

Ceinwen

Cast:

Ceinwen Roberts –18, Welsh. Lives in the village of Mynydd Mawr with her mother and travels to the nearest town every weekday to work in a state ordinance factory.

Cpt Dr Herman Schneider –29, male. Schneider is a medical doctor and an officer of the US Army Medical Corps.

Cpt Dr Weinberg - Schneider's rival in love and his US Army colleague

US Army Batman - dressed as a steward male, slightly older than Schneider and Weinberg.

Scene 2

The grounds of a large Neuadd (hall) outside the village of Mynydd Mawr in West Wales, 1944. The Neuadd has been allocated to the US Army Medical Corps as an Officer Mess.

The officers' mess are hosting a formal ball and have invited young women from the locality.

A Glen Miller style band play the closing bars of a 1940s, up tempo swing dance number – sound of hand clapping – up tempo number fades to be replaced by a more down tempo and quiet number – 'In the Moonlight'

Ceinwen enters dressed in classic 40s female fashion. She carries a large invitation card.

Ceinwen: *(Reading with a sense of pride and gratitude)*

'Dear Miss Roberts - You are invited to a formal at the US Army Officers' Mess - Hen Neuadd Mynydd Mawr - Fri 5th May 1944. A car will be provided for your convenience from your home at 7.30pm ' *(a bit cheeky)* Duw Mawr I liked the car will be provided bit. No 'Oxo legs Miss' cat calls from obnoxious 12-year-old boys, tonight. *(Ceinwen mimics a young boy making a cat call.)*

Batman: Excuse me Ma'am, may I see your invitation.?

Ceinwen: *(looking a bit 'lost in herself and a bit flustered)* Oh mae'n ddrwg gen i. Sorry, yes of course. Sorry I'm a bit overwhelmed. I've lived in this village my whole life and I've never been to the Neuadd. *(To herself)* Duw Mawr! This place is breathtaking, isn't it?

Batman: No need to apologize ma'am. You have a great evening. And welcome to the US Army.

Ceinwen (*recovering her composure and sounding a bit flirty*) We Welsh say Croeso

Batman: (*smiling*) Croeso!

Schneider approaches **Ceinwen**.

Ceinwen: (*to audience and sounding a bit cheeky and flirty and pointing to Schneider*) Fy machgen! My boy!

Schneider: May I have the honour, Ceinwen?

Weinberg: (*in thwarted tones*) Hey Schneider let the lady get in the room. You move too fast.

Schneider: Don't mind him.

Weinberg walks off stage in a huff

Ceinwen: (*looking at Schneider in an 'I love you already'*) In Welsh we say 'Cyntaf i'r felin gaiff falu.' The first to the mill the first shall grind corn. So, are *you* dancing?

Schneider: Only if you're asking.

Band strikes up tempo rhythm again and Schneider and Ceinwen jitterbug

Schneider takes **Ceinwen's** hand.

Schneider: The Doctor prescribes air. There's a bench out there.

They exit the Neuadd and sit down on an outside the bench – embracing

Ceinwen steals a kiss from **Schneider**.

Ceinwen: (*playful and up-beat tones, pressing her fingers to his lips*) Cariad...

Schneider: – Cari? What's that you called me? I hope that word's polite. (*Joking and a bit sarcastic*) Remember I'm a US Army Officer!

Ceinwen: (*giggling*) - Cariad. In Welsh that's what you call your boyfriend.

Schneider: – In German its Liebling

Ceinwen: (*somewhat shocked*) You speak German?

Schneider: You bet I do. (*Changing the mood*) Time for a patient check. We've been dancing all night, but what do we know about each other?

Ceinwen: (*continuing in jaunty upbeat terms*) I'm called Ceinwen- as if you didn't know. I'm 18. I live down in the Pentre - that's village. Enw fy mhentre ydy Mynydd Mawr. The name of my village is Mynydd Mawr. Big Mountain. I work in a munitions factory - I think you know that as well. Oh, and my name means 'blessed'.

Schneider: – And I'm Schneider. You know that. I'm 29. I'm from Braunschweig, Wisconsin USA. I'm a doctor with the US Army. You know that. My name's German. My home city has a German name. That's 'cos some German guys came to America around 18 something or other. They eventually found a patch of land somewhere in Wisconsin. They liked it and said they'd call it Braunschweig. After a German city. My Mutti and Vati came from Germany just before The Great War. They settled in Braunschweig. And I came along a bit later.

Ceinwen: So, what did I do to deserve coming here tonight?

Schneider: I dunno, maybe someone at your factory nominated you. Maybe you're a good worker in the factory.

Ceinwen: (*sounding more down beat*) Schneider – can I ask you something?

Schneider: Try me

Ceinwen: Being a doctor, have you seen people die? I do wonder sometimes. Those explosives we make in the factory, they kill people...

Schneider: (*a little sarcastic*) 'I'm a doctor, have I seen people die?' the lady asks. When I was a medical student, we were on the wards. The Dean whispered, 'Schneider go and talk to the lady over there' (*Schneider mimics the Dean pointing*) The lady spoke hardly any English. So, I held her hand and I said 'Wie gehts?' That means 'How's things with you' She said, 'Gott in Himmel'. That means God's in Heaven. Then she died. She had cancer. And as a little boy I saw my Vati Schneider dead on the floor of his workshop. He came all the way from Germany to seek his fortune. And he died. I guess that's how I became a doctor. My mom had to bring me up.

Ceinwen: (*in tears*) My Daddy, died when I was six. He was a miner. Dangerous job. My mam brought me up.

Schneider: When I was a student we got sent down to Pennsylvania. Plenty of coal mines there. As you say, coal mines are dangerous places. (*Notices that Ceinwen is cold*) Hey the doctor diagnosis is you're looking cold. And the prescription is - join the US Army (*Schneider puts his uniform jacket over Ceinwen*)

Ceinwen: (*tearfully but joking at the same time*) Don't think it fits.

Schneider: There's something you should know about, Liebling. Okay I shouldn't say this, but I might be moved on real soon.

Ceinwen: (*tearfully*) Oh don't say that (*crying and embracing Schneider even closer*) Oh go and do what you have to do - but

Schneider: (*mock command and looking Ceinwen in the face*) Don't sit under the apple tree with anyone else

Ceinwen: (*still crying*) but me.

Schneider: Vati Schneider used to say 'Denn Gottes Geist weht, wo er will, und der Herr ruft' Roughly translated that's God is the Big Cheese and He's in charge.

Ceinwen: Are you religious then?

Schneider: Not sure – Anyway, are you dancing?

Ceinwen: Only If you're asking

Ceinwen and Schneider *dance to Don't sit under the apple tree*