

## Excerpt from 'Splendid Productions' Woyzeck' By Georg Büchner Adapted by Ben Hales

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### EPISODE 1

Enter three players.

Song: 'Beat Me Like a Drum'

**Players** Can't get the feeling out of my head  
My mind's in a fever  
My heart's on a thread  
The angels are sleeping  
The moon's turning red  
And I keep repeating the lies that you said

You know you beat me  
Yeah you beat me like a drum  
You know you beat me  
Yeah you beat me like a drum

I'm a believer who doesn't believe  
I'm a redeemer who cannot forgive  
I've got no love just a beautiful sin  
I've got no feeling left on my skin

And then you beat me  
Yeah you beat me like a drum  
You know you beat me  
Yeah you beat me like a drum  
You know you beat me  
Yeah you beat me like a drum

**Player 3** Ladies!

**Player 1** and!

**Player 2** Gentlemen!

**Players** Welcome to the Splendid Theatre for our evening's entertainment.

**Player 2** Tonight, before your very eyes we will show you twenty-four acts to astound...

**Players** Ooooh!

**Player 1** Amaze...

**Players** Aaah!

**Player 3** And antagonise!

**Players** Grrr!

**Player 1** Watch in amazement as the unremarkable Woyzeck (*gestic pose*) performs predictable feats of human behaviour seen many times before!

- Player 2** Marvel as the beautiful but deceitful Marie (*gestic pose*) betrays her lover...
- Player 3** With the handsome but incredibly stupid Drum Major (*gestic pose*).
- Player 2** ...and is brutally murdered as a consequence!
- Player 3** Gasp!
- Players** (*gasp*)
- Player 3** ...as medical science abuses the desperate man in a misguided attempt to undermine the church!
- Player 2** (*as Doctor, inserting imaginary anal probe into Player 1*) Achtung!
- Player 1** Amen!
- Player 3** And now, without further ado, presenting our first act. Watch Woyzeck the Magician attempt to cut his glamorous assistant in half, in (*he presents the sign*) scene eighteen, 'A Woman is Killed'.

SIGN: "A Woman is Killed (18)"

Enter Woyzeck and Marie.

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

Music: music box.

- Marie** Franz, where are we going? It's dark. The town's that way.
- Woyzeck** You haven't much further to go.
- Marie** Why are you acting so strange?
- Woyzeck** Do you know how long it's been, Marie?
- Marie** Two years come Whitsun.
- Woyzeck** Do you know how long we've got left?
- Marie** I need to go. The dew's falling. I'll catch me death.
- Woyzeck** Are you cold, Marie? Cos you still feel warm. How hot your lips are. Hot breath of a whore... Even so, I'd give heaven and earth to kiss them again. Don't worry about the cold, Marie. You won't feel a thing.
- Marie** What are you saying?
- Woyzeck** Nothing.

His back to her, Woyzeck pulls out the knife.

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

**Woyzeck** Like a bloody knife.

Music out. Woyzeck advances on Marie.

- Marie** (*panicking*) What are you doing?
- Woyzeck** (*stabbing her repeatedly*) There, there, there! Are you dead yet? Still twitching? (*He stabs her again*) There, there, there! (*Draws the knife across her throat*) Why won't you die? (*Marie falls*) That's better... that's better...

Music: music box.

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

He runs away.