

Providence Players of Fairfax – AUDITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Calendar Girls

By Tim Firth

Directed by Michael Donahue



In this delightful comedy, Annie and her best friend Chris belong to the Women's institute – a do-good organization in the heart of Yorkshire. When a member's husband dies of leukemia, the best friends resolve to raise funds, but donations are tight. They persuade fellow Institute members to pose for an "alternative" calendar that attracts media, fame and funds. Based on a true story, *Calendar Girls* is an uplifting, feel-good story of friendship, ingenuity and triumph. *Later made into a popular film, Calendar Girls received the British Comedy Award for Best Comedy and several Golden Globe nominations.*

Thirteen Roles (9 Women – 4 Men) – All Open

The Providence Players of Fairfax is a non-profit community theater troupe. All participation is on a volunteer, non-compensated basis.

Performance Dates and Times

Preview:	October 1 7:00pm Curtain
Evening Performances:	Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays; 7:30 pm Curtain October 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 & 17
Matinees:	Sundays; 2:00 pm curtain October 4 & 11

Audition Dates

Tues June 23, 6:30 -9:30 pm (In the James Lee "Urbanites" Rm)

Thurs June 25, 6:30-9:30 pm (In the James Lee "Urbanites" Rm)

Call-Backs (if needed and by invitation):

Tues June 30th 6:30 -9:30 pm (In the James Lee "Urbanites" Rm)

Location

The James Lee Community Center- 2855 Annandale Road Falls Church, VA 22042

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Audition Information/Instructions

- **PLEASE RSVP** to providenceplayers@cox.net **with the date you plan on auditioning.**
- **HOW WE WORK:** Most PPF auditions have actors up and down to read multiple times in multiple combinations and scenes. Most actors find this fun. As space allows, you will be able to watch all the auditions. You may be asked to go into the hallway with audition partners and work a bit on a scene. We will do our best to get you up multiple times reading for parts you are interested in. You will also be asked to read for other parts you may not be auditioning for. The Providence Players strives to make our productions open to interested and engaged actors & actresses, regardless of their level of experience. We try and make our auditions as relaxing and fun as possible.
- **AUDITION PROCESS:** Auditions will consist of readings from the script - No monologue required.
- **AUDITION SIDES:** Sides for the audition process will be supplied at auditions.
- **AUDITION FORM:** Resumes and headshots will be accepted, but are not required. Please ALSO complete the attached PPF *Calendar Girls Audition Form* and bring it with you to the audition. This will also be available on our website.
- **MEMBERSHIP:** The Providence Players of Fairfax is a membership organization. Membership is not required to audition. If cast, actors in addition to production team members will be asked to become members of the Providence Players (\$10) for the season (if they are not already).
- **RSVP:** Please send us an RSVP if you plan to audition to providenceplayers@cox.net (or email us any questions you may have).

Rehearsal Schedule:

A copy of the preliminary stage rehearsal schedule is included with this announcement and will be available online and at auditions. In addition to the stage rehearsal schedule, additional full cast readings of the play and some selected scene study and character work will be scheduled based on actor availability prior to or in addition to the stage schedule. The schedule for these will be finalized after auditions. Unless indicated otherwise, all rehearsals will happen at the James Lee Community Center. Rehearsals will be held in the evenings roughly from 6:30/6:45 to 9:45pm. and on Saturdays and Sundays as indicated.

Please come to auditions prepared to list any availability conflicts over this time period.

Character Summary - 9 Women – 4 Men – All Open

Female Roles (9) *Calendar Girls*

CHRIS - 50s. You want Chris at your party. She will talk to people she doesn't know, and things to say to all silences and generate laughter. Part of this is because Chris is at home in crowds,

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holding court, being the center of attention. Without Chris in her life, Annie would be better behaved, her life less fun. The two of them are like naughty schoolgirls. Ideal car — who cares, as long as it's a cabriolet. Ideal holiday — Algarve.

ANNIE - 50s. Annie will join in mischief but is at heart more conformist and less confrontational than Chris. After Chris has put a waiter's back up in the restaurant, Annie will go in and pour calm. The mischievousness Chris elicits saves Annie from being a saint. She has enough edge to be interesting, and enough salt not to be too sweet. Ideal car — who cares, as long as it's reliable. Ideal holiday — walking in English countryside.

CORA - around 40. Cora's past is the most eclectic, her horizons broadened by having gone to college. This caused a tectonic shift with her more parochial parents. She came back to them pregnant and tail-between-legs, but Cora has too much native resilience to be downtrodden. She is the joker in the pack, but never plays the fool. Her wit is deadpan. It raises laughter in others, but rarely in herself. Her relationship with her daughter is more akin to that between Chris and Annie. Cora doesn't need to sing like a diva but must be able to sing well enough to start the show with Jerusalem and sing the snatches of other songs required. The piano keyboard can be marked up to enable her to play basic chords should she not be a player. Ideal car — who cares, as long as the sound system is loud. Ideal holiday — New York.

JESSIE - late 60s/70s. Get on the right side of Jessie as a teacher and she'll be the teacher you remember for life. Get on the wrong side and you will regret every waking hour. A lover of life, Jessie doesn't bother with cosmetics — her elixir of life is bravery. Jessie goes on rollercoasters. Her husband has been with her a long time and is rarely surprised by her actions. Jessie bothers about grammar and will correct stallholders regarding their abuse of the apostrophe "s". Ideal car — strange-looking European thing which is no longer manufactured. Ideal holiday — walking in Switzerland or Angkor Wat.

CELIA - age anything 35-50. The fact that Celia is in the WI is the greatest justification of its existence. A woman more at home in a department store than a church hall, she may be slightly younger than Chris or the same age, but she always feels like she's drifted in from another world. Which she has. She is particularly enamored of Jessie, and despite the fact Jessie has very little time for most Celia's of this world, there is a rebelliousness in Celia to which Jessie responds. It's what sets Celia apart from the vapid materialism of her peer group and made her defect. Ideal car — Porsche, which she has. Ideal holiday — Maldives, where she often goes.

RUTH - 40s. Ruth's journey is from the false self-confidence of the emotionally abused to the genuine self-confidence of the woman happy in her own skin. Ruth is eager to please but not a rag doll, and despite being Marie's right-hand woman she is desperate to be the cartilage in the spine of the WI and keep everyone happy. She has spine herself — if she was too wet, no-one

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would want her around. But they do, and they feel protective of her because they sense there is something better in Ruth than her life is letting out. They are proved right. Ideal car — at the start, whatever Eddie wants; at the end, whatever she wants. Ideal holiday — at the start wherever Eddie is, at the end wherever he isn't. The Rabbit Costume: Ruth made this last night. It should be a cocktail of good intention and not enough time.

MARIE - 50s. Marie has gradually built the current 'Marie' around herself over the years as a defense mechanism. She went to her Oz, Cheshire, and found Oz didn't want her. She came back scorched. The WI is a trophy to her, which justifies her entire existence. There is a lingering part of Marie that would love to be on that calendar. Ideal car — something German and well-valeted. Ideal holiday — a quasi-academic tour of somewhere in Persia advertised in a Sunday Supplement which she could then interminably bang on about.

LADY CRAVENSHIRE - 60s. Lady Cravenshire really doesn't mean to be so patronizing. But the WI girls seem from another world. The world of her estate workers. Dress: when she makes an entrance, she must make an entrance. Largely white or cream to outplay the others, with a bigger hat than Marie. She is not a tweed-wearer. She must glide in like a galleon.

ELAINE - 20s. Elaine really doesn't mean to be so patronizing. But Jessie seems from another world. The world of her gran. Dress: her clinical whites slice through like a knife. You feel you could cut yourself on that dress.

Male Roles (4) – *Calendar Girls*

JOHN (Annie's Husband) - 50s. John is a human sunflower. Not a saint. Not a hero. Just the kind of man you'd want in your car when crossing America. When he dies it feels like someone somewhere turned a light off.

ROD - Chris's husband, 50s. You have to be a certain kind of guy to stick with Chris and Rod loves it. He can give back what he gets, and has a deadpan humor which has always made Chris laugh. He drinks a lot but never so much as to have a problem. He would work every hour to make his shop a success. And John was his mate, even though the relationship was originally channeled through their wives.

LAWRENCE - late 20s. Hesitant without being nerdy, Lawrence is a shy young man with enough wit to make a joke and enough spirit to turn up at the WI hall in the first place. When he arranges the shots he is close to female nudity but sees only the photo.

LIAM - late 20s. Liam would like to be directing other things than photoshoots for washing powders. He's not so unprofessional as to let it show, but we can sense a slight weariness at having to deal with these women. There's a resigned patience to his actions and

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each smile he makes we feel is professional. For Liam, this photoshoot is a job. And not the job he wanted. Dress: Avoid wearing shades inside a building. If you've gone down that route, you've made the weary boy a wideboy.

From the Author: Accents

The women of the real calendar in truth came from many parts of the country. Actors should resist the pressure to perform any kind of Yorkshire pyrotechnics. Nothing compromises the truth of comedy like a slavish attention to vowel-sounds and diphthongs. It will become a pebble in the shoe. If you can flatten the "a" so that giraffe no longer rhymes with scarf then that will be more than sufficient; but even that should not be championed over the intrinsic rhythm of the line. People travel. Communities are now gloriously multi-instrumental. We've had accents from Glasgow to Texas make the same part their own.

In view of the author's perspective, the director intends to not use specific accents in this production.

About the Director Michael P. Donahue

Michael has been working with PPF since 2009. He has acted and worked backstage on many PPF productions and Directed PPF's 2014 Winter production of "House of Blue Leaves". He is also serves the company on the Board of Directors. Michael worked professionally in the theatre from 1984 – 2000. He has a MFA in Theatre Directing and was Artistic Director for Playhouse on the Square's Professional Theatre for Youth in Memphis, TN. He was Associate Artistic Director for HITT Productions responsible for writing, directing and Fight Direction for large performance events. His other directing credits include: *Merchant of Venice*, VPStart Crow, Manassas VA., *Nothing Sacred*, Circuit Playhouse, Memphis TN., *Tom Sawyer*, *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and *Magicians Nephew*, Playhouse on the Square Professional Theatre for Youth, Memphis TN., *The Tell Tale Heart*, *The Murders at the Rue Morgue*, HITT Productions, Poconos PA., *Glass Menagerie*, *Extremities*, *Lord Byron*, original one man show, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN.

About the Providence Players:

The Providence Players of Fairfax (PPF) proudly celebrates its eighteenth season in 2015–2016 our 12th year at the James Lee Community Center Theater where the company has mounted 40 of our 52 previous productions. None of the parents who first banded together to mount the comedy classic *You Can't Take It with You* in 1998 could have imagined that PPF would emerge as one of the region's leading community theater companies with hundreds of members and volunteers, over 200 individual and corporate donors, and nearly 500 season ticket holders. And, since the move to James Lee, PPF has entertained more than 38,000 theater patrons!

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An award-winning company, PPF is proud to be a member of the Washington Area Theater Community Honors (WATCH) organization that presents annual awards recognizing artistic and technical excellence in Community Theater. Since becoming a member in 2004, PPF has been recognized with 95 WATCH nominations for twenty-two different productions including several *Outstanding Play* nominations (for *Of Mice and Men*, *Rumors*, *Side Man*, *Auntie Mame*, and *The Shadow Box*) and has been honored with twenty-two WATCH awards for quality theatrical performance and technical production. This past January, PPF was nominated for nineteen WATCH awards for last spring's production of *Rumors* and this past October's *Of Mice and Men*. PPF has also been honored by the British Players' Ruby Griffith Awards program, including the award for All Round Production Excellence (the organization's top honor) for *All My Sons* and the award for Outstanding Achievement in a Play for *The Shadow Box*. PPF is also a member and grant recipient of the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and has been honored by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and then Chairman, now Congressman Gerry Connolly) for artistic excellence and community involvement.

PPF is also committed to the diverse community it serves. PPF maintains the Theater Community Inclusion Project, a community outreach initiative that strives to increase participation among new audiences, particularly youth and underserved populations, by providing free tickets to those who cannot afford the price of admission, a special free student/senior preview performance for each production and scholarships to college bound students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to theater arts.

PPF is a group of committed, member artists. It's a "big tent" – big enough to include first timers to theatrical endeavors and those with significant theater experience. This includes you! Please join us as a member of the company on-stage, backstage, behind the scenes, or as an ongoing member of our audience. We sincerely welcome you!



Providence Players of Fairfax

Audition Form *Calendar Girls*

Please fill out each section below

Attach a resume and/or headshot to this form (optional)

NAME		
ADDRESS		
	Home	Work
Phone		
Cell		
Email		

Note: The Providence Players of Fairfax is a membership organization. If you are cast and are not already member, you will be asked to become one. Membership is \$10 per season.

The Glass Menacity – Character Preferences

I wish to be considered for any role.

I wish to be considered for any role, but have a strong preference for the roles checked below.

I would prefer to only be considered for the following roles (checked):

FEMALE ROLES 9 Roles – Some Flexibility in Playing Age May Be Considered

CHRIS - 50s ANNIE - 50s CORA - around 40

JESSIE - late 60s/70s CELIA - age anything 35-50 RUTH - 40s

MARIE - 50s. LADY CRAVENSHIRE - 60s. ELAINE - 20s.

MALE ROLES

JOHN (Annie's Husband) - 50s. ROD - Chris's husband, 50s.

LAWRENCE - late 20s. LIAM - late 20s.

Notes from you about Role Preference:



Providence Players of Fairfax

Audition Form

Calendar Girls

Scheduling Conflicts?

Please review the audition announcement, show dates, and preliminary production calendar

The Director may schedule read-throughs and table work sessions in July and August, following casting, prior to starting the in-theater production schedule. These will be based on actor availability.

Please list July and August pre-stage rehearsal availability conflict dates – dates when you could NOT participate in off stage read throughs and table work.

Please list known conflicts for September Stage Rehearsals (Stage rehearsals begin August 31st:



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Audition Form *Calendar Girls*

Give us a sketch of your Theater Background

A resume may be attached in lieu of filling out the table below, though it is not required.

Acting Experience:

High School ___Y ___N - Approx. Number of Productions _____

College ___Y ___N - Approx. Number of Productions _____

Community ___Y ___N - Approx. Number of Productions _____

Pro (Paid) ___Y ___N - Approx. Number of Productions _____

Overall Production Experience:

Production Role	# Shows	Production Role	# Shows	Production Role	# Shows
Directed		Set Decoration		Choreography	
Stage Managed		Props		Musician	
Stage Crew		Lighting		House Mgmt	
Set Design		Sound		Publicity	
Set Construction		Costumes		Photography	
Set Painting		Makeup/Hair		Musician	

Important: Would you be interested in getting involved in the production if you are not cast?

_____ Yes

_____ No

_____ Unsure

Please give us a brief sense of any theater work over the past three years:

The Providence Players Presents



Providence Players *Calendar Girls* – Preliminary Production Calendar

July 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
During the summer, the director will schedule table readings, character work and scene work based on actor availability.			1	2	3 Independence Day Holiday	4
5	6 PPF Committee Meeting Date	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 PPF Play Reading Night	15	16	17	18
19	20 PPF Board Meeting	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Providence Players *Calendar Girls* – Preliminary Production Calendar

August 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		During the summer, the director will schedule table readings, character work and scene work based on actor availability.				1
2	3 PPF Committee Meeting Date	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 PPF Play Reading Night	12	13	14	15
16	17 PPF Board Meeting	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10PM					

Providence Players *Calendar Girls* – Preliminary Production Calendar

September 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10PM	2 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10PM	3 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10PM	4	5
6	7 Labor Day PPF Committee Meeting Date	8 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM PPF Play Reading Night	9 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	10 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	11	12 PPF Theater Use Set Build Weekend 9 AM – 10 PM
13 PPF Theater Use Set Build Weekend 9 AM – 6 PM	14 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	15 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	16 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	17 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	18 PPF Tech Set Up 6:00 PM –10 PM	19 PPF Theater Tech Weekend 9:00 AM –10 PM
20 PPF Theater Tech Weekend 9:00 AM –5 PM	21 PPF Board Meeting	22 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	23 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	24 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	25 PPF Theater Use Rehearsal 6:00 PM –10 PM	26 PPF Theater Use Dress Rehearsal 9:00 AM –6 PM
27 PPF Theater Use- Dress Rehearsal 9A M to 5 PM	28 PPF Theater Use Dress Rehearsal 5:00 PM –10 PM	29 PPF Theater Use Dress Rehearsal 5:00 PM –10 PM	30 PPF Theater Use Dress Rehearsal 5:00 PM –10 PM			

Providence Players *Calendar Girls* – Preliminary Production Calendar

October 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 PPF Student & Senior Preview Performance 7PM 5:00 PM –11PM	2 PPF Performance 7:30 PM 5:00 PM –11 PM	3 PPF Performance 7:30 PM 5:00 PM –11 PM
4 PPF Performance Matinee 2 PM 12 PM-6PM	5 PPF Committee Meeting Date	6	7	8 PPF Thursday Performance 7:30 PM 5:00 PM –10 PM	9 PPF Performance 7:30 PM 5:00 PM –11 PM	10 PPF Performance 7:30 PM 5:00 PM –11 PM
11 PPF Performance Matinee 2 PM 12 PM-6PM	12 Columbus Day Holiday	13 PPF Play Reading Night	14	15 PPF Thursday Performance 7:30 PM 5:00 PM –10PM	16 PPF Performance 7:30 PM 5:00 PM –11PM	17 PPF Performance 7:30 PM 5:00 PM –11PM
18 PPF Strike 9 AM – 5 PM	19 PPF Board Meeting	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31