



COMPANY THEATRE

*is proud to present the  
Auckland amateur premiere of*

# CALENDAR GIRLS

*By Tim Firth  
Directed by Kathy Gent*

Supporting:  
Using Every Moment  
**hospice**  
north shore

## 6th – 27th April 2013

Wednesday - Saturday 8pm, Sunday Matinées 2pm  
The Rose Centre, School Road, Belmont

**Based on the Miramax Motion Picture  
By Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Since the surprise success of their first calendar in 2000, the real-life Yorkshire 'calendar girls' have raised over £4 million for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research and inspired the smash hit film of 2003. When I first heard that the film of *Calendar Girls* was being adapted for the stage by Tim Firth, I immediately asked for a script and wrote to Tim asking when the rights would be available in New Zealand. We are thrilled to stage the first amateur production of the play in Auckland.

I need not have worried about finding the cast and crew to bring the play to life; all fifteen members of our *Calendar Girls* cast have approached rehearsals with great humour and a willingness to support and bring out the best in each other. The crew have worked tirelessly to achieve our shared vision for the play for which I thank them.

We received an email from Tricia Stewart one of the original *Calendar Girls* who said that over 980 licences have been granted to amateur groups round the world, and she is trying to see a good few of them! The inspiration for the original calendar came from John Baker on whom the character of John is based and who died from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1998. Tricia told us that his daughter-in-law suggested he plant sunflower seeds and give seedlings to friends and family to grow a sunflower for him in the hope that when they flowered he would be in remission. Sadly he died in the July when they bloomed but everywhere in August there were sunflowers and John asked for them at his funeral. The sunflower has become the symbol of the friendship, forgiveness and hope that are central themes in the play.

We have loved getting to know these Yorkshire characters with their great fondness for each other and real affection for their Womens' Institute and their close community. I hope that our production makes you laugh, makes you cry and leaves you feeling better about life than you did when you entered the theatre. We are aware that this 'shitty, cheating, sly, conniving bloody disease that cancer is' affects us all and would ask you to join us in supporting the on-going work of Hospice North Shore.

*Kathy Gent*



# SYNOPSIS OF SCENES



# CAST

*The action takes place in the Yorkshire village of Knapeley, and at the WI conference in London.*

## ACT I

- Scene 1** The church hall, Autumn
- Scene 2** The following Winter
- Scene 3** The following Spring
- Scene 4** On John's Hill, early Summer
- Scene 5** The church hall, mid-Summer
- Scene 6** At night, a few days later

## ACT 2

- Scene 1** The WI conference , London
- Scene 2** The church hall the following day
- Scene 3** A few days later
- Scene 4** A few days later
- Scene 5** The following day
- Scene 6** The next day
- Scene 7** Late Summer
- Scene 8** On John's Hill, half an hour later

*There will be a 15 minute interval between Act I and Act II*

During the interval the bar is open and tea and coffee are served for a gold coin donation.

Company Theatre's own Calendar Girls Alternative WI Calendar 2014 is for sale for \$10, the proceeds of which go to Hospice North Shore.

**Annie**

**Chris**

**Celia**

**Cora**

**Jessie**

**Ruth**

**Marie**

**Brenda**

**Lady Cravenshire**

**John**

**Rod**

**Lawrence**

**Elaine**

**Liam**

**Tony**

**Lawrence's  
assistants**

**Voice-overs**

Linda Savage

Julie Collis

Catherine Maunsell

Liz Brown

Ann Baxter

Ruth Flynn

Trudy Thumath

Rosemary Cobb

Jan Judson

Steven Arnold

Rob Campion

Phil Tarbox

Liz Gill/Greta Lawson

Sam Penfold

Fred Gould

Jan Judson, Doreen Gould

Julia Brannigan,

María Cantrell, Manuel Garcia,

Claudia Mansell,

Richard Parmée,

Serguei Khouchnoutdinov



# PRODUCTION TEAM



# CAST PROFILES

<b>Director</b>	Kathy Gent
<b>Director's Assistant</b>	Jan Judson
<b>Stage Managers</b>	Lynne Davis and Anne Rimmer
<b>Set Design</b>	Anne Rimmer
<b>Set Construction</b>	Phil Davis with Richard Parmée, Scott Thomas, Tony Sandy, Alastair Fletcher
<b>Set Dressing</b>	Caroline Parker
<b>Set Painting</b>	Caroline Parker, Tony Sandy, Anne Rimmer, John Gardner Lois Graham, Les Graham, Nadine Gibson
<b>Lighting Design/Lighting and Sound Operation</b>	Scott Thomas
<b>Properties</b>	Doreen & Fred Gould
<b>Wardrobe</b>	Amy Maclaine assisted by Cathie Sandy, Mary Gardner, Gail Carran
<b>Wardrobe Advisor</b>	Cathie Sandy
<b>Music/Sound</b>	Richard Ellsworth, Terry Smith
<b>Publicity</b>	Kathy Gent
<b>Calendar photographer</b>	Wendy Hay
<b>Tai Chi Instructor</b>	Paul Bryant
<b>Show Photos</b>	Sherry Ede
<b>Programme</b>	Kathy Gent, Richard Parmée
<b>Front of House Manager</b>	Sherry Ede
<b>Bar Manager</b>	Alastair Fletcher
<b>Box Office, Front of House &amp; Bar Staff</b>	Members of Company Theatre

**JULIE COLLIS – CHRIS**

This will mark Julie's 4th outing under the inspirational direction of Kathy Gent. 'Allo Allo', 'Brassed Off', and last year's production of 'Fawlty Towers' have all been first class shows with sell out nights. Playing Chris in 'Calendar Girls' is however a career highlight. Both the play and her role are taken on an emotional roller coaster, which Julie admits "makes it such an exciting challenge". She has also had many roles in TV dramas and commercials, but says "Working with the passionate people of Company Theatre is always enormous fun and tremendously rewarding; let's hope the audience enjoy the show as much as we do".

**LINDA SAVAGE – ANNIE**

'Calendar Girls' is the first full production that Linda has been involved with on Auckland's mainland. As a resident of Waiheke, she recently acted with Waiheke Theatre Company in their production of 'My Mother Said I never should' which received fabulous reviews. Last year Linda was seen by thousands who made their way to and from Waiheke on the Fullers ferry when she appeared in their Infomercial. Having just read Julie Walter's autobiography Linda was thrilled to be offered the part of Annie.

**CATHERINE MAUNSELL – CELIA**

This is Catherine's first production with Company Theatre and she is loving the role of Celia and being involved with such a great group of people. Since arriving in New Zealand from the UK five years ago, she has taken part in two productions at Dolphin Theatre, the first was in the role of Jess in 'Improbable Fiction' and last year she was Amanda in Noel Coward's 'Private Lives' for which she was nominated for a Best Actress Award.

**LIZ BROWN – CORA**

Liz is excited to be making her NZ theatrical debut, her last performance being as Eliza Doolittle in 'Pygmalion' in the UK. Now 9 years and 4 kids later, she connects readily with her onstage character, Cora in 'Calendar Girls', recognising her as a "fairly complex lady - the

happy joker of the pack but with underlying vulnerabilities and sensitivities". Liz is dedicating her performance to her best friend's Mum, Eve House, who died very suddenly of cancer earlier this year. "Jo's Mum was such a lovely lady - and by doing this play for her I hope I can in some small way support my best friend in the UK".

**RUTH FLYNN - RUTH**

Ruth has found it interesting to be cast as her namesake and is trusting that she doesn't share too many of her character's personality traits or her dress sense! Ruth's love of theatre started when she was four and over the years she has had roles in theatre, musicals and film. Since becoming self-employed, she has had less time for acting but when the opportunity arose to be part of 'Calendar Girls', she couldn't resist. Her favourite roles have been playing "old" women - Emily in 'Jayne with a Y' at ETS and Elsa in 'The Rosenberg Sisters' with Mairangi Players, plus Minnie Dean at NASDA and Violet and Iris in 'Eugenia' with Company Theatre.

**ANN BAXTER – JESSIE**

Ann is thrilled and excited to play Jessie and to be able to use her native tongue in the role of this feisty woman with her ironic sense of humour. Ann, a dramatic Yorkshire woman, has had many years of experience on stage and in film and television and is grateful that 'Calendar Girls' gives her a rare opportunity to celebrate both the county of her birth and the joy of ensemble performance. Ann's last appearance for Company Theatre was as Lady Catherine de Burgh in 'Pride and Prejudice'. She has also recently co-written and performed in 'Old Wives' Tales' ( three wives of prominent Victorian Auckland men meet after death) and 'A Novel Encounter' (Agatha Christie meets Barbara Cartland) plus a feature role on 'Shortland Street'.

**TRUDY THUMATH - MARIE**

This is Trudy's eighth production with Company Theatre. She has previously worked with Kathy in 'Brassed Off' and 'Fawlty Towers'. She is

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



delighted to be working, once again, with some old friends and meeting some new ones. Trudy would like to thank Kathy for allowing her to be part of the cast and crew that make up the 'Calendar Girls' family.

**JAN JUDSON – LADY CRAVENSHIRE**

Jan has always been involved in music and drama, from her first appearance as one of the witches in 'Dido and Aeneas' while at school in England. She has taught and directed many community and school groups and performed regularly throughout Auckland with her own programmes of monologues and song. In 2008 she played the part of the nurse with Shoreside Production of 'Romeo and Juliet'. Jan can also be found singing with The Treble Makers, a ladies' a capella group, or leading Laughter Yoga sessions in Browns Bay".

**STEVEN ARNOLD – JOHN**

Steven is new to the Auckland stage, but has been 'on the boards' in both Wellington and Christchurch. He is loving getting back into theatre after a break of five years - theatre and theatre people are so interesting and challenging, he enjoys both the rehearsal times, and the excitement leading up to the show. Steven is especially attracted to 'Calendar Girls' as he wants to support those who have some extra health challenges in life, including some personal friends at the moment.

**PHIL TARBOX – LAWRENCE**

Phil is very happy to be directed by Kathy again in his second production with her, the first being 'Fawlty Towers'. He has lived in New Zealand for three years now, with most of his theatrical experience gained in London. He has performed in a range of different plays and musicals, including pantomime and Shakespeare. He is looking forward to playing the role of Lawrence the photographer and supporting a cast of such brave ladies. He hopes his photos do them justice!

**ROB CAMPION – ROD**

'Calendar Girls' marks Rob's third outing with Company Theatre. Previously he performed in 'Fawlty Towers' and more recently as Major Metcalfe in 'The Mousetrap'. He is relishing the opportunity to play another character role. Rob playing Rod is a gag in itself and he is enjoying being in a 'supporting' role to a wonderfully talented cast.

**ROSEMARY COBB – BRENDA**

From 7 years of age in a Sunday School Concert to 70+ in 'Calendar Girls'!! What a time in between! Rosemary has always been involved with amateur theatre, acting, singing, and directing, and loving it all. Last curtain call was supposed to be working Backstage and Front of House for Company Theatre, so this role of Brenda has come as a beautiful buzz!!

**GRETA LAWSON – ELAINE**

Greta's first foray into serious acting on this stage had her revealing a large amount of skin as the ditzy character 'Brooke' in 'Noises Off'. After returning from life in Los Angeles working as a journalist, the 23 year old is looking forward to immersing herself in further adventures with Company Theatre.

**LIZ GILL - ELAINE**

Liz is a secondary school Drama teacher, who is really excited about being on the stage instead of directing for a change! She has done several university productions and amateur shows but this the first show that Liz has done with Company Theatre.

**SAM PENFOLD – LIAM**

Sam has become increasingly involved in amateur theatre since he joined Torbay Theatre Company in 2011. There, he appeared in Joe Orton's 'Loot' and 'Ladies in Retirement' by Reginald Denham and Edward Percy. He is currently studying Computer Science at the University of Auckland and holds a part time job there at the Audio Visual Library.



Skinsense BeautyTherapy and Day Spa Devonport, Dinah Saxby Connon and Madeline Beazley, Auckland Theatre Company, Fairview Village, Northbridge, Ace Engravers, Sunnybrae Normal School, Devonport Museum, Wendy Hay, Clare Lester, Letter drop by Hayling Graphics

## HOSPICE NORTH SHORE

Hospice North Shore is committed to providing skilled and compassionate care for people with a life limiting illness.

We offer specialist services that strive to provide the best possible quality of life for our patients. Our skilled nurses, doctors and family support staff work together with each patient and their family/whanau to manage pain and other distressing symptoms. We also support people with their emotional, spiritual, social and cultural needs.

Please support Hospice North Shore by buying one of Company Theatre's 2014 Calendar Girls Calendars or by making a donation in the theatre foyer.

## COMPANY THEATRE MEMBERSHIP

For Membership of Company Theatre phone Sherry Ede on 445 2386 or go to [www.companytheatre.co.nz](http://www.companytheatre.co.nz)

## AUDITIONS AUDITIONS AUDITIONS

"IT'S JUST SEX" by Jeff Gould Directed by Richard Parmée  
3 Males, 3 Females – Ages 20s/30s  
2pm at The Rose Centre on Sunday 28 April 2013  
Enquiries/Scripts phone Richard @ The Rose Centre 445 9900  
or email [info@rosecentre.co.nz](mailto:info@rosecentre.co.nz)  
Production Dates 17 to 31 August 2013



