



# Vicar's Whore



VW 29

Frýdek-Místek, 18 October 2009

This latest rehearsal marks the last time scripts will be used in hand. It comes just in time, because lately there have been too many suspended moments as players try to locate their lines in the middle of the action. From now on each scene will have a designated prompter to fill in the gaps, that way the focus can be on movement, mannerisms and emotion. Since the prospective audience will consist almost exclusively of people for whom English is a foreign language, stage “presence” will be of the utmost importance. Those not able to keep up with the dialogue may doze off, may even get pissed off, unless they’re allowed to compensate with their eyes. To this end, it’s



time to start thinking of this and future performances in terms of competition. Not the obvious competition for roles, rather for scenes, to compete to see who can steal individual scenes. In English, overplaying a scene is referred to as “hamming it up”. While it always entails the risk of making our production look like a farce, we have to first achieve an exaggerated level of performance before we can start fine tuning it to come across with the right degree of intensity. We might consider employing a new word to represent this approach, which would also have the added benefit of being an inside joke in Czech. Ham being šunka, hamming it up will be šunkat. Naturally, not to be confused with...

