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Entertainment

Candlelight's 'The Full Monty' is plenty of fun

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By Christina Perryman
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The Candlelight Theatre in Delaware recently kicked off its 2014 season with a hilarious production of "The Full Monty," wonderfully directed by Rob Harris. "The Full Monty," book by Terrence McNally and composed by David Yazbek, is an Americanized, musical version of the British film. The show is set in Buffalo and focuses on six unemployed steel workers who are frustrated by lack of work and feeling emasculated because the women have become the bread winners. Best friends Jerry Lukowski and Dave Bukatinsky are brainstorming employment opportunities when their attention is caught by a commotion at the local theatre. A touring Chippendale show is in the area and every lady in town is there, including Dave's wife, Georgie. Jerry and Dave sneak into the show to get Georgie out when Jerry has a sudden flash of inspiration. If the women will pay top dollar to see a bunch of strangers strip, how much would they be willing to pay for the real deal in the form of authentic Buffalo men? Especially if, unlike the Chippendales, the guys are willing to go "the full monty" and strip bare. Dave is hesitant but Jerry persists and the duo begins auditions to flesh out their act. An eclectic group forms and, as they work on their song and dance numbers, they also work through their insecurities.

Candlelight's all-star cast features C.J. Celeiro as Jerry, David T. Snyder as Dave, Bob Miller as Harold, Peter Briccotto as Malcolm, Billy D. Hart as Ethan and Michael Hogan as Horse. Alex Ryan is terrific as Jerry's son, Nathan. The main men are supported by Laura Boyer as Pam, Jerry's ex-wife, Catherine Logan as Georgie and Lindsay Mauck as Vicki. Susan Dewey is outstanding as Jeanette, a wise cracking former performer who comes out of retirement to help the men. Chris M. Balbi starts the show off right as stripper Keno Walsh.

"The Full Monty" is certainly not for everyone – there is nudity and strong language – but the show is a lot of fun. Both the physical and verbal comedy is incredibly funny. The cast, especially Snyder and Briccotto, are very expressive and comical. And although the content is geared toward adults, the themes are universal – self-consciousness, feeling inferior, wanting to rise above your situation, love for your spouse, parent or child, and many more. The actors work well together and compliment the differences in the characters. Hogan's Horse is the oldest of the group but the most grounded. Miller's Harold is more stoic than the rest but the moments when Harold loses his reserve are very humorous. Hart and Briccotto are the novices of the group, Snyder is the voice of reason and Celeiro is the driving force.

Mauck's Vicki appears flighty and materialistic, but when it comes down to brass tacks, she is supportive and understanding. Logan's Georgie is sympathetic and compassionate. Boyer's Pam appears more unyielding than the other characters but her toughness toward Jerry is out of love for their son.

Everything about the show was well done – from Chris Miller's excellent lighting to Timothy Lamont Cannon's costumes (or sometimes lack of costumes) to Jeff Reim's set. Music was well chosen by

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Timothy Crawford and Harris' choreography hit it out of the park.

"The Full Monty" runs at The Candlelight Theatre, 2208 Millers Road, Ardentown, Del., through March 9. Tickets are \$59 per person and include Candlelight's signature buffet. The menu for the "Full Monty" includes tilapia topped with crab bisque, port tenderloin with pineapple bourbon sauce, Chinese vegetable lo Mein, pan-seared chicken with ham Hollandaise, a salad bar and much more. Doors open for Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances are 6 p.m. Buffet is 6-7:30, followed by the show at 8 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m. for Sunday shows, buffet is 1-2:30, show begins at 3 p.m., and doors for Wednesday performances open at 11 a.m., buffet until 12:30 p.m. with show at 1 p.m. For tickets or information, call 302-475-2313 or visit www.nctstage.org.

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AmyA Winnemore is the Life Editor/Online Editor for the NEWS of Delaware County. As a swimmer all her life, she's moving from the pool to the pavement as she adds running to her exercise repertoire.



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