



# CALENDAR GIRLS

## A MUSICAL

BY **GARY BARLOW** & **TIM FIRTH**

# INFORMATION PACK

# CAMBRIDGE THEATRE COMPANY

## OUR STORY

Cambridge Theatre Company was founded in 2015 to provide high quality theatre to Cambridge and beyond. We encourage full community involvement for people of all ages and provide a unique opportunity for individuals to experience theatre led by professional teams.

By using professional teams, we offer our performers the chance to hone their skills and push the boundaries of amateur theatre. We are proud of the fact that we have now performed over 20 musicals in the last 6 years to over 10000 people each year.

We are committed to harnessing the potential of all of our performers, both young and old. Our commitment is to constantly strive to provide a safe space in which people can grow and learn.

# THE INFORMATION PACK

This information pack is made up of the following documents:

Information Pack

Audition Form

The applicant must read through the pack and, if they are under the age of 18, share the information with their parents/guardians and get their consent to apply for a place.



*CTC's Little Women*

# OFFICIAL OVERVIEW

The death of a much-loved husband prompts a group of ordinary women in a small Yorkshire town Women's Institute to do an extraordinary thing. Blasting away all preconceptions of what it is to be in the WI, they decide to make an artistic nude calendar to raise money for charity. Upturning preconceptions is a dangerous business and none of them expect the emotional and personal ramifications that follow but, gradually, the making of the fabulous and funny calendar causes each of the women to unexpectedly blossom.

The true story of the *Calendar Girls* launched a global phenomenon, a million copycat calendars, a record breaking movie, a stage play and a musical written by Tim Firth and Gary Barlow, which coined the term "craughing" - the act of crying and laughing at the same time.

## THE TRUE STORY

The story of the Calendar Girls began in 1998 when John Baker, husband of Angela Baker, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of blood cancer. John sadly passed away after just a few months of treatment, but in the months following their loss, Angela and her friends set about creating the now infamous calendar as something for Angela to focus on and, also, to prove John wrong - he had said they'd never do it!

Through the sale of their calendars, the group aimed to raise enough money to buy a new sofa for the hospital where John had been treated and were amazed when the calendar attracted international press attention. So far, they've raised millions for Bloodwise (formerly Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research), the blood cancer charity they have been long associated with.

## CALENDAR GIRLS CREATIVE TEAM

Director and Choreographer  
**Chris Cuming**

Musical Director  
**Jennifer Edmonds**

Assistant Musical Director  
**Jamie Layfield**

Set Designer  
**Suzanne Emerson**

Lighting Designer  
**Jacob Gowler**

Sound Designer  
**Nick Hall**

Costume Designer  
**Sue Pearson**

Company Manager  
**Ali Hall**

Produced by  
**Louis Ling**  
for Cambridge Theatre  
Company



# DIRECTOR'S VISION

Chris Cuming, Director

Welcome to the world of *Calendar Girls*, a story we all know and that many have a personal association with, not only through the film, but a personal connection with the impact of cancer. It's a true British story which Tim Firth and Gary Barlow have wonderfully adapted into a heartfelt musical.

Those who've worked with me previously will know that, for me, the key element is the importance of finding the truth and heart of a show, and discussing and discovering the characters to create our own version of the story.

Jennifer, Louis and I are looking to create a company who will work together. We're not interested in the divide between principals and ensemble but in building a company of actors who want to go on a journey and tell this story of a particular community.

There's no need to spend too long preparing your audition material. Sing through it, maybe listen to the recording once, but mostly, read the words, make a choice and interpret what is being said.

*Calendar Girls* is ultimately a play with music, so think of it not as a musical, but look deeper into who these people are.

We look forward to meeting you at the auditions.



CTC's *Peter Pan*



CTC's *Dead Man's Cellphone*

# AUDITIONS

## Thursday 20th January

7pm - 9.30pm

Trumpington Meadows

## Saturday 22nd January

10am - 12.30pm and 1pm - 4pm

Chesterton Scout Hut

## Sunday 23rd January

10am - 12.30pm and 1pm - 4pm (recalls)

Trumpington Meadows

## FORMAT OF AUDITIONS

Your individual audition will be based around a 10-minute singing audition in front of the Director and Musical Director. If you have any questions regarding the audition, please contact Ali Hall, Company Manager at [auditions@camtheatrecompany.co.uk](mailto:auditions@camtheatrecompany.co.uk).

CTC will not take any responsibility for personal belongings left at the audition venue.

## AUDITION VENUE

To request an audition slot, email us at [auditions@camtheatrecompany.co.uk](mailto:auditions@camtheatrecompany.co.uk).

Please mention your preferred audition date, slots will be allocated on a first-come-first basis.

## AUDITION VENUES

Trumpington Meadows

Primary School, Kestrel Rise,  
Trumpington, Cambridge CB2  
9AY

Chesterton Scout Hut

Green End Rd, Chesterton,  
Cambridge CB4 1RW

## THE SINGING AUDITION

Please prepare 2 contrasting contemporary musical theatre songs that demonstrate range and storytelling and match your casting (age/ethnicity/personality etc).

These should ideally be cut to around 2-2.5mins and should NOT be songs from Calendar Girls. You are welcome to present a song which requires a northern accent, e.g. Billy Elliot, Made in Dagenham, Blood Brothers, Secret Garden (selected), Smike, Everybody's Talking about Jamie) but standard British or American MT are also acceptable. The most important thing is to showcase your voice, but please be prepared to sing a passage of your song in a northern and standard English accent if you choose otherwise.

Please try to avoid Bernstein/Sondheim and any overly rock based songs. A poppy musical style is fine but please ensure that, where this is the case, the song requires musical theatre vocal stylistics and not pop. Please bring your own sheet music with any cuts clearly marked. If you have any concerns regarding songs or cutting the music, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us for assistance. No backing tracks, please.



# REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

A full rehearsal schedule breakdown will be sent out as soon as possible once the show casting has been completed. It's important to give us any dates for which you will be unavailable. Please indicate these on the audition form, which you'll hand in at your audition. This will assist us when preparing the rehearsal schedule.

Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals will run from 7pm to 10pm with some daytime Sunday rehearsals from 11am-5pm.

The first rehearsal is on Tuesday 25th January.

Rehearsals will take place at Trumpington Meadows Primary School, Kestrel Rise, Trumpington, Cambridge CB2 9AY.



*CTC's Sweet Charity*

# CTC ADULT CASTING MISSION STATEMENT

As the most prolific theatre company in Cambridge, we have introduced a mission statement to ensure that we play our part in a fair and transparent casting process and to set out what we expect from those auditioning.

In most cases, auditions are available to all, as determined by the requirements for the show. Every show is different and we may need to pre-cast roles or, in some cases, invite specific performers to audition. In this case, if a role has been pre-cast, this will be documented in the information pack.

Casting a show is a massive jigsaw puzzle. We have made some changes to our audition forms so that it is clearer in terms of the character you'd like to be considered for and whether, if the Creative Team consider you for a different role, you would be open to that.

At CTC, we want to create a company of performers. It's not necessarily about principals and ensemble members but a whole company of storytellers coming together to tell our story at each production. It's important for you to think about whether this is the right production for you to be part of, and whether you can commit sufficient time to it.

What would be most helpful for us?

- Please be clear in your audition application if you are auditioning for other productions.
- Please be mindful that, if you accept a role with CTC and then decided to withdraw and be part of another production, this could reduce your chance of future opportunities with CTC.
- Give us your unavailability at the start of the project so we can prepare the rehearsal schedule accordingly.



# KEY DATES

## Monday 11th April

3pm - 10pm Technical Rehearsal

## Tuesday 12th April

7.30pm Dress Rehearsal

# PERFORMANCES

## Wednesday 13th April

7.30pm

## Thursday 14th April

2.30pm & 7.30pm

## Friday 15th April

7.30pm

## Saturday 16th April

2.30pm & 7.30pm

# PARTICIPATION FEE

In Cambridge many groups charge a production fee to assist with costs for the production. For *Calendar Girls* this will be £60 and includes being given a show t-shirt.

# COSTUMES AND PROPS

Although we will provide costumes, participants will be asked to provide some basic elements of their costume that can hopefully be found easily at home or from a charity shop etc.



CTC's *James and the Giant Peach*



CTC's *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*



# CALENDAR GIRLS' CHARACTERS

Please note that the ages listed below serve only as a guide, however, the minimum age requirement is 16, with any applicant having completed Year 11 in July 2021.

All roles are available and casting is open.

## FEMALE ROLES

### CHRIS

Age range: 40s – 50s

You would want Chris at your party. She will talk to people she doesn't know, find things to say to fill silences and generate laughter. Part of this is because Chris is at home in crowds, holding court, being the centre of attention. Without Chris in her life, Annie would be better behaved but her life less fun. The two of them together are like naughty schoolgirls.

### ANNIE

Age range: 40s – 50s

Annie will join in mischief but, at heart, is more conformist and less confrontational than Chris. If Chris has put a waiter's back up in the restaurant, Annie will go in and calm the situation. However, Annie has enough edge to be interesting and enough salt not to be too sweet. The mischievousness Chris elicits, saves Annie from being a saint.

### CORA

Age range: late 30s – early 40s

Cora went away to college and soon came back pregnant with

her tail between her legs. She has too much native resilience to be downtrodden. She is the joker in the pack, but she never plays the fool. Her wit is deadpan. It raises laughter in others, but rarely in herself... Her relationship with her son is more akin to that between Chris and Annie.

### JESSIE

Age range: late 30s – early 40s

Get on the right side of Jessie as a teacher and she'll be the teacher you remember for life. Get on the wrong side and you will regret every waking hour. A lover of life, Jessie doesn't bother with cosmetics - her elixir of life is bravery. Jessie goes on rollercoasters. Her husband has been with her a long time and is rarely surprised by her actions. Jessie bothers about grammar and will correct stallholders regarding their abuse of the apostrophe 's'.

### CELIA

Age range: late 30s – early 40s

The fact that Celia is in the WI is the greatest justification of its existence. She always feels like she's drifted in from another world. Which she has. Ex air hostess and life-liver, there is a rebelliousness in Celia which sets her apart from the vapid materialism of her husband's golfing peer group and made her defect.

## RUTH

Age range: late 30s – early 40s

Ruth's journey is from that of the false self-confidence of the emotionally abused to the genuine self-confidence of a woman who is happy in her own skin. Ruth is eager to please but is not a rag doll, and despite being Marie's right-hand woman she is desperate to be the backbone of the WI and keep everyone happy. She has spine herself - if she was too wet, no-one would want her around. But they do, and they feel protective of her because they sense there is something better in Ruth than her life is allowing. They are proved right.

## MARIE

Age range: 40s – 50s

Marie has gradually built the current 'Marie' around herself over the years as a defence mechanism. She went to her Oz – Cheshire – and found Oz didn't want her. She came back scorched. The WI is a trophy to her, which justifies her entire existence. There is a part of the 'Marie' that would love to be on that calendar.

## MISS WILSON (TEA) & MISS WILSON (COFFEE)

Age range: late 20s – early 30s

These two sisters who are part of the fabric of the village and the manual labour behind the WI but they say nothing except offering drinks. Until the end.

## BRENDA HULSE & LADY CRAVENSHIRE

Age range: 60s

Brenda is a speaker at the WI and Lady Cravenshire is the local dignitary who presents the awards at the spring fete.

## MALE ROLES

### JOHN

Age range: 40s - 50s

John is Annie's husband. He is a human sunflower. Not a saint, not a hero, just the kind of man you'd want in your car when crossing America. When he dies it feels as if someone somewhere turned a light off.

### ROD

Age range: 40s – 50s

Rod is Chris' husband. You have to be a certain kind of guy to stick with Chris and Rod loves it. He can give as good as he gets and has a deadpan humour which has always made Chris laugh. Rod drinks a lot but never so much as to have a problem. He would work every hour to make his shop a success. John was his mate, even though the relationship was originally established through their wives.

### LAWRENCE

Age range: late 20s – early 30s

Lawrence is the photographer. Hesitant without being nerdy, he is a shy young man with enough wit to make a joke and enough spirit to turn up at the WI hall in the first place. When he arranges the shots, although he is close to the nudity, he sees only the photo.

### COLIN

Age range: 60s - 70s

Colin is Jessie's husband, and he is as rebellious and compliant as that would suggest.

## DENIS

Age range: 50s

Denis is Celia's husband and he met her on a flight. He is a working class lad done well and is now captain of the golf club.

## TEENAGE ROLES

### DANNY

Age range: 16-18

Danny is Chris and Rod's son, the conscientious Head Boy.

### JENNY

Age range: 16-18

We find out that Jenny is Marie's daughter and has rebelled against her mother for years..

### TOMMO

Age range: 16-18

Tommo is Cora's son and Danny's best mate. Tommo is also his mum's best mate.

## NUDITY

Everyone will be aware that the calendar shoot is the best-known aspect of the Calendar Girls' story. It is essential that the audience see nothing that we do not wish them to see in this scene. It will be carefully choreographed and will require a great team effort from all those involved to ensure that each person's modesty is protected by her fellow actors.



CTC's Priscilla, Queen of the Desert