

Calendar Girls Audition Package

Producer: Penelope Gil
Director: Renata Solski
Assistant Director: Monica Gustafson
Musical Direction: Roger and Kari-Lynn Hewett
Stage Manager: Sumaya Black
Set Design/Props: Leeanne Hayes
Costume Design: Shanna Light
Technical Design: Vee Papadimos
Publicity: Michelle Fortier

Director's Vision

Together with my exceptional team, we strive to convey this heartfelt narrative of resilience. This play is inspired by a true cancer journey, and many of us may have a personal connection to it. All the characters exhibit kindness, and even amidst conflict, they provide support to one another. This play holds particular significance for me as it encourages older women to embrace their bodies. Issues of ageism and physical appearance are prominently addressed. The play encompasses various themes, including friendship, transforming grief into something meaningful, and above all, love.

We hope to create a company that collaborates in sharing the story of this unique community. The essence of the show resides in each character's discovery of their spirit. Ultimately, I hope the audience departs with a sense of hope, finding joy even in challenging circumstances. We eagerly anticipate meeting you at the auditions.

Production Dates:

September 19,20,21,26,27 and 28th, 2025

Auditions:

June 19th 6pm to 8pm

June 21st 2pm to 4pm

Audition Format

Kindly ensure your arrival at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the audition. A group activity will take place to evaluate chemistry, followed by some scene work. It is crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of the characters, their interrelationships, and their connection to the overall storyline.

You may be requested to perform readings multiple times across various scenes and scenarios. There will be enjoyable scene work involved. Audition sides will be provided at the auditions.

Call backs (if required): June 23rd 6pm to 8pm

Read through and scripts June 26th 7pm to 9pm

Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsals begin in July and take place every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7pm to 9pm and every Saturday from 10am to noon. You may not be needed for every rehearsal. When cast, you will receive a calendar showing scene work for each rehearsal day.

**** September 13th to 18th every night**

September 13th and 14th(Cue to Cue) all day 10 am to 6pm

Dress Rehearsal September 18th

A WORD ON NUDITY

Sometimes what the audience does see lies in what we withhold. The nude scenes choreography will involve concealment.

DIRECTORS' NOTE

As we all know, the Calendar shoot is the best-known aspect of the Calendar Girls' story. It is essential that the audience sees nothing that we do not wish them to see in this scene. This part will receive special attention in choreography and with consideration to each person's comfort level.

The Characters

**** Please note that I look at how the whole company fits together. Age given is an approximate number.**

Chris, 50s/60s

Chris is the life of the party. Chris is loud, and loves being the centre of attention.

Annie, 50s./60's

Annie is Chris' best friend. She is the calmer of the pair, but enjoys getting up to mischief.

Cora, around 40s/50's

The daughter of the vicar and now the church organist, Cora sowed her wild oats in college and came back a single mum. Eclectic rock chick with a dead pan wit, ***Cora opens the show singing and playing 'Jerusalem' on the WI's old piano.***

Jessie, late 60s

A retired teacher, Jessie lives life by her own rules and loves every minute of it. She does not suffer fools.

Celia, 35-50.

Porsche driver and more at home in a department store than a church, Celia is an odd fit at the WI, but game for anything.

Ruth, 40s/50's

Ruth is too eager to please and uncomfortable in her own skin. On her discovery of her husband's infidelity, with the support of her friends, she redefines herself and chooses happiness.

Marie, 50s/60's

The WI is Marie's pride and joy, and justifies her entire existence. It is her job to ensure that her WI outshines all others, much to the chagrin of its members.

John, 50s/60's

John is Annie's adored husband. A beautiful man, his death inspires the creation of the Calendar.

Rod, 50s/60s

Chris' husband and partner in crime, and best friend of John. A hard worker with a dry wit, he is Chris' rock.

Lawrence, late 20s/30's

Lawrence is a young man who is press ganged – much to his embarrassment - into being the photographer at the nude photo shoot.

Lady Cravenshire, 60s

The local dignitary Marie is desperate to impress, Lady Cravenshire “glides into the room like a galleon.”

Elaine, 30s/40's

A make up artist confronted with evidence of her affair by a timid Ruth.

Liam, late 30's

A bored advertising executive who would rather be anywhere else than with a bunch of middle aged ladies.

Notes on the characters

The leading ladies are Chris and Annie. Their friendship and their grief at the loss of John are the heart of the show. However, most of the scenes are set in the WI hall with the 6 main ladies discussing ideas and events of the day.

Chris, Annie, Cora, Jessie, Celia and Ruth ALL DISROBE ONSTAGE for the shooting of the calendar. The nudity is played for laughs, with MODESTY PRESERVED AT ALL TIMES by the other women and by strategically placed props. Please speak with the production team if you are not comfortable with this requirement.

Marie, John and Rob are all meaty roles, with no requirement for nudity.

Lawrence is on stage for the calendar shoot. It is a small but comically important role. This actor must have the trust of all the women on stage or else this scene will not work.

Lady Cravenshire, Elaine and Liam are all small but important roles.