



CALENDAR GIRLS

**Based on the Miramax
motion picture by
Juliette Towhidi & Tim Firth**

March 8 - March 24

www.ConnecticutTheatreCompany.org

Connecticut Theatre Company

Presents

CALENDAR GIRLS

Based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth

Calendar Girls was first presented by David Pugh Ltd at Chichester Festival Theatre on 5th September 2009.
Calendar Girls transferred to the Noel Coward Theatre, London on 4th April 2009.
Associate Producer: Stoneface Ltd.

March 8th - March 24th

**The Repertory Theatre
23 Norden Street
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 223-3147
www.ConnecticutTheatreCompany.org**

"Calendar Girls" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to Connecticut Theatre Company! We are so grateful for your continued support and patronage.

We are so happy to open our 2024 season with this beautiful production of Calendar Girls. It's sure to make you laugh, make you cry, and leave you with a smile.

Following that will be Nine, Cabaret, Sondheim on Sondheim, and we'll close our season with the return of A Christmas Carol. There's truly something for everyone and I hope you enjoy the variety of shows!

Flex passes are always available and are a great way to get a discount when coming to multiple performances! See our box office staff for more information.

Warm Regards,

Duane Campbell,
Executive Director of Connecticut Theatre Company



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live theatre

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Email for details:
boxoffice@connecticuttheatrecompany.org

CAST OF CHARACTERS

ANNIE.....	CINDY MAHER
CHRIS.....	IESHA M. ROSE
CORA.....	MICHELE ABBAZIA
RUTH.....	RAYAH MARTIN
MARIE.....	SUSAN BAILEY
JESSIE.....	LISA BYNES
CELIA.....	KELLEY MOUNTZOURES
ELAINE.....	BROOKE OWENS
JOHN.....	STEPHEN MAHER
ROD.....	JASON SCOT
LAWRENCE.....	STACI BATTLE
LIAM.....	MATT STEVENS
LADY CRAVENSHIRE.....	JANE DIOGUARDI
BRENDA HOLTZ.....	JENNY LECCE

CAST BIOS

MICHELE ABBAZIA (CORA): Michele has been performing since she was a small child. She studied theatre at Eastern CT State University and Circle in the Square in Manhattan. This is Michele's second time on the CTC stage, she previously played multiple roles in "The Women" in 2017. Some recent/favorite roles: Margit in "Seder" (Dionysus Theatre Company), M'Lynn in "Steel Magnolias" (Suffield Players), Colette in "A Multitude of Sins", Victoria Woodhull in "Woodhull/Beecher (Hartford Fringe Festival 2019), and Nurse Ratched in "Cuckoo's Nest" (Windham Theatre Guild). Michele is thrilled to be a part of such a talented cast, with an amazing crew and has enjoyed having an excuse to practice her keyboard skills (See Mom? The lessons didn't go to waste!). As always, she gives tremendous thanks to her supporters, but most importantly to her husband/warrior John and their dog Josie (especially for listening to "that darn song" over and over). Peace & Love.

CAST BIOS

SUSAN BAILEY (MARIE): Susan is delighted to play Marie in "Calendar Girls"— her first show with CTC. In the past she's performed in shows at Little Theatre of Manchester, including "The Vagina Monologues", Mrs. Gibb in "Our Town", Music Reviews, and as a nun in the "Sound of Music". Susan is newly retired and recently moved back to Connecticut from Atlanta with her husband Mike and rescue pup, Lexi.

STACI BATTLE (LAWRENCE): Staci joined the CT community theater scene as a complete beginner towards the end of 2019. "Calendar Girls" marks his fifth appearance on the CTC stage among productions such as "Zanna Don't", "A Christmas Carol", "The Full Monty", and "Guys and Dolls". He is thrilled to be joining such a talented cast and working with these incredible individuals in his very first straight play. It has been an amazing experience being a part of this incredible story.

LISA BYNES (JESSIE): Lisa is excited to make her debut at CTC. This show has been much fun for her and she can't wait to share it with all of you . Lisa has done a few shows at HITW. Some of her favorite roles were Anne in "Stranger Still", Lillyanne in "Barbecue", and Lady Ballot in "School for Manners". Lisa is especially excited to be working with Director Tony, again whom she played the Mrs. To his Mr Frank . Lisa would like to thank her family for letting her mumble her lines all over the house.

JANE DIOGUARDI (LADY CRAVENSHIRE): Jane Dioguardi is thrilled to be back at CTC, once again chewing the scenery as a loony old bat. Previous roles include Miss Trimmerback/The Dowager in "The Women" at CTC, Martha Corey in "The Crucible" at Hole-in-the-Wall, and Shirley Markowitz/Nun/Little Old Lady/etc. in "The Producers" at Trinity-on-Main. Many thanks go to my talented daughter Anne Robichaud Collin for her encouragement, and to my whole family for their love and support.

JENNY LECCE (BRENDA HOLTZ): Brenda Holtz is the only character in the play given a last name. This was done to make reaching her for future bookings that much easier. She looks forward to your call.

CINDY MAHER (ANNIE): Cindy is excited to be back at Connecticut Theatre Company! She recently played Erma Bombeck in the one-woman-show "At Wit's End" at Farmington Valley Stage Company. Other favorite roles include Adult Woman in CTC's "Spring Awakening", Feste the Clown in Capitol Classic's "Twelfth Night", and Penelope in Hole in the Wall's "Happy Birthday Wanda June". In this production, Cindy is delighted to be playing the wife of her on stage and off stage husband of almost 30 years - Stephen Maher. You still make me laugh, honey.

STEPHEN MAHER (JOHN CLARKE): Stephen is thrilled to be in his 10th show with CTC. Previously, he appeared here in "The Drowsy Chaperone", "Spring Awakening", "A Christmas Carol", "9 to 5", "Disaster!", "Into The Woods", "The Man Who Came to Dinner", "Jekyll & Hyde", and "Christmas Schooner". Elsewhere, he has done shows including "The Wizard of Oz", "Newsies", "La Cage Aux Folles", "Matilda", "Mamma Mia", "Young Frankenstein", "It Shoulda Been You", "Sister Act", "Oklahoma", "Pirates of Penzanze". Stephen would like to thank CTC for another chance to be on stage with his wife, Cindy.

CAST BIOS

RAYAH MARTIN (RUTH): The first time Rayah appeared on this stage was in 2000, as Gillian in the Gothic mystery "Ravenscroft". She returned to play Sweet Pea in the comic mystery "Death by Chocolate". So it's no mystery that she wanted to come back to our stage again in this delightful show. Rayah has worked at many theaters throughout Connecticut over the last 25 years and has occasionally ventured into surrounding states as well. Favorite roles include Elvira, "Blithe Spirit" (Suffield Players); Annette, "God of Carnage" (Dionysus Theatre); Feste, "Twelfth Night" (Little Theater of Manchester); Witch and Lady Macduff, "Macbeth" (Hole in the Wall); Izzy, "Rabbit Hole" (Chester Meeting House). She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota. Rayah would like to thank you, our audience, for keeping live theatre a vibrant part of our communities.

KELLEY MOUNTZOURES (CELIA): Kelley Mountzoures is thrilled to be back on the CTC stage. Her last performance here was when it was the Repertory Theatre in 2013 as Ronette in "Little Shop of Horrors". Past favorite theatre credits include, Mrs. Lovett in "Sweeney Todd" and Audrey in "Little Shop of Horrors". The last time Kelley was seen running around New Britain in her underwear was as Janet Weiss in "The Rocky Horror Show" at Trinity on main in 2012! In the last decade, Kelley has directed and taught for several local theatre company's and worked as a restaurateur. She is happy to be back ON the stage after a 6 year hiatus. Kelley lives in Plainville with her husband Andrew, her two amazing sons and her two house hippos (pitbull pups) who keep her on her toes. She dedicates this performance to her late Grandmother, Patricia Kelley, who would have been front and center with a sunflower bouquet.

BROOKE OWENS (ELAINE): Brooke is so excited to be making her CTC debut. She was last seen in "Elf" at 7 Angels Theater. Some of her past roles include Little Red Ridinghood in "Into the Woods" (Castle Craig Players), Helena in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (No Boundaries Youth Theater), and Gertrude in "SEUSSICAL" (Southington Community Theater). She would like to thank the fabulous cast for being so amazing to work with. She would also like to thank Tony, Stephanie, and Jim for being such an amazing team. Enjoy the show!

JASON SCOT (ROD): Jason is thrilled to be back at CTC for another go. He's just so thankful to have been able to meet and work with such friendly and giving people. Cheers!

MATT STEVENS (LIAM): Despite having done many live theater shows in and around New Britain, this is Matt's very first show with the Connecticut Theater Company. Matt's most recent theater roles include Gregg in Michael McGuire's "Murderers Get Love Letters" and as General Montgomery Smith in Hole In The Wall Theater's production of "War Of The Worlds". Matt would like to thank everyone involved in this production of "Calendar Girls", as well as the audience. He hopes you enjoy the show!

IESHA M. ROSE (CHRIS): Iesha is pleased to return to the stage in her 11th production with CTC. Some of her favorite previous roles include Edith in "The Women", Mrs. Pearce in "My Fair Lady", and Shirley/Marion in "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert". In addition, she has appeared as Mrs. T in "Avenue Q", Mrs. Reed in "Jane Eyre", in The Dynamites trio in "Hairspray", and in the ensemble of "Les Misérables" with other local companies. Backstage, Iesha has also filled the role of stage manager. She is the mommy of two cats, an exceptional cook, a novice gardener, and an avid napper. Iesha thanks her husband for taking care of the house, the cats, and her while she feeds the acting bug.

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR.....TONY PALMIERI
CO-DIRECTOR.....STEPHANIE DEMARCO
STAGE MANAGER.....JIM RYAN
SET DESIGN.....STEPHANIE DEMARCO & TONY PALMIERI
SET CONSTRUCTION.....ANDREW KOSKOVICH
COSTUME & WIG DESIGNER.....ELIZABETH A. SAYLOR
COSTUME ASSISTANCE.....JENNY LECCE, STEPHANIE DEMARCO & JANE DIOGUARDI
LIGHTING DESIGNER.....HILLARY LANG
INTIMACY COORDINATOR.....JILL DVORSKY
SCENIC PAINTING.....JOANN DEWIND & KELLEY MOUNTZOURES
BACKDROP PAINTING BY.....LIONEL CONSTABLE
PROPS.....ERIN FRECHETTE
SOUND DESIGN.....JIM RYAN & TONY PALMIERI
ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY.....JOSHUA LUCIUS IVES

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

TONY PALMIERI (DIRECTOR): Tony is proud to direct his second production with CTC, having co-directed "Moon Over Buffalo" way back in the days before Covid. Other favorite shows he's directed include "Still Life with Iris" by Steven Dietz, "The House of Yes" by Wendy McLeod, and "A Dog's Tale" by Jenny Lecce.

STEPHANIE DEMARCO (CO-DIRECTOR): Stephanie is excited to be co-directing her first show at Connecticut Theatre Company. Having previously directed "Lint! The Musical" at Hole in the Wall Theater, she is happy to have been given the opportunity to help bring "Calendar Girls" to life. As a performer, she has been seen in "Still Life with Iris" (Iris' mom), "Of Mice and Men" (Curley's Wife), and "The House of Yes" (Jackie-O), among others. Stephanie would like to thank Tony for being an amazing co-director and friend. She also thanks her husband, James, for his support with anything she signs on for. She sends her love to Mina and Tavi.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

JIM RYAN (STAGE MANAGER): Jim is thankful to be working at CTC after a short absence. He has done everything from sweep the floors to direct in this space— sometimes taking on multiple roles in the same production. It has been a joy to work with Tony, Stephanie and the wonderfully talented performers in this show. “If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.” - Roald Dahl

ANDREW KOSKOVICH (SET CONSTRUCTION): Andrew enjoys woodworking and building in his free-time. He has been on several set build teams for theaters in CT and designed and built the set for Cirillo Summer Theatre's 2018-2019 season. Andrew lives in Plainville with his beautiful wife, Kelley, two awesome sons, Jacob and Owen and two pitbulls, Linden and Wheeler.

ELIZABETH A. SAYLOR (COSTUME AND WIG DESIGNER): Elizabeth A. Saylor has over 25 years of experience as a wig, makeup, and costume designer. Her work includes stage, opera, film and media productions. She has worked on Broadway showcases, off-Broadway productions, costumed staged readings, and film projects that have screened at Sundance and Telluride. Her theater costume credits include Ivoryton Playhouse (“The Sound of Music”, “Jersey Boys”, “The Color Purple”, “Ring of Fire”, “Smokey Joe’s Café”, “Native Gardens”, “Star of Freedom”, “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner”, “Memphis”, “Chicago”, “Man of La Mancha”, “West Side Story”, “I Hate Musicals”, “The Fantastiks”, “Love Quest”, “Grease”); Manhattan College (“Legally Blonde”, “Rumors”, “Little Women”, “Dining Room”); Oddfellows Playhouse (“Oliver”, “Three Penny Opera”, “William Shakespeare’s Land of the Dead”), New Paradigm Theater, and Madison Lyric Stage Company. Graduate of Pennsylvania State University. SOCIAL: www.wigmubyesaylor.com.

HILLARY LANG (LIGHTING DESIGNER): Hilary Lang is thrilled to be designing her first production for CTC. She studied lighting design and stage management Emerson College. Since then, she has worked on more than 150 productions at dozens of phenomenal companies. Some of her most recent lighting design credits include: Begets: “Fall of a High School Ronin”, Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts; “Who’s Holiday”, Castle Craig Players; “Kinky Boots”, Thomaston Opera House; “A Number and Mentors”, Backyard Theater Ensemble; “A Doll’s House Part 2”, “Papermaker”, “Private Wars”, and “Seder”, Dionysus Theater Company; “Sister Act” and “Grease”, Shared Stage Productions; “Renewal: The Beman Project”, Oddfellows Playhouse; “and Camelot and Iolanthe”, Valley Light Opera. At Hole in the Wall Theater, where she is the resident Lighting Designer, her design credits include “Macbeth”, “Our Town”, “Waiting for Godot”, “Heartless”, “She Kills Monsters”, “Barbecue”, “Proof”, “The Niceties”, and “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”.

JILL DVORSKY (INTIMACY COORDINATOR): With the confidence of a tall man and the temperament of a hobbit, Jill is honored to remind actors and non-actors alike that power comes in many forms and that we are all naked under our clothes. And she’s willing to prove it.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

JOANN DEWIND (SCENIC PAINTING): JoAnn is a retired art teacher from the Farmington Public Schools. In her own art, she works with chalk pastels and other media such as felting and weaving. She wishes the cast and crew a fun run of the show.

ERIN FRECHETTE (PROPS): Erin is excited to return to CTC for her 12th production. This is her 3rd production overseeing props. She was recently named one of the Resident Choreographers for CTC. She recently choreographed "The Drowsy Chaperone". Previously, her choreography was seen in "Holiday Inn", "9 to 5" and "Zanna Don't". She co-choreographed "The Full Monty" and "My Fair Lady". She also danced across the stage in "White Christmas", "Thoroughly Modern Millie", "Memphis", "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" and "A Christmas Carol". Erin's choreography has also appeared in productions for Granby Arts Project and Monson Arts Council. She has danced at the Majestic Theater and professionally with the "Cher Extravaganza". She performed with and has been on the production team for the OM Show. She appeared in Simsbury Theater Guild's production of "Honeymoon in Vegas". She trained and competed nationally with the Hackworth School of Performing Arts. She also used to teach dance, acrobatics and gymnastics. Erin thanks her husband, Wally, for his love and support. She also thanks all of her parents for always being "the wind beneath her wings".

SPECIAL THANKS

JOSHUA LUCIUS IVES JAMES DEMARCO ODDFELLOWS PLAYHOUSE

Connecticut Theatre Company would like to thank the many volunteers and team members that have worked to help make this production possible.

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Student Visionaries of the Year



Nidhi Bhat, junior at Kingswood Oxford School in West Hartford, CT, has been nominated as a candidate for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Student Visionaries of the Year Campaign. As part of this campaign, Nidhi is raising awareness of the research, programs, and advocacy being conducted through LLS in addition to funds to support their mission to cure blood cancers. Please consider a donation to support her cause!

<https://events.lls.org/ctwhv/svoygct24/nbhatd>

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"Your presence helped make our event truly festive for the holidays and I know our members loved it. Your costumes were beautiful, and it was so nice that you invited some of the children to sing with you! We were more than thrilled with the performance."
M. Brooks, The Redding Country Club

"We had a wonderful performance last night! The singers were excellent and interacted with the audience extremely well. Everyone commented on how great they were and what a wonderful time they had."

A. Burgess, Meriden Public Library



"We had such a fun night with the Carolers entertaining on Wooster Street in New Haven. Their voices and harmony were angelic and they were animated and enjoyable to be with. They truly made everyone's night with their beautiful voices and brought Christmas spirit to every restaurant we visited."
W. Iovanne, Wooster Street Business Improvement Association



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