

STRIPPED

A DARK COMEDY with MUSIC

A Strip Club: If you've ever been to one, you'll probably go back. If you haven't and you're curious but too timid to take the plunge, **STRIPPED** is your chance to experience the circus-like atmosphere, the sexuality, the pounding music and the empty promises of the forbidden.

Toni Kasper's voyeuristic, interactive journey brings the audience directly into the world of adult entertainment, where, seated as patrons of a strip club, they can taste up close and personal the table dances, the slow teases, the absurd conversations, the flow of cash, the drinks, and the lure of this illicit atmosphere. From the moment the audience walks up to the entrance, they are checked out by **Big Ed**, the bouncer; greeted and seated by **Vinnie**, the manager; offered drinks by **Frankie**, the waitress; and maybe even solicited for a private dance by **Samantha**, **Amber**, **Natasha**, or **Coco**.

But ***STRIPPED*** is not merely a fly-on-the-wall view of a topless bar, with its locker-room humor and sexual taboos. It is also Kasper's serious exploration—based on her real-life experience as a cocktail waitress in a high end New York strip club—into the lives of the women who dance and the men who watch them; their moments of power and pleasure, and the depths of their loneliness. More than that, ***STRIPPED*** examines our own moral values, fantasies, realities, sexuality and the roles we play in the world today.

THE PLOT

The audience follows the protagonist, Frankie, the club's cocktail waitress. An ambitious actress waiting for a break, Frankie, is frustrated with her job and disgusted with the patrons. When the girls at the club encourage her to become a stripper herself—with the promise that she'll not only make more

money, but have the chance to perform as a “showgirl”—Frankie throws off her feminist stance to join the sexual circus. When Paul, a young man who wanders into the club just to watch the football game, shows a genuine emotional interest in Frankie, she is unable to leave the lure of “easy” money and the fantasy of being “discovered” by one of the patrons. As their story unfolds, we watch the girls dance: Amber, a muscular military brat who’s obsessed with working out; Samantha, an abused New Age flower child; Natasha, a Russian immigrant trying to meet a millionaire husband; and Coco, an African-American beauty who exploits racism in order to make a buck.

During each girl’s stint on the main stage, the patrons—from an amiable but shy CEO who prefers to pay for love, to a foot-fetish shoe salesman, to a Wall Street tycoon—discuss their wives, their sexual fantasies, their fears, their money, and why they are drawn to the strip club fantasy world --trying to fulfill something missing in their own everyday lives.

STRIPPED is interwoven with choreographed disco and rock n’ roll dance numbers that become part of the storyline, as each character’s emotional baggage is brought to the surface. The audience sympathizes with both the exploited women and men who question love over money or visa-versa.

With a Cast of 15--*STRIPPED* is an entertaining roller coaster ride of sadness and laughs. Using music and movement, this play has very film-like qualities that give it more dimension than “just another play about strippers”.

Kasper brilliantly keeps the audience entertained throughout the show utilizing dream-like sequences that bounce in and out of Frankie’s own reality as the audience rides along on her surrealistic venture.