



## The Glamorgan Drama League - The Glammies 2020/2023

### Moderator's Report

**NOTE: The Appraisers comments are mixed up in order to keep them as anonymous as possible**

<b>Moderator</b>	Jan Samuel
<b>Name of play</b>	The Full Monty
<b>Name of Company</b>	P.O.D.S
<b>Where/when performed</b>	The Paget Rooms, Penarth. 18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2022
<b>Intro</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> This was a pleasant surprise as I was expecting the same production, I had seen some years ago – which wasn't a musical. When I actually found out it was a Musical, I honestly wasn't looking forward to it – did I change my mind? Let's see.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> A very lively and fun performance, that looked great and was hugely appreciated by its audience. The first thing that caught my attention was that it's the first show I can recall seeing, where the tabs <i>closing</i> kicked off the performance. Subtle, but a really lovely touch. While largely a stage bound pros arch performance, the director used the auditorium to great effect by placing the in-show audience among the actual show audience, drawing us in from the very beginning. Great use of the space throughout.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Although I had seen the film many times I had not actually seen the stage version of this show (although I have listened to the soundtrack) before attending this performance. I was keen to see how it would translate to the stage and how the company would handle this challenging piece.</p> <p><b>Moderator's Comments:</b> PODS are always prepared and welcoming to us when we arrive, so thank you! This was a fun night and enjoyed by all, well done.</p>
<b>Production</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> A very good production. The cast kept up a high energy throughout the piece, the set and lighting was well thought out and the cast handled the challenging music and emotional individual stories of the characters very well with a lot of very high quality performances. Well done to the cast and creatives on a fab show.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Loved this production; I take my hat off (get it!!) to all of the cast &amp; crew even front of house, everyone on and off stage. It was professional, they used every inch of the stage and the auditorium and they were all very confident in their roles.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Taken as a whole, this production has a lot to offer adult audiences. It looked superb, delivered on its promise of bringing back memories of the 1997 film (despite a shift from Sheffield to Buffalo). A couple of tweaks would take this from a good show, to being a great show.</p>
<b>Presentation</b>	
<b>Set</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> As a hired set to come with the show, it's not massively down to PODS creativity. It would be unfair on companies who build their own sets to comment. However, what they had, they used effectively. I'm not sure if it was set or costume changes that caused some very lengthy between scenes musical interludes that hugely detracted from the rest of the piece.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> The set was very well thought out which allowed for very short scene changes and kept up the pace of the show. The use of the DSR entrance as multiple things depending on signage was nice, as was the use of the piano in multiple scenes depending on what was stuck to the front of it.</p> <p>Some highlights of mine were the shelving unit that folded down into a bed for the bedroom scenes, the car, and the double doors used for the toilet cubicle. The last one on that list being a wonderful way to allow the audience to see what is happening in the cubicle scenes but also allowing the entrance to be used in other scenes when the second door was hiding the cubicle.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> The set was exactly right. I loved the way it changed around, becoming a bedroom and it was done without the audience losing interest. Every inch was used, all the doors, everything including the Full Monty sign at the end. Very Well Done.</p>
<b>Costume</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Costumes were just right and there were so many of them. WOW! Even the crowd in the Auditorium were in full costume – nothing was missed. Initially, I thought the girls in the auditorium were trouble makers – well they were but they should have been. I roared and where did you get Keno's trousers from. Not one detail missed.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> I would expect a lot of hired costumes were on show. There was a wardrobe malfunction in the final number, that Graham Perkins handled perfectly for the scene. For the lesser characters, whose costumes may not have come part and parcel with the performing rights, there was a lot of thought put into co-ordination for the fantasy song A Woman's World. Also, the chorus often played multiple roles and the full costume changes really helped</p>

	<p>land the illusion of a larger number of characters than actors. And so much sparkle! Perfectly capturing that hen night vibe.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> I feel the design of the piece was consistent throughout bringing the costumes, set and lighting together as one.</p>
<b>Makeup</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Non-intrusive and used effectively</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> If the male leads had make up on, then it was perfect as it didn't show at all! I suspect they didn't have any, but that was fine as they looked fine. The ladies didn't seem over made up and suited to their characters. Some of the chorus did appear to change make up across the show, again adding to the illusion of more actors than were present.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Just right.</p>
<b>Props</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Again, no details missed. Well Done.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Ok, I am really being fussy here... but if you're going to pull a burger from a McDonalds bag and box, try and make it a Maccy D's burger and not very obviously a sandwich bap! Or at least have a brioche that gives the illusion that matches the very distinctive look of McDonalds burgers. With McDonalds every 2 miles (or it seems) and 99p burgers, it isn't a stretch. But as I say, that's me picking hairs.</p> <p>I did find that the over acting of Jeanette's cigarette distracted. However, this may be a script problem over a directorial one, as the reveal in act two that she isn't smoking regular smokes sort of explains it. It just really jarred in her first appearance for me.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Props were used well throughout. In particular the prop used in the Big Penis Gag (not sure if it was a prop or costume) was fantastic and drew a huge laugh from the audience.</p>
<b>Lighting</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> The lighting was well thought out and very effective. The use of coloured lights behind the windows at the top of the flats added a party feel into the scenes where this was required and was super effective.</p> <p>The lighting of the DSR and DSL areas in different scenes was done well allowing scene changes to happen while the action continued.</p> <p>The lighting in the funeral scene was a particular highlight of mine and I felt the lighting really added to the emotion of the scene and loneliness felt by the character.</p> <p>Well done</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Clever lighting – so pleased it worked – especially at the end. And What an Ending.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> The lighting was consistently superb throughout. It suited the locations, mood and story at all times. Special mention for the lighting cues during the very powerful ballad You Walk With Me.</p> <p>I had suspected the lighting would stand between the audience and truly getting 'The Full Monty' but as the ladies said behind me, 'pick which one you want to see and your eyes adjust just before the blackout' ... just in case any of the lads think they got away with it.</p>
<b>Music/Musical Direction (where appropriate)</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Sadly, the music frequently drowned out the vocal performances. The gaps between scenes mentioned above did seem to leave the MD vamping a lot to cover time and it jarred hugely from keeping focus in the piece. Also, there were several times that some of the main cast struggled to maintain or reach the top notes. Unless that was just nerves, I'd expect an MD to work with an actor to address that either by transposing the song, or vocally directing them to sing down not up etc.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> The band playing for this performance were very good and the levels were nicely balanced throughout. The voices throughout the company were of a very high standard and blended together nicely in the group numbers. There are a lot of tough harmonies in the music for this show and the cast handled them extremely well. The musical director has clearly worked with the cast to achieve a high standard of singing, both soloists and group pieces. Some of the duets were highlights of mine, and again the harmonies and team work shown in these numbers speaks to the hard work of the musical director.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> This was all music I had never heard so I was pleasantly surprised when I enjoyed it all so much. I thought Ben Davies did an excellent job. The Music was loud but not too loud and the incidental pieces worked exceptionally well. Never once drowning out the singers. Well Done, Ben.</p>
<b>Sound/background music</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> The Band were excellent and they appeared to enjoy it as much as anyone. They were part of this piece and I for one thought they were great. Having live music can be a bit hit and miss – but not here – it was all 'hit'. Well Done.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Most of the sound came from the band and the music (see above). There were a couple of occasions where mics on stage weren't on when they should be, or offstage conversations were heard from mics left up. But they were very brief so whoever was on those, was on the ball!</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> The sound effects in the show were used well, the first used (school bus arriving)</p>

	was a little loud but the balance seemed to be found quickly after and stayed nicely balanced.
<b>Direction</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> The Director ‘Fiona Porter Smith’ has done a wonderful job with this production. They show a good understanding of the piece and ensure the story behind each of the characters shines through in a show that is always in danger of being ‘all about the strip’. I felt I understood what each of the characters were feeling as the piece developed and a focus was really put on the their development and discovery of themselves. That being said, there were one or two moments where certain characters said something that seemed out of character (the scene in which everyone is looking at the magazine comes to mind), this was due to the fact that those lines of dialogue were initially intended for ‘Horse’. I understand the decision to cut the character if casting was an issue and think on the whole it was handled extremely well aside from a few lines here and there. The decision to have chorus members crossing between scenes was a good one and kept the audience occupied and the use of DSR and DSR for smaller scenes was well thought out. In all group scenes with chorus on stage every single character was occupied and engaged with what was happening. A very well directed piece of theatre.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Well, what can I say? Fiona Porter Smith deserves a great bit pat on the back. This was a production that would have fitted in on any professional stage and Fiona should feel really pleased with herself. WOW! WOW! WOW!. So many Actors to manage, dance (well sort of dance) routines, so many actors on and off stage, so much to look at and to keep the audience moving along with the cast. This was, and I say this as a compliment, an Amateur production done to a Professional Standard. If I were Fiona I would be feeling very pleased and comfortable with what we, the audience, saw on stage. WELL DONE FIONA, VERY WELL DONE,</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Some great work from Fiona here. You can see that she has clearly thought about space and sightlines, within her limits of the staging and what the set allows. The characters were clear and well defined. What struck me the most was the ‘extras’ in the more crowded scenes. I intentionally always look at a chorus just to see if they have been directed, or at least instructed, to keep acting, and every person on that stage was ‘present in character’ the whole time, but without ever distracting. That’s no mean feat in a company this size. There had clearly been some work among the male leads too, giving them a real sense of camaraderie by the final number.</p>
<b>Choreography (where appropriate)</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> The final piece was all you’d expect it to be – a lot of fun. I was also impressed that during the dance class sequence, everyone was able to cha cha, regardless of whether they were at the front or back. Nice attention to detail.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> A lot of the choreography in this production was simple but effective, it doesn’t need complicated dance numbers. What was done, was done well by the cast and timing among the company seemed to be very good. I liked the basket ball dance and I think the guys did very well with it, The choreography in the dance teacher scene was also well done.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Again, the choreography was just right – not too much and not too little. Loved the scene in the dance studio – so funny, And the routine at the end – lost for words. Everyone in the audience totally believed this routine. I was so doubtful because, let’s be fair, it’s iconic. From the film to the professional stage play, which I was lucky enough to see, ‘You Can Keep Your Hat On’ was the music they danced to and I wondered if it would work. Well, I need not, it did work in fact it was just as good and I LOVED it. Well Done Debbie Apollonio, fabulous job.</p>
<b>Performances:</b>	
<b>General</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> All in all, I wasn’t very happy when I realised, I wasn’t seeing the original play, I had convinced myself it wouldn’t work. How wrong was I. And entertaining production which did not disappoint at all, in fact it converted me to The Full Monty Musical. I never thought for a minute it would work anywhere other than Sheffield but it did. BRAVO to the whole team, you were all great.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> A strong cast from the leads down to the last member of the chorus, with some standout performances, but one or two could have pushed a little further.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Overall the performances were very good. There was both strong vocal and acting ability on show across the board in this production. I couldn’t spot a weak link in this very strong chain.</p>
<b>Teamwork</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> The company seemed to work well as a team on stage, no one was trying to upstage anyone at any point. Everyone seemed to work for each other which makes a show more enjoyable to watch.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> One word, <b>OUTSTANDING.</b></p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Any show, particularly a musical, stands or falls by its cast working as a well-oiled machine. PODS have clearly worked hard to build a strong cast who work together exceptionally well. The 5 guys in the final performance certainly have a brilliant rapport built</p>

	over this production and showed they have the balls to pull this off – literally.
<b>Char 1: Georgie Bukatinsky Played by Lauren Farnham</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Really believed in this character and her love for her husband not matter what which was really nice to see. You could see she cared for him and that she loved him, it was nice to see. Loved her in the dance and chorus scenes as well. Also enjoyed he song ‘You Rule my World’ with Vicki.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Opening the show direct to audience, Lauren brought a lot of heart to Georgie. A good range on show from the Georgie we see on stage MC-ing the club night, down to the tender moments with her husband. A totally believable and truthful performance.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> This is not an easy character to play, requiring a performer who has a great voice and a high energy but is also able to portray the more intimate scenes between her and Dave. Lauren did all of this and more. She came out at the start of the show with such a high energy that she really set the bar for the rest of the production. A fabulous voice and really emotive in her acting style (While never allowing diction to slip) this was a great performance from Lauren.</p>
<b>Char 2: Keno Walsh / Dancer Instructor / Policeman played by: Liam Hatch</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> I thought Liam was Great as the Male Stripper – I LOVED his walk – so funny. And close up he looked so young. A great ‘cameo’ role which he definitely made the most of.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> A small but standout role! Perfectly pitched in a script that felt had some outdated attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community, Liam plays his Gay Man straight. Always a sign of a considered performance.</p>
<b>Char 3: Jerry Lukowski played by: Neil Clevett</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Not an easy part but Neil did a fabulous job. I liked his approach and also had a good singing voice for his songs. I especially likes him singing ‘Breeze off the River’. Not an easy part because he has to be the sort of likeable villain and he was exactly that. Had a good relationship with his son played tonight by Flynn Jones. I also like the uneasy chemistry with his wife. The was also a great relationship with his best friend Dave. The made a good ‘double act’. A believable character in a difficult part. Well Done.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Neil is clearly a very accomplished performer and comfortable on a stage. However, he did seem to struggle with the songs a tad. That said, his performance in selling the lyrics worked hard to make up for it. As the lead for the show, I did feel that Neil could have just pushed a little harder though. Make each reaction a little larger, take gestures up a notch. Especially in the heightened reality of a musical. It’s not easy to pitch that without going too panto, but for a lead, you’d expect that level to be there. He was just slightly overshadowed by some superior performances around him. But by no means a bad job! A solid actor.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Jerry, played by Neil Clevett, requires a confidence and a slight desperation about him which I think Neil achieved very well and early on in the production and sustained well. He had a very good chemistry with the other performers on stage, in particular the relationship between him and Dave was a joy to watch unfold. There were a few moments where I felt the music was maybe stretching the limits of Neil’s range as a singer but overall the vocal tone was good. Neil kept me gripped to the story as his portrayal of the character really was very well done and believable. Diction was very good and I never struggled to understand him. Well done</p>
<b>Char 4: Dave Bukatinsky played by: Paul Melin</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Paul’s characterisation was outstanding stuff. We felt every pang of relationship woes, every roll of the eyes at Jerry’s latest idea, every bit of weight on his shoulders. Paul also has an exceptional singing voice and delivered those songs perfectly. From the start we knew who Dave was and what he was about. Special note also to some exceptional comic timing. Paul knows how to react, and when to do it to the nano second. Extremely impressed.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Dave, played by Paul Mellin, gives the audience a lot of the comedy throughout this piece while also hitting extreme lows in regard to his weight and other issues. Paul portrayed all of this marvellously, His comic timing was fantastic and the jokes seemed to land every single time eliciting laughs from the audience and myself. I also really felt for Dave in his lowest moments and feel Paul did very well with the emotional scenes, in particular the scene in which he is wrapping himself in clingfilm while his wife waits outside the door was heart breaking. Diction was excellent, Vocal ability was top notch and the relationships he cultivated on stage with other characters was a joy to watch.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Paul played this part with so much feeling I really felt sorry for. A great performance and I really enjoyed him singing ‘You Rule My world’ and I felt he meant every word he sang. Nice chemistry with his wife played by Lauren Farnham. Paul was funny and heartfelt and I believed in him. Again, great chemistry with his best friend Jerry, very believable. Paul played this part with feeling. Well Done.</p>
<b>Char 5: Malcolm McGregor played by:</b>	<b>Appraiser 1:</b> Richard delivered everything you would expect from this character extremely well. The diction was good and the character was spot on for me. Richard played the

<p><b>Richard Thomas</b></p>	<p>loneliness of the character extremely well and was very funny throughout. Richards physical acting ability was shown nicely in the car scene as he is clawing at the windows and comic timing seemed to come naturally to him. Richard showed a fantastic singing voice during the Funeral scene ‘You walk with me’ and had audience members in tears as they were watching. A very well rounded performer and another excellent performance.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> This was a fabulous performance and I loved it. So funny. How to get the most out of a character. He looked just right and he was really funny in lots of the of the scenes, especially the one with the car – he really established his character in that scene. I also loved the Funeral scene where they were practising their dancing and Ethan and Malcolm were ‘falling in love’ and the Vicar was still preaching. Brilliant. Has to mention this now but it is meant for all of them.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Wow. Bar well and truly set. I doubt I could ever see this musical again without comparing whichever poor soul is cast as Malcolm to Richard. A tour de force masterclass in musical comedy. Richard took every nuance and pushed it just that little bit over the line to perfection. Then in act 2, after playing the perfect fool for 90 minutes, broke our hearts with his song. Richard keeps the energy and the action at 101% throughout, and whenever you glance his way, it’s always there... and yet he doesn’t pull focus. What a talent! Every company would be lucky to have a Richard among them. Sadly, most don’t.</p>
<p><b>Char 6: Ethan Girad played by: Matthew Lee</b></p>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Matthew Lee played this character with the energy and enthusiasm that was needed and was a joy to watch on stage. Without the energy Matthew put in there was a danger that the running up the wall off stage could fall flat but it worked because of Matthew’s commitment to the gag. Showing a lovely voice while singing a duet ‘You walk with me’ and great acting ability throughout this was another very good performance.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Coming into the core group of characters a little later on isn’t easy, but Matthew arrives with quite the impact and fits in seamlessly. Another member of this company who is strong on character work and the ability to keep that level of energy throughout. Matthew demonstrates a great understanding of pace in the piece, bringing light and shade to his performance, showcased particularly when he has to play the funeral scene. Very touching and pitched spot on.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Matthew looked as if he was thoroughly enjoying this part and he made me smile a lot. Especially the dance at the end you could see how much he was enjoying it. I loved watching him. A great part, enjoyed by the actor and it showed, I loved the ‘reveal’ of the reason he was called ‘Lunch Box’ it was very revealing. I loved the way he kept trying to climb the walls – hilarious. Great fun part played to it fullest and thoroughly enjoyed by the actor. Well Done.</p>
<p><b>Char 7a: Nathan Lukowski played by: Flynn Jones</b></p>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Nailed it! Flynn clearly is a natural born actor and has great stage craft and vocal skills. A totally believable performance and a pleasure to watch.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> The night I went Flynn was playing the part of Nathan and didn’t he do well. A lovely little actor and I could hear and understand every word he said. Not an easy part to play but Flynn did a great job. Well Done.</p>
<p><b>Char 7b: Nathan Lukowski played by: Austin Beasley</b></p>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Austin Beasley played this character with a confidence and cheekiness that fit the character nicely. This young performer did extremely well being the only young character in this show and never looked out of place among some very experienced performers. Strong diction, strong characterisation and overall a very good performance.</p>
<p><b>Char 8: Pam Lukowski played by: Helen Ryder</b></p>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Some excellent character work from Helen Ryder playing the part of Pam. She was authoritative on stage when it was called for but was also able to show the ‘party side’ of Pam extremely well in scenes with the girls. Helen cultivated a nice relationship on stage with both Neil (Jerry) and Austin (Nathan) which led to very believable scenes between these characters.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Another difficult part as not much time to establish her role, but she was believable as the wife who couldn’t take anymore. Loved her in the dance and chorus scenes as well.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> A position I am familiar with.... Cast in a musical comedy with very little comedy, singing or dancing in your part! However, Pam is crucial to the heart of this story as the foil to Jerry, in a strange kind of actually-the-villain-by-being-a-responsible-mum way. And boy does Helen deliver. I was twitching in my seat, desperate for her to let Jerry win while knowing that every word she spoke, every glare of daggers was morally the right real world solution. In other hands this role could be a poison chalice, but from Helen it’s the Holy Grail</p>
<p><b>Char 9: Molly McGregor Played by: Jackie Dyke</b></p>	<p><b>Appraiser 1</b> Jackie just proved there are ‘no small parts’ – I absolutely loved her as ‘Mum’ and what a howl – hilarious. On and off on seconds but she made sure we remembered her, Well Done.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Another smaller role that adds so much. The moment Jackie appeared on stage, I knew her. We all know a Molly. This instant warmth and familiarity from Jackie pays off in</p>

	spades when we see Molly's funeral. Top class performance
<b>Char 10: Vicki Nicholls</b> <b>Played by: Debbie Apollonio</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Lots of changes in her character for Debbie but she managed every one of them. Debbie has a lovely voice as well as I enjoyed her singing. Debbie and Graham worked well together and I believed their relationship, they made a good couple. I loved her in the Dance Studio scene as well. Debbie is a versatile actress and is a joy to watch on stage.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Debbie does a sterling job of portraying the middle working class suburban housewife. The carefree life of sunbeds and cruises. What impressed me the most was how Debbie dealt the scenes of when the bubble burst and beyond. The disappointment, sadness and ultimate empathy for how her husband tried to protect her shone through.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> Like a lot of characters in this show Vicki is portrayed in a certain way and then later reveals to the audience what she is really like, a challenge Debbie took on and did very well with. The emotional dialogue and song between Vicki and Harold were very touching moments, showcasing a lovely voice and great ability to act through song.</p>
<b>Char 11: Jeanette Burmeister</b> <b>played by: Mary Gardiner</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> Mary is clearly something of a comedy genius. The timing on those killer beats was just delicious. All of those tall tales from her career delivered with aplomb and just the right cheeky wink to leave us believing that perhaps every word is true. And if piano synching isn't on Mary's CV, get it listed!</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Mary Gardner played this role with such energy and enthusiasm she lit up the stage every time she was there. The comedy dialogue was well handled, the big song number was very well done and she just brought a real joy to the stage. I found myself looking forward to seeing Mary come on stage and just waiting to see what 'Jeanette' would say next.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> This was definitely the 'stand out' part for me, and didn't Mary enjoy playing it. She really went to town on it and made the most of it and I really believed her. I absolutely loved the way she was wheeled around on the piano when she was singing Jeanette's Show Biz Number and what a voice, this lady is a singer. This was an example of how to make the most of a part without overshadowing others and I thoroughly enjoyed watching Mary as Jeanette. Thoroughly, thoroughly enjoyable. Congratulations.</p>
<b>Char 12: Harold Nicholls</b> <b>played by: Graham Perkins</b>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> I have seen Graham perform in multiple shows now and he never fails to impress, this was no different. Taking on the role of Harold, the group's 'manager' of sorts he really played up to the comedy in the role and had the audience in constant laughs. There were some touching moments between Harold and Vicki which Graham also portrayed very well showing an emotional depth to the character alongside the comedy. A lovely voice, great diction and wonderful character work.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> Graham leans beautifully into the heightened reality of the musical. The asides trying to hide his truth from his wife, the embarrassed moments initially when he joins Jerry's troupe. All delivered with just the right amount of snippiness that contrast directly with the sparkle that comes when addressing the Mrs. Then when we get closer to the moment of truth (well both if you consider his double outing to his wife of the job and the dance) we see that quiet side of Harold that Graham delivers brilliantly.</p> <p>Interestingly, for the actual Full Monty, it was Graham who seemed to be most connected to the paying audience which was a nice touch.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> This, for me, was the most difficult part but Graham did a great job with it. He didn't have a lot of time to establish his character I really liked his song with Dave 'You Rule my World' which I thought was quite lovely. I really liked his scene in the Dance Studio as well. I believe Graham is no stranger to the Full Monty and I'm not surprised as he plays a good part. Well Done.</p>
<b>Chorus:</b> Gabrielle Crick, Jim Lediard, Paul Barnard, Robert Jenkins, Tom Dyer, Helen Taylor, Emma Dennett, Ceri Maria Wheatley, Sally Mathias, Samantha Campbell,	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> A large chorus is the lifeblood of all musicals of this kind. As well as taking the smaller roles that perhaps pop up here and there, they set the scene for the main characters in so many situations.</p> <p>PODS chorus should all give themselves a huge round of applause. The energy was up. The characters clear. Every actor committed to the scene and the moment.</p> <p>Special mentions: Tom Dyer's exercise guru. Emma Dennett for the eternal party girl. Jim Lediard for playing more than one character without me clocking until after! That's a good chorus member. A smaller role but when Gabrielle Crick was on the stage she lived her character and had great stage presence. I look forward to seeing Gabrielle in larger roles in future. Every musical needs a comedy priest and Sally Mathias brings a whole bag of energy and bonkers to this one. It would be so easy to underplay this given the scene that immediately follows, but Sally sees the line drawn in the sand and sprints across it squealing. Very well done.</p>

	<p>Molly McGregor. Another smaller role that adds so much. The moment Jackie Dyke appeared on stage, I knew her. We all know a Molly. This instant warmth and familiarity from Jackie pays off in spades when we see Molly's funeral. Top class performance</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> I have included everyone else in the Chorus and they were all great. The 'Ladies' started with the opening screaming and shouting at Keno Walsh, then on to Night Club, Dance Studio, and so many other scenes right up to the send cheering on the Full Monty. This was definitely a Chorus to be proud of and they really did carry the show along with their enthusiasm. It was a Chorus to be very proud of.</p> <p>Great work by the Director bringing them all out front and the 'Burlesque' scene was great. There are too many to mention individually but they were all GREAT and it just goes to show how important Teamwork is.</p> <p>This was a Chorus to be very proud of and they should all be proud of themselves. Congratulations everyone.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b></p> <p>The chorus in this show had quite a big job, not only were they providing short scenes crossing the stage between scenes, background for larger group scenes and vocals for some big numbers but pretty much every member was also playing the role of 2 or 3 smaller parts throughout the piece. All of these supporting roles were played very well and they never felt like an afterthought, they all felt like fully realised characters.</p> <p>Whenever the Chorus were on stage together I could see some lively stories developing between them (especially in the dance class scene), as the scene played out couples and groups worked in the background and never dropped character at all creating a believable space.</p> <p>A few supporting characters played by chorus members that I feel I should mention are Keno Walsh (Liam Hatch) who showed a great confidence on stage in this part, Minister (Sally Mathias) who was absolutely hilarious and (Molly Macgregor) Jackie Dyke for another hilarious performance. A good performance with some excellent characterisation from Ceri Maria, she worked really well with the other cast around her on stage with some lovely comedic moments.</p>
<p><b>Summing up</b></p>	<p><b>Appraiser 1:</b> To sum up this is a show that requires a group of performers who can comfortably portray the ups and downs in these characters' lives as most go from extreme highs to extreme lows or vice versa. I feel the cast had the ability to pull this off and the Direction, Musical direction and choreography played to their strengths and complimented the cast they had. Well done everyone on a fab production.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 2:</b> This was a show to be proud of which really impressed me. It was wonderful to see people queuing to go in and the excitement was already building outside. We were greeted warmly once inside with Programme and tickets waiting. There was a fabulous Buzz in the audience and it carried on right through the show, it really was like being at a show – if you know what I mean.</p> <p>This was quite difficult to write as I honestly couldn't find anything to suggest on how to improve, I was quite taken aback.</p> <p>To be honest I just sat and enjoyed the show.</p> <p>Yes, there were things that could have been improved but they were so minimal and I really thought Fiona Porter Smith Directed this play with so much integrity.</p> <p>I wasn't expecting a Musical and I wasn't really looking forward to seeing it when I found out the day before it was a musical. However, having now seen it I wouldn't have missed it for the world. You could see just how much they were all enjoying it and that was catching.</p> <p><b>Appraiser 3:</b> A really fun show, delivered exceptionally well.</p>