



Announcing Open Auditions
for our April/May production
of Tim Firth's comedy



Directed by Dianne O'Neill Filer

Sunday, February 21st • 6:00 - 8:00pm & Monday, February 22nd • 6:30 - 8:00pm
at the Spa Little Theater, Saratoga Spa State Park

Based on a true story, *Calendar Girls* is an endearingly funny, touching, delicious play that tells the tale of Annie and Chris. The best friends resolve to raise money for their local hospital by persuading four fellow members "of a certain age" to "bare all" and pose nude with them for an "alternative" calendar. The news of the women's charitable venture spreads like wildfire, and hordes of press soon descend on the small village of Knapeley in the Yorkshire Dales. The calendar is a success, but Chris and Annie's friendship is put to the test under the strain of their new-found fame. The women are warm and funny, and their men are equally appealing. There are also very important cameo roles.

For those concerned about nudity - there isn't any. As the author Tim Firth describes, *"As in the best tradition of Vaudevillian fan dances, the art of the play's nudity lies in what is withheld. The choreography of this sequence is best described as 'fabulous concealment.' Should we see anything we oughtn't, the whole scene will deflate like a soufflé on which the oven door has been opened too quickly."*

Character Breakdown – all ages are guidelines

The "calendar girls" (all sing well enough for a bit of choral singing):

Chris (50s): She is feisty, funny, an instigator - the calendar is her idea. She is Annie's best friend. Without her Annie's life would be much less interesting.

Annie (50s): She is kind, sweet, funny, loving. It is her husband, John, who has the "big C." Chris' best friend, she helps keep Chris grounded.

Cora (40s-50s): An ex "rock chick" child of a pastor, she went to college and came home pregnant and single. She once "rode topless on a Harley Davidson." Sings quite well, and has a tattoo "revealed" by the calendar.

Jessie (60s-70s): A retired teacher. Get on her right side, you're golden. Get on the wrong side? Look out! Jessie loves life, her friends, and surprising people. (Looks a bit like Jane Fonda, perhaps).

Celia (35-50): A woman of wealth and usually good taste (she has been accused of dressing like a tart). Her type is usually found at the country club, not at the Women's Institute, but Celia is a rebel, and has no patience with the vapid materialism of her peers. She is particularly fond of Jessie. ("Well endowed").

Ruth (40s): Ruth aims to please. She really just wants everyone to be happy, and tries ever so hard to achieve that end, but loses much of herself in the process. She is finally redeemed by her own inner strength and the support of her friends in the Women's Institute.

Their men:

John (50s): Annie's husband. The kind of man you'd want to have with you on a long distance car ride. No saint, just a really good bloke.

Rod: (50s): Chris' husband. Works hard to make his florist business a success. Drinks, loves Chris, is John's best mate.

The supporting cast:

Marie (50s+): Regards the success of the Women's Institute as her personal mission in life. Does not appreciate interference, or humor. A bit of a “battle-axe.” Sings.

Lawrence (20s): The “real” photographer. Shy, but not without humor, and enough spirit to turn up at the hall, with very creative ideas.

Lady Cravenshire (Elderly): The Women's Institute “girls” are definitely not of her world - they dwell in the realm of her estate workers. She rides the fete in a galleon of “entitlement.”

Elaine (20s): A superciliously cheerful beautician.

Liam (Indeterminate age): He is a bit world weary. This photoshoot is just a job, and he would rather be somewhere more important. But, he is a professional and behaves accordingly.

No Appointment is necessary ★ Auditions will be from the script
Please bring a current photo & resume (cannot be returned)

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: Monday - Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons/evenings beginning early March.

PRODUCTION DATES: Weekends, April 15th through May 1st.

For further information please contact HMT at (518) 587-4427 or info@homemadetheater.org