



# Review: 'Gleeks and Freaks: A Glee Burlesque Musical'

Gorilla Tango's latest geeky burlesque revue tickles the funny bone

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Cast of 'Gleek and Freaks: A Burlesque Musical': Alicia D. Queen (Coach Sue), Kirby Brown (Rebekah), Meagan Grabel (Trina), Tabitha Lee (Cadillac), Claire Feeney (Wheels), Cali Austin (Kinzi), Candin Marks (Serena), Jessamyn Fitzpatrick (Breezy).

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Once in a while, an idea for a parody comes along that makes you wonder, "Now why didn't I come up with that?" And then there are the ideas that make you think, "The original was practically made to be created into a parody like this." A funny, burlesque version of Fox's hit TV show "Glee," already chock full of sex-driven high-schoolers occasionally bumping and grinding to modern, glee club versions of classic pop songs? OK, that makes sense.

"**Gleeks and Freaks: A Glee Burlesque Parody**" is **Gorilla Tango Theatre's** latest installment of "geek burlesque," from the same crop who launched "**Boobs and Goombas: A Super Mario Burlesque**" in October 2010--and subsequently have extended it every month from its original several-week run, due to popular demand. Though "Glee" may not exactly reach the same arm of geekdom as Super Mario, the same concept applies: Take a slightly weird pop culture fixation, loosely overlay an adventure plot, add pasties, serve.

It's a good thing "Gleeks" doesn't stray far from the formula, as, aside from a few dialogue kinks here and there, it translates well. The characters stay the same, for the most part, with ladies taking on all of the roles of the mean-spirited Cheerios cheerleaders, the extra dorky-but-sweet wheelchair-bound gleeek, the outcasted alternative one, the sassy black power voice and the uptight Jewish princess, who throws a wrench in the group's plans to perform burlesque to raise cash for a trip to the national competition when she refuses to strip further than her camisole. And Coach Sue? Though she doesn't make her entrance--a grand one, it is--until very late in the performance, her villain status hasn't been compromised.

With a soundtrack pulled straight from the TV show, well-executed physical comedy hijinks and some good ol' dirty dancing sprinkled in before the actual stripteases commence, "Glee" fans should get a kick out of seeing their beloved misfit characters plucked from the TV and stripped...of their tops. Though some parts in between the burlesque routines hopelessly drag and depend too much on high-pitched shrieking, the actresses go full force on their direct cracks at the many idiosyncracies of the TV show. Where's the glee club's fearless leader, Mr. "Brewster"? Well, he's off at a workshop "learning how to become a white rapper," of course. Wheels, the wheelchair-bound gleeek especially brings the giggles when performing her solo striptease to the "Glee" version of "Dancing with Myself" in

"Serenity" (the name of her sequin-studded wheelchair).

In a word, the "Gleeks and Freaks" cast gets cheeky with their parody, not-so-slyly injecting suggestions to take advantage of the "stocked bar in the back there" and a definition of just what the heck burlesque is into the script. Give the hour-long show about 15 or 20 minutes to kick things into gear, and, "Glee" fan or not, you'll be on board with the glee club's sexy-funny journey to nationals. Expect an hour packed with rump shaking, high-pitched squeals, some wheelchair wisecracks and maybe even a pair of Star of David pasties.