

Dorset Echo (Review) 9th October 2010

Bouncers – Arena Theatre – Warehouse Theatre, Weymouth.

John Godber's down-to-earth assessment of a typical night out with the lads is given brilliant treatment in this touring production from the Arena Theatre group from Christchurch.

A cast of five men bring to life the vivid-and-hilarious host of characters who congregate at a Yorkshire nightclub in the 1980's for a rave up complete with hits of yesteryear to add to the atmosphere.

As the blokes down the pints, the girls, also played by the men, dance to It's Raining Men in a comedy that takes a mirror to aspects of British culture at its most basic.

A session at the hair salon, burger bar, porn movie shop and lots of visits to the gents loo- well,, you would after 14 pints – all take place on a completely bare stage as the lads and ladettes strut their stuff in a vain attempt to attract the opposite sex.

Strong language and explicit sexual references make the play somewhat uncomfortable viewing for some people in what is an honest appraisal of the social scene for a large proportion of the public.

The excellent cast give faultless performances in their portrayal of the men – and girls – who are all struggling to understand themselves and each other in a hostile world. It has to be admitted that a generation after the play was written, nothing much has changed.

The tour goes to Shaftesbury Arts centre in late November.