

## Biographies

- **Della:** "I spend a lot of time in the car. People say they are seeing less of me—weight loss is grand! Busy, Busy, Busy—makes my day! These Cavendish girls give me the family I never had. Like Gwen is for Julie, Jo is the starlet who will one day replace me. Brad, my dad, is a dashing lad and this experience makes me glad."
- **Jo:** "After spending the past few years pursuing a BFA in Theatre Arts at the University of Central Arkansas, I have returned to Fort Smith where I currently work in customer service at Goody's Family Clothing. If things turn out as I hope they will, I plan on attending the School at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago this summer."
- **Herbert Dean:** "I am a computer professional who is taking time away from programming the clock on the VCR to play the part of Herbert Dean. I started acting in high school and continued through college. More recently, I had a recurring role in a local production of "The Promises."
- **Kitty Dean:** "Kitty Dean, the 'Diva' of her day. Forever searching for the perfect role as an actress; unfortunately she may never realize her true role in the Cavendish family. Offstage, I enjoy being a wife and mother and having a full-time career in insurance. Sharing the stage with my husband Rob has been an unforgettable and rewarding experience. (Special thanks to 'Dad Moody' for giving me the courage to be onstage.)"
- **Gwen:** "I am currently a senior at Southside High School and plan to attend college at DePaul University in Chicago, majoring in communications and minoring in French. My character, Gwen Cavendish, is very much aware of who she is, having a high opinion of herself. She holds those around her far from her, except for Perry, whom she likes to control."
- **Perry Stewart:** I consider myself intelligent and hardworking. This summer I'll be continuing my education at UA-Fort Smith. My character is very much in love with Gwen and would do anything to make her happy. Perry is polite and proper around the family because he is in the presence of STARS."
- **Fanny Cavendish:** "Well, in real life, I'm a wife, mother, and grandmother, and an active member of the FSLT for over 27 years. When "The Royal Family" was performed on North O Street in 1979, I had the privilege of playing Julie, but I always harkened after Fanny. Now I'm old enough to play her and loving every minute."
- **Loretta Wolfe:** "I'm a wife and mother of four, employed part time. A volunteer, enjoying escape to FSLT and various character portrayals though the years. Loretta Wolfe is the Cavendish family business manager as well as friend for many years. Early in her career she inherited a chance to pursue a dream and make something of herself, proving she can hold her own in a predominantly male business world."
- **Julie Cavendish:** "Passionate about her commitments and obligations, Julie lives life at full throttle. I can certainly relate. I'm grateful to once again be on the FSLT stage, portraying this energetic, entertaining, drama queen. And to my tolerant husband, Kent—I really do promise I'll find the kitchen again after the close of the show!"
- **Anthony Cavendish:** "It's always a pleasure to take part in light-hearted comedy with my severely introverted theatre friends. My character, Tony, is really 'over the top' and far too self-absorbed, but he's family. Don't be put off by him, because deep down this guy isn't so bad; he just hopelessly clueless!"
- **Gilbert Marshall:** "He's a man who knows what he wants and is not afraid to take it, whether it involves money or love. This is my fifth play. When does it get easier?"

# The Royal Family

A Comedy in Three Acts

By  
*George S. Kaufman*  
and *Edna Ferber*

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

## Cast

Della .....	Leslie Kidder
Jo .....	Siobhan Kremers
Herbert Dean .....	Jon Harvey
Kitty Dean .....	Jill Ledbetter
Gwen .....	Ashleigh Gibson
Perry Stewart .....	Albert Popp
Fanny Cavendish .....	Angela Covey
Loretta Wolfe .....	Louise Barling
Julie Cavendish .....	Nancy Blochberger
Anthony Cavendish .....	Michael Richardson
Gilbert Marshall .....	Rob Ledbetter
Gunga .....	Sharon Anne Pitts
Gunga Stand-In .....	Chris Newberry
Georgette .....	Hannah Jay
Deliverymen .....	Chris Newberry, Scott Bly, Jennifer Harvey
Mystery Figure .....	Daniel Beliles

## Crew

Director .....	Brad Kidder
Producer .....	Clara Jane Rubarth
Stage Manager .....	Soni Foti
Wardrobe .....	Kaye Birkhead, Carole Rogers, Julie Jay, Wilma McCauley, Wendy Quick, Katy Featherston
Set Design .....	Ron Watson
Set Construction .....	Michael Richardson, Daniel Beliles, Reggie Brassfield, Charlie Dye, Jon Harvey, Leslie Kidder, Jill Ledbetter, Rob Ledbetter
Stage Dressing & Floral Design ..	Bruce Birkhead
Props .....	Laura LaRue, Martha Gooden, Mary Lou Pointen, Phanita Williams, Rosemary Johnson, Leah Carter-Wiggins
Lights and Sound .....	Mike Tickler, Jim Moody
Program & Poster Design .....	Wendy Quick
Prompter .....	Siobhan Kremers
Rehearsal Assistant .....	Jennifer Harvey
Ushers .....	Rosemary Johnson, RSVP, Robin Swaim

## The Play

The action passes in the duplex apartment of the Cavendishes, in the East Fifties, New York

- Act I—A Friday in November, Early Afternoon
- Act II—Saturday, Between the Matinee and Night Performance
- Act III—A Year Later

There will be two intermissions  
Between Acts I and II, 10 minutes (refreshments will be served)  
Between Acts II and III, 5 minutes

## From the Director

Thank you for coming—it is because of you, the audience, that theatre has remained a part of every civilization since the days of Greece, long, long ago. The Bard said “The play’s the thing” and this hard-working cast and crew is here for you. We hope you enjoy the play.

The Royal Family is essentially a love-letter to, and satire of, life in the theater. Its titular family, the Cavendishes, seems to be a thinly veiled parody of the (at the time) all-powerful Barrymore clan, although the authors always denied this. The play centers on artists so caught up in their insular worlds that their behavior appears self-centered to those on the outside; but, for the Cavendishes, the show must, indeed, go on.

The Royal Family offers engaging humor, yet works best (perhaps paradoxically) as we observe a family struggling with the sacrifices lying at the heart of a lifetime commitment to acting. And, dear audience, as you witness a surprising turn at the very end, you are left with a question in the air: Is it the family or what the family does that holds the secret of successful life?

Great cast, lively crew, come together to do this for you. You are going to watch the Cavendish family squabble, strut and swoon through one domestic crisis after another.

Brad Kidder, Director

## Special Thanks

- **Orin Frank** for the Portrait of Aubrey Cavendish, which also appeared in the 1979 Production of “The Royal Family”
- **Brooxine Kidder**, archivist, for artifacts from 1979 production of “The Royal Family”
- **Fort Smith Art Center**
- **Ed Drimmel**
- **Pam Donald** of Bollin’s Restaurant
- **Auda Faye McConnell**
- **Shea Sessions**, JCPenney Styling Salon
- **AND** a very special thanks to the **families and friends** of Cast and Crew whose sacrifices of time and attention have helped to make this production possible.
- **Carl and Wilma McCauley**
- **Cyndie Jordan**
- **Sue Cooley**
- **Helene’s of Arkansas**
- **Jayne Cohen**