
 of Schnapps. How about you Woyzeck? We
 really oughta get to know each other better,
 you know? You and I -- Jesus, we got a lot
 in common. Here, have a drink before it's
 too late.

He holds out the BOTTLE. Woyzeck takes the bottle, takes a sip,
 spits it in the Major's face.

Major Radovic punches Woyzeck. They fight.
 The other Soldiers cheer them on.
 Radovic trounces Woyzeck -- shoves him against a wall.

MAJOR

Son of a bitch! How bout I yank your tongue
 out and tie it round your throat?

He smashes the bottle against a wall, holds the jagged edge to
 Woyzeck's neck.

MAJOR

Spit now!

A Soldier rushes over.

SOLDIER

Don't do it Milos!
 They'll lock you up for this kind of thing.
 Two years minimum. You wanna spend the rest
 of the war in the big house?!

Just go fuck his wife -- you'll feel better.

The Major punches Woyzeck in the stomach, and stalks off.

SCENE 25

Major Radovic sits in a chair with a drink..... looking impassively at Marie who stands before him.

He sips his drink. Pulls out a wad of money, hands it to Marie. She reaches behind her back, unzips her dress.

MARIE

How much is it gonna take me to get to
Belgrade?

MAJOR

A lot more than you're ever gonna get your
hands on, that's for sure.

She lets her dress fall to the floor.

SCENE 26

BARRACKS YARD

Andres sits watching Woyzeck eat a can of PEAS.

WOYZECK

Andres.

ANDRES

Yes?

WOYZECK

Andres, I'm a man of Science

ANDRES

Whatever you say, Franz.

Woyzeck eats.

ANDRES

Where do those peas come from?

Woyzeck shrugs. Andres picks up a can, reads.

ANDRES

China.

WOYZECK (worried)

Christ, you don't suppose these things are grown in those terrible prison labor camps you read about?!

ANDRES

Let's see.

(reads can)

'This product does not contain any supplements, additives or preservatives and was cultivated on civilian agri-coops where the workers are free to come and go as they please.'

Relieved, Woyzeck resumes eating.
Then stops, looks at the can.

WOYZECK

Kinda weird, huh?

SCENE 27

MARIE'S HOUSE

Major Radovic sits. He pours himself a drink.
Marie appears, wearing a nice dress and high heel shoes,
her hair piled provocatively atop her head.

Radovic reaches over and turns on the radio.
Slow sexy cabaret music. He nods at Marie, and she begins
to dance, joylessly.

MAJOR

The stockings.

Marie removes them, continues dancing.

MARIE (calm, even)

This is for my son.

MAJOR (shrugs)

Whatever lets you sleep at night.

MARIE

The only reason I let you lay a hand on me is
so I can get him to Belgrade.

MAJOR

Honey, you can be saving up for a holiday in
Liberia for all I care.

He motions for her to take off the dress.
As it falls, the lights fade.

SCENE 28

STREET

Woyzeck lies on the army cot. Doctor sits taking notes.
Fighting nearby. Soldiers rush around them.

DOCTOR

So what are your post-war plans, Woyzeck?

WOYZECK

I uh don't really have any.
You think I should make some?

DOCTOR

You've got to start thinking about the
future. Nobody else is going to do it for
you. What would you like to do with
yourself, Woyzeck? With your life, that is.

Woyzeck thinks about it.

WOYZECK

I haven't the slightest idea.
Live it, I guess.

But I'm not sure I have *time* to.

DOCTOR

What do you mean?

WOYZECK

Well, you see, I used to keep my spare time
hidden beneath my mattress. But one night a
thief came into my house Doktor, and stole my
time. And now this guy's out blowing it
somewhere and I'm stuck here living two
minutes for every one.

The fighting nearby intensifies.
The SERGEANT rushes on.

SERGEANT

I'm sorry, Doktor ah... Mister Presidenjik,
but I need to borrow your patient.

DOCTOR

Of course, of course -- duty calls.
He's all yours.

SCENE 29

A SNIPER'S NEST

WOYZECK gazes absently into the sky.

He looks forward, sees something in the distance.
He absently hoists his rifle, aims, fires.

WOYZECK (tired)

Six million, four hundred thousand and ninety
nine.

He slowly aims and shoots.

WOYZECK

Six million, four hundred thousand and ninety
eight.

He shoots.

WOYZECK

Six million, four hundred thousand and ninety
seven....