



COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENTS
CALENDAR GIRLS

They dropped everything for a good cause.

WorWic Community College



Fri. April 20 - 8 PM, Sat. April 21 - 2 & 8 PM

Fri. April 27 - 8 PM, Sat. April 28 - 2 PM

**Written By
Tim Firth**

**Directed By
Sharon Benchoff**

244th
Production

80th
Year

Community Players of Salisbury, Inc.
presents

Calendar Girls

Written By **Tim Firth**

Directed By **Sharon Benchoff**

Wor-Wic Community College

Friday, April 20 at 8:00 PM

Saturday, April 21 at 2:00 PM

Saturday, April 21 at 8:00 PM

Friday, April 27 at 8:00 PM

Saturday, April 28 at 2:00 PM

Calendar Girls

is produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc.

235 Park Avenue, South New York, NY 10003

*This production was made possible, in part, by a grant from the
Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council, awarded by the
Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

Community Players' President's Message

Welcome to Community Players' third production of the 2017-18 season, *Calendar Girls*.

When I read the script for *Calendar Girls* three years ago, I told Sharon Benchoff that this was a show that Community Players had to do. It is a funny, moving show about friendship, courage, passion, and risk-taking.

The cast and crew is truly talented, working well together, and each shining during his or her own individual moments. They tease each other, argue, and support each other like good friends always do.

Please enjoy today's performance! We look forward to seeing you in the audience for the remaining show of this season — *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

If you have interest in being part of Community Players, please send me an e-mail at tomchicken@aol.com.

Tom Robinson

Community Players Officers

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Treasurer	Charlie Linton
Immediate Past President	Megan Davis

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Steve Culver	Melissa Dasher	Matt Hatfield
Judy Hearn	Darrell Mullins	Kel Nagel

Director's Message

This is my personal message to you, our wonderful Players' audience member. If you have seen any of the productions previously directed by me, you know that I have eclectic tastes. From the sweeping epic of *Les Misérables* to the laugh out loud farce, *Tom, Dick & Harry* to the message heavy *An Inspector Calls*, I love them all. Well, the play *Calendar Girls* has bits and pieces of all three and is therefore not easy to pigeon hole (I've never understood why we put pigeons in holes, but I digress) into one genre. That is why the play grabbed me five years ago when Robin Finley gave me her copy to read.

It has the historical truth of *Les Misérables* in that leukemia did end the life of one husband of a WI member. The ladies of that WI chapter did, in fact, produce an alternative calendar to raise funds to fight blood cancer. But that is just one theme of the play. There are definitely many laugh out loud moments in this production, not necessarily because of wild farce, but because hysterical things happen whenever you put a group of diverse friends together. And because you do often have diverse personalities together in community organizations, you will also find clashes and differences of opinions.

So, you see, it is difficult to place *Calendar Girls* into just one category. *Calendar Girls* is life, sometimes poignant, sometimes funny and sometimes crazy. What you will see at this performance is a fierce bunch of women who will go to the ends of the earth to lift up and support one another. And isn't that a great message no matter how you present it – laughter, tears, or laughing through tears?

One more important message: I thank my cast, crew and production team more than words can say. They all worked tirelessly. We laughed, we cried and we cried while we laughed. They are all so talented and so supportive of one another.

Sharon Benchoff

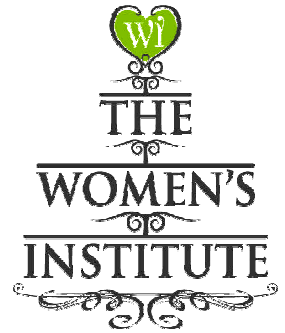
Don't miss Community Players' next show!

The Drowsy Chaperone - June 22-24
at Wicomico High Auditorium

Tickets are available at 410-546-0099
or on the web at www.SBYplayers.com

What is the Women's Institute

The Women's Institute (WI) was formed in 1915 to revitalize rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then the organization's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organization in the UK. The WI celebrated its centenary in 2015 and currently has almost 220,000 members in approximately 6,300 WIs.



In the 1920s, once the war was over the newly formed WIs began to concentrate on planning programs of activities to suit their members. This new organization attracted members from the Lady of the Manor, to her housemaid and cook; from the local shop keeper to the wife of the farm laborer: working together in the WI helped to break down the social barriers between countrywomen who had rarely met in the past. Women had now received the vote (at least those over 30) and the WI was anxious to encourage women to become active citizens.

The WI plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities.

It is as far from jam and Jerusalem* as it gets. The WI letters aren't moralizing or over-sensitive, but firm and clear in their calls for nuanced legislation.

* Throughout the play, beginning with the very first scene, you will hear the hymn "Jerusalem". As with the WI, the song "Jerusalem" is an ingrained part of English heritage. Known as the "unofficial" anthem of England, the song has been sung and played at community affairs, sporting venues, schools and government events since 1916. The poem, written by William Blake, which became the hymn was inspired by the story that a young Jesus, accompanied by Joseph of Arimathea, a tin merchant, travelled to what is now England.

Synopsis

When Annie's husband John dies of leukemia, she and her best friend Chris resolve to raise money for a new settee in the local hospital waiting room. They manage to persuade four fellow WI (Women's Institute) members to pose nude with them for an "alternative" calendar.

The news of the women's charitable venture spreads like wildfire, and hordes of press soon descend on the small village of Knapeley in the Yorkshire Dales. The calendar is a success, but Chris and Annie's friendship is put to the test under the strain of their new-found fame. The play is based on the true story of eleven WI members who, in an effort to raise money for the Leukemia Research Fund, posed nude for a calendar.

Act 1

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

15 minute Intermission

Refreshments are available for sale in the lobby

Act 2

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

**Video or audio recording of this production
is strictly prohibited.**

Cast (in order of appearance)

Cora Megan Davis
Chris Judy Hearn
Annie Kim Cuesta
Jessie Bobbie Calloway
Celia Shelbie Thompson
Ruth Robin Finley
Marie Cheryl Phillips
Brenda Tracy Joachimowski
John Mike Murphy
Rod Chris Pali
Lady Cravenshire Robin Burns
Lawrence Matt Hatfield
Elaine Nichole Martin
Liam Pete Evans



Production Staff

Director..... Sharon Benchoff
Producer..... Carol Alex
Stage Manager..... Cass Dasher
Stage Crew Sammy Barnes, Cass Dasher, Pete Evans,
Tracy Joachimowski, Nichole Martin, Christopher Pali
Set Design..... Ken Johnson, Sharon Benchoff
Set Construction ChiefDavid Allen, Ken Johnson,
Bill Zlakowski
Lighting Design Gary Finley
Costume CoordinatorsCarol Alex, Lynne Bratten,
Jennifer Bratten Tusing
Dressers..... Robin Burns, Tracy Joachimowski,
Nichole Martin, Alanna Phillips
Sound Design..... Sharon Benchoff, Kim Mason
Sound Team..... Kim Mason, Alanna Phillips
Projections Alanna Phillips
Set Work/Painting..... Kate Adkins, David Allen, Sammy Barnes,
Sharon Benchoff, Tony Broadbent, Travis Comegys,
Cass Dasher, Megan Davis, Steve Engler, Gary Finley,
Robin Finley, Judy Hearn, Ken Johnson, Jean King, Jim King,
Nichole Martin, Chris Pali, Mary Veise, Bill Zlakowski
Props..... Jean King, Jim King, Debby Nagel, Kel Nagel
Radio Voices Andy Irwin, Jonathan Kim,
Regina Konrad, Rick Konrad, Norm Wolske
Publicity..... Pete Cuesta, Melissa Dasher, Kel Nagel
Program Cover/Poster Design Sharon Benchoff, Jim King,
Tom Robinson
Program Advertising/Design..... Tom Robinson

Who's Who in the Cast

Robin Burns (Lady Cravenshire) is appearing in her fourth show with Players. You may previously have seen her in *Steel Magnolias* (Clairee), *Deathtrap* (Helga Ten Dorp), or *Death of a Salesman* (Linda Loman). She would like to thank Sharon for casting her as 'the Lady of the Manor', these amazing actors and crew that make theater so enjoyable, and her new husband Joe for his support of the crazy schedule that goes along with performing.

Bobbie Calloway (Jessie) has been a member of Players for quite some time on and off. She loves being on stage and playing "someone else." She thanks Sharon for believing in her.

Kim Heyer Cuesta (Annie) is thrilled to be making her stage debut in the role of Annie. She has spent many years behind the scenes at The Salisbury School in theater production, props, sound and lighting. In recent years, she has been a part of the sound crew for Community Players in musicals such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Into the Woods*. Kim would like to thank her husband, Pete and daughters, Maddi and Abby, for their constant encouragement. She would also like to thank her mother, Kay, for her inspiration and positive spirit.

Megan Davis (Cora) is thrilled to be a part of another Players' show. Last season, you may have seen Megan on stage in *Moon Over Buffalo* (Rosalind) but you can usually find her somewhere backstage. A very special thank you to the cast and crew for making this an amazing experience! Megan dedicates the love and laughter in this show to her mom, Rachel.



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Who's Who in the Cast (Continued)

Pete Evans (Liam) is happy to be onstage once again with Players in *Calendar Girls*. Last seen as Howard Wagner in *Death of a Salesman*, Pete has also enjoyed feature roles in *The Foreigner*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *The Addams Family*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Into the Woods*. He believes theatre is a powerful exercise in and exploration of interpersonal relationships.

Robin Finley (Ruth) is ecstatic to be in this production of *Calendar Girls*. She has been with Players since 2001 when Cindy Gore cast her in *Little Women*. Robin loves being a part of Community Players because of the wonderful friends she has made. She wants to thank the audiences for their gracious support, her family for their patience, and Sharon Benchoff for fighting for this show.

Matt Hatfield (Lawrence) is so thrilled to be a part of another show with Players and is especially excited to be a part of a show of this much importance. It's amazing to be surrounded by such talented and powerful women. A special shout out to Sharon for giving him the opportunity to be in this show and to the strongest woman he's ever known, his wonderful girlfriend, Kate.

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Who's Who in the Cast (Continued)

Judy Hearn (Chris) has appeared in a number of productions with Players, including *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Death of a Salesman*, *On Golden Pond*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Hollow*, and *Tom Dick and Harry*. She has done network for *Into the Woods*, *Something's Afoot*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Addams Family*, *Wizard of Oz*, and *Les Misérables*. Additional work includes commercials, radio dramas, *Murder on the Nile* with LSPAC, the film *Screw You Tube*, and cable series *House of Cards*. Theatre is life!

Tracy Joachimowski (Brenda) is excited to make her theatre debut with the Players playing the role of Brenda "Broccoli" Hulse. Tracy currently lives in Salisbury with her husband and two children and works as a Human Resources professional. Tracy enjoys playing golf and tennis but would rather be on a beach than anywhere else. She also loves the theatre and is thrilled to be a part of *Calendar Girls*!

Nichole Martin (Elaine) is a physician assistant specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with Ability Rehabilitation Associates in Salisbury who is eager to try her hand as an actor. She will be making her debut with Community Players in *Calendar Girls*. In 2017 she had a role in *Not God*, a joint production by Community Players and Lower Shore Performing Arts Company. In her free time, she participates in Toastmasters, enjoys exercising, goes to the gym, reads, and spends time with her friends and her two cats.

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Who's Who in the Cast (Continued)

Mike Murphy (John) has been dying to play John Clark since he first read the script for *Calendar Girls*. This is his third production with Players, having played Reverend Harper and Officer O'Hara in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and Charlie in *Death of a Salesman*. Mike is thankful for the support of his family, in particular his daughter Emma who encouraged him to get back into theater productions last year. He hopes to continue acting and working with Players for as long as they will have him.

Chris Pali (Rod) is thrilled to perform in his first Players' production. He helped build sets for *Death of a Salesman* and *Calendar Girls*, and also directs Rockawalkin UMC's live play and short video productions dealing with modern spiritual themes. He thanks Sharon and the cast and crew for this opportunity and gives loving thanks to his wife, Nancy, and family for having such patience.



Who's Who in the Cast (Continued)

Cheryl Phillips (Marie) is excited to be performing her debut with Players. Her theater journey started in high school performing in various roles either on stage or behind the scenes. Her most notable roles were Ghost of Christmas Future in *A Christmas Carol* and Mrs. Sowerberry in *Oliver!* She performed in a couple of children's plays in college and was ensemble for two productions with Liberty Showcase Theatre in Baltimore County. After taking a long break from theater, she feels at home being back on the stage and wants to thank Players and Sharon for the opportunity. She hopes to be a part of many more productions.

Shelbie Thompson (Celia) is thrilled to be in another show with Players. She has previously performed in *Into The Woods*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. Shelbie is grateful to share the stage with this incredible cast and thanks Sharon for directing this show and putting up with us!



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Who's Who Behind the Scenes

Carol Alex (Producer) has been with Players for 32 years. She has been in musicals but now she loves to work backstage as producer, costume person, and house manager She wants to thank Sharon for letting her participate in this great show.

Sharon Benchoff (Director) has worked for over thirty-five years with Community Players. She has designed lighting for numerous productions including *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Chicago*, *The Wizard of Oz* and most recently *Into the Woods*. Directing credits include *Wait Until Dark*, *Laughing Stock*, *Tom, Dick & Harry*, *Moon Over Buffalo* and *Les Misérables*. She has served as both Board member and Officer for Community Players.

Lynne Bratten (Costume Coordinator) has created and coordinated costumes for players since 1984. Her most recent productions include *Into the Woods*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Mary Poppins*, *Moon over Buffalo*, *Addams Family*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *Death Trap*. She is thrilled to be able to manage the ever expanding costume collection for Community Players and to be able to share the costume collections with local schools and other community theater groups.

Audition dates for Community Players' *The Drowsy Chaperone*

Auditions for *The Drowsy Chaperone* will be held at
Community Players, 5109 Nutters Cross Road on:

Sunday, April 22 - 2 PM

Monday, April 23 - 7 PM

Tuesday, April 24 - 7 PM

The show will be at Wicomico High School
on June 22, 23 & 24

If you need more information contact director,
Kel Nagel at kelnagel@yahoo.com

Who's Who Behind the Scenes (Continued)

Cass Dasher (Stage Manager) has been involved in tech with Players for three years since signing on as stage crew for *Addams Family* in 2015, and she has served as stage manager for *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Something's Afoot*, and *Into the Woods*. She would like to thank Sharon for allowing her to be a part of this incredible show, and the "girls" for keeping her laughing.

Gary Finley (Lighting) has worked with lighting on several Players' productions including *Bell, Book & Candle*, *Harvey*, *Laughing Stock*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Something's Afoot*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, and *Death of a Salesman* as well as shows for Wor-Wic's Dessert Theatre. Gary wants to thank the director, cast, and crew for the opportunity to work with such an entertaining play.

Community Players 2018-19 Season

South Pacific - November 2018

The Dining Room - February 2019

The Last 5 Years - April 2019

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels - June 2019

A Special Presentation for Patrons

Love, Loss and What I Wore - March 2019



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Who's Who Behind the Scenes (Continued)

Ken Johnson (Set Design) began his “career” with Players over 35 years ago. Ken has directed several productions for Players, most recently this season’s *Into The Woods*. He has appeared on stage often, most recently as Bert in *Mary Poppins* and as Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast*. Ken is also very active backstage, having designed and built the sets for over 50 Players’ productions. He’d like to thank his new best friend and companion, Yoshi, for supporting him in this “hobby”.

Kimberly Mason (Sound) has been with Players since 2002, and this is her 20th production. Some of her favorite plays that she’s done are *Footloose*, *Laughing Stock*, *Les Misérables* and *Addams Family*. Kim has also helped with sound for five productions at The Salisbury School, *South Pacific*, *Oliver!*, *Oklahoma!*, *Sound of Music*, and *Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang*.

Alanna Phillips (Special Effects, Tech) was Director of Sound for Players’ *Into the Woods* and a member of the Sound Team for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Addams Family*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Chicago*, *Oliver!*, *Wizard of Oz*, and *Les Misérables*, as well as The Salisbury School’s *Cinderella*, *Shrek*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Willy Wonka*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The King and I*. She is a member of Christ UM Church’s Tech Team. She skates on the Salisbury Roller Derby team as “Big Booty Judy”.



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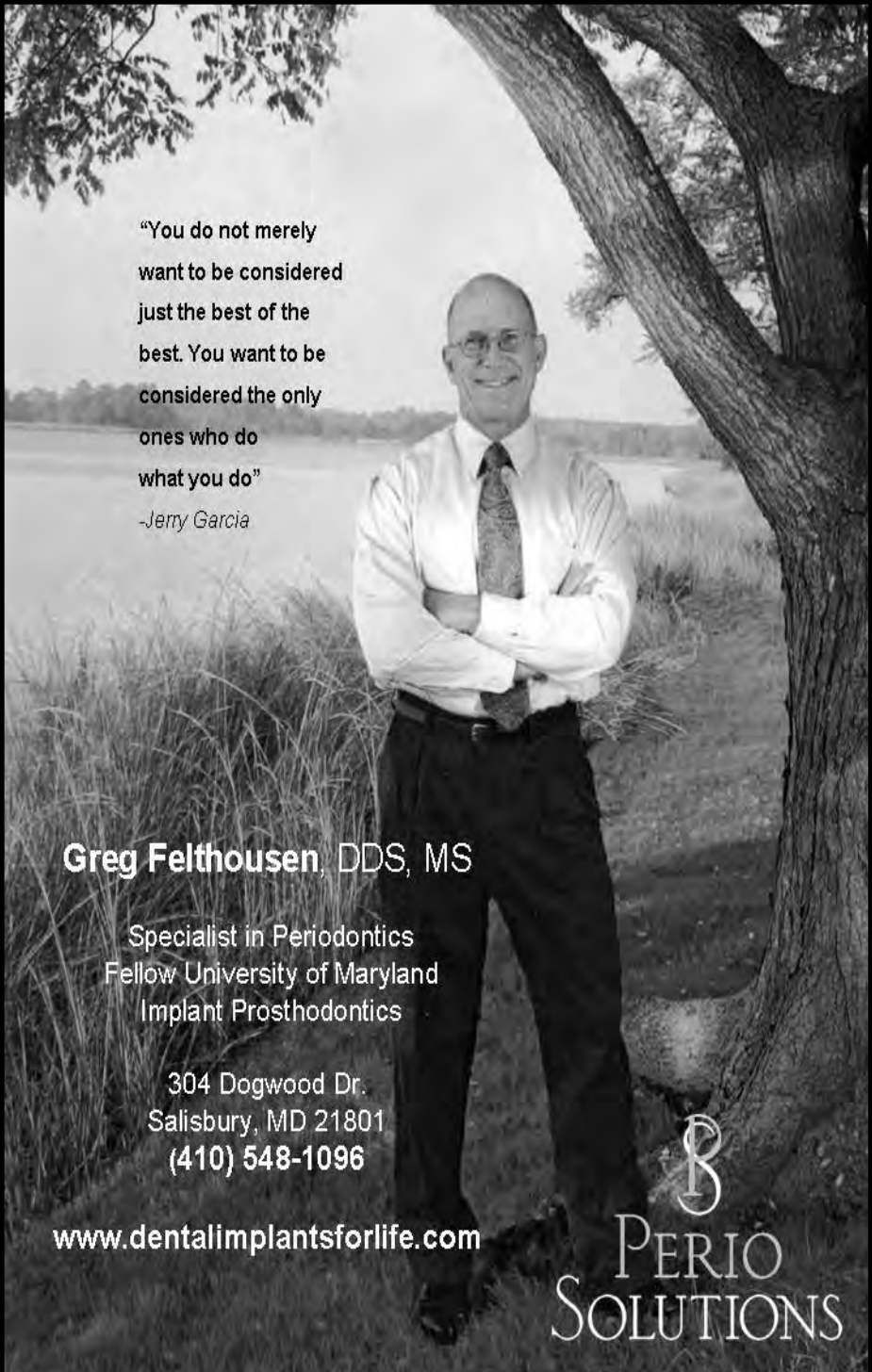
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