

Audition Pack



CentreStage
ROLLESTON



Calendar Girls

by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth

Based on the Miramax motion picture

6 - 15 July 2023
Rolleston College



www.centrestagerolleston.org.nz

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for CentreStage Rolleston's production of Calendar Girls. This is going to be a challenging and exciting, fun and safe experience for us all!

This audition pack will provide you with all the information you will need going in to your audition.

We are seeking talented, animated and enthusiastic performers to join us on stage. Please take your time to read all the information carefully.

Performance Dates

Thursday 06 July at 7:30pm

Friday 07 July at 7:30pm

Saturday 08 July at 7:30pm

Sunday 09 July at 4:00pm

Wednesday 12 July at 7:30pm

Thursday 13 July at 7:30pm

Friday 14 July at 7:30pm

Saturday 15 July at 7:30pm

Performance location: Rolleston College, Rolleston

The Production Team

Director – Marilyn Ollett

Production Manager – Claire Clark

If you have any questions at all regarding the audition process, please contact:

Nickie Hughes

Ph: 02108456836

Email: centrestagerolleston@gmail.com

Synopsis

When Annie's husband John dies of leukaemia, she and her long-standing best friend Chris resolve to raise money for a new settee in the local hospital waiting room. With varying levels of encouragement, they persuade four friends and fellow members of the Women's Institute (W.I.) to pose nude with them for an "alternative" calendar. They are assisted by hospital porter and amateur photographer Lawrence, who looked after John in his final days. This is much to the horror of their local W.I. chairman, Marie. The success of the calendar goes beyond their wildest dreams and they have soon raised the money needed and much more. Their efforts also catch the attention of the national and international press, who soon descend on the small village of Knapeley in the Yorkshire Dales. Although the calendar is a huge success, Chris and Annie's friendship is put to the test with their new-found fame and Chris is forced to question her real motivation behind doing the calendar. Tim Firth's hilarious play is based on the true story of eleven W.I. members who famously posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund in 1999.

List of Characters

The Calendar Girls:

On stage most of the time and will be required to strip to knickers with props as concealers!

Chris: 45-55 - Loud, dynamic joker, naturally the centre of attention. Lifelong friend to Annie. Married to Rod

Annie: 45-55 - The more sensible of the duo. Married to John, so goes through the emotional roller coaster of his leukaemia

Cora: 35-40 - Ex rock chick, Vicar's daughter and single mum. **Will be required to sing** and ideally play the piano (but this can be faked)

Jessie: 60+ - Retired school teacher. A quiet observer with dry wit

Celia: 45-55 - Wealthy, not ashamed to show her figure in the way she dresses. Likes to shock

Ruth: 45-55 - Somewhat mousy in nature and dress and not the sharpest. Eager to please and hates conflict

Supporting roles:

In order of stage time

Marie: 45-55 - Local WI leader. Stern, upright, takes her position seriously

Lawrence: 25-30 - Hospital orderly, and the Calendar photographer. Initially shy /awkward

John: 45-60 - Married to Annie, the love of his life. Man of the earth, dies of leukaemia (in Act 1)

Rod: 45-60 - Married to Chris, florist, good natured, long suffering until pushed too far

Other characters

Single scenes only so could also crew

Brenda Hulse: Over 40 - An incredibly boring speaker (likely double with Lady C)

Lady Cravenshire: Over 40 - Lady of the manor, totally upper class (likely double with Brenda)

Elaine: 21+ - Attractive beautician

Liam: 30-50 - Advert director - brash, dismissive. Would consider making it Lianne!

Audition Information

Auditions will be held on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 April 2023 from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm at the Robert Harris Café in Rolleston. Each audition will be about 15 minutes long. We will take a photograph of you to assist with casting and will NOT be shared.

If you are not able to make these times, please contact Nickie Hughes (details above) to discuss alternative arrangements.

For your audition, please prepare a 2 minute monologue of your choosing. This can be comedy or drama, and you may use your script if you want to. Remember that this play is about REAL people who actually did this so we are looking for authentic characters. Scripts and reading pages will be available on arrival.

Please note:

a) We may stop your monologue if it's too long (no offence – we just need to keep to time!)

b) You may be asked to do it again "as if" (eg applying a different emotion or pace)

c) if you are auditioning for CORA, you will need to sing a few lines too.

To book your audition please go to our website: www.centrestagerolleston.org.nz

Please fill in the online audition form ensuring that you fill in ALL of the required fields. Choose your preferred audition time then click 'BOOK MY AUDITION'

Notification of casting

Applicants will be notified by phone after the selection process is complete. You should expect to hear back from someone within the week following your auditions.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held on:

- Wednesdays 7 – 9 pm,
- Thursdays 7 – 9 pm
- Sundays 7 – 9 pm

The first rehearsal is on Sunday 07 May, 7 – 9 pm, location to be advised.

In the week or so leading up to opening night, please be aware that we may be adding in extra rehearsals to ensure that we are ready for an audience. Please ensure that your schedule is free to accommodate for this.

Performing Fees

Every person who performs on stage in any CentreStage Rolleston production must pay a Show Levy which allows you to be fully involved with the show. The Show Levy for this production is \$40 which includes a CentreStage Rolleston show-specific T-shirt.

Cast Expectations

Being involved in this production is a definite commitment. Each cast member must be present for rehearsals when required. If for any reason you are unable to attend a rehearsal, you are required to contact the Production Manager as soon as possible.

Achieving a production of the highest possible quality requires a huge commitment of both time and professionalism from everyone. Therefore, please do not audition if you are not able to fully commit to the rehearsal schedule.

The rehearsal schedule will be carefully managed to make the most effective use of each performer's time. You will only be called when you are required and while we make every attempt to minimise waiting times during rehearsals, performers are required to be mindful of and show courtesy to performers who are rehearsing and taking direction.

Scripts for the show will be provided following the completion of a successful audition and must be returned after the show has closed.

All on-stage roles are on an unpaid basis.