

# Annie People

MEMBER



A Newsletter for Annie Fans

No. 9, May 1984

Published by Jon Merrill, Box 431, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey 07927

Artwork by Tricia Trozzi

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Price: Free

Hello, fellow Annie People! First, some good news and some bad news:

THE BAD NEWS IS that the Annie II movie has been scrapped for the time being. It seems that Ray Stark was not pleased with the screenplay and has hired some new writers to start all over again doing another one. Therefore, filming has been postponed indefinitely. Shux.

THE GOOD NEWS IS that it has recently been announced that there will be a national tour of Annie on stage starting this summer. It will star Martha Raye as Miss Hannigan and will tour mostly in the West. However, published reports of plans to bring this tour to Broadway for Christmas are not correct.

ANNIE-RELATED FAN CLUBS: The ANDREA McARDLE Fan Club: Christopher White, 1010 Elm Street, St. Charles, IL 60174; The ALLISON SMITH Fan Club: Polly Mortensen, 6751 Meade Street, Hollywood, FL 33024; The ANNIE Fan Club: Ms. Lee Costello, 850 7th Avenue, Suite 803, New York, NY 10019.

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE BIRTHDAY: Remember that the next issue of Annie People will be a special issue devoted to the 60th Annie-versary of the LOA comic strip by Harold Gray, which began on August 5, 1924.

LIBRARY DISPLAY: I have just moved (although my address remains the same; I use a P.O. box near my office at AT&T). Now my Annie room is more like an Annie floor, as my collection spreads its way out the door and into the hall. Following Tricia's example, I recently put a portion of my Annie memorabilia on display in my local library for a month, and an article about my collection appeared in the Central New Jersey Home News. You collectors: Why don't you try it too? Ask your library if they would like to have your Annieness on display for a month, and I am sure they would be most delighted. Maybe you'll get in the newspaper, too. If you do, please send us a clipping with a photo of your display, and we'll mention it in Annie People.

CLASSIFIED AD: Now available - Annie movie posters, stills and other promotional items, sold below or at going prices. For list, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Stephen M. Russo, 15 Tuttle Street, Revere, MA 02151.

FOR THE ANNIE FANS WHO THOUGHT THEY KNEW EVERYTHING: During the filming of Annie, the 37 Orphans in the movie lost a total of 24 teeth.



...I saw the article on you in the Home News and I was truly amazed to see there is someone else who is a real Annie fan...Ever since I saw Annie for the first time in 1980 on Broadway, I've loved it. The show does something to you. Not a day after that would go by that I wouldn't sit and listen or sing with the record. At that time I couldn't sing one note on key. Now, more than four years later I still sing it. I use "Tomorrow" as an audition song, and I am involved in theater productions in school and out. I give Annie credit. If it wasn't for Andrea McArdle, I wouldn't be able to sing...

Lisa Oxfeld  
Edison, NJ

I am writing you to let you know how much Heather and I enjoy your newsletter ...our love to our friends in Annie, especially Peter Russell, Kim, Theresa, and Mollie.

Lynne Sisen Armour  
(mother of Heather Sisen,  
Pepper, 4th National)  
Ocean City, MD

...I must've cried during 3/4 of the movie, but I knew as soon as I saw it, I would definitely become a devoted fan for the rest of my life! And that's how I got started. I think Little Orphan Annie is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me...

Penny Briggs  
Mentor, OH

The show (Jerry's Girls) was absolutely amazing! There's no other way to put it!...(Andrea McArdle) had a very, very sore throat, and she couldn't sing all of her songs, so the swing had to perform a lot of her songs. But the songs that Andrea did sing were perfect! You would've never known she had a sore throat. The whole audience LOVED her! Everyone around me was talking about her...At the very end of the show everyone stood up and cheered, especially for Andrea...

Polly Mortensen  
Hollywood, FL

I just received Annie People--another terrific issue! Congratulations on being an official fan club!...I would like to know who has traveled the furthest to see a production of Annie on stage. Could it possibly be me--Toledo to New York City; 600 miles each way by Greyhound?

Larry Skrdla  
Lambertville, MI

Where and how do you meet all these famous people?

Sara Aschom  
Prairie du Chien, WI

Well, Sara, here's what we do. Any time any Annie stars from the show or the movie are appearing in our area, either in Annie or in something else, we go to see them perform and then talk to them afterward. Fortunately, a great many of them live and work in the New York area near us. --Ed.

**"AKA UNLIMITED" BEGINS CLUB DATES**  
New Rock Band Features Shelley Bruce as Lead Singer

Shelley Bruce's new rock band "AKA Unlimited" performed at its first club date at The Establishment in Clifton, New Jersey, on April 13, 1984.

The band consists of Shelley plus four young men from Shelley's native northern New Jersey who back her up on guitar, drums, and keyboards. During their debut public performance they treated their audience to a good mix of 1983-84 big hits by such artists as Irene Cara and Kenny Loggins, with a few Doobie Brothers oldies thrown in. One of the highlights of our most enjoyable evening was hearing AKA Unlimited's first original piece, a sensitive ballad written by keyboard man Andy Adelin called "The Girl That You Once Knew."

The transition from Broadway to rock seems to be for Shelley, like Andrea McArdle, a logical next step in her musical career. Shelley's voice was in fine form as she enthusiastically gave it all she had while shaking her tambourine. Her Broadway experience and vocal style enabled the Irene Cara songs, "Flashdance--What a Feeling," "Why Me," and "Fame", to come across the best of all. Shelley told us afterward that singing with the band is "lots of fun" and that they were on their way to Bally's in Atlantic City the following weekend. For someone who is as busy as Shelley is, it is a wonder how she does all the things she does, and now with the new band, it looks as if she has several very full weeks and months ahead.

Readers from the New York area will be treated to a fine evening of music if they are able to catch one of AKA Unlimited's performances. If you want to find out where the band is going to be playing in the weeks ahead, contact us here at Annie People and we'll let you know. So far we do know that they are booked at The Establishment again for weekends during the month of June.



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**THE SPIRIT OF ANNIE LIVES ON...**

New Jersey Theater Group Founded to Aid Young Cancer Victims



Ava Winget decided to form the Hunterdon Performing Arts Ensemble after she learned that one of two local children with cancer was in the same fourth grade class as her daughter Cindi. Once the project was underway, and Annie was chosen to be performed, there was no problem recruiting professional performers and musicians who were eager to donate their time and talents.

Locating an Annie was also no problem. 10-year-old Cindi had played Kate at Bucks County Playhouse with Stephanie Vine last fall, and, like many former Annie Orphans, she was anxious to have a go at the title role. She was joined on stage by several talented local children, including 9-year-old Rebecca Davis, who had played Molly at the same Bucks County production.

As the May 19th show ended, we couldn't help but recall why this production was done and remember Martin Charnin's words on stage on 1/2/83 - "That's what Annie is all about."

# ☆ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ☆

1984 is proving to be a very active year for all five former Broadway Annies:

#1 ANDREA McARDLE, now 20, is touring in Jerry's Girls with Carol Channing and Leslie Uggams, along with the composer himself, Jerry Herman. They opened in Florida and will be continuing around the country all year. Reviews and attendance have been excellent; watch for it coming to your area. Don't miss!

#2 SHELLEY BRUCE just celebrated her 19th birthday and has begun club dates with her new 5-piece rock band, AKA Unlimited. They have been playing to enthusiastic crowds in New York and New Jersey at clubs and charity benefits.

#3 SARAH JESSICA PARKER turned 19 in March and is currently playing the part of Rachel in To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday at the Circle in the Square Theatre in Greenwich Village in New York City.

#4 ALLISON SMITH, now 14 and a freshman in high school, was seen in six episodes of the TV series, Kate and Allie, which was filmed in New York City. She played Jane Curtin's daughter Jennie in the weekly show, which did so well in viewer ratings that it is expected to be on the fall schedule for CBS.

#5 ALYSON KIRK, also 14, is currently filming a new movie, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, in New York and Los Angeles. It will star Mickey Rooney and will be released in December. Alyson has also been singing in the Youngstars revue at the Something Different cabaret in New York.

It was a hard-knock life for ANDREA McARDLE when she was in Toledo performing in Jerry's Girls. In the middle of her week-long run, Andrea was admitted to the hospital and had her appendix removed on Friday, May 11. She will be back home recuperating for the next couple of weeks before returning to the show. Hope you feel better soon, Andrea...On April 23rd an award was presented to LEONARD STARR, whose Annie comic strip was named Best Story Strip by the National Cartoonists Society...AILEEN QUINN had been under contract with Rastar ever since Annie to not be in another movie until she does Annie II; however, that contract expired on May 18, leaving Aileen's future plans very much up in the air. Will Aileen, who will become a teenager on June 28, still be available when RAY STARK's delayed Annie II finally does begin filming?...BILL BERLONI, owner and trainer of Broadway's SANDY, trained a couple of bull terriers for the short-lived Broadway revival of Oliver...HEATHER SISLEN, who was the original Pepper when 4th National opened in West Point in 1981, has been chosen with fifty other young singers nationwide to be in the Young Presbyterian Singers. 15-year-old Heather will be spending the summer in Europe singing at Westminster Abbey and Notre Dame Cathedral, among other places. Her mother's recent wedding proved to be a sort of Annie 4th National reunion, with MOLLIE HALL (Annie) and KIM DAVIS (Kate) joining Heather singing songs, including "Tomorrow," at the reception...KIA JOY GOODWIN, Broadway's last Kate, is back on Broadway in The Me Nobody Knows, a show which also features SONIA BAILEY, who took over as the Swing Orphan on Broadway in 1981 after AILEEN QUINN left to film the movie...MOLLY RINGWALD's new movie, Sixteen Candles, has begun drawing huge crowds at local theaters all over the country. You may have seen her when she was Kate in 2nd National with PATTY PATTS...BIRTHDAYS: CHARLES STROUSE, 56 on June 7, AILEEN QUINN, 13 on June 28, LARA BERK, 12 on July 12.

The following article was sent in by Polly Mortensen, who is the president of the Allison Smith Fan Club. Renee Shields is one of the "new generation" of Annies, and the eight-year-old third grader, born August 24, 1975, is thought to be the youngest so far to play the title role in a production of Annie.

RENEE SHIELDS - The Youngest Annie

by Polly Mortensen

What do you do when you are a cute little girl who can sing and act? You play the lead role in Annie, that's what you do!

Eight-year-old Renee Shields had the chance to do just that. From December 1983 to February 1984 Renee played Annie at the Royal Palm Dinner Theatre in Boca Raton, Florida. Says Renee, "I want to be Annie forever!"

Her wish may just come true. What Renee would like to do most of all is to be able to go out on the road in a touring company of Annie. Whether or not that works out, Renee will be playing the title role again at the Royal Palm Dinner Theatre at the end of this year.

Renee is in no way inexperienced. She has sung in her native Florida at Walt Disney World, the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club, and she will be singing the National Anthem at a Miami Dolphins football game in September. Renee has also appeared in a commercial for Toyota and has done printwork for K-mart featured in the shoe department of that store at this very moment. Many articles about Renee have appeared in local newspapers, including one that compared her voice to Sarah Jessica Parker's and Andrea McArdle's.

Renee recently had the pleasure of meeting Andrea McArdle in Andrea's dressing room at the nearby Parker Playhouse where Andrea was appearing in Jerry's Girls. Andrea has always been Renee's idol, and Renee was very excited about meeting her. Renee was also thrilled when Alyson Kirk's grandmother came to see her in Annie and asked for her autograph.

As soon as auditions are held for Annie II on Broadway, Renee hopes to try out. And who knows? With all the talent Renee has, she just may get a part!



Renee and Andrea McArdle  
backstage at Jerry's Girls



ANSWERS TO ANNIE MOVIE TRIVIA QUIZ (Annie People #8, Page 6)

1. The infamous Mr. and Mrs. Mudge were named RALPH AND SHIRLEY.
2. Warbucks said to hang his newly-purchased Mona Lisa "IN MY BATHROOM!"
3. Punjab UNROLLED HIS TURBAN to lower himself to poor little clinging Annie.
4. Toni Ann Gisondi was nervous at the prospect of having to belt her friend Rosanne Sorrentino in the face with a mop, but brave Rosanne told her to go ahead, and only about three takes later they had a print of Molly hitting PEPPER. (Is this is why the HBO program guide said "Violence"?)
5. Drake SNEEZED when Annie and Sandy arrived at the Mansion (because he was allergic to filth, not dogs).
6. Yes, it certainly was a hard-knock life at the Orphanage on HUDSON STREET.
7. The portrait in the White House was none other than GEORGE WASHINGTON.
8. The last spoken line was from Annie: "I LOVE YOU, 'DADDY' WARBUCKS!"
9. Annie had other ideas, but the Orphans thought at first that ROVER was "the perfect name for this dumb-lookin' dog."
10. The first time we saw Annie in the red dress was when SHE WAS WATCHING PUNJAB USE HIS MAGIC TO MOVE A VASE OF FLOWERS ACROSS THE ROOM.
11. "Maybe now this prayer's..." was sung in the Orphanage by KATE, played by April Lerman (and doesn't she have a terrific voice?).
12. It was Annie's idea for Grace to WEAR HER HAIR DOWN, and it just might have partly contributed to melting Oliver Warbucks' cold, cold heart.
13. The scene that was filmed first in the movie was THE RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL SEQUENCE. The Mansion scenes were next, then the Bridge scenes. The only shots not filmed on location were the Orphanage scenes; they were filmed in California and were filmed last. This is why Toni Ann Gisondi's front tooth was half grown at the Mansion and fully grown in the Orphanage.
14. The date July 3, 1933 was seen ON THE \$50,000 CERTIFIED CHECK (actually, there were two different checks used in the film; look at them closely).
15. Really Rosie was a very well received off-Broadway children's show and featured future Annie movie Orphans LARA BERK and APRIL LERMAN.
16. "Leapin' Lizards" was said TWICE by someone other than Annie (the first was when Miss Hannigan imitated Annie in her office just before Annie was to leave with Grace, and the second was when "Daddy" Warbucks was informed by Molly that the Mudges "was bad people!").
17. Annie was mentioned in the Guinness Book of World Records because \$9.5 million dollars was paid for the rights to make the movie, THE LARGEST SUM EVER PAID FOR MOVIE RIGHTS FOR A BROADWAY SHOW.
18. This was a tough one: There is an example of Pig Latin (Igpay Atinlay) in Annie, and it is WHEN ANNIE IS IN THE ALLEY WITH THE BOYS (one of the boys pushes Annie against the wall and says, "AMSCRAY!").
19. ANDREA McARDLE was supposed to be featured in the song "N.Y.C." in the movie version of Annie. However, the song was cut from the movie score and the sequence was never filmed.
20. I know this one was almost impossible, which is why I put it #20. It is very soft and off camera and occurs as THE ORPHANS ARE CLIMBING OUT OF THE HOLE IN THE ORPHANAGE ROOF. (Listen very carefully around the time one Orphan says, "Oh, look, we're out!" Another one says, "Come on, July...")

18--CYNTHIA MOSER

18--STEPHEN RUSSO

14--LARRY SKRDLA

14--PAM POWERS

Above are the top winners in the AP Annie Movie Trivia Quiz. With almost 100 seeings of the movie to his credit, seeing Stephen's name up there does not really surprise us, although it does surprise us that someone actually tied him at 18 correct answers. Cynthia says that she watched the videocassette of the movie twice through--with occasional rewindings--in order to complete the quiz. Anyway, congratulations on a job well done to both of them, as well as to the runners-up, fellow Annie movie buffs Larry Skrdla and Pam Powers.



# Collector's Corner

by  
Tricia Trozzi

THE VOCAL SCORE FROM ANNIE  
Published by Edwin H. Morris & Co., 1977

As serious scholars of the play know, the Broadway cast album is really only a 45-minute abridgement of the music heard on stage. Also, the selections in the songbook, when played, do not sound exactly like the real thing. So, how can one accurately follow along with the music of the seventh longest-running Broadway musical? The Vocal Score from Annie contains every word sung during the show and all the musical numbers, including the short themes heard during scene changes. Remember in the show just after Annie escaped from the Orphanage, and the other Orphans sang another chorus of "It's the Hard-Knock Life," and you could never remember the words once you had left the theater? Well, they're here in "Hard-Knock Life Reprise."

As for music, there is that infamous piece, "Same Effect on Everyone," which starts as an instrumental. The cue line for it is President Roosevelt's saying, "I seem to have the same effect on everyone!" when he enters the adoption party in the Mansion. Even though the background music does lead into a reprise of "Maybe," some programs have erroneously listed "Same Effect on Everyone" as a song by Annie!

The Overture and Entr'acte are here, as well as lesser-known pieces such as "Annie's Escape," "Intro Warbucks' Mansion," and "Pre-21." In case you didn't know, "21" is "I Don't Need Anything But You," since that piece is 21st in the order of musical numbers, and "Pre-21" is what comes just before it.

The Vocal Score is set up as a piano reduction of the orchestral score, although some of the individual instrument parts are noted. There are no chord notations, however, making guitar accompaniment difficult. The regular songbook can be used to bridge this gap, but some transposition is necessary, since the songbook uses "common" key signatures, while the Vocal Score uses the actual keys that the songs are sung in on the Broadway cast album (e.g., "Tomorrow" in G flat major, or 6 flats; "It's the Hard-Knock Life" in B major, or 5 sharps. Yike!).

The Vocal Score form Annie does have somewhat limited appeal; only rather musically inclined Annie fans would really enjoy this book. It can probably be found most easily in large music stores or in theater memorabilia shops, and the list price is \$25. The cover has the Annie logo and Original Cast credits on it. Inside there are lists of Cast of Characters, Scenes, and Musical Numbers, and also three pictures of the Original Broadway Cast.

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POEM by Deana Brinkmann

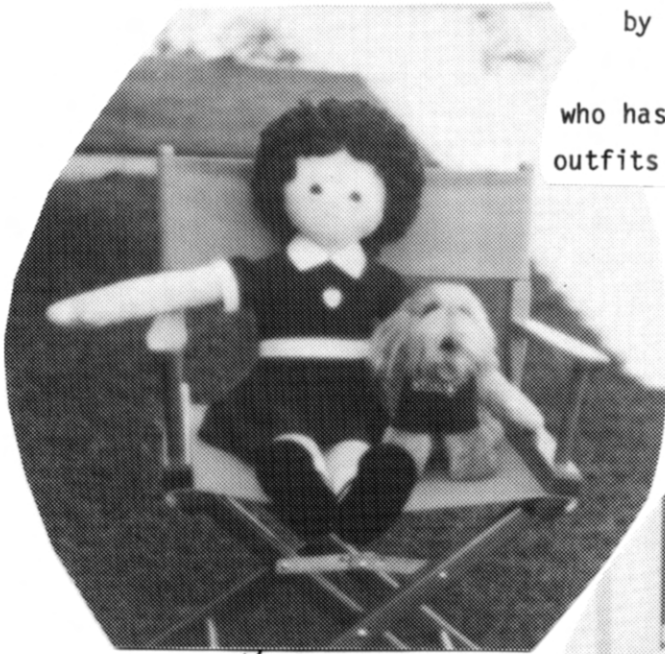
Her bright, shining eyes,  
Her optimistic ways,  
Singing "Tomorrow, tomorrow,  
You're always a day away."  
Little girls strive to be like her  
Just to win that coveted part;  
All of us need to have  
"A fast left with a golden heart."  
Just the mention of her  
Brings sunshine into my day;  
Annie--she'll always be with me  
Forever...come what may.

# McCall's Patterns

#8118  
#8132

by TAMMY SAPHILOFF

who has made all the movie outfits for her Annie doll!



#8118



#8132



↑  
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