



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (8-17-15)

DROP EVERYTHING! STAGES ST. LOUIS GOES THE FULL MONTY

(ST. LOUIS) – STAGES St. Louis welcomes back its red-hot award-winning smash hit *The Full Monty*! Featuring a powerful story with enduring characters, this hilarious, yet heartwarming musical comedy will run September 4 – October 4 at the Robert G. Reim theatre in Kirkwood.

Meet Jerry, Dave, Harold, Ethan, Malcolm, and “Horse” – six unemployed steelworkers who come up with a bold and unconventional way to make some much-needed cash. In the process, they discover renewed self-esteem and the importance of family, friendship, and the very human desire to live life to the fullest. With razor-sharp humor, toe-tapping pizzazz, and a sizzling score from David Yazbek, this ten-time Tony Award-nominee is musical theatre at its most heart-warming.

The Full Monty originated as the 1997 Academy Award-nominated British film set in Sheffield, England. Three years later, the film was adapted into musical form. Tony Award-winning Broadway playwright, Terrence McNally, Americanized the book, transporting the story to Buffalo, New York. The musical held its world premiere at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego in June of 2000 before transferring to Broadway, opening at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre on October 26, 2000. Setting box office records, the musical ran for 770 performances and earned ten Tony Award nominations, including Best Musical in 2001.

American lyricist and composer David Yazbek began his eclectic musical career as a recording artist and member of a pop band. Yazbek released five albums, the first of which, *The Laughing Man*, won the 1997 NAIRD Award for Best Pop Album of the Year. As a TV writer, he has penned songs and jingles for many films and children’s shows and earned an Emmy for his comedy writing for the “Late Night Show with David Letterman.” Yazbek burst on the musical theatre scene with *The Full Monty*. His work on the smash-hit comedy not only earned him nominations for both Tony and Grammy Awards, but he also received the Drama Desk award for Best Music, launching an illustrious career on Broadway. Yazbek has since written Tony-nominated scores for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*.

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New York Actor Brent Michael Diroma stars as Jerry Lukowski. A familiar face at STAGES this season, Diroma most recently was seen in both STAGES' 2015 productions of *Smokey Joe's Café* and *Anything Goes*. Diroma has performed as Huey in *Memphis*, Hank Majewski/Bob Gaudio in *Jersey Boys*, Tony in *West Side Story*, and Princeton/Rod in *Avenue Q*.

New York Actor Todd A. Horman stars as Dave Bukatinsky. Horman most recently was seen in the Broadway production of Sting's *The Last Ship* and in the First National Tour of *Sister Act*. Other Broadway credits include *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert* and *Urinetown*. Horman also has appeared in the National Tour of *Victor/Victoria* and in regional productions of *The Full Monty* and *1776*.

New York Actor James Ludwig makes his STAGES debut as Harold Nichols. Ludwig has performed on Broadway in *Spamalot* as well as appeared in the First National Tour of *101 Dalmatians*. Off-Broadway credits include *Two Point Oh*, *Blue Man Group*, and *John & Jen*. Regionally, Ludwig has appeared in *Ctrl+Alt+Delete*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Full Monty*.

New York Actor Adam Shonkwiler stars as Ethan Girard. Shonkwiler returns to STAGES, where he was last seen as Huck in the 2010 production of *Big River*. Shonkwiler has appeared in the National Tour of *Whistle Down the Wind* as well as regionally in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Red*, and *Camelot*. Film and TV credits include Rebecca Miller's *The Private Lives of Pippa Lee* and NBC's "The Playboy Club."

New York Actor Erik Keiser stars as Malcolm MacGregor. Keiser most recently appeared in STAGES' 2015 productions of Disney's *The Aristocats* and *Anything Goes*. He also was seen in STAGES' 2014 productions of *Fiddler on the Roof* and Disney's *Sleeping Beauty* as well as the 2013 production of *Legally Blonde*. Other favorite credits include the Off-Broadway premiere of *The Bardy Bunch*, the National Tour of *Footloose*, and regional productions of *How to Succeed in Business...* and *High School Musical*.

New York Actor Milton Craig Nealy makes his STAGES debut as Noah "Horse" T. Simmons. Nealy has appeared on Broadway in *Motown*, *The Musical*, *Caroline, or Change*, *Miss Saigon* (also London and Australian productions), and *Five Guys Named Moe*. National Tour credits include *The Full Monty* (also the Australian Cast), *Dreamgirls*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Nealy also performed at The Muny in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and recently returned in 2012 for *Dreamgirls*. Television and Film credits include "Person of Interest" and *The Blues Brothers*.

Also starring is **St. Louis Actress Zoe Vonder Haar**, who previously played Jeanette Burmeister in STAGES' 2007 production of *The Full Monty*. A familiar face with St. Louis audiences, Vonder Haar has performed in over sixty productions at STAGES including *Hello, Dolly!*, *Gypsy*, *Mame*, and most recently starred as Louise in *Always... Patsy Cline*. Other credits include the First International Touring Company of *A Chorus Line* and numerous productions at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and The Muny.

Rounding out the cast in alphabetical order are **Leah Berry** (Pam Lukowski), **Shawn Bowers** (Jackson/Police Sergeant/Repo Man), **Julie Cardia** (Vicki Nichols), **Kari Ely** (Marge/Molly MacGregor), **Laura Ernst** (Delores/Power Jogger), **Morgan Amiel Faulkner** (Estelle Genovese/Dance Instructor), **John Flack** (Gary Bonasorte/Tony Giordano), **Cody Heuer** (Marty/Repo Man), **Cole Hoefflerle** (Nathan Lukowski), **Steve Isom** (Reg Willoughby), **Ian Paget** (Buddy "Keno" Walsh), **Whit Reichert** (Power Jogger/Minister), **David Sajewich** (2nd Stripper/Teddy Slaughter), **Angela Sapolis** (Susan Hershey), **April Strelinger** (Joanie Lish), and **Lindsie VanWinkle** (Georgie Bukatinsky).

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The creative team for the production includes: **Michael Hamilton** (Direction), **Stephen Bourneuf** (Choreography), **Lisa Campbell Albert** (Musical Direction), **James Wolk** (Scenic Design), **Garth Dunbar** (Costume Design), **Matthew F. McCarthy** (Lighting Design), **Stuart M. Elmore** (Orchestral Design).

*-Complete biographical information is listed on STAGES' website at www.stagesstlouis.org
New York Casting is done by Scott Wojcik and Gayle Seay of Wojcik/Seay Casting.*

STAGES would like to thank Production Sponsors Judy and Jerry Kent.

Single tickets are on sale now and prices range from \$20 - \$57. STAGES performs in the intimate, 377-seat Robert G. Reim Theatre at the Kirkwood Civic Center, 111 South Geyer Road in St. Louis, MO. For more information or to purchase tickets call 314-821-2407 or visit www.StagesStLouis.org.

STAGES St. Louis is the region's foremost not-for-profit company committed to preserving and advancing the art form of Musical Theatre through excellence in performance and education. In 2015, STAGES celebrates its 29th year of producing Broadway-quality theatre, presenting 144 performances from May through October to nearly 50,000 patrons, during its mainstage season. STAGES ST. LOUIS is grateful for the support of the Regional Arts Commission, and has been funded in part by the Arts & Education Council. In addition, financial assistance has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council.

Media Partners: 103.3 KLOU, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and KSDK News Channel 5.

Interviews are available with the cast and/or director based on availability.

Production photos are available upon request.

Performance Schedule follows on next page.

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THE FULL MONTY
Robert G. Reim Theatre
Performance Schedule
September 4 – October 4, 2015

Friday	September 4	8:00 PM
Saturday	September 5	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	September 6	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Tuesday	September 8	8:00 PM
Wednesday	September 9	8:00 PM
Thursday	September 10	8:00 PM
Friday	September 11	8:00 PM
Saturday	September 12	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	September 13	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Tuesday	September 15	8:00 PM
Wednesday	September 16	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	September 17	8:00 PM
Friday	September 18	8:00 PM
Saturday	September 19	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	September 20	2:00 PM
Tuesday	September 22	8:00 PM
Wednesday	September 23	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	September 24	8:00 PM
Friday	September 25	8:00 PM
Saturday	September 26	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	September 27	2:00 PM
Tuesday	September 29	8:00 PM
Wednesday	September 30	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	October 1	8:00 PM
Friday	October 2	8:00 PM
Saturday	October 3	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	October 4	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM

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