



Vicar's Whore



VW 39

Frýdek-Místek, 28 March 2010

On March 20, 2010, at 6:32 PM, the vernal equinox occurred as the sun crossed directly over the Earth's equator, signaling the start of spring. It just so happened to be the exact time when the lights went down in Arena Theatre and Vicar's Whore finally arrived, you might say, on the world's stage. Arena had been most uncooperative since agreeing to let us hold the premiere in their theatre, even pretending they had no props to lend us. Once we got backstage, we found, and helped ourselves to, whatever we needed, including table and bed. We had hoped to



do and film a full dress rehearsal, but the sound man was late getting there and even then it took a while to explain to him the kindergarten-like instructions. The lighting guy was on time and did a lot of adjustments, but still several of



the scenes ended up being too dark. Perhaps in the end it's a good thing we're moving our next premiere to a new venue.

Our only real problem was trying to switch things around between scenes, when the entire place was cast in pitch darkness. Also we were a bit shorthanded, with no one available to act solely as stage manager and make sure things went smoothly between set changes. Petr spent most of the time in the control room and could sympathize with the difficulties facing the Arena staff. They could see practically nothing up there either. But when the lights went up, one thing was clear: The place was packed. Working before a full house seemed to have an inspiring effect, for the cast turned in a superb performance. The audience thought so too and called everyone back on stage three times for applause. Afterward some of the guests came down to mingle, carefully avoiding the broken eggs still lying on the floor. It was a fantastic experience and excellent motivation for the next premiere scheduled in June. Wait a minute. June? Didn't it take us nearly nine months to get this one play ready? Sure, because we spent most of that time eating and drinking.

