

The Elevator Family synopsis:

The Wilsons--Walter, Winona, and their 10-year old twins, Whitney and Winslow--are a close-knit family. When the family discovers that no rooms are available at the San Francisco Hotel, they decide to stay in the place that suits them best of all: a room that has its ups . . . and its downs--a room called Otis. The Wilsons check in to the hotel elevator! (Song: *Otis*)

In Act One, the Wilsons ride to every floor, greeting startled guests who drop in. There's Mr. Brown, a weary traveling salesman of kids' fads (Song: *Way the World Works*); Gavin, a lovesick bellhop; and Mrs. Goldengate, a society woman with her pampered poodle, Oui-Oui. (Song: *Oui, Oui-Oui*)

In Act Two, Otis overflows with flowers that Gavin brought. Gavin has a crush on Cathy, a girl in the lobby flower shop, and he buys flowers from her until her can get up enough nerve to ask her out. (Song: *Sometimes*). To arrange for the two teenagers to meet, the Wilsons hold a dinner party in their *mobile room*. (Song: *Party Song*) They invite all their hotel friends, and the party is a big success, even after an earthquake knocks out the power, and the elevator is stuck between floors. No matter. Walter lights a candle and proposes a game of Pick-Up Sticks.

In the last scene, a mysterious couple enters Otis with a single clothing trunk. When the Wilson read that 12-year-old Lizzy Chronicle, daughter of the city's newspaper publisher, has been kidnapped, they become suspicious of the new arrivals. To find out if Lizzy is being held on the sixteenth floor, Gavin delivers a note to the room composed by the Wilsons and slipped under a hamburger. We see Man and Woman Kidnappers in hotel room with Lizzy Chronicle. The kidnappers are beside them selves as Lizzy carps and complains about how boring things are. (Song: *Never Kidnap a Kid*) Gavin collects the food cart, and the Wilsons find a note from Lizzy, telling where she is. Walter calls hotel security on the white elevator telephone. The play ends with the kidnappers apprehended, reporters swarming into the elevator, and the Wilsons enjoying some final moments in their compact accommodation. (Song: *Best Things in Life Aren't Things*).

Characters breakdown:

WALTER WILSON, about 40, good-natured, big-bellied father.

WINONA WILSON, about 40, easy-going mother.

WHITNEY WILSON, age 10, daughter, twin of Winslow.

WINSLOW WILSON, age 10, son, twin of Whitney

GAVIN, age 18, bellhop, wears red jacket and black bowtie.

ELDERLY COUPLE hotel guests, silent role

MR. BROWN about 30, salesman of fads, wears brown suit.

CATHY, age 18, clerk in flower stall,

MRS. GOLDENGATE, about 70, society woman who lives in penthouse with her white poodle OUI-OUI.

JOE, about 50, night watchman, wears security guard hat.

SYDNEY, about 25, waiter at party, wears long apron.

WOMAN KIDNAPPER, wears black outfit and sunglasses.

MAN KIDNAPPER, wears black outfit and sunglasses.

LIZZY CHRONICLE age 12, bratty rich girl

HOTEL MANAGER

GROUP OF REPORTERS

Staging Suggestions:

Use a simple, freestanding set, 9'X9', made of cardboard or plywood, that revolves easily. A wide doorway, 7'x8' is cut in the middle. A door should slide open and shut from the center elevator-fashion.

One side of the set (Side A) is painted as the outside of the elevator. When the door slides open, audience look in on the Wilson family and a dark backdrop. The reverse side (Side B) is painted as the interior of the elevator. A button panel and white telephone hang on one side of the doorway. An L and the numbers 1-34 are painted above the door. When the door slides open, the audience looks past the Wilson into the hotel lobby or floor hallway and plain backdrop. To indicate that elevator is moving while at either Side A or Side B, an elevator hum is played.