

Have A Ball at 'The Full Monty'

Read More: [Community](#), [Cabrillo Stage](#)

By Kelly Brewer Tue, Jun 28, 2011

A A A



Horse (Jarrod Washington) works it in 'The Full Monty.' Photo by Jana Marcus.

Now that we've seen *The Full Monty*, we've seen everything.

From the spicy curtain raiser to the bodacious closing number, Cabrillo Stage's 30th season opener has wildly appreciative audiences shriek-laughing and whooping for more.

Deservedly so.

Nominated for nine Tony Awards, *The Full Monty* is the comical story of six jobless steelworkers who've lost their income and self-confidence. They're feeling like scrap. They dream up a bold move to acquire big cash and reclaim their man cards—if only they can work up the nerve to bare their souls and let it all hang out. On the way, they sort through issues of friendship, self-

respect, family ties and the true measure of a man's worth, which can't be found in a wallet, a mirror or a G-string.

The themes feel especially relevant in this time of high unemployment, struggling families and faltering self-assurance. But director Dustin Leonard's treatment keeps this production light-hearted, by turns hilarious, tender, tough and bawdy. It's also chock full o' nuts, mature themes, strong language, adult situations and frank nudity (woohoo!).

The songs develop the story well and showcase strong musical talent from leads Kyle Payne (Jerry), Kevin High (Dave) and Robin DiCello (Georgie). Especially delightful, however, are the song-and-dance turns by Jarrod Washington (Horse), last seen in *Swing!* and *The Wizard of Oz*. In these and other numbers, choreographer Andrew Ceglio plays to each actor's strengths.

Amazing performances by Alice Hughes (Vicki) and Claire Hodgkin (Jeanette) are excellent reminders of the value of seasoned performers. Hodgkin could give Betty White a run for her money. And hankies will come in handy for the duet by Dan Housek (Malcolm) and Andrew Willis-Woodward (Ethan).

It takes a big man to bare all without benefit of airbrushing or a body double. None of that is available in a live production. These actors are regular men with a range of body shapes and less-than-perfect features, but they, like their characters, do what responsible men do—make a plan, show up, hit their marks and follow through—with style and great good humor.

Speaking of grace, the women in the cast, while they don't have to go quite as commando, certainly contribute greatly to the concept of beauty and strength taking many forms.

In the end, *The Full Monty* is not so much a story about physical appearance as it is about the definition of self-value. It's a huge treat to see characters—and actors—applauded for their self-acceptance.

Under the baton of Jon Nordgren, conductor and artistic director, this large cast, crew and orchestra deftly handle difficult musical arrangements and complicated sets. The stagecraft is smooth and expertly invisible. The production delivers excellent value at three hours long.

Run, don't walk, to see *The Full Monty* before its July 17 closing date. Be prepared to laugh yourself silly—and don't blink.

THE FULL MONTY

Thursdays-Sundays through July 17

Cabrillo Crocker Theater, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos.

Tickets \$16-34 at <http://www.cabrillostage.com> or 831.479.6154.

shakespearesantacruz.org

Most Discussed

- [Book Expo's Sorry Turn](#)
- [Smoking Ban Enacted in Santa Cruz](#)
- [Why I'm Voting 'No' on Prop 19](#)
- [Reform Needed in the Court System Regarding Child Custody](#)
- [Anti-Semitism At UCSC?](#)
- [Controversial Santa Cruz Priest Charged By Church](#)
- [Raft of Rules for Group's Santa Cruz Apartments](#)
- [Santa Cruz Poets, Santa Cruz Inspiration: Maria Teutsch](#)
- [Junkie Town: Santa Cruz's Heroin Problem](#)
- [Bungled Shark Tagging Leads to Infighting](#)

Ads by Google

Affordable DayCare & PreK
1 Month Free for New Enrollments.
Located in the heart of Santa Cruz
www.vhmchristian.com

Hampshire College

Be more than a major. Live your education at Hampshire College.

www.hampshire.edu

Francis Kuo, O.D.

Family Eye Care Exams Contact lenses

Glasses

www.DrKuoeyecare.net

www.FullSail.edu