

BOSTON AND BEYOND/ART & ENTERTAINMENT

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By Susan Mulford

THROUGH June 17: *CALENDAR GIRLS*



Maureen Brennan, Bobbie Steinbach, Karen MacDonald, and Nael Nacer. Photo Credit: Nile Scott Shots.

If laughter could conquer cancer then this show, featuring a very brave cast of IRNE and Norton Award winners...a veritable 'who's who' of many of Boston's shining acting talent, would certainly result in a cure.

Directed by seasoned actress as well a director and choreographer, Nancy E. Carroll, Greater Boston Stage Company presents this uproariously funny and very true story that was made famous by the hit 2003 Miramax movie written by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth. Originally eleven women (for this show...six), members of the Knapely branch of the WI (Women's Institute) in Yorkshire England, decide to raise funds to buy a commemorative settee for the local hospital's cancer treatment waiting room to honor one of the member's husband who has died from Leukemia at a young age. Recognizing that calendars with images of Yorkshire church yards and bridges failed to yield any substantial revenue, the ladies furtively embark on a plan, behind the back of the prissy, WI President, to bare it all for this special calendar.

The result is a hilarious series of comic events as these every day housewives, with every day figures, volunteer courageously to pose nude. Set in an excellent scenic design by Jenna McFarland Lord, the show also elicits some genuinely poignant and teary moments as acts of love, sacrifice and even cheer unfolds surrounding their goal.

The show features Maureen Brennan, Sarah deLima, Mary Potts Dennis, Kerry A. Dowling, Jade Guerra, Michael Kaye, Karen MacDonald, Sean McGuirk, Cheryl McMahan, Nael Nacer, Kathy St. George, and Bobbie Steinbach. *The cast and crew have chosen to collect donations for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute after each performance.* Tickets for this delightful and heartfelt production, filled with insanely funny action, may be obtained at www.greaterbostonstage.org.