

**Henry Gordon Academy
Cartwright
presents**

All In the Family

Cast

Old Gertie **Shantel Bird**
Young Gertie **Megan Dyson**
Old Chess, Josie **Cheryl Greenleaves**
Young Chess, Mabel **Brittany Morris**
George , Teacher, Josie’s Mom **Robyn Dyson**

Teacher Advisor

Sharona Belbin



Scene 1

Gertie paces back and forth on stage looking at her watch. She boils the kettle and sits down at the table.

Gertie: (Talking to the audience.) Oh my! How do the time fly? Seems like just yesterday we were all little ones. Running around on the beach, pickin' mussels, helping Dad to lay out the fish to dry and salt. Well those days are long gone. Got my own kids raised up and gone too now. They are off to University and college tryin' to better themselves. The young ones needs that these days. Can't get anywhere or do anything without an education. It's been a while since we've all been together, my brothers and sisters and I, that is. So we're havin' a reunion. My God! How much fun will that be!? Family was always quite important to us you know, even though we're all no more alike than chalk and cheese. Ches is the oldest boy and pretty easy goin'. He moved to the city, yes sir out to St. John's, got a good job too. We're all proud of him that's for sure. Little Georgie, we all thought he was nothin' only a pain in the butt bein' the smallest boy. He was sooked to death sure! Mabel is the youngest girl and was always a little on the contrary side. And of course then there's me, old Gertie....Gert....Mother Hen....yes I've been called all that....the oldest of the bunch (hears a knock on the door) Oh! That must be Ches now! (Runs to the side of the stage to open the door. Ches enters and gives Gertie a big hug.)

Ches: Hello Gertie!

Gertie: Hello Ches my son! Oh tis some good to see ya. Come in and sit down.

Ches: Oh Gertie! Sorry I'm late. It sure is good to get home. Much easier now with the road gone through. I suppose I could've flown if Air Labrador had a sensible and reliable flight schedule....but you knows that crowd, they don't know if they're comin' or goin'.

Gertie: Oh Ches, I know just how hard it is. I just hope Mabel and George gets here on time. With the windy ol' fall we had it's a wonder the boats have been able to move at all. Hopefully she'll be here on time or just shortly after. So how is everything Ches?

Ches: Good, maid, good. Flo is still workin' at the hospital. She got another promotion. And the kids are good. Jakey just started elementary school. My don't he love the girls.

Gertie: Like father, like son I guess.

Ches: So how have you been Gertie? Seems to lose touch with home when you're in the

city, you know. Things are much busier and the pace is faster.

Gertie: Well life is still pretty simple around here Ches. I manage to keep myself busy with my housework. Does a lot for the church you know. Crocheting doilies for the sales and knittin' afghans for the auctions. The church is always tryin to raise some money to keep afloat. Have a cup of tea Ches (Gertie makes Ches a cup of tea) and by the looks of it you could use a bite to eat, a few good home cooked meals to put some meat on them bones. Is the city life too fast that you can't find time to eat?

Ches: Go on maid. I'm healthy as a horse. Anyways, enough about me. So how are all the arrangements coming for the reunion? It's hard to believe Mom and Dad aren't here with us. Seems like only yesterday they both passed. It's a wonder they lived as long as they did raising the four of us. God bless their souls. As hard as times were, we never had it too bad did we Gertie?

Gertie: No sir we never. Got a lot of fond memories, Ches. Oh just wait now a minute and I'll get the old family photo album. (She walks to the shelf and pulls out an old album, blowing the dust off it at the same time. She sits down next to Ches and they open it and turn a couple of pages together.)

Ches: Oh Gertie, remember this. This was the first Thanksgiving we had Mabel. George was pretty young then too, and he always insisted on helping with everything...

Scene 2 Young Ches and Georgie are in bed. Young Gertie enters.

Young Gertie: Get up, Ches! Get up, Georgie! Things are not gonna get done around here with you in bed all day. Mom and Dad had to take little Mabel to the nurse, Mom thinks she got the bronchitis, whatever that is.

Georgie: I know!! Isn't that a dinosaur??!! Our little sister found a dinosaur!! Wow, that's AMAZING!!

Young Gertie: (Shakes her head and sighs.) Anyways, since Mom and Dad aren't here, we need to get our acts together and get this house cleaned and get dinner on the table.

Young Ches: Yes now, I bet you're something to cook. You couldn't parboil a pot of water if your life depended on it. And besides, for and you don't know the first thing about cookin a turkey.

Young Gertie: Well, you said it, it is Thanksgiving and we can be just as thankful for fish as we

can a turkey. It don't take a genius to put together a pot of fish and brewis, even YOU can do that, Ches. So come on, get into the kitchen and get at it. Fish and Brewis it is this year.

Young Ches: Dad's not home meaning I'm the man of the house, and men don't belong in the kitchen.

Young Gertie: I don't see many MEN around here so get up and come on. We have a lot of work to do before Mom and Dad get back, and you needn't think I'm doing it all myself. In fact, I have to make the beds, scrub the floors and clean the pail before I starts anything else, so you best get out into the kitchen and get to work.

George: Come on Ches, we can do it. You might not be a man, but I am!

(Grumbling, Ches gets out of bed, yawns loudly and heads for the kitchen. Ches picks up the cookbook and turns to the right page.)

Ches: Okay George, the first thing we have to do is clean the fish.

George: What are we gonna use to clean the fish?

Ches: Well, we uses soap to clean everything else so we might as well use it to clean the fish too.....and by the smell of this feller he could use a bit of soap.

George: I never saw Mom use soap to clean the fish before.

Ches: Well Mom's not here now is she, so pass me the soap.

(George hands a bar of soap to Ches and he scrubs away at the fish with it.)

Ches: There, all clean. (He lays the fish in the roaster and places it in the oven.) Ah Ches, I don't think Mom puts her fish in the oven.

Ches: Now George, I knows what I'm doin, I can follow a few simple instructions.

George: Okay, so what do we do next, Ches?

Ches: It says here that we need hard bread and potatoes and we have to mix all that in with the fish as soon as it is baked. What's hard bread suppose to be anyway? Why in the world would you use hard bread when you got this nice soft fresh bread that Mom baked last night. I think I'll use this instead.

George: What about the potatoes? I'll go get them.

Ches: We'll throw it all in the one pot Georgie. No need to dirt up any unnecessary dishes. The fish is in the oven, the bread and potatoes are on to boil, it says here that all we have left to do is mix it all together.

(Gertie enters huffing and puffing with her scrubbing bucket in hand.)

Gertie: Everything under control here boys?

Ches: Oh yes, all we got left to do now is mix everything together and we're done.

Gertie: That's good.

George: Mom and Dad are going to be some proud of us when they get home.

(Gertie exits stage. Ches pulls out hand mixer and smiles at the audience.)

Scene 3

Ches: Ha! Ha! Ha! What a nightmare that turned out to be. Can you remember what happened next?

Gertie: Indeed I do, Ches. All too well. That was the worst dinner ever. Just like glue. Sure it wasn't fit to give the dogs.

Ches: Well you should've know better than to leave a man in charge of the kitchen, with a 4 year old, to cook Thanksgiving dinner.

Gertie: Good memories Ches, we'll never forget that one.

(They continue to look through the photo album. Ches points to a picture.)

Ches: Oh, remember this one Gertie, when Mabel lost her first tooth.

Gertie: Poor little Mabel. First tooth lost and first school picture.

Ches: She cried to break her heart.

(They continue to look through the album.)

Gertie: Oh yeah, look at this, Georges first date to the dance. He was so nervous he could hardly speak. Unlike his brother.

Ches: Ha Ha! What was his date's name? Oh I know, that cute little girl, Josie.

Scene 4 Josie is walking across the stage. George runs up to her and he appears very nervous.

George: Hey Josie! Um....um, well ah, how are ya Josie?

Josie: (Quite bubbly) Oh, I'm great , George! How are you?

George: Oh, ah, good Josie, I'm doin good.

Josie: That's great.

George: Um..well..I need to ask you something.

Josie: Yeah! Sure...anything.

George: So did you hear about the dance coming up on Friday night.

Josie: Yeah, George...it's going to be great! I'm so excited. Mom ordered me a pretty little dress from the catalogue and everything.

George: Um, um, well I was kind of thinking (very fast) Do you want to go to the dance with me Josie?

Josie: Well, um sorry but I have to go now. (Loudly) What's that Mom? I have to go and empty the pail. Coming! (Josie takes off and exits the stage.)

(George feels rejected and sits down.)

George: Uh Man. Too bad. Well I can't give up now, I will win her heart even if it kills me.

(George exits the stage and enters the other side. He is now at home. He sits down and picks up the phone to call Josie.)

Josie's Mom: Hello

George: Hi Josie's Mom! Is Josie there?

Josie's Mom: Yes George, she's right here.

Josie: Hello

George: Yeah hi Josie. Are you done cleaning out the pail?

Josie: Yeah, well I have to go and do more chores now George.

George: Wait, I think I can change your mind...about the dance that is. (He clears out his throat)

You are my Josie
My only Josie
You make me smile, everyday
You'll never know how much I like you
So would you please go to the dance with me

Josie: George, did you do that for me? That's very sweet, but I still have to do those chores. Bye.

(Phone hangs up.)

George: Oh no, not again. I'll just have to think of something extra special tomorrow. (He takes out a pen and paper and writes something down. He puts the paper in his pocket. Next day in school, George passes the note to Josie and the teacher grabs it.)

Teacher: What's this now, would you like to share it with the rest of the class, Georgie.

George: (smiling hard.) Okay, if you insist.

Josie, you are the love of my life, my everything.
You are as sweet as icing on cupcakes.
Not like last weeks milk.
So would you please, pretty, pretty, pretty please,
With a cherry on top, go to the dance with me?
P.S and this time don't be contrary and say yes!

Josie: Well, George, you certainly have put a lot of time and effort into the song and poem. So what the heck, I'll go to the dance with you, but you better not step on

my pretty dress when we're dancin'!

George: Don't worry Josie. I'll treat you like the buttercup you is! (Grabs her hand and they skip out of class together)

Teacher: Wait, school isn't over yet!

Scene 5

Gertie: Good times for sure. He was so pleased when he came home and said he had a date for the dance.

Ches: Yes, it all went by so fast, just as fast as your weight gain.

Gertie: At least I got weight! Nothing wrong with a bit of reserve, you'll never know when your going to need it. I'd last longer than you and your ol' skin and bones.

Ches: Well, anyways let's get back to the memories.

Gertie: Hey Ches. Look at this. This was Mabel's first berry picking trip.

Ches: Oh it was a disaster for sure. Poor child was afraid forever after.

Gertie: Oh my she was terrified.

Scene 6 George, Mabel, Gertie and Ches are in boat on their way berry picking. The boat is quite rough.

Mabel: Oh Gertie, I don't feel so good. I think I'm gonna be sick.

Gertie: Oh Mabel, it never fails. All you need to do is look at a boat and you'll get sick.

George: Well don't get sick in the boat. If you're gonna throw up do it over the side.

(Mabel throws up over the side of the boat and the rest of the kids screw up their faces in disgust.)

Ches: I think I see a good place to tie up the boat. Are ya ready George?

George: Aye Aye Captain!

(George jumps out of the boat and Ches throws him the rope. George ties the rope around some rocks. They all climb out of the boat. They roam around looking for a good patch of berries.)

Gertie: Now remember what Mom said, we're not allowed to come home without our buckets full. No complaining. Let's just pick our berries and no foolin around. Understood?

Ches, George & Mabel: (not too enthusiastic) Yes, we know.

George: Oh look, there's a big patch over there! Come on lets go!

(They settle down in a patch of berries and start picking.)

Ches: Did you ever hear The Bear Mother story?

Gertie: The what?

Ches: The Bear Mother Story, it's an old native tale about...

Mabel: This better not be scary!

George: Oh scardy pants, it's not scary! Tell us Ches, tell us.

Ches: Well, a young woman is berry picking in the forest with her friends when she accidently steps in a pile of bear dung.

Mabel: What's dung?

George: Duh.....it's poop.

Mabel: Ughhhhhhh

Ches: Anyways, she is disgusted and makes a rude comment about the bears. The bears overhear her and don't like her rude comment. The woman keeps stopping to repair the broken strap on her berry picking basket and is separated from her friends. Two young men, actually a bear prince and his companion, offer to take the woman out of the forest. Instead they take her to their families home where she is made welcome. In time she marries the bear prince and gives birth to two cubs. Her human family never stopped looking for her. Each of her four brothers try to save her. The youngest brother finally succeeds in killing her husband. The woman and her two sons, now human, return to the village and the two boys grow up to be successful hunters.

Gertie: That's not true. Ches is telling us lies trying to scare us.

Mabel: Well it worked for me. I wanna go home! Waaaaaaaaa

George: Stop your whining Mabel.

Mabel: But what if that happens to us?

Gertie: Don't worry Mabel. We're just going to concentrate on picking our berries and then go home. Mom will make a delicious cake and you'll have forgotten about that silly story. Right Ches?

Ches: I suppose.

(The four pick their berries quietly, suddenly Ches looks up and his jaw drops. He screams at the top of his lungs..)

Ches: BEAR!!!!

(The four drop their buckets and take off for the boat.)

Scene 7

Ches: (laughing) Oh my Gertie, I forgot all about that story and trip. It's a wonder she ever went berry picking again. And to think that we never had as much as one berry when we got home. Mom wasn't impressed.

Gertie: I know, and we worked so hard picking them. (Hears a knock at the door). Oh my Ches! That must be them! (Ches runs to answer the door, on the other side are Mabel and George)

Ches: Oh, it's so good to see the two of ye again. Come in, come in!

Mabel: Oh it's so good to be home again. Seems like forever since I've been back here. Everything's just as I remembers it to be.

George: Yes indeed it is. Reminds me of the good ol' days when we were all youngsters tourmentin' poor ol' mom and dad to death. We had some good times though. This was a wonderful idea this reunion.

Gertie: Well I am overjoyed to have all of ye home here again. Gets pretty quiet and

lonely around here sometimes. Mabel, George, want me to pour you a cup of tea and get ya something to eat?

Mabel: Yes Gertie my dear, I would love a nice cup of tea after that long, dreadful boat ride.

Gertie: Ok, no problem. What about you George?

George: Yes I'll have a cup too I think if its not to much trouble.

Gertie: No trouble at all my son, no trouble at all.

(Gertie goes to the kitchen to get the tea. She returns with the tea and all four brothers and sisters gather around in the living room talking and laughing while continuing to look through the family album).

Ches: Gertie and I have been lookin' through these old photos ever since I got here. On my! How time has passed. It's hard to believe we're all grown up with families of our own.

Mabel: Yes Ches b'y, it's hard to believe for sure.

Gertie: Ha ha, look at this picture. Remember this dad out tryin to change the tire on the car when we went on that camping trip up to Paradise River. The flies were thick enough to eat ya, the poor old guy

George: Oh my! Ha ha. I remembers that trip just like yesterday.

(Play ends with the four looking through the album and remembering old times)