

AUDITIONS for *Calendar Girls*

Directed by Kerry King

Production synopsis

When Annie's husband John dies of leukaemia, she and best friend Chris resolve to raise money for a new settee in the local hospital waiting room. They manage to persuade four fellow Women's Institute members to pose nude with them for an "alternative" calendar, with a little help from hospital porter and amateur photographer Lawrence. 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.

AUDITION DATES Thursday 20th July 2023 and Tuesday 25th July 7.30pm at the Manifest Theatre

If you would like to audition please email kerrykingma@yahoo.co.uk for audition pieces

PRODUCTION WEEK: Tuesday 7th – Saturday 11th November 2023. **REHEARSAL DATES TBA**

Characters

Chris: Female, 45-60

Makes life fun, the life and soul of the party, loves the limelight, can be blinkered and too carried away by her own ideas.

Annie: Female, 45-60

Annie is playful, but slightly cautious. She enjoys mischief as much as the next person but is also the one who will calm things down, bring folks together, and can always be counted on.

Cora: Female, 35-50

Resilient, the joker in the pack, deadpan wit, bit of an old hippy, must be able to belt out a tune and either play or mime convincingly playing the piano.

Jessie 60's-70's – a strict but fair teacher you'd remember for life, grammar and the correct placing of apostrophes are very important to her.

Celia: Female, 35-50

Slightly high maintenance and more at home in a department store than a church hall, she feels like she's drifted in from another world. However, Celia has a rebelliousness to her which explains why she's in the WI.

Ruth: Female, 35-50s

Eager to please but not a pushover, the WI ladies feel protective of Ruth as they know how hard her home life is.

Ruth starts the play as Eddie's downtrodden wife but ends in triumph gaining both a voice and confidence.

A people pleaser and rule follower which stems from an abusive relationship, but she ultimately becomes strong and genuinely confident.

Marie: Female, 45-60

WI Chairman and wants everybody to know about it. Uses Ruth as her sounding board and acolyte and is all about show and the glittery things in life. Bit of a dragon and very conventional. Full of herself and quite a conservative rule follower, she has built up walls and a façade as a defence mechanism. Most of the others roll their eyes at her a lot.

John 50's – Annie's husband, not a saint or hero, just the kind of deep thinking, philosophical and warm-hearted guy you'd want with you in life and when your cake was being harshly judged by Lady C as having a soggy bottom. When he dies it feels like someone, somewhere turned the light off.

Rod 50's – Chris' husband, hardworking flower shop owner and the life and soul of the party, has a deadpan humour that cracks Chris up. Mates with John, having been introduced via Chris, Rod is hugely supportive to the ladies of the WI until Chris goes too far

Brenda Hulse: 35++

A dull speaker.

Lawrence: Male, 20-30 Hesitant and shy, artistic, and witty. A little intimidated by all of the women, but the artistic side takes over and he's ok.

Lady Cravenshire: Female, 60-80

The height of elegance and patronization of the other women.

Elaine: Female, 18-30

Make-up girl. Impeccable - a little snooty with the ladies!

Liam: All Genders, 20-30

Any gender. Bored, but professional, weary and resigned.

Women's institute members (ensemble)