

By Arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical on Behalf of Samuel French, a Concord Theatricals Company



MAITLAND  
REPERTORY  
THEATRE

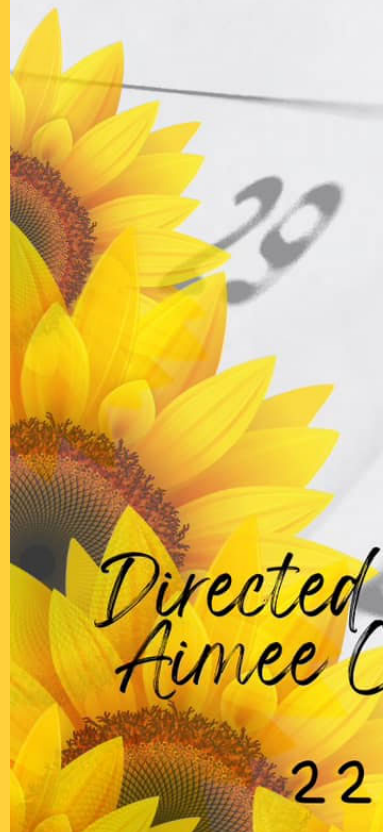
# Calendar Girls

They dropped everything for  
a good cause!

By Tim Firth

Directed by  
Aimee Cavanagh

22 November - 10 December 2023



## Director's Notes

Welcome to our production of "Calendar Girls," a story that captures the essence of human resilience, friendship, and the extraordinary courage of seemingly ordinary individuals.

When I first encountered the true story behind "Calendar Girls," I was deeply moved by the sheer strength, bravery, and compassion of these women. They turned a personal tragedy into a global message of hope. They challenged societal norms and embraced body positivity long before the movement was talked about as openly as it is today. I wanted to tell that story and continue that legacy.

This production is not just a portrayal of events; it is a tribute to the spirit of every individual who chooses to make a positive difference in the face of adversity. Each character in this play brings a unique story, reflecting the diverse ways in which we cope with and overcome challenges in our lives. I am forever grateful to my amazing cast, who worked hard to honour this true story while balancing humour and poignancy.

As you watch our rendition of "Calendar Girls," I invite you to celebrate the strength and vulnerability of these characters. The journey of bringing this story to the stage has been a deeply personal and challenging experience for our cast and crew. We have laughed, reflected, and, at times, been moved to tears by the depth of these real-life heroes.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our talented cast, dedicated crew, and you, our audience, for joining us to honour this remarkable story. May this production inspire, entertain, and remind us of the power of community and the enduring resilience of the human spirit.

*Aimee Cavanagh*

## The True Story of the Calendar Girls

*Calendar Girls* is based on the remarkable true story of a group of women from a branch of the Women's Institute in Yorkshire who transcended ordinary life to achieve something extraordinary.

The Women's Institute, known for its typical activities like baking and knitting, was the setting for an unprecedented idea following the death of John Baker. John, the husband of WI member Angela Baker, succumbed to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1998. Seeking to memorialise him and contribute to the fight against cancer, Angela and her friends embarked on a unique fundraising venture.

The idea was to raise money for Leukaemia Research, now known as Blood Cancer UK. Breaking away from the conventional image of middle-aged WI members, the calendar unexpectedly garnered international fame. The women's boldness, sense of humour, and dedication struck a chord worldwide. Not only did the calendar raise significant funds for leukemia research, but it also challenged stereotypes about age, beauty, and propriety.

*Calendar Girls* celebrates the extraordinary impact a group of ordinary women can have, turning a personal loss into a legacy of hope and change. Their story is an inspiring testament to the power of friendship, determination, and the human spirit's capacity to make a difference.

## Run Time

Approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes (including a 20-minute interval).

## The Setting

Yorkshire. Modern day.







Jo Cooper



Cate Hayes



Amy Kaal



Barbara-Rose  
Townsend



Bronwyn Santori



Chelsea Glack





*Dimitry Evelevs*



*Famonn O'Reilly*



*Richard Rae*



*Peter Murray*



*Meg Wallace*



*Ann-Maree Day*



## Production Credits

Director	Aimee Cavanagh
Stage Manager	Alexandra Comber
Assistant Stage Manager	Megan Wallace
Set Designer	Aimee Cavanagh and Brett Harston
Production Manager	Dimitry Eveleens
Set Construction /Realisation	Danny Shaunnessy, Brett Harston, Aimee Cavanagh, Greg Cavanagh, Peter Murray, Megan Wallace, Robert Comber, Alexandra Comber, Jan Eveleens, Dimitry Eveleens, and the Saturday morning crew
Costumes	Kadisha Patterson
Costume Assistants	Kaysia Dowie, Isabelle Moy and Cast
Makeup and hair	Cast
Properties Manager	Dimitry Eveleens
Properties Realisation	Dimitry Eveleens, Aimee Cavanagh, Megan Wallace, Linda Wallace and Isabelle Moy
Lighting Design and Operation	Brett Harston
Sound Design	Aimee Cavanagh and Dimitry Eveleens
Additional Music	Aimee Cavanagh and Damien Clift
Sound Operation	Kaysia Dowie
Poster	Aimee Cavanagh
Program	Aimee Cavanagh, Dimitry Eveleens and Alexandra Comber
Photography	Lyn Singer, Dimitry Eveleens and Linda Wallace
Publicity	Alexandra Comber and Ian Robinson
Catering Officer	Terry Allen

# Thank You

To our volunteer members who make this show possible.

## To The CONDA Judges

Vanessa Bates, Karen Birrell, Christine Fletcher,  
Wendy Leis, Sascha Okenhall and Jo Roberts.

To Our Patrons - Jenny Aitchison MP, Meryl Swanson MP,  
Mayor Philip Penfold, Councillor Loretta Baker, Keith Cockburn.

To Scion Audio, ABC Radio 1233, The Sign Shop, Scott Deamer (Jim's Test and Tag) and to our audiences for their continued patronage.

Program proudly sponsored by

**AV Chartered Accountants**

Maitland 4933 6100 Waratah 4929 5533

[www.avca.net.au](http://www.avca.net.au)



We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Land upon which Maitland Repertory Theatre stands.

**Dangerous  
Obsession**

**Feb 14 - Mar 3**

**Romanoff  
and Juliet**

**August**

**Saucy Jack  
and the  
Space Vixens**  
**September**

**Grand  
Horizons**

**Apr 24 - May 12**

**2024 Season**

**Game  
of Tiaras**

**Oct 9 - 27**

**A Streetcar  
Named  
Desire**

**Jul 3 - 21**



**MAITLAND  
REPERTORY  
THEATRE**



**First Things  
First**

**Nov 20 - Dec 8**



"If you value your life, you will not move..."



# DANGEROUS OBSESSION

Written by N.J. Crisp  
Directed by Kaysia Dowie

February 14th to March 3rd, 2024  
Tickets \$32 Full, \$27 Concession  
Bookings [www.mrt.org.au](http://www.mrt.org.au) or 4933 2766



MAITLAND  
REPERTORY  
THEATRE

An Amateur Production By Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd - A Concord Theatricals Company