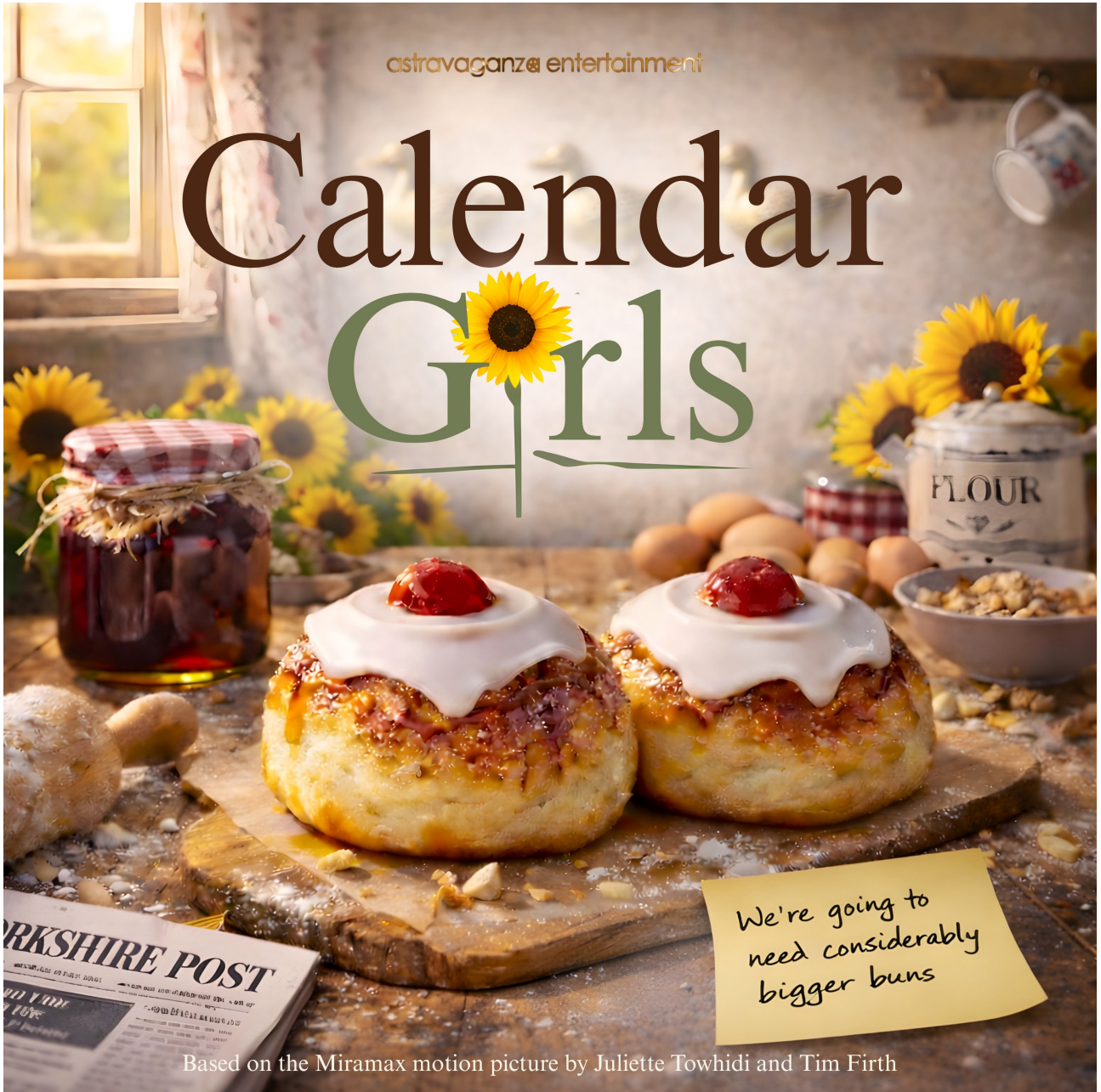


Calendar Girls 2026 Audition Pack



astravaganza entertainment

SELF TAPE AUDITION PACK

***Calendar Girls* (stage play version) will be performed at the O2 Newcastle City Hall on Saturday 15th August 2026 at 2.30pm & 7.30pm.**

We are seeking actors who can bring warmth, honesty and generosity to the work, with comedy rooted in character.

Rehearsals will be collaborative and supportive. Rehearsals begin May 2026 and will take place **Sundays (10am–2pm)** and **Mondays (7pm–10pm)**, with additional **Tuesday evenings (7pm–10pm)** from June 2026. Cast members must be available for all scheduled sessions taking place across these days.

Further details will be shared upon casting.

Theatrical Production Overview

After the death of Annie's husband, she and her friend Chris set out to raise money for their local hospital with an unexpected idea — a tasteful nude calendar featuring members of their Women's Institute.

What begins as a small fundraiser quickly grows into a national sensation, challenging friendships, confidence and identity along the way.

Calendar Girls is a funny, moving and uplifting true story of ordinary women doing something extraordinary.

The True Story

Calendar Girls is based on a true story. Following the death of John Baker from blood cancer in 1998, his wife Angela and fellow Women's Institute members created a nude calendar to raise money for the hospital that cared for him.

What began as a modest fundraising idea quickly became a global phenomenon, raising millions for blood cancer charities and leaving a lasting legacy of courage and community.

Nudity

The calendar sequence is a key moment within the production and is staged with care, humour and sensitivity. Any suggestion of nudity is fully choreographed, with modesty protected at all times through direction, staging and props.

Participation in this sequence is required for the relevant roles, and actors should feel comfortable engaging with this aspect of the production. Rehearsals will be approached with respect, support and a strong emphasis on creating a safe and confident environment.

Accent

Most characters in the play use a general Yorkshire accent. We are not looking for perfect dialects, simply an accent that suggests the region while keeping the text natural and easy to understand. Clarity, honesty and the natural rhythm of the lines are more important than strict accuracy.

Casting & Self tape submission information

The majority of roles have been cast, and we are now seeking a small number of actors to complete the company.

The audition material provided consists of monologues from the play, allowing actors to demonstrate range and suitability, which will be considered against specific roles.

Audition sides are marked as *male identifying* and *female identifying* – please submit a self tape of *all* relevant sides.

Completed self tapes should be emailed to **astraents@gmail.com** with the subject heading *Calendar Girls Casting*. Please include your contact details within your submission (mobile number, address and email).

A CV or short summary of experience or past stage credits is not essential, but welcomed.

Submission deadline

Self tape submissions should be received by **Sunday 26 April 2026 (6pm)**

Outcome

We regret that, due to the volume of submissions, we are only able to respond to those we wish to make an offer to.

FEMALE IDENTIFYING AUDITION SIDES

Yorkshire Accent

FEMALE IDENTIFYING AUDITION SIDE 1

Hold on. Hold on a minute, with your bloody buzzer? *(She takes the stand)* Sorry, but the *other* delegate for Knapeley's got something to say, and she's about to commit heresy. *(After a moment - loudly)*. I HATE plum jam.

I only joined the WI because it made my mother-in-law happy. End of story. *(Counting on her fingers)* I'm crap at cake, I hate knitting – and infact, seeing it's unlikely George Clooney would ever come to Knapeley to give a talk on his collection of slightly-too-small swimming trunks, there seems very little reason for me to STAY in the WI. Except – SUDDENLY I want to raise money in memory of a man we all loved. And to do that I'm prepared to take my clothes off on a calendar. *(Beat)* And if you guys don't agree then I'm going to do it without council approval because FRANKLY, guys, some things are bigger than council approval. And FRANKLY if it meant we'd get – *(she gestures a "tiny amount")* – THAT much closer to killing off this shitty, cheating, sly, conniving, silent bloody disease that cancer is then by God, I tell y' .. I would run round Skipton market *smear*ed in plum jam with a knitted tea cosy on my head singing Jerusalem.

FEMALE IDENTIFYING AUDITION SIDE 2

**This monologue includes other characters,
please focus on performing Chris's lines within the extract.**

ANNIE Don't touch a button girls.

CHRIS Annie. Just ..

ANNIE Put your coats *on*. We're out of here. Do NOT touch *ONE BUTTON*.

CHRIS Girls .. Is there a problem? (*Silence*) Yes? .. Are you going to answer me?

ANNIE Please don't ask me if there's a problem, Chris, when we're selling soap wearing dayglo sunflowers.

CHRIS For a photoshoot, I am. For John. (*Annie laughs - this narks Chris*). What?

ANNIE "For John". That's good. That you still *think* that.

CHRIS Yes. I do. And I think John'd think you were acting ..

ANNIE Let me tell you what I *think* John'd think, OK? "Annie, you're a woman who once took her clothes off because of me, and who now takes them off because 'that's what she does'."

CHRIS Is this 'cause I've organized it? Got us a sponsor. Finally followed through on something? Finally made this calendar a success?

ANNIE No, y'see what's actually happened, Chris, what's *actually* happened is that this calendar's made *YOU* a success.

(This hurts)

CHRIS And not YOU of course? Not bloody - Florence Nightingale. Sleeping in churches. Answering letters. LOADS of people lose partners to this disease. I bet THEY don't get FAN MAIL. Wouldn't you say THAT'S made YOU a "success"? A very successful .. "bereaved woman"? A - a - a "celebrity widow"? (*Beat*). "Saint Annie of Knapeley?" Eh? (*Beat*). Hey?

ANNIE I'm not a saint. Because I would rob every penny of this calendar to buy one more hour with him. (*Beat*). And you've still got yours.

Annie starts to cry. And it's the crying she always needed to do.

ANNIE (*In tears*) And you're here!

FEMALE IDENTIFYING AUDITION SIDE 3

“Art”? I’m sorry, Chris. I’m slightly lost. This is you “naked behind a fruit loaf”? I can’t recall - I’m thinkin-ng and n-no, the Lady Lever Gallery does not have any watercolors of middle-aged women obscuring their pudendas with danish pastries. Perhaps the Pre-Raphaelites had figured out it might look slightly - embarrassing. It’s an *embarrassment* to the WI. This isn’t about charity. It’s all about *you*, isn’t it? The golden girl who was Dorothy in *The Wizard Of Oz*. The girl who everyone thought would be a weather girl. The girl who performed in the pencil skirt at the French Evening and got all the lads’ tongues lolling and ended up in a flower shop on the Skipton Road and is now just *desperate* for a bit of the front of the stage again? Not a whole play, by the way. Not the hard work, line-learning – God, that takes following things through. No, it’s just the little front-of-curtains – (*punching her arms out*) “Pow”! The little shot of “look at me, I’m doing t’ai chi!” “Pow! I’m organising a vodka night.” TELL me that’s not what makes your heart beat faster Chris Harper. Tell me. Tell me. TELL ME. Good night, Ruth .. ladies.

FEMALE IDENTIFYING AUDITION SIDE 4

Absolutely not, Ruth. We absolutely carry on. Tuesday night is badminton night and will REMAIN badminton night regardless of whether or not Chris has disappeared to the Yorkshire Show with the badminton net. It doesn’t matter what they needed it for, Ruth. Like I said. We won’t let it stop us. I was sorry to miss the Yorkshire Show. I do enjoy it. It’s one of the things I missed most when we were living in Cheshire. I mean they do HAVE a show, Cheshire. But it’s - (*Scrunching her nose.*) There’s a fundamental difference, you see, Ruth. Yorkshire people go to the Yorkshire Show to see animals. Cheshire people go to the Cheshire Show to see other people from Cheshire. To preen. And peacock. And you know me, Ruth. The one thing I can’t stand is snobbery.

MALE IDENTIFYING AUDITION SIDES

Yorkshire Accent

MALE IDENTIFYING AUDITION SIDE 1

HA HEYY! Has anyone ever told you you're the most byyyootiful wife a man could ever have? *(He hugs her)*. Are you aware that Marie is walking round in a hat the size of a NASA satellite dish? I come with news. The latest results from Knapely Spring Fete. *(Into a beer bottle microphone)* High Ghyll have scored five point sevens in the baking with a display of synchronized flapjacks. West Hebden however have been disqualified from Garden Produce after their winning courgette was found to have been born a cucumber. Final results from the lemon curd are delayed until the judge has finished being sick.

MALE IDENTIFYING AUDITION SIDE 2

This monologue includes other characters,
please focus on performing Rod's lines within the extract.

Rod enters with a bunch of flowers and grabs Chris and hugs her

ROD Has anyone ever told you, you're the most b-yyooootiful wife a man could/ever?

CHRIS Rod what are you playing at?

ROD So what, a husband's not allowed to buy his wife a bouquet now, for a celebration? Where d'you want them?

He heads to the kitchen and Chris pulls him back

CHRIS Rod, you can't - there's naked women out there.

ROD Love, it's Knapely. There's naked women everywhere. *(He winks)*. I have bought these to celebrate the fact that somewhere out there across the dales of Yorkshire, a manufacturer of personalised wedding cakes has come down with a summer cold! And consequently pulled out of the Northern Bridal Fair in Leeds! We're in! Tomorrow my darling we are stand number two-one-nine!

CHRIS No, "we" can't be. "We're" going on television!

ROD What?

CHRIS Isn't it great?

(Beat)

ROD Right. But at these fairs you're better at all the actual selling, "meeting people" stuff. You're just ... fantastic at that.

CHRIS Rod! *(As if this explains everything)* It's TELEVISION!

ROD *(Suddenly hard as nails)* Chris, we're going to the bridal fair. We don't have the luxury. not to.

Chris knows they don't. But wants the TV so badly. She has no words. She leaves. Annie looks at Rod who is clearly wounded.

ANNIE We'll be fine, Rod. She doesn't have to be there.

ROD But I want her to be here, Annie. That's the thing. I want her to have all this. (*He just about finds a smile for Annie*). Never make a business out of something you love. I go for a walk now up to Grizedale, see all the flowers and I think, "It's you little bastards who are screwing us over." (*He looks to the sunflowers.*) Then again, John managed it, didn't he? (*Beat*) Worked that park for thirty years, never stopped banging on about how beautiful it was. Couldn't bloody shut him up.

Annie let's this settle. It's true.

ANNIE Rod, how bad ARE things with the shop?

Pause. Rods points to the flowers she is holding.

ROD Try to keep 'em cool.