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### Gained in Translation: Storytelling Through Theatrical Innovation

Shane Lutz

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**SHANE BRIDGER LUTZ**

A theatrical stage scene with a person lying on the floor in the center, surrounded by several other people standing in a circle. The lighting is dim and red, creating a somber atmosphere. The floor is dark and reflective. The text 'GAINED IN TRANSLATION' is overlaid in large, bold, red letters across the bottom of the image.

***GAINED IN TRANSLATION***

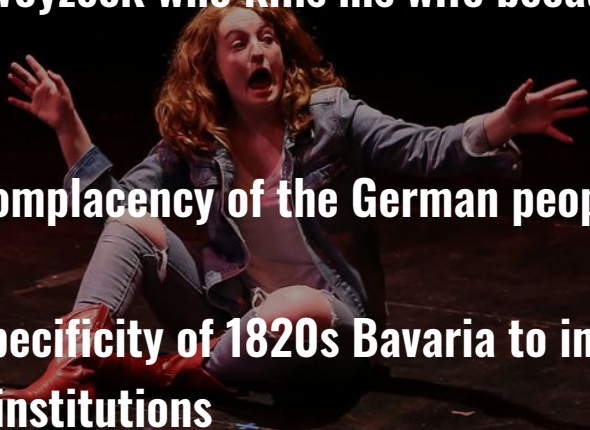
**WOYZECK & THE ODYSSEY OF ADAPTATION**

# STORYTELLING THROUGH THEATRICAL INNOVATION



- **THE 2019 STUDIO SHOW: Grad Qualifier Project**
- **The Goal: create new art under extensive constraints**
  - 2 weeks of rehearsal
  - \$100 budget
  - No design team
  - McGill Closing
- **What play should be produced?**
  - Political commentary
  - Large cast size
  - Relevant to the present climate
  - New theatrical forms

# WOYZECK

- ***Woyzeck* is a German Expressionist play by Georg Büchner in 1820**
  - **The play follows the tale of Woyzeck who kills his wife because of infidelity.**
  - **Written in response to the complacency of the German people oppressed by the Holy Roman Empire**
  - ***Woyzeck* uses the cultural specificity of 1820s Bavaria to inspire revolution and resistance against dooming institutions**
  - **Considered vastly ahead of its time, the play is one of the first instances of a “working class tale” in which the trials of the lower class are portrayed onstage.**
- 
- A woman with long, wavy, reddish-brown hair is sitting on a dark, reflective floor. She is wearing a light blue denim jacket over a white top. Her arms are outstretched to the sides, and her mouth is open in a wide, expressive shout or cry. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting a stage or a dramatic setting.

# TRANSLATION STATION

A person with long hair, wearing a denim jacket and jeans, is crawling on a dark floor. The scene is dramatically lit with a strong red light, creating a somber and intense atmosphere. The person's face is obscured by shadow, and their body is the central focus of the image.

- **Büchner's Original Text of *Woyzeck***
  - Unfinished and Public Domain
- **German Expressionism vs. American Aesthetic**
- **Changes**
  - *Woyzeck* as a woman
  - Germany 1820s/America 2019
  - *Huckleberries*, *Sergeant Major*, *Mountains*
  - Bavarian folk music vs. American canon

# THE PRODUCTION



## Experimental Theatre Work

- New approaches to generating work
- Ensemble Work
- Devised work through collaboration

## Breaking Conventions

- Barren stage
- One actor, many roles
- Red, white, and blue color scheme
- Mixture of pop music with the American canon

# PERFORMANCE



- **Original Monologue**

- Length of text and speech as expression of agency
- Stream of consciousness
- Shallow exploration of psychology



- **New Monologue**

- Deeper exploration of character
- Breaking the fourth wall
- Inclusion of the audience into Woyzeck's predicament
- This asks the question, "Are you complacent or complicit?"

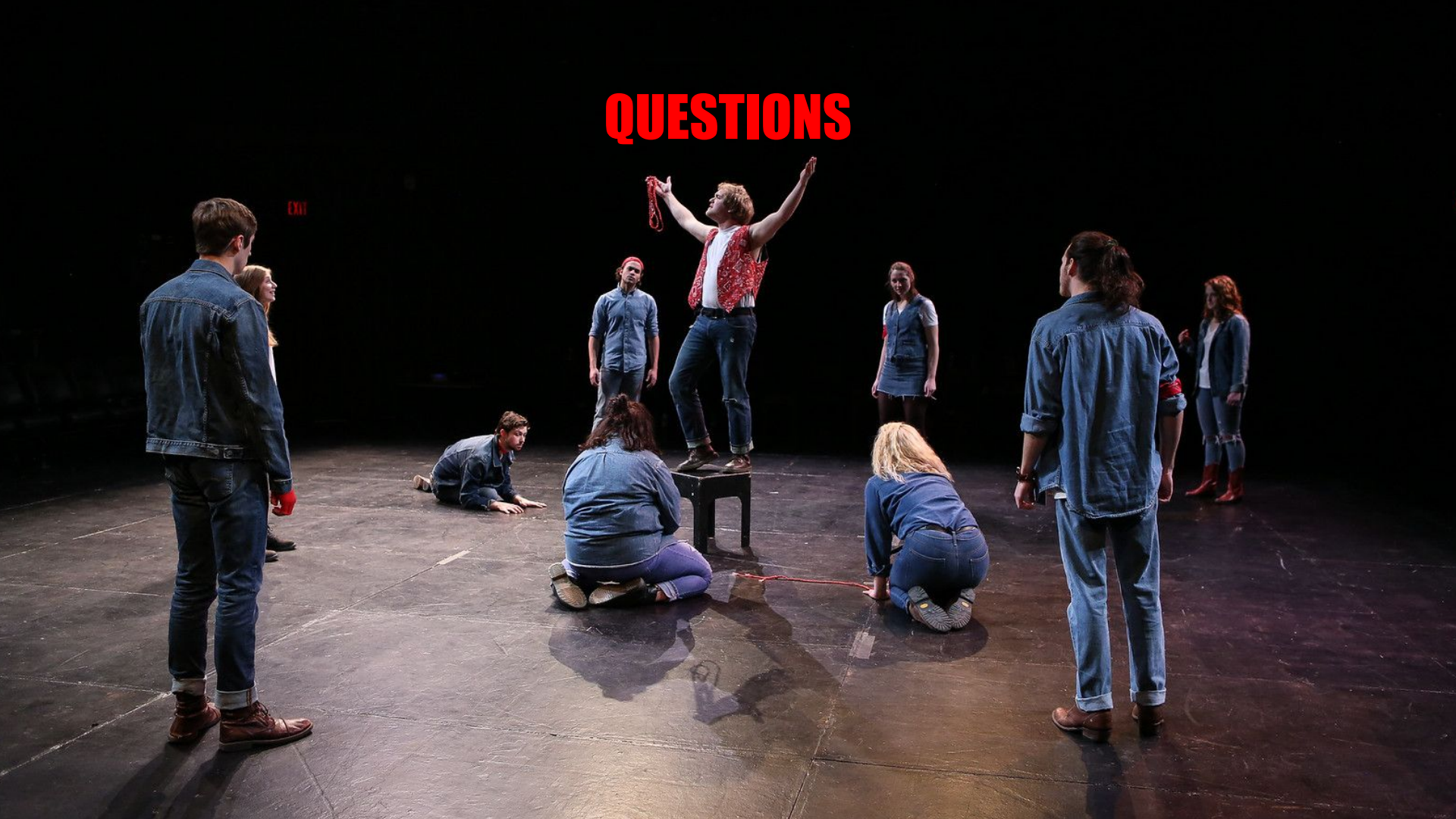
# CONCLUSION

A group of performers in a dark theater, wearing red face paint and blue denim, captured in a dynamic, low-angle shot. The performers are in various poses, some with arms extended, suggesting a theatrical or dance performance. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the performers against the dark background.

- **The Value of Preserving and Updating Old Texts**
- **The Need for New Theatrical Innovations**
- **The Responsibility of the Artist's Individual Voice**



# QUESTIONS





**DAS ENDE**