

By Warren Gerds | warren.gerds@wearegreenbay.com



Characters of the fictional dance group Hot Metal perform a scene in the Peninsula Players Theatre production of /Len Villano/Peninsula Players Theatre. From left actors Steve Koehler, Harter Clingman, Matthew Scott Campbell, Adrian Aguliar, Jackson Evans and Byron Glenn Willis. On stage through August 14, 2016.

'The Full Monty' electrifies in Door County

FISH CREEK, Wis.

Answer: No.

Question: Does the Peninsula Players Theatre production of "The Full Monty" hold anything back?

That means, yes, six male actors do the title thing – go the full monty and take off all their clothes.

The result on opening night Wednesday was a response from the audience – GIANT – the likes of which I've never experienced at Peninsula Players Theatre. Afterward, the electricity in the air continued as a buzz as the audience left the theater.

Sensational as it is, the male nudity is not the true milestone of this production for Peninsula Players Theatre. The language is. Peninsula Players Theatre has been careful to present works that do not use street vernacular. "The Full Monty" lets loose the F-bomb (if not for the first time, a rare time) and a lot of words that describe the male anatomy in colorful ways.

This wouldn't happen at Peninsula Players Theatre if "The Full Monty" didn't have more going for it than male strip tease.

See back for more ...

Creative: Based on the 1997 film with screenplay by Simon Beaufoy; music and lyrics – David Yazbeck; book – Terrence McNally; director – Greg Vinkler; music director – Valerie Maze; choreography – William Carlos Angulo; orchestrations – Harold Wheeler; scenic designer – Jack Magaw; lighting designer – Jason Fassl; costume designer – Nan Zabriskie; sound designer – Megan B. Henninger; properties designer – Sarah E. Ross; wig master – Kyle Pingel; scenic artist – Christine Bolles; dance music arrangements – Zan Mark; vocal and incidental music arrangements – Ted Sperling; stage manager – William Collins; assistant stage manager – Heather Bannon; production manager – Laura Eilers

Cast (in order of appearance): Georgie Bukatinsky – Brianna Borger; Buddy (Keno) Walsh – Samuel Owen Gardner; Reg Willoughby/Dance Instructor/Minister – James Leaming; Gary Bonasorte/Teddy Slaughter – Matt Holzfeind; Marty/Tony Giordano – Mark Moede; Jerry Lukowski – Adrian Aguilar; Dave Bukatinsky – Matthew Scott Campbell; Malcolm MacGregor – Harter Clingman; Ethan Girard – Jackson Evans; Nathan Lukowski – Hayden Hoffman; Susan Hershey/Young Woman – Katherine Duffy; Joanie Lish/Molly MacGregor – Erica Elam; Estelle Genovese – Ashley Lanyon; Pam Lukowski – Katherine Keberlein; Second Stripper/Dancer – Peter Brian Kelly; Vicki Nichols – Maggie Carney; Harold Nichols – Steve Koehler; Jeanette Burmeister – Peggy Roeder; Noah (Horse) T. Simmons – Byron Glenn Willis; Man/Police Sergeant – Phillip Jindra

Orchestra: Conductor/keyboard – Valerie Maze; trumpet – Andy Anderson; bass – Craig McClelland; drums/percussion – Maureen Milbach, guitar – George Sawyn; alto sax, tenor sax, clarinet, flute – Eric Schultz; keyboard 2 – Kim Souther

Running time: Two hours, 42 minutes

Remaining performances: Through Aug. 14: Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7:30 p.m.; except Sunday, Aug. 14, at 4 p.m.

Info: peninsulaplayers.com

The show also looks at the crush from a failed heavy industry and the agony that that causes in the lives of bread winners. Men in the story are pushed to a quick-fix attempt of desperation. “The Full Monty” is woven with a web of individual stories of people trying to deal with shambles of their love. And there is a beautifully mournful and hopeful song along the way, “You Walk with Me.”

On the surface, “The Full Monty” may seem like a risk for Peninsula Players Theatre. I think changing mores allow the production to happen – that and the wiles of artistic director Greg Vinkler (and director of “The Full Monty”) to know that the core material is strong.

Just as the men in the story don’t go about things by halves, neither does this production. The company is massive for Peninsula Players Theatre – 20 actors, plus an orchestra of seven. Also, many of the characters are important – the six guys who go from the unemployment line to a dance line being just one example.

There is a payoff for many in the audience because of the way that theater – in the large scheme of things – takes people to places they wouldn’t ordinarily go. “The Full Monty” takes people to male strip tease shows. There is no stigma. People attend a legitimate theater performance that comes with an atmosphere of safety and comfort, and the can see what the hormonal strip tease events are like. I’ve never been to a male strip show; now, in a way, I have.

The finale is extraordinary.

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THE VENUE: The location of Peninsula Players Theatre’s Theatre in a Garden is about atmosphere – tall cedars and pines and shoreline vistas along the bay of Green Bay. Flowers and other decorative foliage grace footpaths that weave through the grounds. Driving along Peninsula Players Road and passing farms and trees, the thought may occur: “This theater is in an unusual place.” The 621-seat theater house features Door County limestone in its interior décor. When the weather is friendly, the wooden slats of the side walls are rolled open to the outside. For cool fall nights, the theater floor is equipped with radiant heating for comfort. While the company dates back 81 years, the theater building is of 2006 vintage. The playhouse and theater were built on the site of the previous structure, which got wobbly with age. The location on the shores of Green Bay provides playgoers with pre-show picnicking and viewing the sunset. Here’s a theatrical rarity: The Players’ website provides sunset times.

Scenes and musical numbers

Act I

Overture – Instrumental

“Let’s Play” – Keno

“Scrap” – Jerry, Dave, Malcolm, Ethan and Men

“It’s a Woman’s World” – Georgie, Estelle, Susan, Joanie

“Man” – Jerry, Dave

“Big-Ass Rock” – Jerry, Dave, Malcolm

“Big-Ass Tag” – Malcolm

“Life with Harold” – Vicki and the Boys

“Dance Hall Underscore #1” – Instrumental

“Big Black Man” – Horse and the Boys

“You Rule My World” – Dave, Harold

“Michael Jordan’s Ball” – Jerry, Dave, Harold, Malcolm, Horse, Ethan

Act II

Entr’acte – Instrumental

“Jeanette’s Showbiz Number” – Jeanette and the Boys

“Breeze off the River” – Jerry

“The Goods” – Jerry, Harold, Dave, Ethan, Malcolm, Horse, Estelle, Pam, Georgie, Susie, Joanie, Vicki

“Man” (Reprise)/ “Nearer My God” - Jerry

“You Walk with Me” – Malcolm, Ethan

“You Rule My World” (Reprise) – Georgie, Vicki

“Let it Go” – The Boys and company