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Family proves to be 'Kings' of the theater

By Lauren Hodges
Updated: 09.28.10

If managing family roles wasn't enough, the King family, of Spring, is involved with theater and sometimes star in productions together.

Terrie King, mother and wife, also home-schools the children. Terrie teaches her two daughters, Kaylie King, 12, and Rebekah King, 10, wearing her teacher hat weekly. The drama fever spread when the two girls got involved in theater in spring 2009 when they both started taking theater classes and auditioning for plays.

"Last year, it grew and grew," Terrie said. "I have never done theater before. I was in band and a twirler and drum major."

She also participated in choir and dance.

John King, husband and father, then got involved around the same time that Terrie did when they participated in "Vaudeville." The whole family has been acting for about a year and a half. During this time, Kaylie has been in seven shows, and Rebekah has been in five shows. "Vaudeville" was Rebekah's first show. John was in one of the shows, and Terrie was in two. The King daughters and Terrie have starred in Stage Right's "Annie" with Kaylie playing Annie and Rebekah playing Tessie. Kaylie also played an Orphan in "Annie Jr." through Christian Youth Theatre. Terrie said junior versions are when children play all the roles. They've had roles in "Cheaper by the Dozen," "Vaudeville," "Aladdin," "Seussical" junior version, "Beauty and the Beast" and "Cinderella."

In "Annie," Terrie had one line where she interacted with Kaylie, who played Annie. Terrie was a Hoovervillian (hobo) and a servant in "Annie."

Terrie said she and her husband do the plays for fun, but Kaylie may one day aspire for more.

"She is very talented," Terrie said. "People have asked me when she will be seen on Broadway."

Terrie said her girls love to sing. "They go around the house singing," she said. "Kaylie says she might want to go into theater as a career. Rebekah says she wants to be a lawyer."

Rebekah played Baby Rose Marie in "Vaudeville" and at the end of one song "Somebody Loves Me" sang "Somebody loves me, I wonder who, Daddy it's you."

John, who played her dad in the show, was able to go on stage at the end of the song and gave her a hug and a lollipop and carried her off stage. Kaylie played Frances Gumm, of the Gumm Sisters (Judy Garland). Kaylie's favorite role has been Annie, and Rebekah's favorite role has been Tessie, both in "Annie."

Kaylie and Rebekah perform with Christian Youth Theater, which works with children younger than 18. The whole family had parts in "Vaudeville," a 1920s and '30s variety show.

"It was neat to spend time together and be backstage and have our family and friends see all of us," Terrie said.

She said as parents, they do run interference when one child is cast for a role and the other is not in a certain production. Terrie said when Kaylie was cast for a part and Rebekah was not, Rebekah came around when she realized the free time she had that her sister didn't.

"We did seven shows straight this past year and a half," Terrie said.

She said at one point, "Vaudeville" and "Aladdin" overlapped with back-to-back rehearsals three consecutive Friday nights.



Pictured here is Rebekah as Tessie with the Miss Hannigan character. Rebekah is about to step on her foot.



The Kings

Ages: Kaylie, 12, Rebekah, 10, Terrie, 38, John, 40

Residence: Timber Lakes/Timber Ridge

Occupations: Kaylie, student; Rebekah, student; Terrie, stay-at-home mom who home-schools and tutors math; John, manager of digital services for Lone Star College System

Fact: All starred in "Vaudeville" together

Quote: "We did seven shows straight this past year and a half," Terrie said.

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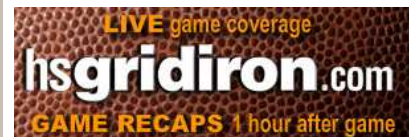


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Reader Comments

Stage Right wrote on Sep 30, 2010 7:06 PM:

" Finally an article about this talented family! Too bad it wasn't written when they were in "Annie" this past summer so folks in the Woodlands would have had the opportunity to come to the show. I produced the show and I can affirm that many folks having heard Kaylie as Annie asked me "where did you find this girl!" Having worked with them in "Vaudeville (Finally) Comes to the Crighton", "Cheaper by the Dozen" and most recently in "Annie" I have found both girls so talented yet without ego and the parents so supportive. Stage Right looks forward to working with them again. Thank you Villager for throwing a spotlight on local talent. "

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