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CALENDAR GIRLS

THE AWARD WINNING MUSICAL



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CALENDAR GIRLS

THE AWARD WINNING MUSICAL

The death of a much loved husband prompts a group of ordinary women in a small Yorkshire Women's Institute to do an extraordinary thing. Blasting away all preconceptions of what it is to be in a women's institute, they decide to do an artistic nude calendar to raise money for charity. Upturning preconceptions is a dangerous business and none of them expect the emotional and personal ramifications, but gradually the making of the fabulous and funny calendar brings each woman unexpectedly into flower.

The true story of the Calendar Girls launched a global phenomenon, a million copycat calendars, a record breaking movie, stage play and musical written by Tim Firth and Gary Barlow which coined the term "craughing" - the act of crying and laughing at the same time.

With unforgettable songs, every performance continues to add to the millions already raised for charity and also prove that there is no such thing as an ordinary woman.

This production contains strong language and nudity

CALENDAR GIRLS: THE MUSICAL

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

A New Musical by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth

Originally Produced by David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers and The Shubert Organisation

Based on the play CALENDAR GIRLS written by Tim Firth and on the motion picture

CALENDAR GIRLS Written by Tim Firth and Juliette Towhidi

*From the Theatre
company that brought you...*





As the final curtain fell and we began to dismantle our CATS set on 16 March 2019, we had no idea it would be more than three years before we returned to our beloved Lyceum Theatre. We have so missed our rehearsals and performances for the social contact and creative outlet that Team Croft provides.

We would like to thank our audience members who so generously donated ticket fees for our 2020 production of FUNNY GIRL (that never made it to the stage) and for returning to the Lyceum again this year to support our production of CALENDAR GIRLS - THE MUSICAL.

This year sees the retirement of our President, John Higgins. John has been a big part of Team Croft since 1979 and has been our President for the last 7 years. Thank you, John, for all your passion and commitment over the years, you'll be much missed. You'll have probably spotted our new President out in the foyer before the show began, she's the one in the sunflower dungarees! Joan Bennett first joined Team Croft in 1975 and has never looked back. Fondly known as Granny to everyone and with Croft running through her veins, she's the perfect replacement for John.

We are proud to be able to support the WI and Blood Cancer UK who both have very strong associations with the phenomenon that CALENDAR GIRLS has become. Please take the opportunity to learn a little more about the work they do.

It has been an absolute pleasure to rehearse this new musical and to be the first community theatre company in the area to perform it. Our wonderful CALENDAR GIRLS, along with the rest of this great cast, tell this beautiful story of friendship, loss and perseverance, with great compassion. You'll laugh and cry with them along the way, but most of all you'll see what you can achieve "If you dare".

CHAIR **Fiona Hannon**

OUR MISSION

Made in Sheffield in 1902, Croft House Theatre Company has a long tradition of producing the highest quality theatre using the best of local talent. We are a welcoming, forward thinking theatre company, priding ourselves on being inclusive and having a diverse membership. Our range of productions and our passion for quality ensure that each cast and production team are chosen annually. This fluidity ensures we create the best possible productions for our audiences, whilst providing opportunities and support for the next generation of theatre artists. We perform at Sheffield's Lyceum Theatre and as a registered charity, we aim to bring the people of Sheffield the best musicals at an affordable price.

Please visit our website... www.crofttheatre.co.uk to find out all about us.

Our archives contain over 100 years of memorabilia, programmes, news clippings and photos.

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To all at Croft House Theatre



SUNFLOWER FACTS

- ☀ Sunflowers are Annie's favourite flowers
- ☀ The iconic yellow petals and fuzzy brown centres are actually individual flowers themselves. As many as 2,000 can make up the classic sunflower bloom
- ☀ You should cut your sunflowers in the morning not the afternoon or they may wilt in the vase
- ☀ Sunflowers are native to the Americas and were domesticated around 1000 BC. Nearly 2million acres are planted in the US mostly in North Dakota
- ☀ A dried sunflower makes a natural bird feeder. Birds love to snack on sunflower seeds. There are plenty of seeds to go around because each sunflower can contain between 1,000 and 2,000 seeds
- ☀ The genus name is helianthus which comes from the Greek words for 'sun' and 'flower'. The French name for sunflower is 'Tournesol' which means turn with the sun
- ☀ The tallest sunflower was over 30 feet high
- ☀ Sunflowers are a symbol of faith and loyalty, optimism and happiness and good luck. They are associated with all things happy and positive

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Croft Calendar Girls

“AND BY ‘ALTERNATIVE’ WE MEAN NUDE”

It’s a story that needs little introduction: the phrase “Calendar Girls” is now synonymous with a courageous group of women who, in 1999, changed the face of the Women’s Institute forever with their ‘Alternative’ calendar. What started as a fundraiser to buy a sofa for a hospital has since raised over £5 million for Blood Cancer UK (formally Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research).

The journey started in February 1998 when Rylstone and District WI member Angela Baker’s husband John was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. He was just 53 and, according to Angela, had “never had a day’s illness in his life”. Before John’s illness, family friend and fellow WI member, Tricia Stewart had suggested a nude calendar as an

alternative to the ‘usual’ WI calendars. To help keep positive they returned to this earlier idea though John reportedly never believed that they’d ever complete it.

Sadly, John lost his battle in July 1998, aged 54, just five months after his diagnosis. He never saw the calendar or its success.

It was Tricia who pushed the idea forward following John’s death and enlisted eleven ladies prepared to pose, including one who “only came to the meetings if there was a good speaker”. The photographs were taken one October evening by local artist Terry Logan whose wife, Lynda, would be Miss July. Terry tried to match each lady to a pose which played to her strengths, be it good legs or a talent, “Angela played the piano, for example, so I shot her at the piano”. The image of the photographer initially standing outside the room for the photograph to be taken, shouting instructions, is based in fact!

The initial print run planned was 1000, increased to 5000 to keep it financially viable and at the press launch on 12th April 1999 they only had a hundred ready. Little did they know it would attract such huge media attention and make the BBC’s Six O’clock News, Sky, News 24 and then the

Australian evening news within 24 hours. Following its launch, the original ‘Alternative WI 2000’ calendar sold 88,000 copies.

‘Calendar Girls’ on stage and screen

It wasn’t long before Harbour Pictures, backed by Buena Vista, took on the story and made it into a film starring Helen Mirren and Julie Walters. Released in 2003, directed

by Nigel Cole and written by Tim Firth, it was a huge international success, the fictional representation capturing the feelings of loss, friendship and humour central to the original inspirational story. The original girls can be seen in the film as a rival WI at the spring fete.

In September 2008 the stage show ‘Calendar Girls’, also written by Tim Firth, had its

premiere in Chichester before transferring to the Noel Coward Theatre in the West End. It has enjoyed a number of successful professional tours since January 2010 and was released for amateur production in 2012 for 18 months.

A musical?

It was in 2012 that singer-song writer Gary Barlow teamed up with Tim Firth to begin writing a musical version of the enduring story. The musical, originally called ‘The Girls’, opened at Leeds Grand in 2015 before touring around the UK. It transferred to the West End in 2017 before returning to tour in 2019 starring Anna-Jane Casey as Annie. ‘Calendar Girls’ was released for amateur production last year and Croft snapped it up knowing that it was the perfect production for audiences post-Covid.

And the sunflowers?

John grew them from the onset of his illness and gave them to family and friends in the hope that he would be in remission by the time they flowered. Sadly, this was not the case, but the sunflower lives on as a reminder of John’s life and the fabulous achievement of eleven courageous women from Yorkshire.



Calendar Girls 2003 film.



Donate here

SUPPORTING ROLES



Debbie Mather MARIE

Calendar Girls is Debbie's first show with Croft. An experienced performer for over 40 years, often appearing alongside husband Steve with HHTC and most recently STOS, she is thrilled to bits to have the opportunity to be a part of this inspirational and emotional show. Debbie says, "Working with such an amazing group of talented, strong, supportive and brave women both onstage and off, along with a fabulous cast and crew has been an absolute joy, a privilege and an experience I will treasure always."



Steve Mather JOHN

Right from the start Steve had a problem playing the part of John. He was worried that friends and family might think some of the passionate things John says about Yorkshire reflected his own personal views on the White Rose County. He wants to reassure everyone that nothing could be further from the truth. He has not been persuaded to change any of his views. And that's in spite of the fact that he's lived in Yorkshire for over 50 years, married a Yorkshire girl, and has 2 wonderful Yorkshire children!! 'So what?', he says. As a boy born in Preston Lancashire, he remains fiercely proud of, and loyal to, his Red Rose roots.



John Crowther ROD

Performing since the age of 5, John followed a well-established family tradition by joining his parents Tony & Hazel in Croft's 1993 production, 'Oklahoma'. A stalwart member for nearly 30 years he has played numerous roles from comedy to pathos. His most recent memorable roles being Joey (Sister Act) and Frank (Priscilla Queen of the Desert)



Matt Bevan LAWRENCE

Matt is 3rd generation Crofter following his grandparents Brian & Maureen, and dad Richard. This will be his 3rd Croft show after playing Daniel in '7 Brides for 7 Brothers' (2018) and the bad ginger cat, Macavity in 'Cats' (2019). Matt has played many other roles for various groups but he is looking forward to being back with Croft and says this has been a fun show to be a part of.



Richard Bevan COLIN

Richard should have been back with us for 'Funny Girl' in the role of Tom Keeney, if the show had not been cancelled. His last show with Croft was 39 years ago as a boy dancer in 'Half a Sixpence', but he has performed with other various groups. He is pleased to be back onstage especially with his son Matt. His dad Brian, a former Croft stalwart, died recently. He would have been very proud to see the family legacy continued. Brian also died from a form of blood cancer, so this story is very relevant to them.



Andrew Hibbert DENIS

This is Andrew's 21st appearance on the Lyceum stage, his first being Motel in 'Fiddler on the Roof' in 1997. Other roles here include Bob Cratchit (A Christmas Carol), Mr Hopkins (Made In Dagenham), Chino (West Side Story) and Zoltan (My Fair Lady). He has performed with several Sheffield groups; productions at the Buxton Opera House and Leeds Varieties. Other favourite roles include Sky Masterson (Guys & Dolls), Billy Bigelow (Carousel), Hines (The Pyjama Game), Rooster (Annie) and Jesus (Godspell). Directing credits include South Pacific, Summer Holiday, and Made In Dagenham.



Francine Phillips MISS WILSON ~ TEA

As a former member of Ladies Circle this show has a particular connection to Fran, as it highlights the bonds and friendships between women and what amazing acts can be achieved by pulling together. Fran has been treading the boards in numerous Yorkshire towns before moving to Sheffield, her 1st show ironically with Croft being 'The Full Monty'. A girl with many talents, she once learnt 'Barbers Shop' so she could compete on the MGM stage with her mum in Vegas and joined Sheffield Harmony to compete in Spain. She is looking forward to another Croft show working with her stage sister, and a fabulously talented team.



Sarah Barnes MISS WILSON ~ COFFEE

Sarah is excited to be back with Croft, having performed in several shows including 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers', 'Cats', and almost in 'Funny Girl' (sadly cancelled due to the pandemic). For many years she has been a member of Handsworth and Hallam Theatre Company, both onstage and backstage and has danced with Constance Grant Dance Centre for more years that she can count! Sarah was also previously a member of the Sheffield NHS choir.



Melodie Cole BRENDA HULSE

Having appeared in many fabulous shows at the Lyceum Theatre, Melodie is very excited and honoured to be treading those boards once again; this time delivering an incredibly fascinating speech all about broccoli. Mel runs her own children's Theatre School, 'Theatrestarz'. You also often see 'Melly on the telly' in supernumerary roles.



Rosie Choppin LADY CRAVENSHIRE

This is Rosie's first show with Croft. She has previously performed with STOS, Southey MTC and Denys Edwards Players and is presently the Chair of The Friends of the Montgomery Theatre and Arts Centre. Rosie is really enjoying being part of a show with heartfelt meaning, and one that celebrates Yorkshire and a group of extraordinary women.



Joe White DANNY

Nah then, after 8 years with Croft Joe is proper excited to be back on't Lyceum playing Danny. He is hoping this won't be his last opportunity to pass for a teenager on stage. He's had a fab time in rehearsals and much like his show character, Joe is often led astray by Alice.



Alice MacKenzie JENNY

Ey up! Alice is chuffed to bits to be playing the role of Jenny and to be back on the beautiful Lyceum stage with Croft. Being cast as an unruly 16 year-old some would say requires no acting. She hopes you are buckled in tightly because this show does take you on a reyt emotional rollercoaster.



Dan Romano TOMMO

This is Dan's 2nd show with Croft after playing the role of Ephraim in '7 Brides for 7 Brothers' in 2018. Most recently he played the role of Jake in the short film 'Hope Valley' directed by Anouchka Santella, which will be submitted to film festivals this summer. He loves working with 'Choir Noir', recently contributing vocals to Ed Sheeran's single 'Bad Habits'. Dan also joined the National Youth Theatre in 2021. He looks forward to appearing on the Lyceum stage once again.

ENSEMBLE



Isabel Berriman, Susan Claydon, Becky Collins, Alex Cowan,

Mark Foster, Emily Germon, Keith Harriott,

David Hoyle, Stuart Ogden, Steve Pashley,

Ashlea Screaton, Corinne Tolson, Tanasity Wood



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Scene 1: The Dales/Knapely Village	YORKSHIRE	Company
Scene 2: Knapely Village Hall	MRS CONVENTIONAL	The Girls
Scene 3: Annie's Garden	SCARBOROUGH	Annie
Scene 4: School Field	DANNY-FESTO	Danny
Scene 5: Village Hall	WHO WANTS A SILENT NIGHT? AFTER SILENT NIGHT	Cora & Company Tommo
Scene 6: Hospital/Flower Shop	VERY SLIGHTLY ALMOST	Annie
Scene 7: Village Green	SPRING FETE	Company
Scene 8: The Dales	GIRLS/HELLO YORKSHIRE, I'M A VIRGIN TIME PASSING	Tommo & Danny Company
Scene 9: Hospital		
Scene 10: School	DANNY-FESTO	Jenny
Scene 11: Flower Shop	SUNFLOWER	Chris
Scene 12: On The Hill	DARE	The Girls

ACT 2

Scene 1: Village Green	GIRLS (VILLAGE GREEN) PROTECT ME LESS	Colin, Denis & Rod Jenny & Danny
Scene 2: Village Hall	KILIMANJARO (VILLAGE HALL) SO I'VE HAD A LITTLE WORK DONE WHAT AGE EXPECTS	Annie & Ruth Celia Jessie
Scene 3: Flower Shop	DRUNKEN DANNY	Danny
Scene 4: Annie's Garden	KILIMANJARO	Annie
Scene 5: Flower Shop	DON'T GO OUT WITH CHRISTINE BUTLER	Rod
Scene 6: Conference Hall	SCARBOROUGH (REPRISE) DARE (CONFERENCE)	Annie The Girls
Scene 7: Knapely Village	MY RUSSIAN FRIEND AND I	Ruth
Scene 8: Village Hall	FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY SUNFLOWER OF YORKSHIRE BOWS	The Girls Company Company

PRINCIPAL CAST LIST

CHRIS	Leah Rhodes-Burch	LAWRENCE	Matt Bevan
ANNIE	Caroline Fojut	COLIN	Richard Bevan
CORA	Christine Shoosmith	DENIS	Andrew Hibbert
JESSIE	Ruth White	MISS WILSON ~ TEA	Fran Phillips
CELIA	Helen Green	MISS WILSON ~ COFFEE	Sarah Barnes
RUTH	Clair Stokes	BRENDA HULSE	Melodie Cole
MARIE	Debbie Mather	LADY CRAVENSHIRE	Rosie Choppin
JOHN	Steve Mather	DANNY	Joe White
ROD	John Crowther	JENNY	Alice MacKenzie
		TOMMO	Dan Romano



CALENDAR

Leah Rhodes-Burch CHRIS

Leah studied at the London School of Musical Theatre. During her time in London, she worked as Head of Events at The Dominion Theatre producing and performing alongside a 45 strong choir for the annual West End Gala 'West End Heroes' for the charity Help for Heroes at The Dominion Theatre London. She is a teacher of Musical Theatre at Spotlight Theatre Dance Studio. Leah is looking forward to returning to the Lyceum Theatre with Croft after her last show 'Sweeney Todd' in 2011. Working alongside the wonderfully talented 'Girls', cast and crew have been a joy and she cannot wait to bring Chris to life on stage this week. The story is inspirational and champions the sheer will of women if they put their hearts and minds to something. Like her favourite line in the show: 'Wherever there are girls the world can change'.



Caroline Fojut ANNIE

Caroline gained a BA (Hons) in Musical Theatre at The Guildford School of Acting and her training culminated in playing Sarah Brown in the Graduation Show of Guys and Dolls. After working as an actor and teacher at various stage schools, she gained her PGCE teaching qualification and loves her job teaching on the Performing Arts Degree at The Sheffield College. She's delighted to be performing with Croft again after appearing in 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers' and 'Cats'. She's found it an absolute joy to work so closely with such a fabulous group of women. In a show that follows the story of a group of inspiring ladies, Caroline would like to thank her amazing mum for being her constant source of love, support, and friendship throughout her life. Caroline's just relieved that the "considerably bigger buns" line doesn't refer to her when it's so obvious that Cherry Bakewell's would suffice!



Christine Shoesmith CORA

Christine has been appearing on stage since the age of 12! She has taken on numerous leading roles over the years and feels very blessed to have been given lots of challenging roles such as Charity in 'Sweet Charity' and Maria in both 'The Sound of Music' and her favourite musical 'West Side Story', but Fiona in 'Brigadoon' along with Reno Sweeney in 'Anything Goes' hold special places in her heart. Christine is very excited to play the part of Cora in this year's production of 'Calendar Girls' and her first performance with Croft House Theatre Company. Christine wants to thank Ryan for his constant support whilst she's so busy!



AR GIRLS



Ruth White JESSIE

Ruth is especially thrilled to be back performing at The Lyceum after the last show Croft produced was scuppered by the pandemic only two weeks before it was due to be staged. This is Ruth's 7th production with Croft, and she would like to give a special mention to the rest of the Calendar Girls who have been such fun and a real heart-warming tonic during rehearsals. There have certainly been plenty of laughs along the way and she is hoping that show week will continue in the same vein! Six naked women on stage at the same time... What could possibly go wrong??? Ruth would like to dedicate this week to her Father who sadly died unexpectedly last October; her trusty walking stick which she will be wielding about on stage throughout the week belonged to him, so he is definitely with her in spirit!!



Helen Green CELIA

Hailing from Darlington, Helen spent her childhood, with her family, watching everything the local operatic society had to offer and always dreamed to be on stage there too. It wasn't until university that she revisited the idea; since then Helen has played a number of principal roles across Yorkshire from Reno in 'Anything Goes', and Sally in 'Me and My Girl' to Joanne in 'Rent'. A member of Croft since 2008 she has most recently played The Bakers Wife in 'Into The Woods'. When offered the role of Celia, Helen felt like she experienced, in one night, all possible emotions at the daunting prospect of being 'a Calendar Girl', but now, having adjusted to the idea, and after the disappointment of not getting to play Mrs Brice in 'Funny Girl', she is thrilled to be sharing the stage, and this unique experience, with the other Girls.



Clair Stokes RUTH

Getting naked isn't an issue for Clair as she has been a naturist for a few years now (with partner Adrian). Starting with the NE Skinny Dip annual event in Druridge Bay, at sunrise with 100's of other naked dippers, she decided if she was going to strip she may as well do some good and managed to raise almost £1000 for charity. All the ladies roles in Calendar Girls are unique and offer a wonderful opportunity to create a back story. Clair feels Ruth's life creates a need to help everyone and be the backbone to the WI – always organised and forever baking. Clair started in amateur productions 10 years ago and has played various roles including: Miss Hannigan & Glinda the Good Witch. This is her first show with Croft and she is loving every minute.





Claire Harriott DIRECTOR ~ CHOREOGRAPHER

Claire has been involved in amateur theatre in Sheffield for over 40 years both onstage and behind the scenes. First training at Gwen Wilkins School of Dance; in 1987 she attained a Diploma in Performance Arts from Sheffield College where she attended workshops with London Contemporary Dance Theatre, Ballet Rambert and the Royal Ballet. Claire has choreographed for many local productions. Credits include; 'Carousel', 'The Card', 'The Likes of Us', 'Annie', 'Cabaret' (University Drama Studio). 'Sweet Charity', 'The King & I', 'Billy', 'The Wiz', 'Crazy For You' (Montgomery Theatre). 'Guys & Dolls', 'Crucible awakes' (Crucible). 'Scrooge', 'Oliver', 'Our House', 'Legally Blonde', 'Made in Dagenham', 'My Fair Lady', & 'Gypsy' (Lyceum). She has previously directed/choreographed for Handsworth & Hallam Theatre Co, and choreographed for many STOS Theatre Co productions. Claire directed/choreographed for Croft's 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert' (2017), 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers' (2018) and 'Cats' (2019) and after 'Calendar Girls' she will be joining Team Croft again for 'Kinky Boots' in 2023.



David Burgess MUSICAL DIRECTOR

David read Music at The University of Leeds (Bretton Hall Campus) before completing his teacher training qualifications at The University of Huddersfield. He is currently employed at RNN Group, Rotherham College and University Centre Rotherham as a Senior Curriculum Team Leader of Visual and Performing Arts. This role has enabled David to design and deliver creative curriculums alongside working with students ranging from Level 1 to Level 6. David also works closely with the University of Hull and Sheffield Hallam University writing higher education courses such as the new BA(Hons) in Music Performance and Production. He has been working as a performing musician and Musical Director for 21 years. He performs regularly across Great Britain and Europe as the leader of the region's top party band, "The Magnetics Band". David works with numerous musical theatre and performance companies on many performance projects and we are delighted to welcome him back as our Musical Director after the success of 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert' (2017), 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers' (2018), 'Cats' (2019) 'Funny Girl' (2020), and will be returning for 'Kinky Boots' (2023)



Jane Ledwood PIANIST

Graduating from Leeds College of Music (2:1) in 2001, Jane specialised in piano and flute. Formerly a Head of Music, Jane has been teaching across the area for 18 years. She has been Musical Director for several productions and accompanied for various societies, groups and schools for over 20 years. She has a busy life juggling work, rehearsals and two young boys aged 11 and 6. Jane loves working with Team Croft and is delighted to be back with us again.



Helen Fidler PRODUCTION MANAGER & DSM

Helen started dancing at a very early age and has always had a passion for performing. After being involved in amateur theatre, mainly onstage during her teens and early twenties as well as sampling a bit of G&S, Helen then studied technical theatre at university and found a love for working backstage as well as performing. Since then Helen has worked with numerous amateur companies across South Yorkshire undertaking the role of Deputy Stage Manager and can often be heard over the tannoy just before the show starts. Helen has been Crofts DSM since 2014 and our Production Manager for the past 6 years - a role which she thoroughly enjoys. Although sometimes it is a little challenging - being able to work with great production teams, casts and in great theatres is something special and many happy memories have been created.



Paul Minott STAGE MANAGER

Joining Croft in 1996, Paul was originally a performing member with us until 2002. His interests though were mainly in stage management, and from 2003 to the present day he has been the Stage Manager of all Croft House Theatre Company productions. Paul is also in demand with other local societies providing sound and helping with the building of scenery; a great asset to any theatre company.

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

REHEARSAL PIANIST

ASSISTANT PIANIST

PRODUCTION MANAGER & DSM

STAGE MANAGER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

LIGHTING DESIGNERS

SOUND DESIGNER

WARDROBE MANAGER

WARDROBE ASSISTANT

PROPS MANAGERS

MAKE UP SUPERVISOR

MAKE UP & WIG TEAM

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David Burgess

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Chris Brown, Mags Chapman, Maggie Collins

Kenny Furness, Michael LeCount,

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Rehearsal Photos: Alan Thompson

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Wells Richardson would like to congratulate **Croft House Theatre Company** on their production and wish them continued future success.

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Sandra & Keith Houldsworth, Kath & Neil Kenyon,

Paul Minott, Joan Nelson, Martin Peacock,

Janet Sanders, Andrew Stansall, Judith & Ray Temple

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

Croft House Theatre Company are proud to have been affiliated with the National Operatic and Dramatic Association for over 100 years

N.O.D.A., founded in 1899, is the leading representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association has a membership of approximately 2400 amateur theatre groups and over 2000 individual members staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of venues ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls. Covering a broad spectrum of age ranges NODA member societies meet the needs of all levels of both performers, whether dramatic, dance or musical, and those backstage, front of house or in society administration.

N.O.D.A. aims:

- To give a shared voice to amateur theatre.
- To help societies and individuals achieve the highest standard of best practice and performance.
- To provide leadership and advice to enable amateur theatre to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.



Team Croft wish John a very happy RETIREMENT with heartfelt thanks for all the years he has devoted to the company:

John Higgins - PRESIDENT 2015 - 2022

John was musical director and chorus master for Croft House for 28 years: he loved every minute of it – the shows, the people, the Company, just everything about it – and retired in 2007 after musical-directing/conducting 11 City Halls and 17 Lyceums, plus several concerts along the way. His wife, Carol, was equally enthusiastic, supporting John totally and contributing much towards these productions. Being a self-confessed obsessive about theatres, especially the buildings and their histories, John is a published author on the subject, having written three books. His *Theatres of Achievement* came out in 2006 and, more recently, he spent a year working with Daniel Evans at the Crucible on *Crucible 40*, the story of that theatre where the book is currently on sale. John's latest venture is a major work about London's theatres – *West End in Watercolour* – which tells the story of both the West End and London's Fringe scene, featuring 200 of John's own paintings, and this was published in 2018. Prior to his appointment at Croft in 1979, John had already written two full-scale musicals, including their books, music, lyrics and orchestrations – both of which had been presented in his home-town of Barnsley. John, formerly Vice President of Croft, was appointed President on the retirement of Kath Revitt in October 2015.

MEMORIES FROM CROFT ARCHIVE

The Croft Website Archive displays programmes, news cuttings, photos and memorabilia covering almost 120 years from 1902 to 2022. There are thousands of items to browse.

These are just a few random photos from our extensive collection.

To view the archives: <https://www.crofttheatre.co.uk/taxonomy/term/8>



Alec Seed
1913
IOLANTHE
Read his
memoirs
1911-1936



Princess Charming 1931



"GLAMOROUS NIGHT" DANCERS
1939
End of the ballet dance scene in Act 1 of "Glamorous Night"
Sheffield Croft House Settlement Society is presenting at
Empire next week.



1952 (Jubilee) The Lisbon Story



1961 South Pacific



1974 Bitter Sweet



1988 The King & I



1991 Hello Dolly



1995 42nd St



T.M. Millie 2007



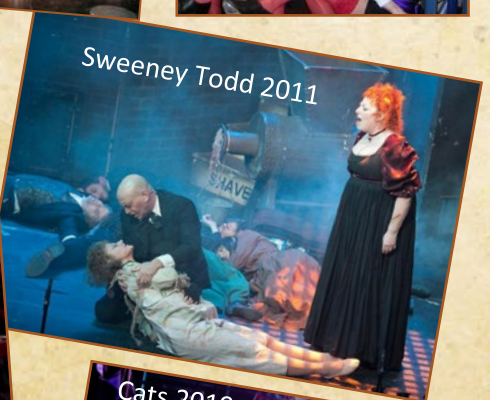
2010



Grease 2014



Acorn Antiques 2013



Sweeney Todd 2011



2017



Sister Act 2015



Cats 2019

OBITUARIES

Team Croft are very sad to announce the loss of the following friends since our 2019 programme for 'Cats'. We wish to thank each of these members for their invaluable contributions to the amateur stage and send our sincerest condolences to their families. They were all loved by Team Croft and we will cherish our memories with each of them.



Barrie Wooffitt ~ 2nd Feb 2022

A regular ensemble playing member for 32 years from 1973 'Carousel' until 2005 'Titanic', Barrie was also a well-respected member of Team Croft Management Trustees for 25 years from 1978 to 2003. A very loyal and popular member.



Jack Staniforth ~ 31st Jan 2022

A stalwart member for over 15 years from 1977 'Waltzes from Vienna' to 1991 'Hello Dolly', Jack played many character roles. He continued to support Croft for every annual show after moving to Hinckley.



Kathleen Revitt ~ 21st Jan 2022

One of our most long standing members, Kath's first show with us was 'Tulip Time' in 1953 (Sheffield Empire) when tickets were priced from 2 shillings to 8s.3d... and continued to be a playing member until 1969 (Desert Song) after which she became Ticket & Patronage Secretary for many years. Vice Chair followed in 1980, and Chair of the Trustees from 1990 - 2002. Kath held the position of Croft President from 2014-2015.



Brian Bevan ~ 1st December 2021

Brian, along with his wife Maureen were regular Croft performers between 1974 to 1993. Before moving from Sheffield, apart from being stalwart members of the ensemble, Brian played several cameo roles. He was also a member of the management committee from 1978 to 1986. Their legacy remains strong as both their son Richard and grandson Matthew are part of the Croft family, and both will be appearing together in this production of 'Calendar Girls'.



Dora Johnson ~ 14th March 2021

Dora was a much loved member of the Production Team. She was Croft Pianist from 1980 to 1988, when John Higgins was Musical Director.



Pauline Conlin ~ 12th Dec 2020

Pauline was a playing member for 20 years from 1971-1991 but continued for many more years helping backstage and making tea at the rehearsals until she retired.



Ken Watson ~ 6th Nov 2020

Ken and his late wife Betty were at the heart of so many Croft shows. He first performed with us in 'Quaker Girl' 1978; his final bow on stage was as Rudolph in 'Hello Dolly' 1991. He was honoured to be our President from 2003-2006



Joan Mason ~ 27th Jan 2020

A loyal member of Croft for 34 years, from her first show in 1972 'Die Fledermaus' until 2006 'Mame', Joan was known for her strong soprano voice and sang several solo pieces in the productions. She had struggled with ill health for 10 years after a stroke.



Tim Sanders ~ 3rd Jan 2020

Tim never performed on stage, but his talents were invaluable. As part of 'The Wednesday Club' he would help to build scenery & props. Tim served nearly 10 years on Croft Committee, but for over 20 years he was our Stage Director. He retired from this position in 2002, our Centenary year, but he continued to support us for the rest of his life.



Karen Siddall ~ 1st July 2019

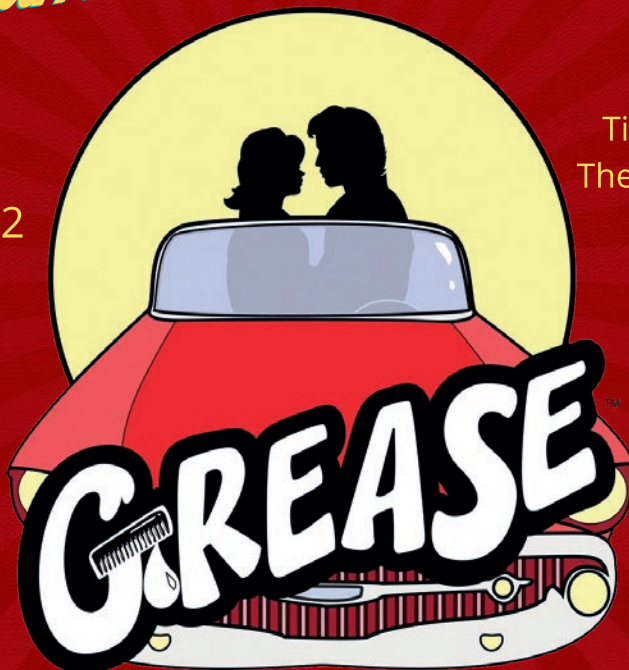
A Croft performer, dancer, supporter and friend, Karen's first Croft show (as a child) was 'Finian's Rainbow' 1976. followed by Annie Pigtails in 'Oklahoma' 1982. From 1995 '42nd St' to 2002 'The Wiz' she was a stalwart member of the ensemble. Karen was a 3rd generation Crofter following her mum Judith Silvester (Director & Choreographer) and her grandmother Constance Grant.



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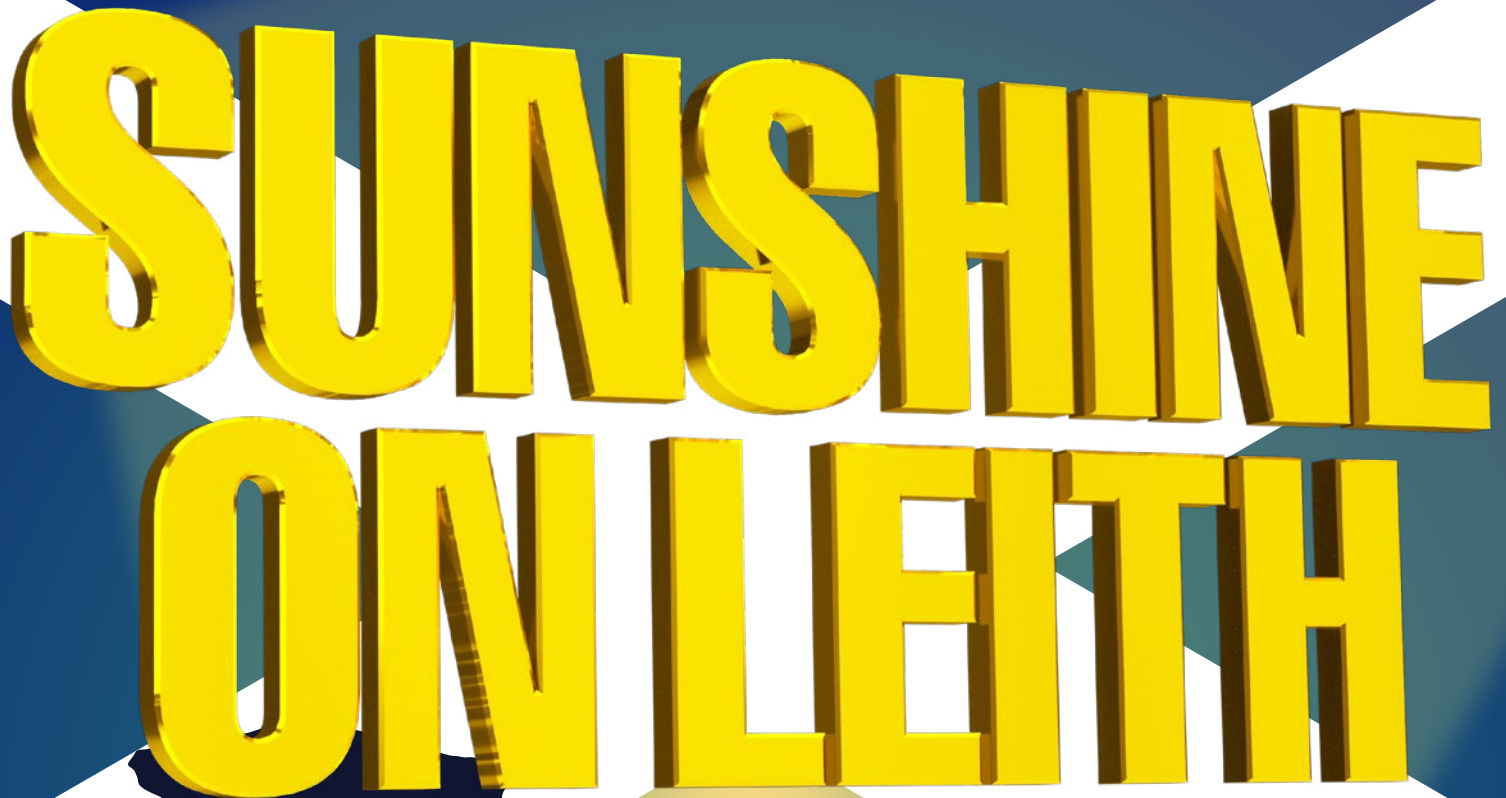


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