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'Full Monty' is a laugh-filled night in South County

Gather up the same group of women you took to see Trinity's "Menopause, the Musical" and head south for Theatre-by-the-Sea's last show of the summer, "The Full Monty."

This is a charming, laugh-filled show that delivers on its promise in a very satisfying way. Honest!

Set in Buffalo, N.Y., the story finds a group of down-and-out, jobless men who find a way to restore their pride and tuck a few dollars in their g-strings by going one better than the Chippendale performers their wives and girlfriends are flocking to see.

Along the way, they learn to sing and dance and figure out how to put on those red satin thongs. It's a hilarious strip tease that has the TBTS audience holding its breath right to the end.

Among my favorite moments were Richard Waits playing Horse, the arthritic stripper who manages to overcome his aches and pains, and Ellen Karsten as Jeanette, the no-nonsense piano player who boasts of a fling with Arthur Godfrey.

Beyond the professional acting on stage, this theater's beachside setting in a barn kept me smiling all night. Grounds and brick walkways are neatly maintained and overflowing with flowers.

Pick up a glass of wine during intermission and enjoy the salt air and stars that just don't shine as brightly in the Blackstone Valley.

Tickets are on sale at the box office Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or online at theatrebythesea.com . Or call 401-782-TKTS (8587).

- Marcia Green