

# **CALENDAR GIRLS**

## **WRITTLE CARDS**

**Performed in Writtle Village Hall, June 21, 2013,**

**Director - Laura Bennett**

Despite having seen this play three times before, including in the West End, I think I enjoyed this production the most. In a sense the set was simply an extension of the auditorium itself, in its style and size, creating a strong feeling of inclusion, so that we were part of, rather than a witness to, the action unfolding. This created a very good connection between the audience and the cast and elicited a far greater emotional response. The cast members were well matched and the accents were natural and not overly forced. The bond between John and Annie was clear and the scene in which John was in the wheelchair struggling to cope with simple tasks moved me to tears. Daniel Curley played this small but essential part superbly well. However, this production was not lacking in comedy and each character played a strong and vital role in contributing to the comedic whole. Paulette Harris was a very fluent Chris, quick-witted, sharp and incisive.; Sharon Goodwin was a gentle, almost fragile Annie, whereas Liz Curley's endearing timidity made the scene with the make-up artist that much more of a personal triumph. Barabara Llewellyn played the conventional but rebellious retired schoolteacher, Jessie, with a classy air, contrasting with Beth Crozier's more down to earth Cora. Michele Moody was well cast as the sexy Celia and Jean Speller made the most of the snobbish but ultimately chippy Marie. All the girls were extremely game when it came to the photoshoot and the director managed to extract maximum fun from this as the scene was not rushed but flowed smoothly from pose to pose. The incidental music was extremely well chosen and the sound system certainly did justice to it. This was a delightful production that rightly played to full houses and should further boost Writtle Cards' reputation for quality.

Reviewer - Stewart Adkins

Regional Representative, District 8,

NODA East