

Mo' Bosses Mo' Problems at Aliso Niguel's "One Man, Two Guvnors"  
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Amid secret identities, romantic endeavors, and explicit criminality, Francis Henshall has the most noble quest of all: getting a proper English lunch.

Richard Bean's "One Man, Two Guvnors" incorporates the slapstick art of Commedia Dell'Arte into a tale of a peckish Englishman navigating the hilarities of two employers in 1960s Brighton, England.

Ace Etienne (Francis Henshall) expresses genuine devotion to his meals as he gets down on one knee, thrusts his arms forward, and gazes up at his dreamlike visualization of 'lunch'. In the first few moments of his arrival, Etienne hunches up his immense belly, hurls himself backward, and summersaults onto an elevated surface with precise comedic timing.

Guided by romantic pursuits, Josie Cook (Rachel Crabbe) masks herself as her deceased twin brother, adopting a manly stature to crash an engagement party. While in disguise, Cook's commanding presence shines through her carefree stance and mocking finger waggles toward her brother's formerly betrothed. But when she hears her lover may have died, Cook devolves into uproarious, shrieking wails as she crashes down and rips her disguise to reveal her true identity.

April Simpson (Charlie Clench) adopts a deep, masculine voice which she releases in bursts of brutish laughter and rough jokes as she delivers a toast at the party. Simpson strides across the stage with a boasted chest, drink in hand, slapping her knee and keeling over at her own humor.

Keilani Meyer, Marina Mitaya, and the ANTC ASMs supervise around 50 crew members and control set changes. They navigate chaotic scene transitions and traverse through the highly congested stage to depict the location changes with precision and punctuality.

Reflecting the vibrancy of the 1960s, Abigail Kirland, Freja Harrison, and the ANTC Costume Crew adorn the cast with kaleidoscopic, youthful colors. To epitomize Henshall's passion for foodstuffs, the crew constructed a fat suit; two white undershirts paired with pillow stuffing and crammed into Henshall's shirt to reveal his distinctive physique.

The Hair and Makeup Crew, led by Emma Esparza and Sara Phan, prioritizes faithful '60s hairstyles as they learn how to tease hair and assemble oversized buns. Similarly, female characters have heavy, bold makeup to resemble popular looks from the period.

The skillful company of Aliso Niguel's "One Man, Two Guvnors" zestfully reveals how one man's harrowing quest for a decent meal is another two guvnors' amusing entertainment.