

## The Stripper revealed

THE Stripper bumped and ground its way into its world premiere season at the new Kinsela's Theatre, Taylor Square, Sydney last week.

Presented by the Sydney Theatre Company and directed and designed by Brian Thomson of Superstar, Rocky Horror and Chicago fame, it presented a slick, fleshy and sequinned evening of satire.

Based on the combination of Carter Brown novels it has superb lyrics by Richard O'Brien and a great musical backup by composer Richard Hartley and the band. The show is great value for voyeurs of beef and cheese cake. Robyn Moase as Deadpan Dolores, the stripper, is breathtaking right down to her last stiletto high kick and toss of luminous green tassles.

Thomson's precision direction is full of

fast and funny sight gags like the pop-out bed which delivers Dolores reclining in thick fur and the flick-back Picasso-looking door which whirls the heroine on and off stage with total lack of dignity. There are wonderful chorus line numbers like the plastic mac brigade routine and John Paramor's strip.

Lieut. A Wheeler, the plain-clothed detective who almost forgets that he's come to investigate a murder when he meets Dolores, is pure, nightbeat Carter Brown, played by Terence Donovan. He doesn't miss a mean cop move or a line.

The Arkwrights, Jacob and Sarah, who run the highly suspect "Happiness Club", are a delight in obsequiousness and absurdity as played by Robin Beard and Bob Hornery, the latter doubling as hideous gay florist Harvey Stern who is possibly responsible for pushing poor blonde Patty Keller (hilariously played by Anne Grigg) to her "accidental" death. Did she jump, was she pushed or did she fall from the 15th floor?

The sleazy Doc Murphy, pockets full of

hypodermics, white coat splattered with unidentifiable stains, is given the evil dealer touch by Jack Webster, who also doubles as the sinister, gravel-voiced owner of the Club Extravaganza, Miles Royak.

The show piles up the clichés and plays them out with sizzling hilarity and knife-edged wit. It slithers along at top speed, changing scenes with the flick of a venetian blind or a feather duster, transporting you from the southern belle world of Annabella Jackson played by Barbara Jane Cole, to the singing, dancing, gun-slinging cunning of Michael Caton as Sherrif Lavers. Steve Loomas, is given the all brawn, no brain but great tight pants treatment by D. J. Foster.

It's great fun, as racy and as zany as you would expect a cafe theatre in a funeral parlour to be. The Stripper plays Monday to Thursday at 8 pm, Friday and Saturday at 6 and 9 pm. Insomniacs can stay on for the late-night shows. The first, The Phil Stine Revue, features Linda Nagle and Phil Stine, well known master of bad taste.

For those in the mood there's a swing band with one of Sydney's leading trumpet players, John Hoffman, and featuring Kerry Biddell for the first month. Other late-night groups include Funny Stories, a five-man comedy team of Darlinghurst artists and performers well known on leagues club circuits; The Globos, a Melbourne 50s Italian rock'n'roll slick revivalist group, and Aroma Billings, exotic artiste ordinaire, better known as Jan Cornall.

The Spots, Jenny Hope and Jenny Ludlum, will also appear along with the Conway Bros. Every Tuesday night there will be "Slide Night." The first of these will present a Bob Ellis and Patrick Cook double act with Phil Scott on the piano. Later Alex Buzo will present his exposé on the New Class. Phillip Roop and his singing dog Molly are scheduled and so is the "Brunswick Head Revisited" writer, Adam Bown.

Late-night shows are Mondays to Thursdays at 11 and Friday and Saturday at 11.30.

—BERWYN LEWIS

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