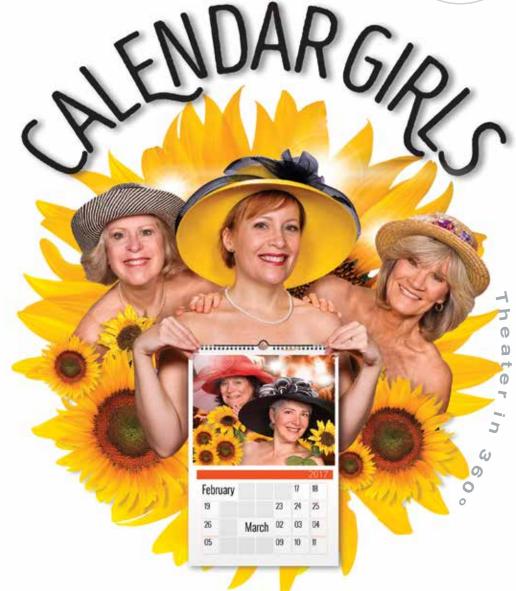
A BRIEF GUIDE TO CALENDAR GIRLS

- ★ The Women's Institute (WI) originated in Canada in 1897 and first appeared in the United Kingdom in 1915 in Wales. The intent of the British formation was to revitalize rural life and encourage food production during the First World War. Since then, membership has grown to over 200,000 members in 7,000 chapters.
- ★ Yorkshire (formerly the County of York) is the largest county in northern England. It borders the North Sea to the east. "York" comes from the Viking name for the city and "Shire" is from Old English meaning care or official charge. Early settlers were the Celts, who were displaced by Viking invaders around 866 AD.
- \star Wharfedale is one of the Yorkshire Dales in the upper valley of the River Wharfe.
- ★ Although "Jerusalem" is not the official song of the WI, its long use as the opening song of meeting and conventions has cemented its association with the WI. The lyrics have a message that the women's suffrage movement identified with and was deemed appropriate for the WI's encouragement of women to take an active role in public life. The song itself is based on a William Blake poem from 1804 with music by Sir Hubert Parry in 1916. It has been adopted as a hymn by many churches and its popularity has lead it to become an unofficial national anthem. It opened the 2012 Olympics in London.
- ★ Tai Chi is a Chinese martial art that is practiced for both its defensive training and medical benefits. Its origin is sometimes linked to Taoist or Buddhist monasteries, but the actual beginnings are unknown.
- ★ Westlife was an Irish boy band that performed from 1988 until 2012. They sold over 50 million records during their career with 14 number one singles in the UK.; however, they only managed to have one hit in the US in 2000.
- ★ Ripon Cathedral was started in the 7th century and has been rebuilt four times. It is famous for its musical traditions and its church organ.
- Maltesers are candy with malted insides and a chocolate coating around the outside. They were originated in 1936 and marketed as energy balls and a slimmer for women. They are similar to the Whoppers candy in the US.
- ★ Boots is a UK-based pharmacy (chemists) chain that was established in 1849. It now has over 2,500 stores.
- ★ Tesco, a British retailer founded in 1919, was primarily a grocery chain until moving into general merchandise in the 1990s.
- Marks & Spencer is a UK, high-end retail chain established in 1901. It became famous for selling only British-made goods but relented from this in the 1990s.
- ★ A fête is a traditional public festival, typically held outdoors for a charity.
- ★ Sunflowers can grow to a height of six feet and will tilt towards the sun until they reach maturity.









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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Colonial Players!

I don't know about you, but I'm ready for spring – with its light breezes, warmer temperatures, and sunlight. There's a lot of work to be done in early spring. Some people go on a spring cleaning frenzy; those who garden get busy planting seeds and prepping the garden so summer can be bountiful.

At Colonial Players, we are working hard as well. Our 2017-2018 season has been announced, which means we're hard at work looking for directors and production team members to make magic next season. We're also looking ahead to our two special summer events – the Promising Playwrights Festival and the One-Act Festival. Both are biennial favorites over the years – not only to our patrons, but our acting/ directing community as well.

I'd encourage you to join us as we make magic. If you're interested in playing, but don't have a lot of time, the One-Act Festival gives you the opportunity to test your acting chops, or make a directorial debut. And, as always, we love to have people help behind the scenes as well – whether it's the first time you've tried it or it's old hat to you.

Thank you for your continued patronage; and enjoy the show!

- SHIRLEY PANEK

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! STAY UP-TO-DATE ON WHAT'S GOING ON AT CP.



PRODUCTION STAFF _____

Director	Debbie Barber-Eaton
Producer	Carol Youmans
Stage Manager	Andy McLendon
Assistant Stage Manager	Victoria Young
Set Designer	Edd Miller
Set PaintingEc	dd Miller, Mike Pitard, Tom Stuckey
Lead Carpenter	Ted Yablonski
CarpentersTom Diken, Norm James, Bob Mu	Imper, Jim Robinson, Grant Thorpe
Lighting Designer	Shirley Panek
Assistant Lighting Designer	John Purnell
Sound Designer	
Sound / Lighting Technicians	Lyana Morton, Brittany Rankin
Costume Designers	Fran Marchand, Paige Myers
Properties Designer	JoAnn Gidos
Properties Assistant	Mike Gidos
T'ai Chi Choreographer	Richard Koster
Dramaturg	Neal Eaton
Assistant to the Director	Stepha Manley
Dialect Coach	Mary Watko
Creative Consultant	Eric Lund
Calendar Photography	Amy Atha-Nicholls
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Judi Hilton-Hyde

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Colonial Players gratefully acknowledges the generous bequest from Roland Riley, a longtime patron whose gift helps ensure the future economic viability

of our theater.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES _

Another title for this play could be, "What I Did for Love". First a film and now a stage play, *Calendar Girls* is the true story of a group of ladies in Yorkshire, England who found the courage to bare it all in a charity calendar in memory of one of the ladies' husband whom they all adored. Little did they realize the revealing of bodies would lead to such revelations of spirit.

The themes of *Calendar Girls* are many, including friendship, the celebration of women of all ages and body types, the channeling of grief into something meaningful, and love. Especially love.

My relationships with women have shaped my life. The better parts of me have been nurtured and encouraged by my mother, my grandmother, my sisters, and my friends. Right up there with spouses and children, these are the ties that bind. In *Calendar Girls*, we celebrate what can happen when a handful of women have a little (crazy?) idea and make their way out of their comfort zone in the name of love. As Mother Teresa said: "We can do small things with great love." *Calendar Girls* says: Yeah, but we can't always control what happens next!

- DEBBIE BARBER-EATON

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR _



DEBBIE BARBER-EATON holds a degree in Musical Theatre from Catholic University and studied the genre of cabaret at Yale. She was on the faculty of Maryland Hall for the Creative

Arts for 15 years, teaching all ages. Debbie has worked as a performer and a director in local and regional theater, including Signature Theatre, Riverside Theatre, Bay Theatre, Dignity Players, Chesapeake Music Hall, Standing O Productions, Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, The Annapolis Dinner Theater, Chesapeake Music Hall, Rep Stage, and Colonial Players.

Most recently, Debbie appeared as Martha in CP's autumn production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (WATCH nomination for lead actress). She appeared as Mayor Maggie in *Bat Boy* and received a CP acting award for her portrayal of Lady Macbeth. Debbie is thrilled to be playing Sarraghina in CP's upcoming production of the musical *Nine*. Debbie's most recent turn in the director's chair was *Guys and Dolls* (WATCH nomination for directing), which garnered the Ruby Griffith Award for All Round Production Excellence for 2nd Star Productions. Other favorite directorial projects include *The Addams Family Musical* (ASGT), *Bell, Book and Candle* (CP), *A Christmas Carol* (CP 2010), *Sordid Lives* (Dignity Players), and *john & jen* (Standing O Productions). Debbie had the honor of receiving the final directing award that Colonial Players gave for her direction of *The Robber Bridegroom*.

"I would like to thank this stellar cast, design team, and staff for lending their passion and talent to this project. As ever, my thanks and love go out to my family and friends for their love and support, especially Neal Andrew, Eddie, Paul, Donna, Stepha, Cathy, Fran, Casey, and the Annapolis Divas. In loving memory of David Titus, Bob and Brigette Marchand, and Tom Ammon. I miss you."

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT_

TIM FIRTH is an English dramatist, screenwriter, and composer. His writing credits for films include *Kinky Boots* and *Calendar Girls*, a 2003 movie which he co-wrote with Juliette Towhidi. Five

years later, he turned *Calendar Girls* into a stage play that set British box office records and has been produced in more than 20 countries. Firth has also written extensively for British television.

- 10 -



THE CAST



SHANNON BENIL

Shannon's recent past experiences at The Colonial Players include *Clue! The Musica*l (the one-week musical

project this past summer), Watch on the Rhine, Bat Boy, and Company, as well as many others over the 20 years she has performed here. And NONE of them could have prepared her for being "nude" on this stage! But being surrounded by such a talented and supportive cast and staff made it completely bearable. She knew they had her back...and front too! Much love to her wife, Marcy, for playing single Mom to their 4-year-old son while Mama feeds her theater addiction.



DARICE CLEWELL (Marie)

Darice celebrates 30 years with The Colonial Players in this production. Holding a degree in Theater Arts/Drama from UW

Madison, she acts, directs, and choreographs, along with serving on our board of directors several times, most recently as president. Appearances at CP and other local groups include *Enchanted April, Lettice and Lovage, Steel Magnolias, The Crucible, The Glass Menagerie, Sordid Lives*, and *The Vagina Monologues*. Thanks to Debbie for this opportunity, and to the Play Selection Committee for providing more opportunities for women this season. It is a privilege to play with this cast and directorial staff, friends all! Special thanks to my Mr. January...who looks good even with the staples.



ROSALIE DAELEMANS (Elaine)

Rosalie is delighted to be performing in this wonderful production with such a talented cast and crew. Recently she

appeared in The Importance of Being Earnest as Lady Bracknell. Other favorites include: Noises Off, The Man Who Came to Dinner, Bloody Murder, Fox on the Fairway, On Golden Pond, Run for your Wife, Don't Dress for Dinner, Steel Magnolias, City of Angels, South Pacific, Damn Yankees, Little Shop of Horrors, My Fair Lady, and

Mame. Rosalie has also acted with her husband and three kids. In May, she will have the privilege of sharing the stage with her birth daughter in Pennsylvania! Off stage, Rosalie is often helping with scene changes, costumes, props, lighting, set dressing, and painting. Tremendous thanks to everyone for their support, creativity, hard work, and sense of humor!

RICK ESTBERG

(John)

Rick is so glad to be in this show and to be playing a nice guy once again; his last two roles, with Pasadena Theatre

Company, were as baddies, playing Juror 10 (*12 Angry Men*) and Mr. Sawyer (*Miracle on 34th Street*). His favorite roles with CP include Ziggy (*Side Man*), Max Tarasov (*Superior Donuts*), Bert Healy (*Annie*), and Charles Thomson (*1776*). He is certain that the audience will be as thrilled as he is that he gets to keep his clothes on during this show. He thanks Director Debbie for letting him be part of such a wonderful cast! During daylight hours Rick works for the Defense Department, where he is winding down a career spanning more than 40 years.

LYNN GARRETSON

(Celia) Once upon a time, when junior high school still existed, there was a place called the Burn Brae Dinner Theater where Lynn was

privileged to appear in several productions while her parents carted her back and forth. At the age of 17, Lynn played Anne Frank at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, GA. Community theatre, as far flung as Milwaukee, WI followed until she found herself at the Chesapeake Music Hall. Lynn fulfilled a childhood dream of appearing in *The Sound of Music* when she played Sister Margaretta in Compass Rose's 2014 production. Lynn was in Colonial Players' 1998 production of *Cabaret* and more recently appeared at CP in *Bat Boy* with her amazing stepdaughter, Paige Miller. Words cannot express her gratitude and her admiration for this cast, director, and artistic team.



THE STAFF (continued)

Bridegroom, Prelude to a Kiss, They're Playing Our Song, Enter the Guardsman, Cabaret, Blood Brothers, and A Christmas Carol.



EDD MILLER

(Set and Floor Designer) Edd has a long history with The Colonial Players as a director, actor, set designer, and volunteer in other areas.

His most recent set design was for last season's *Good People*, which he also directed. Other recent design credits include *Rocket Man*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *In the Next Room*, and *Annie*. Edd was nominated for a Washington Area Theatre Community Honors set design award for *Chapter Two* and won a 2012 WATCH award for best direction for *Going to St. Ives*, which also won awards for best play and for best lead actress. Edd also has acted in and directed many other shows since joining CP in 1964.



SHIRLEY PANEK (Lighting Designer)

Shirley is proud to be a part of this beautiful show. Other light design credits at The Colonial Players include *Cripple of*

Inishmaan, Clue (the one-week musical project), A Few Good Men, Dead Man's Cell Phone, Trying, Moonlight and Magnolias, and Chapter Two (2012 WATCH nominee) as well as Art at Dignity Players. Thanks to Debbie Barber-Eaton for her spirit and vision and this wonderful cast of women and men for their patience during tech week. "Love to Drew, Emma, and Jeff -- the lights that shine in my life every day."



SARAH WADE

(Sound Designer)

Sarah is very pleased to be behind the scenes again, having just finished this year's production of *A Christmas Carol*

following her role as Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, for which she has received a WATCH award nomination. Prior shows include: *Boeing, Boeing; Ernest in Love; The Liar; These Shining Lives; Annie; Communicating Doors;* and *Taking Steps*. Prior sound credits include *Side Man* and *Watch on the Rhine* at CP, as well as the *Miracle Worker* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Compass Rose Studio Theater. She is very happy to be working again with Debbie after *Woolf*, and thanks her friends, family, and Eric because as always, "I can't, I have rehearsal."

CAROL YOUMANS (Producer)

Carol has been a devoted participant in community theater for over 35 years, learning most of what she knows

about theater from workshops and experience gained by working on every aspect of theater at Colonial Players. She has designed sets, lights, costumes, and sound, crewed, and served on many boards, most recently as artistic director, but formerly as president, director of marketing and community outreach, vice president, house director, and others. Her favorite role is directing: *Fences, Macbeth, In the Next Room, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at CP and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Jim Gallagher at ASGT being among her favorites.

ABOUT OUR NEXT PLAY

Nine, the Tony Award-winning musical about a famous Italian director who is dealing with two crises as he turns 40, begins a five-week run on March 31. This sumptuous musical tells the story of Guido Conti as he deals with his wife's threat to leave him and his inability to finish the script for the movie he is planning to direct. *Nine* opened on Broadway in 1982 and ran for 729 performances, winning five Tony Awards, including best musical. A 2002 production won the Tony for Best Revival of a Musical. *The New York Times* praised composer Maury Yeston for what it described as a ravishingly inventive and tuneful score. The book by Arthur Kopit reveals the substance of Conti's life through his relationships with a horde of beautiful women, all clamoring to be loved by him and him alone. Tickets are available at thecolonialplayers.org or by calling 410-268-7373.



THE CAST (continued)



JASON VELLON (Lawrence/Liam)

Jason is thrilled to be back at Colonial Players. He was trained in theater in NYC at The American Music Dramatic

Academy, but this theater and this group have become a second home for him. Past roles here have been Bell, Book and Candle; The Robber Bride Groom, and Side Man; which earned him a WATCH award nomination. He has performed locally at ASGT, Chesapeake Music Hall, Signature Theater, Moonlight Troupers, Dignity Players, Theater 11, and Standing O. "Special thanks to Colonial Players for having the guts to do this show and also Debbie for leading this cast with your patience and wisdom. We couldn't have done it without you." Jason would also like to thank this inspiring cast of extraordinary women and men and his friends for their overwhelming support these past couple of months. "You know who you are, and I love you." Jason dedicates his performance to his siblings, especially his sister, Michelle. "You saved my life in every way possible. Theory Twins Unite." "Mom and Dad.....I Love Ya."



MARY FAWCETT WATKO (Jessie)

Mary is absolutely thrilled to be one of the "calendar girls"! Why? Because she was born and raised in Yorkshire only minutes

away from the "Gateway to the Dales." Her first stage experience at the age of 11 years was at Yeadon Town Hall in Yorkshire, and now she is performing at her beloved Colonial Players as a Yorkshire "calendar girl." "It doesn't get any better than that!" Mary has been active with CP since 1981, and through that time has received awards for both acting and directing for CP as well as from the State of Maryland and the British Embassy in Washington. She appreciates the incredible support that CP offers to everyone: production staff, crew members, cast, and all volunteers involved. Her special thanks go to the director, Debbie Barber-Eaton, for making this happen. "You can always be sure that working with Debbie, in any capacity, will be a joyful, memorable experience! Hugs to husband, Greg, and son, Shawn, for their love and continued support."





LAURA GAYVERT

(Chris) Laura is so happy to be back at Colonial Players with such a talented, funny, supportive group of people. She has been

THE CAST (continued)

in several productions here on East Street, including *Trip to Bountiful*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Wonder of the World*, *Rocket Man*, and *Frozen* (NOT the Disney musical), for which she was nominated for the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play. Other local credits include *Crimes of the Heart* and *Sordid Lives* at Dignity Players and *Seven Year Itch* at BCT. "Thanks to Debbie for casting and directing me, and most importantly, to my husband for his love and support."

KATHY JONES

(Lady Cravenshire / Brenda) Kathy is excited to perform for the first time with The Colonial Players! She has previously acted with the Peake Players at

Chesapeake College and Church Hill Theatre, most recently as Yente in *Fiddler on the Roof* and as assistant director for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. When not onstage or singing classic rock, Kathy teaches deaf and hard of hearing students on the Mid-Shore. She thanks her family and friends for their support and this wonderful cast and crew for the warm welcome!



KAREN LAMBERT (Ruth) A veteran of the stage, Karen

is thrilled to be working again with director Debbie Barber-Eaton. Previously, she appeared

in Good People, The Diviners, Mrs. California, and Hayfever, among other CP productions. Productions at other theaters include Sordid Lives; Almost, Maine, and the ensemble staged reading of 8 at Dignity Players Additional stage credits include performances with children's theater, summer stock, and of original works, including historical characters. When not onstage, Karen works as an advertising account executive, writer, and marketing consultant. In her spare time, you may find her hunting fossils and sharks' teeth near her home in North Beach while helping to raise her two canine companion rescues. Karen extends heartfelt gratitude and enduring friendship to a fabulous cast and crew.





Having spent all his time last year behind the lights (designing four of the shows), Eric decided to step in front

of them this year. Eric designed lights for The Secret Garden, was nominated for a WATCH award for Side Man, and was nominated with co-designer Alex Brady for Venus in Fur. He has worked extensively in area theaters, including Dignity Players, ASGT, Vagabonds in Baltimore, and others. On CPs stage he has appeared in productions of Rebecca, The Clearing, and various iterations of A Christmas Carol. He appeared in Dignity Players productions of The Laramie Project, Gross Indecencies, and The 39 Steps. He directed The Voice of the Prairie and two years of A Christmas Carol for CP and The Vagina Monologues for Dignity Players. He is very honored to be working with this amazing cast and crew. And, as always, thanks his husband of 24 years, Mickey, for his support and endless patience!

MARTI POGONOWSKI (Annie)



While Marti has not been on stage in ten years, her association with The Colonial Players is a long one. She first

appeared in the ensemble of *Carousel*, then as Anne in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, both in 1969. Over the years, she has taken on a number of roles on our stage, including *Misalliance*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown; The Fantasticks; The Sea Gull; Shadowlands; Strange Snow; Lost In Yonkers; Jacques Brel...; Kid Purple*; and *Enter the Guardsman*. She was also a winner of the Irene Ryan Acting Award, which earned her a place in competition at the Kennedy Center. Marti recently retired as an executive director with Anne Arundel County Public Schools and enjoys traveling with her husband, Dan.

JOANN GIDOS

THE STAFF

(Properties Designer) A graduate of SUNY Cortland, JoAnn is a retired educator. She has been doing properties and set decoration for a variety

of local theaters for almost thirty years. This season she worked on *The Cripple of Inishmaan* at Colonial and *Camelot* at Compass Rose Theater. Next up, *Nine* right here and *God of Carnage* at CR. As always, thanks to Mike for his support and Charlotte Robinson for her continued assistance.

FRAN MARCHAND AND PAIGE MYERS (Costume Designers)

Fran and Paige work as a costume designer team for Colonial Players. Together, they costumed last season's *Side Man*, created costumes for Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden*, and

(Stage Manager) Calendar Girls is the latest of many shows Andy has stage

ANDY MCLENDON

costumed the cast for the musical *Clue*, which

was cast, rehearsed, and performed in just one

week. They are best known for working silently

behind the scenes and thinking outside the box.

Fran is retired from the Department of Defense,

and Paige is a graphic design artist.

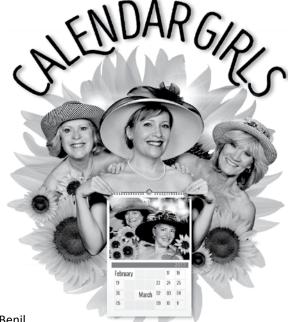
managed since she first got involved with The Colonial Players in the 1970s. Most recently, she was stage manager for two shows during

the 2015-16 season: *The Secret Garden* and *Morning's at Seven*. Andy has volunteered for a number of jobs at CP, but her task of choice is stage managing. Memorable productions at CP include *Closer Than Ever*, *The Robber*

360th Season Production



THE COLONIAL PLAYERS, INC. *presents*



THE CAST (in order of appearance)

Cora	Shannon Benil
Chris	Laura Gayvert
Annie	Marti Pogonowski
Jessie	Mary Fawcett Watko
Celia	Lynn Garretson
Ruth	Karen Lambert
Marie	Darice Clewell
Brenda	Kathy Jones
John	Rick Estberg
Rod	Eric Lund
Lady Cravenshire	
Lawrence	
Elaine	
Liam	
E.W	

Based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth. *Calendar Girls* was first produced by David Pugh Ltd. at Chichester Festival Theatre on Sept. 5, 2008. *Calendar Girls* transferred to the Noel Coward Theatre, London on April 4, 2009. Assistant Producer: Stoneface Ltd.

Written by TIM FIRTH

Directed by **DEBBIE BARBER-EATON**

TIME The present

PLACE

The action takes place in Knapeley village, Yorkshire; in the church hall; on top of a nearby hill; and at the annual Women's Institute conference in London.

ACT I

Scene 1: The church hall, autumn Scene 2: The following winter Scene 3: The following spring Scene 4: John's hill, early summer Scene 5: The church hall, later that summer Scene 6: Night, a few days later

ACT II

Scene 1: The WI conference, London Scene 2: The church hall, the following day Scene 3: A few days later Scene 4: A few days later Scene 5: Later the same day Scene 6: The next day Scene 7: Late summer Scene 8: John's hill, half an hour later

There will be one intermission between Act I and Act II.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc.

Taking photographs and using any recording devices are strictly prohibited. Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.