

# Actor High gets comfortable in 'The Full Monty'

By WALLACE BAINE

wbaine@santacruzsentinel.com

You might think that, as an actor, "The Full Monty" is something you would do once — and labor to forget about through

years of psychotherapy. But Santa Cruz's Kevin High is about to "drop trou" and perform in "Monty" for the third time.



HIGH

The popular Broadway show opens the new summer season at Cabrillo Stage on Friday, and High will be right there on stage with five other guys showing off way more than most of us are comfortable with showing off. And the kicker is that High is nobody's idea of a Michelangelo statue.

"You have to be comfortable in your own body," said the veteran actor, "and I am."

In the play, High plays

Dave, a role that has served as a kind of make-work program for heavy-set actors since the play's debut in 2000. The play is the story of a group of unemployed former steel workers trying to deal with the fact of their sudden loss of manhood, as they define it, by doing a Chippendale's-style male-stripper revue. Dave is the character that, because he is overweight, most starkly brings body-image issues to bear on the play.

"Dave is responding to who he is physically throughout the play," said High, "and when the time comes to [strip], you as an actor are feeling the same anxieties the character is feeling, so in a way, it's not even acting."

High moved to Santa Cruz in 1998 from his native South Carolina, first getting a job as an IT professional at Netflix. He said his first visit to Santa Cruz after graduating from the University of South Carolina was "this is the coolest place in the world."

After a few years at Netflix, he started to get the itch to perform on stage, as he did in college. "I never really saw acting as a way to make ends meet," he said. "But after a while, I knew I needed to pursue what I love."

He got some jobs at Western Stage in Salinas, and Mountain Community Theatre in Ben Lomond, eventually getting enough work to earn his Equity union card. He went to Los Angeles in hopes of breaking in there. He auditioned in

various places, but nothing seemed to work for him early on. Soon, he gave up on L.A., and flew to New York to try his hand there.

"The plane touches down at the airport in Newark and I get a call." It was from a casting agent in Los Angeles, offering him a part in the stage pro-

duction of Charles Dickens's "Great Expectations."

He first took on Dave in "The Full Monty" in a small black-box production in Los Angeles, then in a bigger Seattle production. He has performed the show often enough now, that he has come to be philosophical about getting

naked in front of an audience of strangers.

"It's something that's very hard to do out of the context of the show. But once you're in the mode of telling the story, it really is a redeeming moment. I mean, really, for an actor, it's a moment like no other I've ever experienced."

## IF YOU GO

'THE FULL MONTY'

**PRESENTED BY:** Cabrillo Stage


**WHEN:** Opening Friday, 7:30 p.m., through July 17

**WHERE:** The Crocker Theater on the campus of Cabrillo College

**COST:** \$16 to \$34 adults.


**DETAILS:** For more ticket price details and showtimes, go to [www.cabrillostage.com](http://www.cabrillostage.com).

30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
1981 - 2011


2011 REPERTORY SEASON  
Performing at Cabrillo College

**OPENS TOMORROW!**      **JUNE 24 - JULY 17**

# THE FULL MONTY



**"AN EAR-CATCHING POP SCORE...  
AN ENERGETIC CROWD-PLEASER."**

— New York Times

**THE LAST 5 YEARS  
OPENS JULY 8!**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW **831-479-6154** or [www.cabrillostage.com](http://www.cabrillostage.com)

Santa Cruz Sentinel presents Sundays at Cabrillo Stage!