MOVIES

'Full Monty' bares it all for hilarious laughs



Things look bleak for Jimmy and his mates. The unemployed steel workers hang out at the job office so much, they don't even bother fill-ing out applica-tions anymore. They figure they have a better chance hitting the lottery than nt job.

Then Jimmy hits on a bright idea. If women will pack a club by the hundreds to see those pansy Chippendales strip to their Jockey shorts, what would they pay to see some homegrown talent go all the way?

They call it "The Full Monty,"

which is also the name of this charming British import opening Friday at the Main Art Theatre and elsewhere. Basically it's a one-joke affair, but by the time this new breed of strippers takes the stage, that joke is a pretty bilarious end.

the stage, that joke is a pretty hilarious one. None of the men, you see, have what you would call a buff physique. Ringleader Jimmy is as scrawny as his buddies are fat, old, and clumsy.

After a series of disastrous auditions, he enlists an older black man who Frugs and Jerks through his tryout but may have some hidden talents (his friends, after all, call him "Horse.")

He also gets the reluctant help of their former foreman, a proud man who refuses to tell his wife that he lost his job. He's brought

on board because he has taken ballroom dance classes and can direct the performance.

The line is rounded out by a pale-skinned, red-headed night watchman the provides the practice space), and a handsome young man who fancies himself another Donald O'Connor. (His attempts to replicate the dancer's acrobatics from Singin' in the Rain' are hilarious, Robert Carlyle, who played the psychopathic Begbie in Trainspotting, has the requisite everyman quality for the role of Jimmy. Ho's so likable and naive that you almost fall for his dopey 'let's put on a show plan to retain partial custody of his son.

He has a slightly fiendialt

He has a slightly fiendish streak as well, like when he and his friends decide to rattle an

uptight colleague during a job interview by dancing a pair of plaster garden gnomes outside the window.

And the state of t

Director Peter Cattaneo, in his feature debut, stretches his thin premise into an omusing 90 minutes. He's helped by an able cast, including Tom Wilkinson as the foreman and Mark Addy as Jimmye best friend, who is most reluctant to bare it all on stage because he is so overweight.

And while the movie's incidental music is the hokiest, the "70s Disco nuggets used for the dance scenes are priceless. When the Musak turns to Donna Summor's Hot Love" at the local unemployment office, you can tell whose prospective dancers are. They're the ones bumping and grinding while the others wait dourly for relief checks.

Like "Brassed Off" earlier this year, "The Full Monty" has a

genuine charm that's nearly immune to criticism. Sure it's form isn't much to look at, but once those guys get on stage and strut their stuff (to the music of Tam Jones, no local years and local Tom Jones, no less), you can't.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative mavie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

Detroit Film Theatre Detroit Institute of Arta, 5200 Woodward, Detroit, Call (313) 833-2323 for information. (\$5.50; \$4.50 students/seniors)

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78.73 p.m. sept. 13. m. sept. 12. students/seniors)

78.74 students/seniors)

78.75 p.m. Sept. 13. Buster Keaton in "Steamboat Bill, Jr. (USA - 1928). 3 p.m. Sept. 14. The original "The Lost World' (USA - 1925). 7 p.m. Sept. 14. The original "The Lost World' (USA - 1925). 7 p.m. Sept. 14. The original "The Lost World' (USA - 1925). T p.m. Sept. 14. The original "The Lost World' (USA - 1925). T p.m. Sept. 14. The original "The Lost World' (USA - 1925). T p.m. Sept. 14. The original "The Lost World' (USA - 1925). T p.m. Sept. 14. The original "The Lost World' (USA - 1925). T p.m. Sept. 14. White Heart' (USA - 1925). T p.m. Sept. 14. White Heart' (USA - 1925). T p.m. Sept. 15. A documentary look at a trio of klezmen musicians who stage a European "comeback tour" 60 years after their initial success in New York.

**Magic Bag Theatre 22920 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248) 544-3030 for information. (\$2)

"Chasing Amy" (USA - 1997).

9:30 p.m. Sept. 11. Writer/director Kevin Smith's ("Clorks") third film in a trilogy about life in the New Jersey aburbs. Here a young comic book artist falls for a woman only to find out that

she's gay.
"Caddyshack" (USA - 1980).

"Caddyshack" (USA · 1980).
9:30 p.m. Sopt. 17. Mayhem
crupts on at a posh country club
when Chevy Chase and Rodney
Dangerfield hit the links in this
irroverent cult comedy which
gots even more popular with age.

Main Art Theatre 118 N.
Main Street at 11 Mile, Royal
Oak Films play through at least
Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (248) 542-0180 for
information. (\$5.50; \$4 students,
seniors and matinee; \$3 kwilight)
"Shall We Dance?" (Japan 1997). A Japanese businessman

1997). A Japanese businessman breaks free of the monotony of life when he spontaneously decides to take a ballroom danc-

ing class."

"Mrs. Brown" (Britain
1997), When Britain's Queen Vic-

"Mrs. Brown" (Britain 1987). When Britain's Queen Victoria mourned the loss of husband Albert, she formed an unconventional friendship with a Scuttish Highlander. Jud Dench and Billy Connolly star.

"Box of Moonlight' (USA-1997). John Turturro plays an uptight engineer who learns life lessons from a mysterious drifter. Directed by Tom DiCillo ("Living in Oblivion").

"In the Company of Mon" (USA - 1997). The year's most controversial film is about two Midwestern junior executives who seek revenge against all the women whe've done them dirt. They plot to seduce the same unsuspecting young woman and

then summarily dump her.
(Starts Friday)
"The Full Monty" (Britain 1997). A group of unemployed, steel workers decide to try their hand at male stripping. The only problem: Their non-Chippendales physiques. (Starts Friday.)
Redford Theatre 13670
Lahser (at Grand River), Detroit.
Call (313) 537-2660 for information. (\$2.50)
"Raintree County" (USA

Call (313) 537-2560 for informa-tion. (32.50)
"Raintree County" (USA " 1957). 8 p.m. Sept. 12; 2, 8 p.m. Sept. 13 forgan overture begins a half hour before show time). Elizabeth Taylor plays a South-ern belle around the Civil War in. this overblown Hollywood melo-drama. Montgomery Clift costars. Windsor Film Theatre 2135

Wyandotte Street West, Windsor, Canada, Call (519) 254-FILM for information. (\$5.25; \$4 US.)

"When the Cat's Away"
(France - 1990). 7 p.m. Sept. 11
-14. When an unattached young
woman loses her pet cat, she,
searches her Paris neighborhood;
brings romance, adventure, and
an understanding of the world
around her.

"Female Perversions" (USA 1996), 9:15 p.m. Sept. 11 - 14. Tilda Swinton ("Orlando") plays a lawyer who works outside the parameters of morals to get what she wants. Based on a book by Louise Kaplan.

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Reego Twin Cinema Orchard Lake Rd. at Cass Lake Rd. 682-1900 Al Sais II Sibebre 6 pm Family Matter (10 - MI-SUN

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Sept. 12 THE FULL MONTY

Strapped for cash, and inspired by a visit from the Chippendales dancers to their town, six out-driver keteworkers try to turn things around by forming an unlikely act. Stars Robert Carlyle, Mark Addy.

THE GAMET
Psychological thriller about an emotionally removed man who is invited to play a mysterious game involving characters who may or may not be real. Stars Michael Douglas and Sean Penn.

Scheduled to open Friday, Sept. 19

A THOUSAN ACKES

Based on Jane Smiley's Pulitzer Prizewinning novel about a family that is
divided other long-guarded secrets, rivalrices and desires are discovered. Stars
Jessica Lange, Micholie Pfeiffer, Jason
Leigh, Jason Robards.

"The AOT"

This "out-of-the-closet" comody is about a small town acting teacher whose homosexuality is accidentally "out-of" by a former student. Stars Kevin Kline, Jean Cussek, Matt Dillon, Debble Reynolds, Bob Newhart, Tom Selleck,

"LA CONFIDENTIAL"

Three LAPD officers become separately entangled in a web of intrigue and deceit that threatens to destroy them. Set in the early 1950s. Stars Kevin Spocey, based on novel by James Eliroy.

"WISHMASTER"
Folklore says find a lamp and rub it and a genie appears to grant three wishes. This is Wes Croven's take on the story: the real genie usurps the world for him-

Drama: James Cromwell stars as Captain Duley Smith (left to right); Guy Pearce as Detective Ed Exley; Rus-sell Crowe as Detective Bud White and Kevin Spacey as celebrity cop Jack Vincennes in "L.A. Confidential," a powerful crime drama opening at metro Detroit the aters Sept. 19.

who are confronted with the greatest problem in their lives when someone is accidentally killed. The story follows them through a rough Brooklyn neighborhood and a series of strange encounters with personal conflicts. Stars Michael Parducci.

Scheduled to open Friday, Sept. 26 Psychological thriller about two men who must rely on each other to survive when their plane crashes in the remote Alaskan wilderness, while confronting personality conflicts. Stars Anthony Hopkins, Alec Baldwin.

"SOUL FOOD"
A young man struggles to keep his embattled Chicago family together after their matriarch becomes III. Stars Vanessa Williams.

Scheduled to open Friday, Oct. 3

"U TURN"
A desperate man end his indian wite,
the heat and a small town in Arizona
drive a stranded gambler to risk his life
for love and money. Stars Sean Penn,
Jennifer Lopez, Nick Noite.

Southfield hosts classic film series

The City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Department's Lineal Cinema Series 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 per person and lineal Cinema Series 7 p.m. cial rates are available for groups of 20 or more, call (248) Gentlement's Agreement' at the

The City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Department's Cultural Arts Division opens it Classic Cinema Series 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17 with the film 'Gentlemen's Agreement' at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24360 Southfield Road.
Judgo Stephen Cooper of the 46th District Court will lecture prior to the film starring Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and John Carfield. "Gentlemon's Agreement' won an Academy Award for its adaptation of the Laura Z. Hobson novel of the same name. Peck stars as writer or pretending to be Jowish and discovering rampant anti-

424-9022.

The film series offers viewers a chance to get reacquainted with, or perhaps view for the first time, a timeless film from the past. All films begin at 7 p.m. in the Southfield Centre for the

Arts.
"Stormy Weather" is the second film of the series on Friday,
Nov. 21. The film, one of Hollywood's rare, all-black musicals,
stars Lona Horne, Bill "Bojangies" Robinson, Cab Calloway,

Nicholas Brothers and Dooley Wilson. The film follows a hus-band and wife as they struggle to make it in show business. On Jan. 16, the series gossi international with the French; classic "Les Misorables." Feb. 29,

classic Los Miserables. Feb. 29, two great movies come to the sories, Bronze Buckuroo and Harlom Rides the Range. Both movies were produced by, and star, native Detroiter Herbött-Jeffries and are set in the wild west and feature all-black cast.

On March 20, the series exquines the beginning of World War-I with the film "The Day That-Shook the World."

