

“Fine Linen Theatre Presents: Cheaper By The Dozen”

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Family drama over dressing in the latest fashions, getting asked to a dance, or dealing with annoying siblings was as relevant in the 1920's as it is today. Audiences will be captivated by the similarities as **Fine Linen Theatre** presents ***Cheaper By the Dozen*** at the Cedar Street Playhouse in Rolla, Missouri beginning Thursday, October 6th.

One Big Happy Family

Based on the real-life experiences of Industrial Engineer and Efficiency Expert, Frank Gilbreth and his wife, psychologist Lillian Gilbreth, ***Cheaper by the Dozen*** is the charming story of 12 children being raised under the unusual parenting style of Mr. Gilbreth, who applies his time and motion study techniques to child rearing. The scene opens with Margaret Hamacher as Earnestine Gilbreth and Cordell Williams in the role of Frank Gilbreth, reminiscing about their childhood in Montclair, New Jersey and how much they love and miss their father. As the narrative unfolds, Adriano Skrzycki as Mr. Gilbreth, whistles and watches as all 12 Gilbreth children line up, with Martha Dinsdale playing the role of Mrs. Gilbreth, providing calm and sensibility to her husband's enthusiasm.

As the family interacts, presses the issue of a family dog, and negotiates terms through the family council, Audrey Bandowski as the eldest daughter Anne, persistently rebels against her father's old fashioned ways, introducing make-up, silk stockings, and dates with boys into the family. Repeatedly, the patriarch's crusty shell gives way to his soft heart, maintaining love and loyalty through the changes.

Mr. Gilbreth, recognizing that his heart condition may compromise his family's security, calls upon the local school administrators to test the children, hoping that Anne would be able to graduate early. Cheyenne Dalton is delightful as the beautiful but loathsome educator, Miss Brill, who is incensed at Anne's high marks and accuses the worthy student of cheating. Eventually, Anne is allowed to retake the test and passes with flying colors, much to Miss Brill's disdain.

As the story comes to an end the audience cannot help but be touched by the tender-hearted affection and adorable cast.

A Long Tradition

Cheaper By the Dozen is the latest Fine Linen Theatre production, following dramatic classics like *Pride and Prejudice* and *Twelve Angry Men*, and comedies such as *You Can't Take It With You*. Known for their quality, uplifting plays and musicals, Fine Linen Theatre was established in 2002 as a community educational tool. Over the years it has grown in reputation resulting in record numbers of actors lining up to audition for roles and sold-out shows.

Anyone who has ever been to a live theatre production understands how energizing it is. Unlike a movie, live theatre leaves a lasting impression that cannot be described. It has to be experienced.