

Audition notice for Calendar Girls by Tim Firth
at The Farmington Players

Sunday July 23, 2017

Registration at 12:30, with auditions beginning at 1:00

Performance dates: September 22, 23, 24, 30, October 1, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 14, 2017

No performance September 29, 2017 to allow for observance of Yom Kippur

Production Team: Director-Nancy Cooper, Assistant Director- Jared Kovacs-Saalman, Producers- Amy Poirer and Jason Wilhoite.

About the play: Based on the true story of members of The Women's Institute in Knapley Village in Yorkshire County who pose nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund. When Annie's husband John dies, she and her best friend Chris resolve to raise money to buy a new settee for the hospital's family room. They manage to persuade four fellow members to pose nude with them to make a calendar to sell, but the whole project becomes way bigger than anyone could have imagined and tests the limits of friendship and relationships.

This play is truly an ensemble piece and every cast member is important to the process. Rehearsals will begin August 13th and run 3-4 times a week until opening.

An English dialect will be required for the show. Think Shakespeare.

The most important aspect of this production is the relationship that each character has with the others. I cannot emphasize this strongly enough!!!

The nudity in the show relies on "fabulous concealment" and will be handled with care. But there are no "nude suits" ladies, you will ultimately, in fact, be nude. But trust me, no one other than your fellow actors will see anything they shouldn't.

We will be making an actual calendar to raise money to benefit The Leukemia Foundation, so the whole cast and production staff will be involved in some sort of pose for a photo shoot!

The Characters: 10 women, 4 men

Chris – 50's

You want Chris at your party. She is fun! She is at home in crowds and at ease when the center of attention or the center of the stage. She is a bit like a naughty schoolgirl and loves to make people laugh. She is Annie's best friend, and without her, Annie's life would be a lot less fun and a lot more boring. Chris is married to Rod. She is a member of the WI.

Annie – 50s

Annie will happily join in mischief with Chris, but she is at heart more of a conformist than Chris. She has enough edge about her to be interesting and enough salt not to be too sweet. She is married to John. She is a member of the WI.

(The playwright notes that together, Chris and Annie are greater than the sum of their parts. They would be lesser humans had they not met each other.)

Cora- 40's

Her past is quite eclectic. Her horizons were broadened by a college education, but a pregnancy out of wedlock sent her home to her mother, and her father, the Parish Vicar. But she is too resilient to be downtrodden. She has a razor- sharp wit that raises laughter in others, but rarely herself. She has a strong but changing relationship with her growing daughter. She is the organist for the Parish. (plays the piano in the show) and leads the vocal music (must be able to sing). She is still unwed. She is a member of the WI.

Jessie- 60's

Retired local school teacher. Get on her good side and she will be you friend for life, get on her bad side and you will regret every waking hour. She loves life. Doesn't bother with cosmetics, but rather finds bravery to be truly beautiful. She will correct your grammar and your manners. She has been married for a very long time. She is a member of the WI.

Celia -30's-50's

A woman more at home in a department store than a church hall. Always feels as if she drifted in from another world, because she did. She is a "trophy wife". But despite these characteristics, she is drawn to the "ordinary women" at the WI. She sees more value in their conversation and friendship than the girls at the Golf Club. Likes vodka. Married. Member of the WI.

Ruth – 40's-50's

Ruth makes quite a journey during the course of the play, from the false self-confidence of the emotionally abused to the genuine self-confidence of a woman happy in her own skin. Ruth is eager to please, but is not a rag doll. She is actively Marie's right hand woman, because she wants to keep peace and happiness at the WI. The members are protective of Ruth because they sense there is more to her life than she is letting out. Married, to a jack-ass. Member of the WI.

Marie – 50's

Wrapped tight. A stickler for the rules, maintenance of scheduled activities, and traditions. The current Marie is a result of layer of defense mechanisms. She moved to her dream place, Chesire County, and found that her dream place didn't want her. Back in Yorkshire, she has become President of her local WI and it justifies her entire existence. There is a part of Marie that would love to be asked to pose for the calendar. Married. President of the WI.

Brenda Hulse -50's-70's

Resident speaker and specialist on local history. May appear a bit overzealous about her responsibility, but she is credible and sincere.

Lady Cravenshire – 60's

She does not mean to be so patronizing, but the woman of the WI seem from another world. More like from the world that her estate workers live in. Her clothes are nicer, whiter, and her hat is bigger than anyone in the room. She must glide in to make an entrance. Does charity work for fun and recognition.

Elaine – 20's

Beauty specialist from Craven Health Spa. Wears a white lab coat that is so crisp you could cut yourself on it. Thinks the woman of the WI are like her grandma and need to be spoken to loudly and patronizingly. Really thinks she is quite something special.

John – 50's

John is a human sunflower. Not a saint. Not a hero. Just the kind of man you want as a friend. When he dies, it feels like someone, somewhere turned off a light. Married to Annie. Works as a Park Ranger in The Dales.

Rod -50's

You have to be a certain kind of man to be married to Chris, and Rod loves it. He has a deadpan sense of humor that always makes Chris laugh. He drinks a lot, but never enough to have a problem. He owns a flower shop and would work every hour to make it a success. He and John are best mates. They met through their wives. Married to Chris. Flower shop owner.

Lawrence-late 20's

Shy young man, hesitant without being nerdy. Witty enough to joke, and has enough spirit to design the ladies calendar. Though he is in the room with naked women, he only sees the art of the shot. Photographer. Porter at the hospital.

Liam – 20's-30's

Liam would rather be directing something other than a photoshoot for washing powder, but is not so unprofessional as to let it show. But we can sense it. He has a resigned patience that shows in his professional smile. Commercial director.