

A review of "Calendar Girls" posted on Facebook by Sarah Alida LeClair:

I was lucky enough to see Calendar Girls at Lamplighters Theatre tonight and it truly left me in tears. The world does not make space for us as women, as actresses, beyond the age of 25. It consigns us to the back row, to become sexless matrons with no arc and agency. It expects us to be finished with the stage, barely a moment after we take it. We are supposed to smile benevolently while other people fall in love and experience loss and change and grow and rediscover ourselves. Age with dignity, the world tells us when we turn 30 and do it quietly and invisibly.

Calendar Girls and its bold, tight knit cast pushback on all of that. This show is not only a celebration of age positive, body positive standing in your own skin, but of sisterhood and debauchery, of breaking rules and saying what's on your mind. Of sexiness. Of love.

As the women in the play confront the reality of death and the impermanence of life, they embrace every hour with vibrancy, and these actresses never stop bringing the vibrancy to the stage. Every single woman amongst them is breathtaking, beautiful, thriving in the glow of working together to support each other. It's abundantly clear that this group worked hard to create trust, to build confidence, to make sure that they all felt abundantly safe in the challenging nudity required for this piece - because behind every scene and sunflower and cinnamon bun is a woman glowing, basking in the reflected joy on her girlfriend's faces.

Powerful. Important. Fearless. Changing the shape of the stories we are allowed to tell.

Congratulations to the talented cast, crew, designers, and director.

Calendar Girls opens this week. Don't miss it, and more importantly, buy a ticket to pushback on all the doors the world closes on us as women. WE get to decide what our stories are.