

WOYZECK / THE ENDLESS CYCLE

Adaptation By

William Lewis  
with  
Charlie Biscotto

Based on Woyzeck  
by  
Georg Buchner

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## Cast of Characters

<u>Louis Woyzeck:</u>	A Soldier, Thin, Diminutive and Malnourished, 30's
<u>Marie:</u>	Voluptuous, 30's
<u>Andres:</u>	A Soldier, Tall, Gaunt, with Mischievous Eyes, Late 20's
<u>The Captain:</u>	Jolly yet Melancholy and Round, 40's
<u>The Doctor:</u>	Stern and Comically Serious, Prone to Fits of Rage, 40's
<u>Major:</u>	Tall, Muscular and Imposing, Full of Machimismo, 30's
<u>Ensemble Male 1:</u>	Sergeant, Man 1, Journeyman 2, Freemason
<u>Ensemble Male 2:</u>	Man 2, Journeyman 1, Freemason, Barker
<u>Ensemble Female 1:</u>	Freemason, Killer-(Recorded for Screen)
<u>Ensemble Female 2:</u>	Margareth, Girl 1, Woman 1, Freemason
<u>Ensemble Female 3:</u>	Girl 2, Woman 2, Freemason, Physician-(Recorded for Screen)
<u>Ensemble Female 4:</u>	Monkey, Freemason, Student/GI-(Recorded for Screen)
<u>Chaplain:</u>	40's, Stately and Solemn - (Recorded for Screen)

## Prologue

*(One depicts unrest caused by economic inequalities in the last century rewinding backwards from, **ISIS BEHEADINGS, TO Occupy Wall Street to the Arab Spring, to The G8 Summit to the economic crisis of the Late 70's, The American Great Depression until settling on the Hyper-Inflation Crisis of Germany in the 1920's. The other Screen depicts images of the end of the 1st French Revolution through the end of WWI in chronological Order.)***

## Act 1

*(Lights up on center stage. A stark pool of light marks streams of red silk. The stage design is that of a long rectangular playing space almost like a runway. The audience is seated on the two longest sides, imagine North/South. In four corners of the stage, but not perfectly symmetrical, are piles of brick. Flanking all sides of the stage are wooden benches. The east/west walls mark the front row of the audience. The East/West sides have smaller versions of the benches that the cast use primarily. Seated just E and W of center are **Louis** and **Andres** intently staring at each other motionless. **Louis** is a small man, diminutive, who looks weathered from work. He looks older than his age of 37. He has a expression of worn down gloom and exasperation. He is wearing the exact same uniform that **Andres** wears. It should be noted that **Louis** throughout the play maintains a level of naturalistic composure in contrast to the remaining cast. Red silk streamers are strewn about in the space between them. The Remaining cast is either seated on the N/S Benches or are interacting with the audience.)*

ANDRES

Ladies and Gentlemen. You are gathered here to witness an unfortunate affair. The sad story of one man. But he is more than one man, he represents each and everyone of us. Or one of our possible realities. History is one of exquisitely brutal truth. How far will a man go when he sees no escape from our day's inequitable grasp? You are here to witness one mans fall and judge whether he deserved better. Do you deserve better? Remember this, Woyzeck is eternal. He lived and died in 1824 but he lives and breathes today.

*(Doctor Enters from outside the auditorium. The Doctor is slightly above average in height. He should be taller than Louis. Older and a bit more distinguished looking, yet appears very clownish. His cheeks are bright red as is his nose. He always has a walking stick. He wears a buttoned up lab coat and a bowler or comically large top hat. The Doctor is a two dimensional character and should never really be played seriously. He should ideally have characteristic ticks of movement as if he has some form of physical tounettes.)*

DOCTOR

Good evening my esteemed colleagues. My name is Doctor J.A. Clarus, PhD, MD, DDS. I am a certified physician, psychologist, chiropractor, dentist, herbalist, moralist and practitioner of spiritual wellness. I welcome you to our little spectacle and invite you to take part in a clinical trial I am conducting. If you would like to partake you simply must answer a few questions during the proscribed narrative that unfolds before you. Carefully use the devices given to you when you entered the laboratory. The questions will be used to help me understand the unique creature you see before you, a one Louis Christian Woyzeck. He is quite an astounding specimen I must assure you. One like I have never seen before. And as you are witnessing his unraveling, I am sure you will agree that the uniqueness of his mental and physical condition is quite spectacular. His behaviour is quite abnormal as you will see. By taking part in the experiment you agree to allow me to use your answers as part of my study. Like the contract given to Woyzeck you too are guaranteed confidentiality.

*(He pulls a folded up piece of paper from his coat pocket signs and hands over to Louis.)*

If you do not want to take part in the experiment simply do not answer the questions; but why would you not want to take part? Our little experiment will go down in the history books. We will be famous. Who does not want that?

*(He retrieves the contract from **Louis** who also has signed.)*

DOCTOR

And with the formalities taken care of we may go on with our little story.

*(**Doctor** sits down on bench.)*

*(A Voice Over begins and plays video)*

V.O.

The great people of Prussia have celebrated historic victory over the French general Napoleon. Peace is restored to the land, and our mighty military may return to our towns and villages with pride. But as our soldiers return to lives of peaceful Prussian bliss, let us not forget the dangers they have faced The scars they have earned And the friends they have lost. These men may have been trained as killing machines, but they are also accomplished doctors, lawyers, accountants, musicians, and family men. In short, they are just like you. And remember, while you reap the benefits of the peace these soldiers have made, they remain ever vigilant, knowing our enemies are still lurking. Though they may be home, our brave soldiers will continue developing newer and better military technology, nutritional concepts, and battle strategies. Even at home, your soldiers continue working for your protection. So show them your appreciation And join them in celebrating our great nation. We need your support now, more than ever.

*(The words **IN PEACE, WE PREPARE FOR WAR** appear on both screens. Andres stands and addresses the audience. He is tall and thin with a gaunt, pale face. He uniform mirroring **Louis**.)*

MAN 1

What a murder!

WOMAN 1

As good, a murder you could ever hope for.

MAN 2

A good, genuine, beautiful murder.

WOMAN MAN 2

A long time since we had one like this.

*(Captain, Drum Major, Marie and Doctor rise and move to corners of the central area staring intently and menacingly at Louis as if judging him.)*

*(A screen at the western wall of the stage has a projection that reads: **A BEAUTIFUL MURDER**. The screen at the southern wall reads: **GENUINE AND BEAUTIFUL**. The screens go black and both then light up with these words in progression: **MURDER, MOST BEAUTIFUL, JUSTIFIED OR UNJUSTIFIED, YOU DECIDE, LOUIS CHRISTIAN WOYZECK**. Followed by the image of **Lady Liberty** severely faded as if in distress.)*

*During this display the **Chorus** members stand and while humming a droning lullaby, gather up the red silk streamers and begin to roll them around **Louis** eventually engulfing him and then pick him up and carry him out. **Doctor, Captain, Marie and Drum Major** return to their seats.*

*The **Chorus** members wear a simple nondescript variation on the soldier uniform that Andres wears. Their uniforms should be of a grayish hue to make them seem as though they are just images, or ghosts of real people.*

*Each of the **Chorus** members return from the separate four corners of the stage with the silk streamers becoming parts of their costumes. One places the detachable part of the bench center where the silk had been. They all move to the four brick piles in the corners. They begin to slowly build walls. This wall building will continue throughout the play at different intervals and speed. They hum along with **Andres** during the following scene.)*

ANDRES

You might be thinking, what makes a murder so good? What makes it beautiful? Is it about atmosphere, the right winds and the right clouds? The right color of the moon? Is it about motive? Passion, lust, betrayal? Is it about the executioner? The right blend of insanity and genius, and a downtrodden soul freed for the first time to truly do its bidding? Is it... the victim? The terror, the tranquility? Perhaps, it's a bit of all of that.

Perhaps a murder reaches a sort of beautiful existence as all these stars align to form the picture of perfection. I keep asking myself this question. And so I present it to you. If murder can be genuine and beautiful. Can murder ever be justified?

**QUESTION #1 - IS MURDER EVER JUSTIFIED?**

**YES OR NO.**

Good ... genuine ... beautiful. But I shouldn't get ahead of myself.

*(Louis enters carrying an armload of sticks. He throws down the sticks. Andres gathers up one stick and begins to whittle down the end of one with a large knife.)*

LOUIS

Hey Andres! Andres. You know this place is cursed? Look! You see that light strip over there. On the grass. There next to the toadstools? That's where this head is. Rolling along each evening. A human head! Once, this man bent down and picked it up. He thought it was a hedgehog. Three nights and three days later he was lying in a box. A coffin.

ANDRES (SINGS)

*A pair of hares.  
Sat over there.  
On the green green grass.  
On the green grass they sat.  
Eating till each was fat.*

LOUIS

Andres! I've got it! It was the Freemasons. I'm sure of it it must have been the Freemasons. Yes! Wait. Shhsh.

ANDRES (SINGS)

*Eating away.  
Each and every day.  
Without a care.  
Those two fat hares.  
Till there was none more.  
The green green grass.*

LOUIS

Quiet! Shhsh. Can you hear it? Andres can you hear it. Something's moving.

*(Andres continuing humming the same tune.)*

Behind me. Beneath me. Under me. Somethings moving.

*(Stamps his foot down on the ground)*

Listen! It's hollow. Do you hear? It's all hollow down there. It's the Freemasons.

ANDRES

I'm scared...

LOUIS

Strange. It's so quiet, so still. Makes you want to hold your breath.

*(Andres takes a deep breath in puffing out his cheeks. So do the **Chorus** members.)*

Andres. Say something!

ANDRES

*(All quickly and loudly like a balloon being popped.)*

What?

*(Louis looks out in the distance. As he does the screens start to fade up on the glow of a fire.)*

LOUIS

Look! The sky. Look how bright it's getting. There's a fire raging in the heavens. It's glowing all above the town. There are trumpets blaring. Thunderous trumpets. It's coming closer. Quick. Let's get out of here. Don't look back.

*(He stands to run and the screens abruptly go dark. Louis stares into the darkness.)*

ANDRES

Woyzeck. Can you hear it still?

LOUIS

It's silent now. Nothing but silence. Like the world was dead.

ANDRES

Do you hear? The drums. Calling you back. Go!

*(Andres gathers up the sticks which he hands off to chorus. The chorus then flank the stage at the north and south ends of center with sticks in hand. They hum a slow and eerie hymn. The Captain and the MAJOR grab a bench from the north wall and place it center and return to their seats. Louis lays down on the bench. The Doctor enters from his seat and stands atop the stool.*

*The SCREENS turn bright Yellow and have the title **A PUBLIC EXAMINATION OR THE PATIENT DOCTOR RELATIONSHIP.**)*

DOCTOR

Gentlemen! I am standing here, just as David stood on the roof when he spied upon Bathsheba. Yet, all I spy are the panties of the boarding school girls hanging out to dry.

*(The **Doctor** and **Louis** go through a physical comedic pantomime.)*

ANDRES

Can we pause for a moment here everyone. I'd like to interject if you will. In Woyzeck's day the medical field was full of all sorts of quackery and general misunderstandings. But there was a driving force to empirically define what was not understood. Today's modern pharma business sees a huge upside to discovering cures. Before that can happen one must invent the illness.

**INSERT SCENE PLAYED ON SCREENS**

PHYSICIAN

So, since the changes to the insurance industry I have been seeing more and more patients which should be great, but I am also getting paid less to see each of these patients.

**(IMAGES OF COST ANALYSIS VS PROFITABILITY)**

I was all socialism in medicine, because I expected that it would help me reap a windfall of extra cash. The effect for me simply means more work, more paperwork with no real benefit. I didn't get a medical degree to work like a slave. I got the degree because I wanted to be rich, successful and admired by my peers.

**(IMAGE OF HIPPOCRATIC OATH)**

I'm seriously thinking of stopping accepting insurance all together and simply going on a pay for service model. All cash, no Medicare, no Medicaid, no deadbeats.

**(IMAGE OF DOLLAR SIGNS AND MONEY STACKING UP)**

This is the land of the free and home of the brave not the land of the leeches getting government subsidies so that you don't have to put in your fair share to our society.

**(IMAGE OF STATUE OF LIBERTY WITH THE QUOTES "GIVE ME YOUR POOR HUDDLED MASSES...")**

Maybe I'll just get out the profession all together and go work for as a pharmaceutical rep. It's pretty sleazy work pushing new and "better" drugs on people so they don't go generic but its damn easy. Having an expense account would be pretty nice as well.

**(IMAGE OF RATS BEING FED PILLS)**

Hell, Its not like I'm really saving lives or anything anyway.

**FADE OUT**

DOCTOR

Now. We come to the important question. The relationship between subject and object. If, for example, we were to take one of those creatures in whom, gents, the capacity of the divine most clearly manifests itself and we examine its relation to space, to the earth the planets and the universe. If!? I say to you all...again. I take the that cat and I throw it out the window...What will be its instinct in relation to its center of gravity?  
(*Screaming*) Woyzeck! Woyzeck? The Cat.

LOUIS

It ran off. It bit me and ran off.

DOCTOR

You idiot! You were handling the beast with the care and gentleness you give your grandmother.

LOUIS

You frightened it.

DOCTOR

Animals, simply have no instincts for science. I shall have to use another subject in its place to demonstrate.

LOUIS

I'm shaking, doctor.

DOCTOR

Oh really? Excellent, Woyzeck, excellent!

*(The **Doctor** takes out an over sized magnifying glass and looks into **Louis's** eyes. He picks something from his brow and begins to inspect it.)*

And what do I find here? A new species? A new species of animal louse? A fine one too. *(Pockets the louse)* And now, Ladies and Gentlemen. Observe. This subject, this man has eaten nothing but peas for three months. Nothing but peas. Take note of the effect, its clearly apparent. The pulse is irregular. Remarkably irregular. Notice his eyes. Note the peculiarity of his eyes.

LOUIS

Doctor, sir, everything is going dark again.

DOCTOR

Don't worry Woyzeck. Its almost over. A few days more and it will all be over.

*(He begins to poke and prod **Louis** all over.)*

Feel gentlemen. Feel for yourselves.

*(The **CHORUS** members gather around **Louis** and mimic the same actions.)*

The effect is palpable, gentlemen. Palpable, visible, scientific!

*(They move back to their original positions.)*

Now, Woyzeck, Wiggle your ears for our company to observe. I had meant to show you this earlier. Quite interesting. He uses two muscles in operation at once. Do it! Hurry up, Woyzeck, hurry up!

LOUIS

Doctor...

DOCTOR

You stupid animal, you clown. Do you want *me* to waggle your ears? Are you just going to behave like the cat? There you have it gentlemen. Here you see an example of the transition of a man into a donkey: Frequently the result of being raised by women. And you're losing your hair. How much hair has your mother been pulling out for mementos? *(A revelation)* Ah, it's the peas! Yes gentlemen it must be the peas! The lecture has ended. Thank you all. Here my boy. Your pay.

*(Hands him a coin.)*

Woyzeck, remember when you leave that the Captain demands your presence. It must be the peas!

*(Louis exits. The DOCTOR and Andres move the bench back to its place. The remaining chorus members form a procession at the north wall marching place. Andres addresses the audience.)*

ANDRES

Oh humanity. What a wonderful species we are. Waging wars, destroying each other in the name of progress. Claiming to be on step above animals. Are we just another animal or does our sense of right and wrong us from make us different from the rest of the earth's inhabitants ?

**QUESTION #2: IS MAN INHERENTLY NURTURING OR COMBATIVE.**

**NURTURING OR COMBATIVE**

*They are pounding their sticks to a marching beat. Marie and Margareth take the center position. Marie has the CHILD (A Marionette) in her arms.)*

MARIE

Da dum, da dum, da dum. (To the beat) Da dum, da dum, da dum. Do you hear it boy? Here they come.

*(The Drum Major stands and sings as a procession follows him as he marches staccato around the two center. The Drum Major is a "beast of a man." Tall, handsome, muscular and very confident of himself. Confidence that leads to the extreme. The exact antithesis to Louis. He always carries a large baton which he brandishes with extreme pride.)*

MARGARETH

Do you see that man? What a specimen.

MAJOR (SINGS)

***Here I come a man amongst men  
With a chest like a tree  
A lion out of his den  
Coming to stalk your women***

MARGARETH

What a beast.

MARIE

Oh yes. (Swoons)

MAJOR (SINGS)

***I am the Drum Major  
I take what I want  
You gals are in danger  
Because I want a lot***

MARGARETH

Oh what a look. That gleam in your eyes!

DRUM MAJOR (SINGS)

*So ladies beware  
I'll make you pant  
And you'll scream  
I am the Drum Major  
You'll soon know what that means*

*(He stops in front of Marie and points at her and make a lewd gesture with his baton at her. He leads the march back off to the west wall at which point the he and the chorus sits.)*

MARGARETH

I saw that devilish look you gave him.

MARIE

Oh soldiers are marvelous men  
The higher rank the better they....

MARGARETH

A look, that would cut straight through his trousers.  
Your eyes are still gleaming.

MARIE

And so what if they are? You could take yours to the jeweler to be polished and you'd still only get two buttons for them.

MARGARETH

How dare you! Who are you to talk? Certainly no virgin. I'm an honest woman. But you! Everyone knows those eyes of yours would cut through a man's pants seven layers thick. But you don't even need your hands. Do you?

*(She storms off in a huff.)*

MARIE

Bitch! Come my little one. Who cares what people say. Even if you are just the poor son of a miserable whore. But it's your wicked little face that fills your mother with joy. (SINGS)

*I have my trouble and bother  
 But, baby dear, where is your father  
 Why should I worry or fight  
 I'll hold you and sing through the night*

*Johnny un-harness your seven steeds  
 Take care of their earthly needs  
 Cool water and oats they seek  
 But this is food of the meek*

*With this they'll never grow strong  
 So only cool wine belongs  
 Feed them nothing but cool wine  
 On this only they'll dine*

*Till the end of their days...*

*(A knock is heard. Louis is standing near the  
 entrance of the stage.)*

MARIE

Who's there? Is that you Louis? Come in.

LOUIS

Can't, I'm off to the Captain.

MARIE

Did you cut the sticks for him?

LOUIS

Yes, Marie.

MARIE

What is wrong? You look don't look yourself.

LOUIS

It happened again, Marie. There was more this time.  
 Isn't it written: "And there arose a smoke out of the  
 land, as the smoke of a great fiery furnace."

MARIE

Oh, Louis.

LOUIS

Shh. Quiet. I can see it all clearly. It's the Freemasons. There was a terrible noise in the sky. Everything was on fire. It followed me...

MARIE

Louis!

LOUIS

...followed me all the way to town. I'm on to something, something big. Something I don't quite understand. Not yet. Something that will drive us insane. What will become of us? Where will this all end?

MARIE

Louis?

LOUIS

I've got to go. Can't be late for the captain. Here I made us some extra money.

*(Gives her the coin)*

Tonight we'll go to the fair.

*(He exits)*

MARIE

Oh that man. Seeing things like that! So haunted he didn't even look at his boy. He'll go mad with all those thoughts. Why are you so quiet little one. Did he scare you? It's growing so dark out. So dark as if we were going blind. Only the lamp from the street to keep us safe. But the shadows it causes. Makes me feel so frightened.

*(Exits to bench while singing.)*

MARIE (SINGS)

*Johnny un-harness your seven steeds  
Take care of their earthly needs  
Cool water and oats they seek  
But this is food of the meek*

(Continues humming.)

*(The **Captain** rises. He has a large pot belly or is a comically heavy set man in his mid forties. Round, jovial, yet something is sad about him. A painted-on sad smile. He has a riding crop with him throughout. Though he uses the crop to brandish his power he comes off limp most times. During his speech a triumphantly heroic anthem plays.)*

**IMAGES OF NATIONALISTIC PROPAGANDA ARE DISPLAYED ON THE SCREEN, FLAGS WAVING IN THE BREEZE, FIREWORKS, ETC.**

CAPTAIN

What does it take to be a Captain? A strong fortitude, a backbone, that can-do spirit. What else? Well, of course, discipline and courage in the face of danger. The ability to lead and be revered by your men. Humility and humanity towards your fellow man. And most of all virtue. Yes, these are the traits required to be Captain. And, of course I possess them all. After all, I am the Captain.

*(He sits and whistles the tune as **Louis** enters and prepares to shave the **Captain**. **Louis** takes out a shave brush from his pocket and applies it to the **Captain's** face in a haphazard manner. During the next scene **Louis** attempts to shave the **Captain** but is consistently interrupted. The **Chorus** continue to build walls.)*

**INSERT SCENE PLAYED ON SCREENS**

## CHAPLAIN

As soldiers, we appreciate order. And by order, I mean both instructions and organization in your military life. Your uniform. Your hair. Your beard. All must be tight, orderly, controlled. As God intended. But sometimes... Well, sometimes we diverge from the path of order. We find ourselves struggling. Maybe you try to hide the wrinkles in your uniform from your esteemed Captain. Or you can't afford the haircut you need. Maybe you think you can get away with it, that the Captain won't notice. But he's a good man, a man of virtue, a man with a keen eye and a righteous sense of order. And he will find you out. The same goes for your Christian life. God has an order. And part of that order is that husband and wife shall procreate and continue our fair species. It's been brought to my attention that there's been a sort of plague of disorder overtaking our camp. That man and woman are procreating without the blessing of the Church. And when you procreate without the blessing of the Church, God will find you. He will find you out. And he will expose your disorder. For the Lord has said, in the Letter to the Hebrews, "Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers." My brothers and sisters in Christ, do not allow God to expose you, expose your disorder. Come forward on your own, and make good for your indiscretion. Our God is loving and forgiving, but you must first acknowledge your sins and seek his forgiveness before that forgiveness will be granted.

**FADE OUT**

CAPTAIN

Slow down man. Not so fast. You must do one thing after the next. One at a time. If you go so quickly you'll finish ten minutes early. What am I to do with those minutes? What? Think about it man. Just think. You have a good thirty years left in your life. Thirty beautiful years. That's three hundred and sixty months. Days! Hours! Minutes! What are you going to do with that momentous amount of time. Eh? What? Ever think of that? Take it slowly, space it out a bit I say.

LOUIS

Yes, Captain, sir!

CAPTAIN

It frightens me when I begin to think about the world. When I think about eternity. It's one hell of a problem. Eternity. That's eternal, it is eternal. You can understand that, correct? But then again it's not eternal. It's really just a moment. A mere moment. Woyzeck, it makes me shudder. Frightens me. To think the earth revolves in one single day. I mean what a waste of time. When will it all end? What does it really amount to? I can't even look at a mill wheel any more without becoming overcome with melancholy. It is so depressing.

LOUIS

Yes sir, Captain, sir!

CAPTAIN

Woyzeck you always look so wound up. So tense. A good man doesn't look that way. A good man with a conscience that is. Well say something man! What's the weather like tonight?

LOUIS

Bad Captain sir, bad. Windy sir.

CAPTAIN

You're right, I can feel it already. Like a real storm a commin'. A wind like that has an affect on me just like mice. (*Slyly*) I think that it must be coming out of the North-South. Eh?

LOUIS

Yes sir, Captain sir!

CAPTAIN

Ha! Ha! Ha! Oh north-south! Ha ha ha! Oh you are horribly stupid man, dreadfully stupid. But your a good man Woyzeck. A good man. (*Solemnly*) But you have no morality. What is morality? Having morals stupid! Being moral. Understand? It's a good word. You have fathered a child without the blessing of the Church. Like our reverend garrison chaplain says, "Without the blessing of the Church." They're not my words. They're his.

LOUIS

Captain sir, the Lord won't look down to see if we prayed Amen before we laid down to make him. The Lord said, "Suffer little children to come unto me."

CAPTAIN

What did you say? What a strange thing. What do you mean? Your confusing me with your babble. I meant what you said, not what he said.

LOUIS

It's us poor people sir....Money, Money sir. If you've got no money...I mean without money people like me don't come into this world morally. We're flesh and blood too though. But we've got no luck in the here and now. Not in the next life either. I think if we ever were to get to Heaven we'd be forced to help with the thunder.

CAPTAIN

Woyzeck, you have no virtue! None. You are not a virtuous human being! Flesh and blood!? Whenever I rest by the window after a strong rain, and I see those white stockings frolicking past in the street. Damn it Woyzeck - I know what love is. It rises in me. I'm made of flesh and blood too! But, Woyzeck: Virtue, Virtue! What do I do to pass that time? I keep saying to myself, "You are a virtuous man, (*Moved*) a good man, a good man."

LOUIS

Yes, Captain sir, virtue. I don't have much of that, sir. I don't understand how to. You see, people like me, poor people, we don't have virtue by nature. Nature takes over. But if I was a gentleman, if I had a watch and a top hat, a long coat and a walking stick. If I could talk in a way that made everyone listen, then I could be virtuous all right. Having virtue must be a great thing, Captain, sir. But, I'm just a poor man.

CAPTAIN

A *good* man! Woyzeck you're a good man, but you think too much. It is eating at you. You always look so tense. So wound up! (*Stands*) This conversation has absolutely upset me. You can go now. And don't run.

*(Louis begins to exit.)*

Slowly man, slowly. Not so fast down the street. One thing after the next.

*(Enter Andres.)*

ANDRES

The Captain is a moral man. Moral you see. He lives by a certain code that confirms his right to be looked upon as a man of honor and civility. Do you consider your self moral? Do you live by a particular set of rules determining your daily life?

**QUESTION #3: HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK MORALITY INFLUENCES THE  
DECISIONS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU?**

**A LOT OR A LITTLE?**

*(Andres exits as film fades up.)*

**INSERT SCENE ON SCREENS**

FEMALE STUDENT/G.I.

I've gotta admit. I've been terrified.

**(IMAGES OF GRUESOME BATTLE, MILITARY EXECUTIONS IN THE FIELD)**

I had no idea how I was going to pay for my student loans. Everyone told me simply get a college degree and you'll be set. No problems getting a job. That didn't turn out to exactly be true. But now, well, I don't have to worry about it anymore. Because tomorrow I ship off for Army boot camp.

**(IMAGE OF A SALUTING OFFICER)**

The recruiter was great. He laid out my options for me. Explained how going Active Duty would take care of more of my debt than joining the Reserves.

**(IMAGE OF "\$50,000 VS. 1/3 TOTAL DEBT PER YEAR")**

And when I'm done I'll have tons of practical training that I can apply to a job in the real world. My recruiter told me that the army will help in transitioning me back so that I am a useful member of the community.

**(IMAGE OF DISAPPEARING LIE-DETECTOR LINE)**

I know there are risks involved. But after all the technological advancements in warfare in the last 15 years I can't imagine that there will be much chance that I'll ever see any real action.

**(IMAGE OF DRONE ATTACKS)**

I'll probably just be playing some advanced video game.  
It'll be good for me. And most importantly I won't be in  
debt for the rest of my life.

**(IMAGE OF MILITARY SKIRMISH)**

I'm just glad... well, I'm glad that I could look out for  
my country. Because I know my country will always look  
out for me.

**(IMAGE OF "HOMELESS VETERANS" AND "VA SCANDAL" HEADLINES)****FADE OUT**

*(The **Captain** whistles the tune from before as he  
exists. **Andres** enters from his seated position  
singing. As he slowly moves down towards the center  
light. The two chorus members nearest the South  
screen assume the position of **Barker** and **Monkey**. The  
**Barker** and the **Monkey** should be played very over the  
top.)*

ANDRES (SINGS)

*All things must come to pass  
Near gone the fields of grass  
All things will fade  
Life slips away  
We all must die  
Yes! You and I  
All things must come to pass*

*But then, when your time comes  
With life will you be done  
Living day by day  
Till it slips away  
Everyone will die  
Only you not I  
All thing must come to pass*

*(Marie and Louis enter from the north corner just as Andres finishes his song. Marie is carrying the boy.)*

LOUIS

Ho there! Hop, Hop little man. Hop Hop. Poor child, young child.

*(Louis hops around the stage like on a horse. Andres laughs a eerie laugh.)*

Oh the world is full of pain and joy, trouble and happiness.

MARIE

What a beautiful mad world Louis. When the fools start making sense then we become fools ourselves.

*(Lights up Bright! The East screen comes alive.)*

**MONTAGE OF SPEED AND LIGHT ALL GIVING THE ENERGY AND MANIA OF  
A CIRCUS FROM HELL.**

*(The BARKER addresses the real audience as well as the stage audience comprising of the Drum Major, a SERGEANT and two chorus members all seated on the bench which they have pulled towards opposite screen.)*

BARKER

Roll Up! Roll Up! Ladies and Gentlemen! Here you see before you a creature just at nature has made it. An ape by all accounts. But not just as nature intended. It has been affected by Art. Look how it walks upright! Walking on two feet and wearing a coat and pants. Look, it even carries a weapon. Just like man. This is no natural ape but rather a soldier. It is Art improving on nature. Or is it? So he's not much different than other men. A soldier is the lowest rank of human being, after all. So what if he's still on the bottom rung. Lowest of the low. Go ahead take a bow! That's the way! Now you're a Baron at least. Blow us a kiss.

*(The **Monkey** blows a raspberry, and continues to trumpet away.)*

You see he plays music too! Dance for us little soldier. Ladies, Gentlemen come see the little love birds and the astronomical horse. Favorites of royal dignitaries world wide. They can tell you all you want to know. Your age, how many children you have, what ailments you're cursed with. Come observe the forward progression of man. A horse, a canary, an ape. The ape has already become a soldier, but that's not saying much. Come the performance is about to begin. It's only the beginning of the beginning though! *(Laughs)*

LOUIS

What do you think?

MARIE

Let's go in. I bet it's quite grotesque in there. Let's find out.

*(They exit. The **Drum Major** stands.)*

MAJOR

Will you look at that!

SERGEANT

The Ape?

MAJOR

No, that slut. Did you see her? She was really a nice piece.

SERGEANT

That she was. She could take on an entire regiment of Calvary men!

MAJOR

And pop out a whole damned army of Drum Major I bet.

SERGEANT

Did you see the way she moved? One hell of a body, with all that meat to hold onto. And all that hair, all that weight, you'd think it would drag her down to hell.

MAJOR

And those eyes. Black. Like the devil. Like looking down a wishing well or down a smoking chimney. Come on, let's get her.

*(They exit.)*

**SCREEN GOES DIM. AT THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE STAGE THE SCREEN LIGHTS UP LIKE BEFORE BUT IN A MUCH SLOWER AND DISTORTED MANNER.**

*(The **SHOWMAN** (**Andres** in a comically over sized top hat) leads the **Captain** and the **Doctor** center dressed as a horse. The **Doctor** is the ass end. The Chorus will either flank the stage or become part of the horse. Enter **Marie** and **Louis** from the other entrance. The **Sergeant** and the **Major** enter shortly after.)*

MARIE

It's so bright!

LOUIS

Yeah like, a big black cat with glowing eyes on fire. Wow, what a night!

*(**Louis** and **Marie** sit on the bench. The others hover behind.)*

## SHOWMAN (ANDRES)

Observe Ladies and Gentlemen: The World Famous astronomical horse! Go on, show them what you can do. Show your talent! Show your brutish reason! Your horse sense, if you will. Go on put humanity to shame. Ladies and Gentlemen. This animal you see before you is with its tail and four hooves is in fact a member of the learned society. He is a full professor at many universities. His specialty is riding and kicking. See, he teaches men to ride and to fight. That's equine knowledge, or simply put horse sense. But that takes simple reason. Now think inside out. What do you do when you think outside in? What is the double reason? Is there an ass present in this learned company?

*(Louis stands as if to point out the horse. The horse nods his head and neighs beating him to the punch. Everyone laughs. Louis sits back down defeated.)*

And how's that for double reasoning? This is no mere dumb animal. Astonishing. This here is a person, a human being. A human of the animal variety though. But still a beast all the same.

*(On the word "Beast" the horse unleashes a stream of piss all over the ground.)*

That's it, go on. Put society to shame. There you see a beast lets nature take over. It's still part of nature, unspoiled. Plain and pure. You should follow his example. Just ask your doctor. It is simply harmful to be any other way. What have we learned by this? Man must be one with his nature. You are created of dust, sand and shit. Do you want to be anything more? Now look here everyone. How about this for double reason. The astronomical horse can count, not on his fingers of course. Why? He just can't express himself, can't explain things. He's a human being, transformed into animal form. There now go on tell us the time. Does anyone have a watch?

MAJOR

A watch. I'll show you the best damn watch ever made.

*(He produces a large pocket watch and moves center stage.)*

MARIE

I've got to see this!

*(She tosses over the child to **Louis** and hurriedly moves toward the horse.)*

*(The lights go BLACK.)*

*(All exit save **Marie** and the **Drum Major**. A slow guttural tone begins. The screens both light up with the words **LUST, URGES, NATURE, SEX, ECSTASY, BETRAYAL, SLUT, CARNAL, WHORE, NATURE...** in progression speeding up until they become a white blur. The tone follows this progression until it is high pitched and nearly deafening.)*

*(All BLACK.)*

*(The center spot returns. **Marie** and the **Drum Major** are in the pool of light dancing close in slow motion. **Andres** is lit by a small spot. He stands in the same place he did as the Showman, but is back in his normal character.)*

ANDRES (SINGS)

**There once was a man, a beast of a man  
Took all he wanted, each gal in the land  
There once was a gal, truly sweet whore  
She had a good man, but she needed more  
Only the devil knew two worse a pair  
Only the devil....**

*(**Andres** continues to hum along with the tune. **Marie** and the **Drum Major's** dance comes to full speed. He spins out of the light. She rushes back in.)*

MARIE

Show me again. March around the room. That's it go on.  
Show me.

*(He hastily strips off his shirt and marches about the room flexing his muscles for Marie.)*

Chest like an ox, beard like a lion. There is no other man like you. You make me know what it feels like to be a woman.

MAJOR

Oh just you wait. When I'm in full dress, with my great plume and white gloves. Marie, I'll leave you breathless. Everyone says, "Now look at that fellow, my God, that's a real man."

MARIE

Now that's a real man. *(Teasing)*

*(She gets real close.)*

Can I... Can I see it again?

MAJOR

You'll see plenty. For the moment, you can admire me.

*(Continues flexing and strutting like a peacock.)*

MARIE

What a man! *(Swoons)*

MAJOR

And you are some piece. A real woman. Christ, I'm going to fill you with drum majors, sire a whole damn breed of them. Come on!

*(He grabs her and pulls her hair and starts to kiss her violently.)*

MARIE

Let me go.

*(Slapping him and pulling back.)*

MAJOR

Oh, you want to play rough, do you. Wanna be a wildcat?

MARIE

Try me!

MAJOR

I can see the devil in you. It's in your eyes.

*(He pulls a box out of his coat pocket. In the box are a small pair of golden earrings.)*

MARIE

Let it be. It's all the same for all I care.

*(They grab each other with violent passion. They kiss and begin to roughly fondle each other. They move towards the bench up stage. This continues upstage throughout the following scene. **Andres** enters and once again addresses the audience.)*

ANDRES

It takes a lot to make ends meet when your looked upon as the lesser half in society. Equality is coming but its not quite here yet. How long will it take, well that's up to you?

**QUESTION #4: HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK GENDER EFFECTS THE DECISIONS MADE DAILY?**

**A LOT OR A LITTLE?**

*(The screens light up reading **WHEN NATURE CALLS**. Lights up on **Louis** and **DOCTOR** at the other end of the stage. **Louis** is pissing on the wall and the Doctor comes rushing up at him.)*

*(Lights dim on the lovers and eventually goes out completely.)*

DOCTOR

I can't believe it! Woyzeck! A man of your word.

LOUIS

What is it Doctor? (Zipping up.) What's wrong?

DOCTOR

I saw it! I saw it Woyzeck. You were pissing in the street against the damn wall like a dog. And here I am giving you two groshen a day. And feeding you on top of it! It's horrendous, Woyzeck, horrendous. The world is taking a turn the wrong direction. Very wrong!

LOUIS

But Doctor, when nature calls...

DOCTOR

Nature! The call of Nature. Don't give nonsense about nature. Haven't I proved to you that the *musculus constrictor sesicae* is completely subjected to the will? Nature! Pure superstition! Woyzeck, man is free. It is in individuality that man has found the perfect expression of freedom. And you can't even hold your piss!

*(He shakes his head and paces to and fro.)*

Have you eaten your peas today Woyzeck? Cruciferae! Nothing but peas! Don't forget. Nothing but peas! There is going to be a revolution in science, Woyzeck. I'm going to blow it all sky high! Uric acid, zero point one, ammonium hydrochlorate, hyperoxide. Woyzeck, why don't you go and try to have another piss. Go in and try again.

LOUIS

I can't Doctor.

DOCTOR

But you can piss against the wall in the street! I have it in writing, a contract. Down in black and white, right here. I saw you, saw it with my very eyes. I was sticking my head out the window to let the sun hit my nose. Conducting an experiment on the act of sneezing.

*(He suddenly becomes violent and starts to attack Louis. He abruptly stops.)*

No, Woyzeck, I won't be angry. Anger is simply not healthy, not scientific. No, I am calm, completely calm. My heart rate is its usual sixty beats per minute. I am telling you this the utmost objectivity. I have no reason to be angry with you. After all you're a mere man. A man! God forbid. Now if you were one of my frogs, now that would be something to be angry about! But, really Woyzeck, you shouldn't have pissed against the wall.

LOUIS

Doctor, you see, sometimes a man might have a certain type of character. When his structure is a certain way. But with nature it is different, you see. With nature, it's... *(Searching for the right words.)* For example...

DOCTOR

Woyzeck! You're philosophizing again!

LOUIS

Doctor have you ever seen anything with a double nature? Inside out. Like when the sun is at its highest, right at mid-day. The sky lights up and the whole world looks like its going to catch fire and go up in flames. That's when I hear the voices saying terrible things to me.

DOCTOR

Woyzeck, you have an an *aberratio!*

LOUIS

Yes, Doctor. Like when nature is ... inside out.

DOCTOR

What do you mean? When nature's inside out?

LOUIS

When nature's out ... *Out!* When everything around you gets so hard you have to feel your way round with your hands. You feel around so hard that it feels like everything is falling apart. Like... Like a spider's web. You feel something but there is really nothing there.

DOCTOR

A most splendid *aberratio!*

LOUIS

Doctor it's the toadstools. It's all in the toadstools. Do you see the patterns they make when they grow out of the ground? If I only knew what those patterns meant.

DOCTOR

Yes, Woyzeck you definitively have a *abberatio mentalis partalis* of the second degree! Beautiful! A most beautiful example. Fully formed. I'll have to give you a bonus! Second degree... most assuredly. A bit obsessive but still rational and no impairment of the major faculties. You still going about everything as usual? Still shaving the Captain?

LOUIS

Yes, sir.

DOCTOR

And your still eating your peas?

LOUIS

Just like you told me sir. I give the money to my girl for the household.

DOCTOR

Still doing your duty?

LOUIS

Yes, sir.

DOCTOR

What an interesting case you are. A beautiful *idee fixe*. You'll surely end up in the... Your getting that bonus for sure. Let me take your pulse, Woyzeck. Hmmm ... yes.

LOUIS

What would you like me to do Doctor?

DOCTOR

Just keep eating your peas. Eat your peas and you'll get your bonus in no time.

*(Louis stands and begins to exit. Andres followed by Chorus, the Doctor and the Captain move a chair and bench back center. The CHILD, is laying on the bench wrapped in a blanket. They sing as this action takes place.)*

ANDRES (SINGS)

*Lock up, I say, lock'em up tight  
Lock up, I pray, before the night  
So bar the doors, cut out the light*

CHORUS (SINGS)

*Lock up!*

ANDRES (SINGS)

*Lock up, the gypsy's close at hand  
Gypsy comes to steal our land*

*Close in the walls  
Protect them all*

CHORUS (SINGS)

*Lock up!*

ANDRES (SINGS)

*Lock up, I scream, he's here tonight  
He flames the sky, it's burning bright*

*Lock up, stand up!!  
Now's time to fight*

CHORUS (SINGS)

*Lock up!*

*(As the scene comes to an end the **Captain, Doctor and Andres** exit. The remaining **Chorus** continue to work on the walls. **Marie** and the **Drum Major** re-enter towards the center. He swats her on the bottom and laughs heartily then exits. As he is exiting he passes by **Louis** who is entering, he laughs again. **Louis** pauses and turns to watch the **Drum Major** leave.)*

MARIE

*(Sitting and observing herself in a small hand mirror.)*

Just look at the way these stones shine! The way the light catches them. I wonder what they are. Oh what did he say? Gold, they must be real!

*(She looks over to the **Child**.)*

Go to sleep dear boy. Close those eyes shut. Keep em closed, or the Gypsy man will come for you. (*Sings*)

***Lock up, my boy, lock em up tight  
The Gypsy man is out tonight  
He'll steal you away by the hand  
And take you off to Gypsy land***

Oh, someone like me only has a small corner in the world. With little more than a little piece of glass. My lips are as red as any of them polished ladies, with their full length mirrors and their fancy gentlemen kissing their hands. Oh, but I'm just a poor piece...(*To the CHILD*) Eyes shut sweetheart, here he comes!

*(Flashes light at him with the mirror.)*

Shut them tight or he'll blind you!

*(Louis enters startling her. She jumps up and tries to cover her ears.)*

LOUIS

What's wrong?

MARIE

Nothing.

LOUIS

What's that beneath your hand? Something shining.

MARIE

Oh, it's just something I found. An earring.

LOUIS

What luck you have. I never find anything. Two at a time at that.

MARIE

So what? I'm a whore?

LOUIS

It's all right, Marie. (Changing the subject) Look, he's asleep. Poor little thing. Look his forehead is covered in sweat. Everything is work for the poor.

*(Strokes the boys head then kisses it.)*

We sweat even in our sleep. Here.

*(Gives her a few coins.)*

Some more money. I got a bit extra from the Captain on top of my pay.

MARIE

God Bless you.

LOUIS

I've got to go. I'll be back tonight.

*(He kisses her head then starts to exit. He stops for a second then proceeds out.)*

MARIE

I *am* a whore. No good. I should just take a knife and cut my own throat. What an ugly life. Horrible. Everything is going to hell. Everything: man, woman and child!

*(She picks up the boy and exits with him in her arms humming the tune from before. Two **Chorus** members move the bench and chair back. Andres addresses the audience.)*

ANDRES

Oh, poverty, morality, strife and struggle. Excuses are made every day in and out for the reasons we all do what we do. Are any of these reasons valid? Does your position in life justify the decisions you make. Do you think that simply being rich or poor gives you the right care little about your fellow man?

**QUESTION #5 HOW MUCH DOES CLASS OR STATION IN SOCIETY  
INFLUENCE DECISION MAKING?**

**A LOT OR A LITTLE**

*(Andres exits)*

**INSERT SCENE PLAYED ON SCREENS**

**CHAPLAIN**

There seems to be a growing problem amongst our ranks. A conundrum of modernity. The lord's flock has gone astray and therefore has begun to regress back into the darkness. Allowing the whispers and temptations of Satan to overtake them. Today the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. I know. You would like to make excuses and say its simply evolution. But evolution does not fall into the hands of rational thinking and humanity. No, our way forward must be guided under the guise of the divine right. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

**FADE OUT**

*(At the opposite end of the stage the **Captain** and the **Doctor** enter briskly and circle the outer perimeter of the stage. The **Captain** is out of breath and obviously flustered.)*

CAPTAIN

Slow down doctor, for god's sake we don't have to rush around like horses do. Poor beasts. Stop rushing and stop waiving your stick around the air like that. What are you doing trying to fight death? You'll catch up with him if you don't slow down. A good man with a clear conscience simply doesn't rush like that. A good man I say...(He stops him) Doctor, please allow me to save a human life.

DOCTOR

Mine or yours? Sir, I am in a hurry!

CAPTAIN

Doctor, listen, I am so melancholy. I burst into tears when I see my own coat hanging on the wall.

DOCTOR

How interesting!

*(He looks the **Captain** up and down.)*

Ah, yes. I see, fat, bloated, with a thick neck and an apoplectic constitution. That's it, Captain, you suffer from an *apoplexia cerebrialis*. You could might become mentally affected and become a vegetable or if you're lucky you could only be paralyzed on one side of your body. But in either case still brain dead! This is my prognosis, which I estimate shall begin to set in in roughly four weeks. I can assure you it will be one of gods most interesting cases. We will make sure we do the most glorious experiments on you. *(He lets out a boisterous and maniacal laugh.)* Experiments that will put our names down in the history books.

CAPTAIN

Doctor! Stop terrifying me like that. People die of fright all the time. I can see them with their hats in hand already. But they *will* say, "He was a good man, good. A good man." You hear me, you old coffin nail maker.

DOCTOR

*(Takes off his hat bowing to **Captain.**)*

What's this most honorable Mr. Drillprick? An empty head. Brain-less.

CAPTAIN

*(Taking the hat and stomping on it.)*

And what is this, most agreeable Mr. Poke and Prodder? A bent mind. Ha, ha, ha. I mean no harm. I only say and do what I want. Ha, ha ha. When I want. I'm a good man, you see.

DOCTOR

I must take my leave, my most fashionable Mr. Warmonger. Good day.

CAPTAIN

And I, too, you most unabashed Mr. Deathdealer.

*(Louis enters in a mad rush, frenetically talking to himself.)*

LOUIS

How can Ten be Two? When divided by five. Or subtracted by eight. Or added to negative... negative eight. Is that the same as subtraction? That's it. With enough negatives, you can again be positive through arithmetic principle. Can this be applied to geometry? Or morality? I must talk to the Chaplain. Moral mathematics. Christian alchemy!

CAPTAIN

Oh, how now man. I say slow down. Why are you rushing past me like that? Woyzeck, stay put for one minute. You run about the world like an open razor. You're liable to cut someone wide open. You're rushing about as if you had a whole fully bearded regiment to shave in the next hour or be shot. What was I saying about beards? Oh yeah, those long beards. Speaking of beards, Woyzeck. You haven't happened to see any hairs on your dinner table lately, have you? *(To Doctor)* I'm not sure he understands. You know, any human hairs in your soup, from a soldier, a sergeant or possibly a drum major? Well Woyzeck? But of course not, His wife is good, not like the rest. You've got a good wife.

**THE SCREENS SLOWLY FADE UP ON THE SCENE OF MARIE AND THE DRUM MAJOR MAKING LOVE.**

LOUIS

Yes. What do you mean sir?

CAPTAIN

*(To the doctor)* Oh, what a face he's making. You don't have to look in your soup though, now do you. You can just rush around the corner and find one on a pair of red lips. Oh, a pair of lips! Woyzeck, I'm having that feeling again. Like I'm in love. Ho, now Woyzeck, you look as pale as milk.

LOUIS

Captain, please sir, I'm just a poor devil. I have nothing else in this world. If you're joking please, sir, don't. Please.

CAPTAIN

Jokes? Are you kidding, me. I don't make jokes. What are you insinuating?

DOCTOR

*(Feeling Louis' wrist.)*

The pulse, skipping, sporadic, irregular, violent.

LOUIS

Captain sir, the earth is as hot as Hell. Even so, I'm as cold as ice, frozen - Hell must be freezing. I bet you! I don't believe it! Impossible. I can't believe it!

**THE SCREEN STARTS TO FADE.**

CAPTAIN

Hey, listen here! Do you want to be shot? A couple of bullets in the skull? You stop stabbing me with those eyes of yours, I'm only trying to help. Because you're a good, Woyzeck, a good man.

DOCTOR

*(Continuing to examine Louis.)*

Facial muscles taut, rigid, constrained, sometimes twitching. Condition, strained and excitable.

LOUIS

I'm going. Look anything is possible. Anything. With people. Anything's possible. Nice weather. Right Captain? The sky is so nice and solid gray looking. Makes you want to hammer a nail right into it - then hang yourself on it. And all because of the little pause between yes and yes again. And no. Between yes and no. Yes and no. Is the no to blame for the yes or the yes for the no? I'll have to think it over.

*(He starts to leave very slowly then starts to pick up the pace until he runs out.)*

DOCTOR

Amazing! A phenomenon! *(Rushing after him)* The peas! Another bonus!

*(He exits chasing Louis. The **Captain** speaks directly to the audience.)*

CAPTAIN

Ah, these people. They simply make me dizzy. Look at the way that one goes. The short one. Rushing because his legs are so short and the tall one bounding after him. Like a spider. Right on his trail, becoming his shadow. Lightening and thunder. One right after the next. Ha. I don't like that. A good man loves life, a good man has no courage! A dog has courage! I only went to war to strengthen my love for life. A good man such as I am. Look what it proved. Grotesque, one thing after the next. Grotesque.

*(He moves over to inspect the builders. From here on out the **Captain** will become a figure that will instruct the builders in their pacing. **Andres** enters singing. The **Chorus**' humming fills in ambient and guttural sounds. During this song **Marie** and the **Drum Major** enter dancing a waltz. They waltz all around the stage, around **Andres** and the **Captain** and the **Chorus** as if in a dream.)*

ANDRES (SINGS)

*In the town you'll find a pretty maid  
Who sits in her garden night and day  
She sits in the garden all golden  
But when the drums beat twelve  
To them she's beholden*

*She waits there at her gate  
For the soldiers who hate*

*Waiting for the minute to come  
When the days toils all are done*

*She'll throw off her poor life  
Full of pain and the strife  
The nights now just begun  
With this one there's fun*

*So to hell with them all  
She cares not if she falls*

*She can't sit in the garden forever  
Her plan is becoming that much bolder*

*She can't sit  
and wait  
on him  
forever...*

*(Near the end of the song the the two stop center and end in an embrace. Louis comes racing in and freezes. The Drum Major bows to Marie and exits saluting Louis and then joining the Captain. Andres stands and watches the following exchange.)*

LOUIS

I don't see it. Nothing, nothing.

*(He shakes his head violently with his hands over his eye.)*

**THE SCREEN FLASHES A GRUESOME IMAGE OF MURDER.**

ANDRES

Stop!

*(Everyone freezes in place.)*

It's a most terrible trait of humans. This rationalization, or, rather... irrationalization. Lacking all concrete evidence, a man may believe his woman unfaithful to keep his mind active. For fun, almost. He pictures his woman with another man and hates her and loves her at the same time, excites himself, even bringing himself to climax with his hate. And then, when faced with physical proof, or something near to it, he denies it. His brain, which was able to concoct this very scenario without prompting, now sees it and determines it impossible.

*(Action begins from the previous position.)*

LOUIS

I can't. Should be able to grasp it with my hands. Take it into my fists.

MARIE

Louis, what is it? You're raving! Are you seeing things again?

LOUIS

A sin so big and so fat. Swollen so big and stinking, it will smoke the angels right out of heaven. Your mouth is so red, Marie. But not a blister on it! You're as beautiful as sin. How can mortal sin be so lovely?

MARIE

Louis, have you got a fever? *(Touching his head)* Is that what is making you rave like someone insane?

LOUIS

Goddamn you! Is this where he stood. Like this, like this.

*(He grabs her and tries to dance with her groping her body. She slaps him and pushes him away. This mirrors the previous scene with the **Drum Major.**)*

MARIE

The days are long and the world's old. Many people have stood in one spot, one after the next.

LOUIS

Oh, yes this is a nice spot for stopping by. This street. A lot of people pass by here don't they? A lot of people - and you talk to them - whoever you want.

MARIE

And you expect me to tell them to keep off the street?

LOUIS

I saw him, Marie!

MARIE

You can see a lot with two eyes when the sun is so bright?

LOUIS

With my two eyes, I saw him.

MARIE

And so what if you did?

LOUIS

Whore!

*(He moves towards her as if he is about to attack.)*

MARIE

Don't you dare think of touching me. I'd rather have a knife go through my heart than have your hands on me.

LOUIS

Whore. It should show on you. It will.

MARIE

What... What will show on me?

LOUIS

A man can add by subtracting. Or adding a negative. Then there's division.

MARIE

What are you talking about, Louis?

LOUIS

And then there's multiplication. With fractions, of course. You're familiar with multiplying, aren't you?

MARIE

Have you been drinking?

LOUIS

No. You're trying to minimize me. Multiply me by zero. Make me nothing, like a hole, or a graveyard. Full of nothing!

*(She rushes offstage. The rest stand and watch him during this next bit.)*

Every man is an abyss. Deep and full of nothing. It makes you dizzy looking down. Down inside yourself. But it has to show. How can it when she looks like pure innocence? But innocence with a stain. Deep and black. But how can it be proved? Can it? How can we be sure?

*(He paces about the stage still inside the perimeter of the walls. The rest resume their business. **Andres** walks about the perimeter.)*

Hey. Andres can you...

ANDRES

Hm? Nice weather don't you think?

LOUIS

Nice weather...

ANDRES

Nice weather for a Sunday, don't you think? Music playing out in the air. The women are all in a lather.

LOUIS

I can't stand still Andres!

ANDRES

Their men are all stinking of booze and ready to pounce. The women are dancing, showing themselves off. They're dancing.

*(The screens both light up in a **frenzy of motion and blurs** that eventually focuses on the **image of Marie being passed back and forth between different soldiers, dancing**. Intermittently the screen will **flash the bloody murder scene** from before, no longer than a second.)*

LOUIS

The two of them. Dancing and sweating together. Andres, I can't stand still, I can't be quiet.

ANDRES

You're a fool. Why should you?

LOUIS

I've got to get away from here. Everything is spinning around and around. In circles. Their hands, groping and sweating. So hot. Her hands will be hot. Damn, her Andres. I have to see for myself.

ANDRES

And when will you be satisfied? All this for a whore? That bitch!

LOUIS

I've got to get away from here. It's too hot. I can't stand it.

*(He runs off stage. The scene that we have seen on the image comes to life on stage. The two benches are brought in towards the center creating a full wall with the bricks. The **Chorus** members become soldiers with the **Captain** and the **Drum Major** joining in.)*

JOURNEYMAN 1

Brother, let me be a dear friend and knock a hole in your nature! Forward brother. I want to punch a hole in nature! To prove that I'm a real man. A real man, don't you know.

JOURNEYMAN 2

My soul it stinks. It stinks of booze and rots away by the influence of money. But even the money rots away in the end. Forget me not brother. Forget me not. This is a beautiful world to leave behind. Brother, I am so sad that I can fill a rain barrel with all my tears. I wish that our noses were bottles. We could pour them down each others throats.

JOURNEYMAN 1 (*SINGS*)

*The shirt I wear, it isn't mine  
My soul it reeks, of booze and wine...*

*(The **Second Journeyman** interrupts the first's song with a new tune.)*

JOURNEYMAN 2 (*SINGS*)

*Oh the huntsman from the Rhine  
Through the forest he rode so fine  
Hi, Ho, he called to me  
A huntsman's life for me*

*(The **Chorus** plus echos the last two lines as the **Journeyman** enter the fray.)*

CHORUS

*Hi, Ho, he called to me  
A huntsman's life for me*

*(**Louis** enters and joins **Andres** above one of the benches looking in on the scene as if looking through the window. **Marie** and the **Drum Major** waltz past right where they stand.)*

MARIE

On and on and on and on...

LOUIS

On and on! Whirl and spin. Don't stop. She doesn't want it to end. On and on...

ANDRES

I smell, I smell blood.

**A LONGER FLASH OF THE MURDER, THREE SECONDS.**

LOUIS

On and on. Blood. Rolling in the blood. Why is everything bloody now? Everything I look at. Don't stop. Don't keep rolling, tumbling on top of each other. Why doesn't God just blow it all away? The sun and everything so it can all just roll along in the darkness. Everything, man and woman and child and beast! Why not? They do it in broad daylight for all to see. Like flies in the palm of your hand. Just like dogs with no shame. That whore! She's red, red like coals, like the blood in the sky. On and on and on... Look at that bastard, grabbing her like I once did.

*(He collapses in despair. Andres jumps up on the bench above Louis becoming the Preacher addresses the crowd.)*

**SCREENS SHOW US THE VISION OF MAN IN HIS RIGHTEOUS BEST. WARS AND PROGRESS, LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP, BETRAYAL AND HATE.**

PREACHER (ANDRES)

Brothers and sisters, let us not forget the wanderer who stood against the stream of time. He gave himself answer with the wisdom of God, and spoketh, "What is man? What is a man?" But verily I say unto you. How should the farmer, the cooper, the shoemaker, the soldier, the doctor, live, had God not created Man. How should the tailor survive, if God had not implanted in man his sense of shame and modesty? How could the soldier live day by day, if God had not instilled in him his necessary desire to slaughter another man? Was this not God's intention? Part of his grand scheme for man? And therefore, despair not, life is lovely and sweet. All things must eventually pass. And to conclude, my dear brethren Everything on earth is an evil that will eventually decay love, brotherhood, and even money. Can I have an Amen!?

ALL

AMEN!!!

*(The lights black out! Everyone scatters leaving Louis alone resting on the bench. Andres turns to the croud.)*

ANDRES

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." The basis of our ideas of liberty and freedom are wrought in an ideology that the meek shall be given refuge. Do you think this is true? Do you think it should be true? Do we as a society owe it to those less privileged to help them rise up out of poverty?

**QUESTION #6 SHOULD CIVILIZED SOCIETIES FEEL COMPELLED TO HELP THE LESS PRIVILEGED?**

**YES OR NO?**

*(Andres moves to the other bench and sits. The lights slowly come up on the two in isolated circles of light. Andres addresses Louis across the space.)*

ANDRES

What are you doing there?

LOUIS

What time is it?

ANDRES

Ten, or so.

LOUIS

Is that it? I want time to move faster. It must move faster.

ANDRES

Why?

LOUIS  
So it'd end sooner.

ANDRES  
What will end?

LOUIS  
All this...fun.

ANDRES  
Come with me.

LOUIS  
It feels good here like this. I think I'll lay right here  
and sleep. When I wake up maybe it will all be over.

ANDRES  
You've got blood on your head.

LOUIS  
In my head maybe...

*(He starts to drift off to sleep. He sings the song  
from earlier as he drifts off. **Andres** picks up where  
he ends. He takes out his knife and begins  
sharpening it with a stone from his pocket.)*

LOUIS (SINGS)

*A pair of hares.  
Sat over there.  
On the green green grass....*

ANDRES (SINGS)

*On the green grass they sat.  
Eating till each was fat.*

*Eating away.  
Each and every day.  
Without a care.  
Those two fat hares.  
Till there was none more.  
The green green grass.*

*(Andres continues to sharpen the knife and hum the song for a bit. He then stops and all is quite for almost a whole minute. Andres sharpening slowly begins to intensify until the lights fade on him leaving and up on Louis. Louis awakens or his he dreaming? The screens flash the **murder** intermittently starting at "Stab her" until we get a good look at the **murder to come.**)*

LOUIS

On and on and on and on. That's it, don't stop. Keep it going. Quiet. Stop the music. What's that? Down there, up there. What?! What are you saying? What louder, louder! Stab, stab her, kill her, stab the bitch to death. Stab the wolf-bitch dead! Should I? Must I? Is it the wind telling me to do it? Do I hear it there too? Will it ever stop? Stab her! Stab her! On and on and on. Stab her to death...to death!

*(He is now in a frenzy! He yells out as if it has all been a dream. He snaps up to attention. From here the motions that Louis makes are mirrored oppositely by Andres.)*

Andres! Andres! I can't! I can't do it! When I close my eyes everything starts to churn. Turning around and around. I hear the music. It goes on and on....Then I here a voice from the wall. Can't you hear it?

ANDRES

Are you going to let them dance?

LOUIS

On and on...it keeps saying: Stab! Stab! Piercing my skull like a knife.

ANDRES

You're just a fool. Maybe you should sleep. Better yet get yourself a glass of schnapps and put a powder in it. It will stiffen you right up.

LOUIS

On and on and on. Didn't you hear it? What was it he said? Said something I know it!

ANDRES

What do you want? You want me to say that he laughed and bragged about what a "Tasty piece" she was. "A real tasty bit of stuff, with thighs as hot as the devil's intentions."

LOUIS

He did say something. What was it I dreamt of? Oh, the knife, a knife.

*(Louis has an empty hand but in Andres mirrored hand is the knife. He gets up and starts to leave.)*

ANDRES

Where are you off to now?

LOUIS

I have to take some wine to the officers. *(He stops)* But there's no denying it, she was a real jewel wasn't she? Not many like her.

ANDRES

Who's that?

LOUIS

Never mind. Goodbye.

*(He leaves. Andres watches him leave humming the entire time. He lunges the knife down into the bench and exits the same direction that Louis did. Sings the last two lines of the song as he leaves.)*

ANDRES (SINGS)

***Till there was none more.  
The green green grass.***

**INSERT ON SCREENS**

CHAPLAIN

Christ is the greatest magician man has ever known. I'm not talking about the loaves and the fishes, or the curing of the blind. Those were miracles. But Christ did magic as well. For when he was tested and asked, which are the two most important commandments, Christ did not pick two, but rather condensed ten into two. He found a way to summarize the ten as two. This does not mean you could commit adultery, or steal, or covet thy neighbors' property, or dishonor thy parents. That wouldn't do at all. The ten must still be obeyed. What Christ did was to show man their inferior minds. They tried to box him in, and tell him he must choose only two. And so, he made the ten two. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

**SCREEN FADE**

*The Screens read: **One Thing After the Next** Lights up on center. The **Drum Major** comes strutting on stage. Rest of the **Chorus** gathers around. The **Major** is drunk either on his own power or alcohol, you choose.)*

MAJOR

I'm a man! A real man do you hear. With the chest of a lion and the courage of an ox. A man, you hear! Anyone here say different? Anyone looking for a fight?

*(He pounds his stick down against the ground.)*

Nobody! If your not drunk as a god, you better not come around fucking with me. I'll beat you so good I'll shove your nose right through your asshole. I'll...Hey you little piss in your pants, you better start drinking. Drinking is what real men do.

*(Louis enters is whistling the tune from the Major's song earlier.)*

You son of a bitch. Whistle at me will you. The only one that whistles at me are the ladies on the cornere. You want me to pull that tongue of yours right out and wrap it around your goddamn body?

*(He jumps on Louis. They wrestle and then begin to fight. The Major eventually is on top of him pinning his arms down with his knees. He slaps Louis across the face playfully but with some force like children might.)*

What? Can't breath? I'll leave you with enough wind in you to provide a tiny old woman's fart? Let's see you whistle a tune then. You can whistle yourself blue in the face for all I care. Common whistle a tune now.

*(After one last slap, he gets up and leaves singing.)*

**Brandy and booze, that's my life,  
Brandy and booze, they give me courage!**

*(Louis sits up. He is shaken to the point of shock. He sits dazed. The others just stare at him and gradually lose interest and go back to building the walls.)*

WOMAN 2

Oh look, he's bleeding.

*(She exits.)*

WOMAN 1

He got his.

*(She exits.)*

MAN

He was asking for it.

*(All exit minus **Louis**.)*

LOUIS

One thing after the next. On and on and on...

*(The stage dims and the light over the bench with the light becomes stronger. It illuminates the knife sticking out of it. **Louis** moves over to the bench and picks up the knife. He admires it with zeal and pain. In low hushed voices the **Chorus** speaks overlapping each other. They never stop their actions though.)*

CHORUS

Dead. Kill her. Stab her. Whore. Bitch. Adulterer. Kill her. Stab her dead. Kill her. etc.....

*(This continues until it reaches a crescendo. Then a high pitch shrill sound like a distorted factory whistle stops them all.)*

LOUIS

Thou shalt not kill. I can't... He said it is forbidden. I can't... Stay. Here.

*(He rushes off with the knife. The **Chorus** at this point should have finished their walls which should all be the at least three feet high and turn around the corners of the stage. The benches have completed the ends so that nearly all the stage is enclosed leaving only two small openings. The **Chorus** circles the wall humming the "Two Fat Hares" song and eventually disperses into the closest exit. Stage Empty)*

**INSERT FILMED SCENE ON SCREENS**

KILLER

Their families, they're gonna be sitting in a room, watching. Watching me die. Watching me "punished for my sins." Or my crimes, rather. I guess.

**(IMAGES OF FAMILIES ASSEMBLING INTO EXECUTION-VIEWING ROOMS)**

**(IMAGES OF SADDAM HUSSEIN HANGING)**

But they say I'm sick. They called it a "senseless act of violence." Well, I was on the news for a week straight, top story, across the country.

**(VIDEO OF NEWS COVERAGE AFTER GIFFORDS SHOOTING, AURORA MASSACRE, SANDY HOOK, FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL SHOOTING)**

For something that was meaningless? They're gonna publish my book.

**(IMAGE OF OJ'S "IF I DID IT," OTHER BOOKS BY PROMINENT CRIMINALS)**

And they're going to make a lot of money off of it, and say, "Look! We're examining the mind of the killer!" And that's fine by me. I didn't do this to be violent. I did this, I killed these people, to send a message, and to try to take my country back from these assholes. And that message will be sent and amplified, thanks to what I did.

(IMAGES OF WACKOS WITH GUNS PROTESTING OBAMA, SNOWBALLS THROWN AT LIMO DURING BUSH'S FIRST INAUGURATION, WESTBORO BAPTIST FOLK PROTESTING FUNERALS, RIOTS IN FERGUSSON)

But the people who are sitting idly by and choosing to watch me die today? THAT is meaningless. They are going into a room, knowingly, to watch a man die... for what purpose? It won't bring back their loved ones. It won't deter other people like me- quite the opposite. So, who's the one committing senseless violence now?

**FADE OUT**

*(The screens read: **Redemption, Remorse and other Bedtime Stories.** Lights up on Marie and the child. She is sitting on the bench the opposite side of the stage. Marie has the boy in her arms she is reading to him from the bible.)*

MARIE

"Nor was guile found in his mouth." Oh God, Lord please don't look at me!

*(She finds another passage. She reads.)*

"And the Scribe and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken into adultery, and set her in the midst. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more." Lord God, Lord I can't. Just give me enough strength so that I can pray. Oh, my boy you are just like a knife in my heart. I've strutted about in the open, in the sunlight. Like a whore - my sin, my sin! Louis hasn't come. Not in two days. When will he come? It's getting so hot. *(Reading)* "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." It's all dead. Everything. Oh, Lord, my savior! I wish I could anoint your feet.

*(Lights out on Marie and the Child. They exit in the black out. Enter Andres.)*

ANDRES

And the lord said go verily and do unto others as they would do unto you? These are words to live by but do we? Or do we simply give lip service to the "holy words" we so love to bandy about with little concern for their true meaning? Is our faith proven by what we say or what we do?

**QUESTION #7 HOW MUCH DOES FAITH EFFECT THE DECISIONS THAT WE MAKE ON A DAILY BASIS?**

**A LOT OR A LITTLE?**

*(Exit Andres. Marie enters with the two women playing children, they have put on skirts over their "uniforms" and have their hair in pig tails. They are both singing.)*

WOMAN 1 AND 2 (SINGING)

*The sun shone bright at Candelmas  
The corn was all in bloom  
And down the rows, they marched along  
Marching together two by two*

*The trumpet men, they led the charge  
With the fiddlers next in line  
And with their red stockings on...*

MARIE

I don't like this song.

WOMAN 2

Marie, you're never satisfied.

WOMAN 1

Why don't you sing us a song then?

MARIE

I can't.

WOMAN 1

Why not?

MARIE  
It's not right

WOMAN 2  
Then tell us a story.

WOMAN 1  
Yes, a story.

MARIE  
All right my little crab apples. Gather around.

*(The two children sit down on the bench facing the wall, Marie begins to tell the story. The light dims as her story is told as a dumb show. The light comes up on the other bench as Louis enters carrying a bundle. Andres follows. They play upstage of the other bench.)*

LOUIS  
And Andres this waistcoat isn't part of the uniform. You might find some good use for it.

ANDRES  
*(Blank Stare)*

LOUIS  
And this was my sister's cross. And I've got a holy picture, two hearts in gold, it was in my mother's bible: next to these words:

**Let suffering serve as my reward.  
Through pain I pay my due to God.  
Lord, your body, was red and sore,  
So let my heart be evermore.**

And now she can feel nothing. Only when the sun shines down on her hands. She won't miss anything.

ANDRES  
Yes. *(Barely audible)*

LOUIS

Louis Christian Franz Woyzeck, soldier, in the second regiment, second battalion, fourth regiment. I'm thirty years, seven month and twelve days old.

ANDRES

You're sick, Louis.

LOUIS

Yes, Andres, I know. When the carpenter nails the coffin together, he doesn't know who he's making it for.

*(The lights dim on the two and come up on the Marie and the children.)*

WOMAN 1

Another, tell us another.

MARIE

Oh, very well. But this is the last one. Once upon a time there was a poor little boy who had no mother and no father. Everything was dead, and there was nobody left in the entire world. Everything was dead, and the child went out and searched day and night, for someone, anyone. But there wasn't anyone left. And since everyone was dead he wanted to go up to heaven, because the moon looked down on the child so friendly. But when the child finally got up to the moon, it turned out the moon was just a piece of rotting wood. So the child went up to the sun. But it turned out the sun was just a withered up sunflower. And when it came to the stars, they were just little golden flies, stuck in the sky like a spiders web. And so the child wanted to go back down to earth. But the earth was just a cooking pot turned upside down. And so the child just sat down and cried. He was all alone, sitting there. He sits there still this day, sitting all alone.

*(Louis has crossed over to her side and is standing behind her for the end of her story.)*

LOUIS  
Marie.

MARIE  
What is it?

LOUIS  
It's time to go.

MARIE  
Where to?

LOUIS  
How should I know?

*(They exit and the **Girls** begin to sing. They are joined by **Andres** who sings a different song overlapping. Eventually the whole cast minus Marie and **Louis** join in.)*

WOMAN 1 AND 2 (SINGING)

**A pair of hares.  
Sat over there.  
On the green green grass.  
On the green grass they sat.  
Eating till each was fat.**

ANDRES (SINGS)

**All things must come to pass  
Near gone the fields of grass  
All things will fade  
Life slips away  
We all must die  
Yes! You and I  
All things must come to pass**

*(overlapping)*

CHORUS

*Eating away.  
Each and every day.  
Without a care.  
Those two fat hares.  
Till there was none more.  
The green green grass.*

ANDRES (SINGS)

*But then, when your time comes  
With life will you be done  
Living day by day  
Till it slips away  
Everyone will die  
Only you not I  
All thing must come to pass*

*(Everyone surrounding the center playing space  
standing witness as Marie and Louis enter the stage  
and the following scene unfolds.)*

MARIE

The town must be over there? It's so dark.

LOUIS

Come over here. Come sit down.

MARIE

But I've got to get back to Christian.

LOUIS

Just stay a minute. Rest for a moment.

MARIE

What's happened to you, Louis.

LOUIS

Do you know how long its been?

MARIE

Two years come the Pentecost.

LOUIS

And do you know how much longer it will last?

MARIE

I've got to get back. I've got to make supper.

LOUIS

Are you cold, Marie? Yet you're so warm. Your lips are so hot. Hot as coals. The hot lips of a whore. And what I wouldn't give to just kiss them again. Do you feel the cold? Are you freezing? When we are cold we won't feel it anymore. The morning dew won't freeze you anymore.

MARIE

What are you talking about?

LOUIS

It's nothing.

MARIE

Look at the moon. It's rising. Look how red it is.

LOUIS

Like a knife red with blood.

MARIE

Louis what are you thinking about? You're so pale.

*(He pulls out the knife.)*

Louis, what are you doing? For God's sake don't. Help me. Help!

*(Louis madly begins to stab her. This murder scene is played out in graphic detail on the screens. On the stage, each time Louis stabs her he pulls out a long stream of red silk and the remaining cast throws streams of red silk over the two.)*

LOUIS

Take that. And that. There. There. Why can't you die?  
Still quivering. Still. Die. Now are you dead. Dead?  
Dead. Dead!

*(He drops the knife down next to her body. The screens have stopped. He is slumped over her crying. There is no sign of remorse though. We hear music start up. It is the same music as from the dance earlier. **The screens light up with the frenzy of the fair scene.** Lights up on the perimeter and fades down in the center. The entire cast begins to assemble and dance about the perimeter. They circle on and on. They have become almost inhuman. During the activity Louis becomes aware they are there. He starts to become wrapped up in their frenzy. He addresses the crowd as well as the audience, never one person individually.)*

That's, it dance. Dance away. GO ON! On and on and on.  
Sweating and stinking. On and On. You'll all get yours  
in the end one way or another. Every one of you! One  
thing always comes after the next. On and n. One after  
the next.

ANDRES (SINGS)

***Oh daughter, my daughter  
How came this to pass?  
You kept up with soldiers  
Whose love never lasts.***

LOUIS

That's the way it is: the devil takes one and then lets  
another get away! Sing away. Sing little monkeys. Little  
devils! Sing for me!

WOMAN 1 (SINGS)

*To the Southern land I'll never go  
Nor wear long dresses, not me, oh no.  
For dresses long with pointed shoes  
A decent girl would never choose.*

LOUIS

What without shoes? You'll never make it to hell without shoes!

WOMAN 2 (SINGS)

*Tis no shame, to have a love so deep  
No weight in gold buys love so cheap.*

LOUIS

Yes, go on. I don't want any blood on me.

WOMAN 2

What's that on your hand then?

LOUIS

On me? Where? What?

MAN 1

Red. Blood.

WOMAN 1

It must be blood.

DOCTOR

Ugh disgusting. Blood

CAPTAIN

Blood.

LOUIS

I guess I must have cut myself. There on my right hand.

CAPTAIN

Then how did it get on your elbow, Woyzeck?

LOUIS

I must have wiped it with my hand.

MAJOR

That's a good trick, Woyzeck, wiping your right elbow with your right hand.

DOCTOR

You must be a genius. To perform a trick like that. Bonus.

ALL

Bonus!

CAPTAIN

And then the giant said, "Fee, fie fo fum, I smell the Blood of human flesh." It reeks!

ALL

It reeks!

LOUIS

What do you want from me? What do you want? What do you even care? What? You think I killed someone? Me? I'm a murderer?! What about you? What are you looking at? Stop staring at me. Look at yourselves. You did this. It was you!

*(Louis becomes enraged. He begins to kick down all the walls. The sound of the music winds up into a screeching hiss. One by one he tears them down kicking and wailing. The crowd flees the stage as he gets near them. Once everything has been torn down the screens go dim and the sound fades. Louis is left on his hands and knees with his face in his hands, sobbing.)*

Oh no. What have I done? Where is it? The knife. The knife. I can't leave it. It will give me away. Where is it? Next to her?

*(He moves back to center and stands over the dead body. The lights remain one single spot over center just as in the beginning. He slowly circles the body.)*

Oh Marie. It's so quiet now. Quiet. No more voices, no more sounds. Everything's quiet. Marie why do you look so pale? Who gave you that red necklace around your throat. Who did you have to sleep with to get it.  
*(Smiles)* Did you get that for all your sins? Your sins made you black. They made you black. And now I've made you white again. Your hair looks so black and wild. Did you forget to braid it today? Oh, there it is.

*(He reaches down and picks up the knife.)*

And into the water it goes.

*(Andres enters with a piece of blue silk which he starts to wrap around Louis. He is humming "The Two Hares" very softly. The screens become water, with a gentle flowing sound to accompany the images.)*

Down it goes. Deeper and deeper like a stone down into the dark water. Deeper and deeper. Still shining with blood from the moon. Deeper and deeper until it is out of reach. No one will find it. Rusting away forever, until no one can recognize it.

*(During this speech he is sinking lower and lower to the ground as Andres wraps him in the cloth.)*

And am I still bloody? Yes, there's a spot. And another and another....on and on and on....

*(He continues until he is engulfed in the cloth laying next to Marie, one blue and one red.)*

*A screen at the northern wall of the stage has a projection that reads: **A BEAUTIFUL MURDER.** The screen at the southern wall reads: **GENUINE AND BEAUTIFUL.** The screens go black and both then light up with these words in progression: **MURDER, MOST BEAUTIFUL, JUSTIFIED OR UNJUSTIFIED, YOU DECIDE, LOUIS CHRISTIAN WOYZECK.** Followed by the image of **Lady Liberty** severely faded as if in distress. The image fades into **Face of Woyzeck.** During the speech **Woyzeck's Face** cross fades to face of **Helpless Boy.***

*Andres addresses the audience during this montage of projections.)*

ANDRES

On and on and on and on ...

Ladies and Gentlemen. The historical Louis Christian Woyzeck an impoverished soldier and part time barber was executed in front of a large audience on April 21, 1824 in the town square of Leipzig, Germany. He had been convicted of savagely murdering his common law wife Marie Woost. He was subsequently examined by Doctor J.A. Clarus to determine if he was mentally fit to stand trial. Even though it was documented that Woyzeck heard voices and had terrible visions, he was deemed to understand "right from wrong." This play has been a short fictionalized version of his story. Based on what you have seen before you I must ask again.

**QUESTION #8: WAS HIS MURDER JUSTIFIED?**

**YES OR NO.**

Once upon a time there was a poor little boy who had no mother and no father. Everything was dead, and there was nobody left in the entire world. Everything was dead, and the boy went out and searched day and night, for someone anyone. But there wasn't anyone left. And since everyone was dead he wanted to go up to heaven, because the moon looked down on the boy so friendly. But when the boy finally got up to the moon, it turned out the moon was just a piece of rotting wood. So he went up to the sun. But it turned out the sun was just a withered up sunflower. And when it came to the stars, they were just little golden flies, stuck in the sky like a spiders web. And so the boy wanted to go back down to earth. But the earth was just a cooking pot turned upside down. And so the boy just sat down and cried. He was all alone, sitting there. He sits there still this day, sitting all alone.

*(Lights and screen fade out.)*