

The Full Monty

DATE	21st May 2022
SOCIETY	Penarth Operatic & Dramatic Society
VENUE	Paget Rooms, Penarth
TYPE OF PRODUCTION	Musical
DIRECTOR	Fiona Porter Smith
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Ben Davies
CHOREOGRAPHER	Debbie Apollonio

Report

Author: Allan Mears

The title of this show and the awaited ending has a tendency to put the rest of the story into the shade. The Full Monty is based on the popular British film, however the musical takes place in Buffalo New Jersey where a group of men aspire to become the local Chippendales.

In any show it is important that the cast work well together to achieve the best end results, but in this one it is absolutely vital that the men really 'bond' and develop trusting relationships, as they very much depend on each other. This certainly happened in this production, The leader of the men was Jerry Lukowski (Neil Clevett, who had an outstanding stage presence), who along side Harold (Graham Perkins), Dave (Paul Mellin), Ehtan (Matthew Lee) and Malcolm (Richard Thomas) made up 'Hot Metal', who played their parts with confidence. A special mention must go to Austin Beasley as Jerry's son Nathan. A confident performer and was clearly enjoying his involvement in this fun production.

Ladies were not to be outdone, all being equally on par with the gents. Jerry and Dave's wives, Pam Lukowski (Helen Ryder) together with Georgie Bukatinsky (Lauren Farnham) very ably supported by a screaming selection of "Woo Girls"! Showed amazing empathy and support for their relevant spouses, The ensemble worked well on stage and gave great support vocally and much enthusiasm to the company numbers.

The production benefited from a very effective set design. Sound was well balanced and well mixed, lighting excellent. Costumes were well thought out.

The applause at the end of the show certainly illustrated that the evening had been a success.

Congratulations PODS.