



PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Michelle Sanders
PR & Communications
(425) 392-1942 x124
msanders@villagetheatre.org

THE FULL MONTY IS SET TO ROCK AT VILLAGE THEATRE

Directed by New Yorker, Jerry Dixon

Issaquah, WA – Village Theatre is thrilled to be producing the feel-good musical comedy, THE FULL MONTY. This production will have one preview performance in Issaquah on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, and will officially open the following day, running September 16-October 24, 2010 in downtown Issaquah, and October 29-November 21, 2010 in downtown Everett.

Based on the 1997 British film, this Americanized musical stage version is being built from the ground up in Issaquah, WA at Village Theatre's Technical Studio space. Esteemed, New-York based director/choreographer Jerry Dixon has returned (*Show Boat*, 2009) to create his own original staging of this pop-rock musical best known for its hysterical score and heartfelt dialogue. Dixon's talents are multi-faceted, and he offers a unique perspective in the role of director as his original foray into theatre began with roles in such original Broadway casts as *Once on this Island* and *Five Guys Named Moe*.

With highly lauded scenic designer Steven Capone (*Meet Me in St. Louis*), Dixon has created a world for the men and women of THE FULL MONTY where the realities of their life circumstances are made visible. The majority of the impressive set design is rusted metal and mostly colorless. Many of the props in the production will be brought on stage by actors rather than stage hands, as to symbolize the character's inherent working class status. "When Steven Capone and I first started working on the design concept THE FULL MONTY, we realized something about these characters," Dixon recalled. "Despite the terribly hard times these men have fallen on, none of them are trying to leave their lives in Buffalo. They just want to find a way back to the town they once knew. Back to work. Back to better times. Back to feeling worthy of being called a man. So, we worked to develop a setting of steel and brick, where the company could play out an urban take on *The Grapes of Wrath*, with a few surprises. Because. Well...it's THE FULL MONTY."

Local dancer BoJohn Disciple will assistant choreograph alongside Dixon. Disciple was last seen at Village Theatre in the cast of both *Show Boat* and *AIDA*, and is arguably most recognized locally for his work in *Black Nativity* (choreographer and lead performer) at Intiman. "I stage based on my learned dance vocabulary, and years of experience, working in the theatre," Dixon commented. "BoJohn creates *The New*: a new way to turn; a slant on the basic step-touch; a fresh way for couples to cha-cha! On top of that he's a powerful athlete. With THE FULL MONTY being populated by characters that are blue collar,

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sports fanatical, folks from Buffalo, I say Bojohn's the perfect guy to get the poetry of motion out of these folks."

Village Theatre's production of THE FULL MONTY is directed by Jerry Dixon (*Show Boat*) with scenic design by Steven Capone (*Meet Me in St. Louis*); lighting design by Tom Sturge (*Lost in Yonkers*; *Chasing Nicolette*); costume design by Cynthia Savage (*Meet Me in St. Louis*; *Saint Heaven*), and sound design by Gino Scarpino (*42nd Street*).

Pre-production photos will be available online after September 2, 2010. For more information or to schedule individual interviews, please contact Michelle Sanders at (425) 392-1942 x124 or msanders@villagetheatre.org.

THE FULL MONTY Synopsis:

Based on the internationally acclaimed film, this grin and bare-it comedy tells the story of six average-looking, unemployed steelworkers on the verge of a bold plan to get themselves out of debt, and make amends with those they love. Pushing through fears, building self-esteem, and rediscovering the importance of friendship and family, *The Full Monty* has great heart. Nominated for nine Tony Awards including Best Original Score, this is a feel-good musical with an edgy yet delightfully wicked sensibility.

About Village Theatre

Based in Issaquah, WA, with operations in Everett, Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining quality productions for the entire family since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the region's best-attended Equity theatres, with over 18,000 Subscribers and 182,000 projected total attendance each season. Through its Village Originals program, Village Theatre is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having launched over 90 new works to date. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its youth education programs, Pied Piper and KIDSTAGE, serving over 54,000 young people, families, and schools annually.

Village Theatre season sponsors are Continental Airlines, Microsoft, and Lombardi's

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