



Vicar's Whore



VW 30

Frýdek-Místek, 24 October 2009

The first rehearsal without scripts in hand shows what a monumental task lies before us. With the exception of Ivana, nobody was able to sail through any scene without someone shadow-reading in the background. As we all know, Ivana is a teacher, intimately familiar with the nasty things that can happen whenever homework isn't prepared in a timely and proper manner. But there's no getting around the basic chore of memorizing a role or two, and every moment we spend fumbling with words on stage takes away from the equally basic work we need to do on the performance itself. All members are therefore kindly encouraged to make full use of the upcoming public holiday to learn their lines by heart in time for the next rehearsal in two weeks.



One person who needed a script in hand was Antonio Nobre, a native of Portugal who works in the studio business in Ostrava. He was invited to lend his booming baritone to the role of Preacher, which opened up after Geoff won in-house accolades for his shrill delivery of Swayze in the heat of battle. The speed at which Antonio thundered at Mrs. Carter suggests he's been living in Ostrava for some time. Of course, this tendency to accelerate lines, to get to the end of the speech lest we forget it, is something that has to be corrected. Every word must be carefully weighed, every syllable drawn out and articulated. It's a concept completely alien in a region dominated by the coal industry for the past few centuries, but think of it as performing a public service. After several years of VW on the scene, the locals might start sounding more like the people of Prague and so initiate a better understanding between east and west. The venue manager, who comes from Prague, certainly hopes so.

