

Network
Theatre
Company

Calendar Girls

Programme

Credits

Cast

AnnieMoria Caine
ChrisJudith Denwood
Cora Emma Byrne
Celia Sharon Trotter
Ruth..... Jennie Rich
Jessie Kay Murray
Marie..... Susan Small
John..... Fred Johnson
Rod..... Steve Simler
Brenda Hulse Annie Greenslade
Lady Cravenshire..... Sheila Murphy
Lawrence/Liam Lee Steggles
Elaine Grace Sobey
WI Announcer..... Wendy Marsh

Crew

Set Design David Harvey
Set Construction Supervisor Dan Young
Set Construction & Decoration..... Paul Lunnon, Steve Simler
Judith Denwood, Eleni Young
Emma Byrne, Eshani Weeresinghe
Fred Johnson, Rebecca Mason, Jennie Rich
Lighting Design & Operation Rachel Heath-Renn
Lighting Rigging Dan Young, Rebecca Mason
Emma Byrne
Sound Design & Operation Mike Wyers
Original Production Art Louise Fletcher
Wardrobe..... Eleni Young
Choreography..... Jess & Beth Brewer
Assistant Stage Manager Eshani Weeresinghe
Stage Manager Sue Walker
Script Tim Firth
based on the Miramax motion picture
by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth
Co-Director Grace Sobey
Director Rebecca Mason

Chairman's Message

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the Network Theatre Company's production of *Calendar Girls*, based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth. Tonight's show is under the direction of Rebecca Mason, who takes on this role for the first time with the Network Theatre Company. Rebecca has brought out the best in her team, which includes both new and regular actors and backstage crew.

Calendar Girls is available for amateur production for only a short time, and we are therefore pleased to take advantage of this window. Based on a true story of WI members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund, it has become the fastest selling play in British theatre history.

"Marvellous theatre, guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and come out singing Jerusalem" is one critique of the play, and I do hope you'll be doing the same at tonight's performance. If you would like a souvenir of the show, our own 2014 *Calendar Girls* calendar will be on sale. Buy now to avoid disappointment!

My thanks go to everyone involved in the show, and to you, our audience, for your continued support. Please enjoy the Network bar which is open before and after the show, and during the interval.

Kay Murray-June 2013

Setting

The events occur over a period of twelve months, in the village of Knapley, Yorkshire and the WI annual conference in London.

There will be one interval of twenty minutes.

Biographies

Annie: Moira Cane

Moira joined Network in 2010 and played the eccentric Gladys in Joe Orton's *Fred and Madge*. She has also played Mrs Hudson in the radio play *The Adventures of the Blue Carbuncle*, ardent feminist Shulamith in *Revenge of the Amazons*, Lady Montague in *Romeo and Juliet* and a passionate but powerless nun in *Dr Faustus*.

Chris: Judith Denwood

Judith, Network member since 2008, and from Cockermouth in Cumbria, is thrilled to be in *Calendar Girls*. She sees much of herself in Chris. They are both crap at cakes, can't knit, hate plum jam and are deeply Northern at heart.

Cora: Emma Byrne

Emma has appeared in Network productions as varied as the new drama *Family Ties* and vintage revue *Happy as a Sandbag*. In *Calendar Girls* she returns to her comedy drama roots. In September this year she makes her stage direction debut at Network with *The Crucible*.

Celia: Sharon Trotter

This is Sharon's debut on stage at Network. She has appeared regularly for the Woodhouse Players, Leytonstone, including *Carpe Jugualum*, *Seperate Tables*, *Pericles* and *The Crucible* and has directed *Honour* by Joanna Murray Smith. She is delighted to be playing Celia as it has revolutionised her wardrobe!

Ruth: Jennie Rich

Jennie has played a wide variety of roles including *Stratylus* in *Lysistrata* and *Lechery* in *Dr Faustus* with Network Theatre, *Louise* in *Mistaken for Strangers* with Westminster Players, *Shamraev* in *The Seagull* & *Osip* in *The Government Inspector* with Charm Offensive.

Lawrence/Liam: Lee Steggles

This is Lee's second performance at the Network Theatre. His first performance was as *Dr Sanderson* in *Harvey* directed by Cathy Nee-son. He is enjoying his return to the stage and working with such a great cast.

John: Fred Johnson

Calendar Girls is Fred's Network stage debut. Having worked on two productions of '*You Me Bumbum Train*' and watching several shows at the Network, Fred felt it was time to take the plunge and try his hand at a stage play!

Lady Cravenshire: Sheila Murphy

Sheila has been with the Network since 1994, and her roles include Gertrude in Tom Stoppards *On the Razzle*, Mrs Giffs in *Our Town* and chorus in *Murder in the Cathedral*. She has also performed in the *Eurostar Pantos* and sung the *Butter* song in *Happy as a Sandbag*.

Jessie: Kay Murray

Kay has been a member of Network Theatre Company for over 40 years, and has spent her time acting, directing, costuming, painting, and being involved in any other job that's come up. She's done most things on stage, but 'nude' is a first for her - and probably a last!

Marie: Susan Small

Network offers such a range of opportunities that Susan moves from a Queen in *Henry V* to the severe Marie in *Calendar Girls*. There is a link. She accused Henry of fatal balls of murdering basilisks in his eyes and Marie certainly has some venomous looks to dole out to "the girls"!

Rod: Steve Simler

Steve has been with Network since 2007 and has appeared in *Facades*, *Three Musketeers*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Time for Love and Road* and more recently *Happy as a Sand Bag* and *Harvey*. He is looking forward to running round the stage with scantily-clad ladies. It's a tough job but someone has to do it!

Elaine: Grace Sobey

Grace joined the Network Theatre in January 2012 as a New Year's resolution to get back into theatre. Her first production was *Harvey* where she played Nurse Kelly. Since then she has been *Fairy Tales of New York* and *Dr Faustus*. The network theatre has introduced her to some fantastic new friends and reignited her love for the stage!

Brenda Hulse: Anne Greenslade

Anne has a wealth of success in the theatre including performances in *Dracula*, *Lady in the Van*, *Summers Gone*, *Steaming*, *Black Widow*, *Brimstone and Treacle*, and *Sweet Charity*. She has also performed at Barbican, ROH Studio, River Festival and the Young Vic. Her previous Network performances include *Road* and *Merchant of Venice*.

Rebecca Mason

Rebecca directed her first play at the age of 13 or so she says! However, more recently she has directed Jane Anderson's *Looking for Normal*, Agatha Christie's *A Murder* is announced plus produced a stage version of *Blackadder II*.

Director's Notes

Sometimes, when something bad happens, some great good can come from it.

That sentiment seems to encapsulate the very spirit of Calendar Girls, both in terms of the story and, from a personal perspective, the journey that lead to this particular production coming to Network. For that was not quite my original plan. I had been slated to direct the piece at another theatre but that old adversary of creativity, theatre politics, stifled my hopes of staging it there and all those little ideas that I had been scheming away for the piece seemed destined never to be realised. But in this case fate had other ideas.

You see, when I joined Network last autumn, I pitched up with a bucketful of ideas but fully aware that I was going to once again have to earn my stripes before the management would let me loose with my own piece. Well, that's what I thought anyway. My first gig here was flying the lighting desk for Jordana Berk's lovely production of Chekov's Cherry Orchard-Chekov can be terminally dull in the wrong hands, but Jordana and her team instilled a real spirit into old Anton's fable about the consequences of not accepting the reality of one's situation. Anyway Cherry Orchard fortuitously paired me with the wonderful Cathy Neeson in the tech box and during downtime I told Cathy the tale of woe which lead me to join Network, including the loss of my planned Calendar Girls production.

Then something marvellous happened. "Oh!" Cathy exclaimed, slapping her thigh (okay I exaggerated that bit). "We were hoping to do that here but we couldn't find anyone to direct it!" The rest, is as they say, history.

As I said at the beginning, Calendar Girls is about taking something bad and using it as a force for good. Behind this play there is a real story of a lady who lost her husband to cancer; and how that loss inspired the original calendar. I'm very proud to have the opportunity to tell a version of this story through the medium of Tim Firth's fabulous script and with the aid of the wonderful cast and crew that we have assembled for this production. Their names are listed elsewhere in this programme, suffice to say each one has worked their arses off (in some cases literally!) getting this show together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all-it's been a real pleasure.

Rebecca Mason- May 2013

The Arch 200 Club

Over 70 years ago Southern Railways founded a theatre group at Waterloo.

The spirit of amateur theatre has survived through changes of name and nationalisation but is finding it tough to cope with the costs that followed the privatisation of the railways.

Please help us to continue to entertain you by becoming a member of the Arch 200 Club.

The aim of the Club is to ensure the continued existence of the Network Theatre as a building in the face of ever increasing overheads. Membership subscriptions fund projects that are for the general good of the theatre, not productions themselves.

Each membership costs just £5.00 a month. Every month three numbers are drawn and half that month's subscriptions paid out in prizes.

To date the Arch 200 Club has funded either in part or entirely

- The new staging and seating

- The rewiring of the lighting grid

- A sound control desk

- A lighting control board

- A smoke machine

- The false wall on stage

- The constant demand for those little things that help keep a theatre functioning such as gaffer tape, nuts, bolts and screws.

- A scaffold tube cutter

- A draught excluder in the back arch

- Waterproof black paint to cover over the constant water ingress

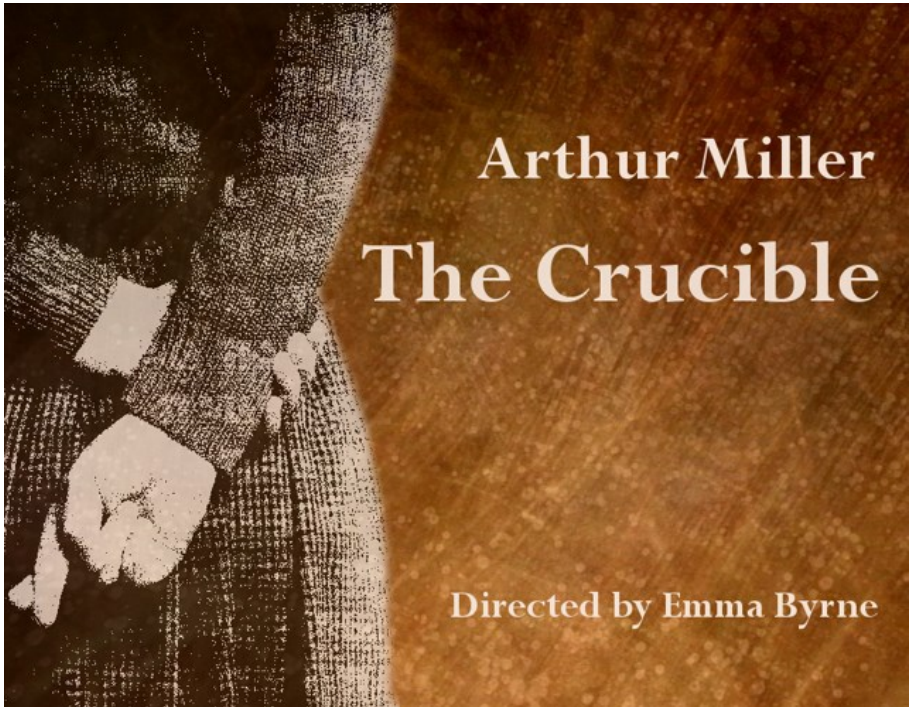
- Costume storage

Looking ahead, there is an urgent need to replace the scenery flats. Some of the current stock dates from the 1950s and are showing their age more than a little. There is so much that an audience does not see that is in desperate need of refurbishment and modernisation.

The fabric of these arches needs your support. Who knows, if the membership is large enough it might even be possible to shorten the wait for the gentlemen's toilet.

More details are available from Nigel Williams at
arch200@networktheatre.org

Coming up...



The Crucible

Hypocrisy, greed and corruption. When piety and human frailty collide the results are ugly.

From the Salem Witch Trials to the House Unamerican Activities Committee to Guantanamo Bay, moral panic gives the strong a weapon to hold over the weak.

Written by Arthur Miller

Directed by Emma Byrne

Reading: 18th June 2013

Auditions: 24th & 26th June 2013

Performances: 4th to 7th September 2013