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Tempo transport The Full Monty to Buffalo, USA

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THE FULL MONTY

St Oswald's Hall,

Morningside



BURSTING out onto the stage as well as out of their shiny little, itsy-bitsy G-strings, the male cast of Tempo's production of The Full Monty certainly know how to go all the way. The only regret fans of the original film are likely to have is that the musical swaps Sheffield, England for Buffalo, America.

And while the cast get to keep their hats on, except in that final scene, none of the original songs are kept in David Yazbek's all-new score.

Buffalo is still a steel town where the mills have closed. When down-in-the-dumps Jerry and his pal Dave see their partners at a Chippendales show, they decide to form their own strip troupe.

Not only will they get back a bit of self esteem – but Jerry will have some cash for the child support payments to his ex-wife.

It's the gutsy performances from the female cast members which dominates the early parts of the production, however. Gabrielle Pavone is excellent as Dave's wife Georgie. Norma Kinnear brings a touch of class to the role of Vicki, wife of unemployed supervisor, Harold. But the scene stealer is Maureen Cochrane as the men's piano player, Jeanette.

Led by Euan Fleming as Jerry and Michael Bryant as Dave, the six unemployed men bring a vitality and sense of comedy to their rehearsals for the big night, as they learn how to strip.

Lee Brown as near-suicidal Malcolm has a delightful singing voice. And young Duncan Gellatly brings a real subtlety to the role of Jerry's son Nathan.

For all its panache, the production does have a few wince-inducing moments. There are also times when the ensemble lacks crispness and technical difficulties consistently get in the way of the balance between stage and orchestra.

However, with St Oswald's laid out with trestle tables all down the hall, this is the perfect production for a big Girl's Night Out!