

Annie People



A Newsletter for Annie Fans

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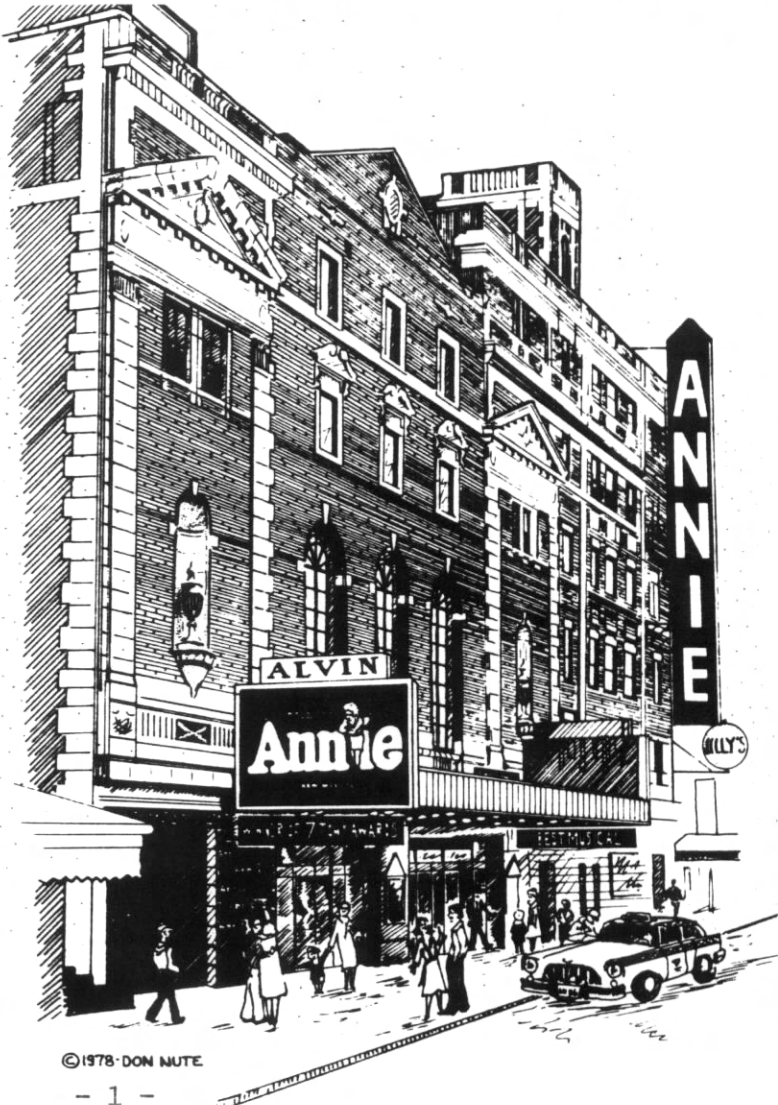
Artwork by Tricia Trozzi, co-editor and columnist

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Price: Free

Leapin' Lizards, it's almost Christmas time again! The Annie People staff has had a busy fall season, traveling to Michigan in October to visit Larry Skrdla and going to see Annie at the Westgate Dinner Theatre in Toledo, Ohio. That night was a special one for Larry, since it was the 50th time that he has seen Annie on the stage since he saw Kathy-Jo Kelly in the 1st National way back in November 1978. While we were in Michigan a local TV cable network came to take shots of Larry's Annie room for an upcoming show and interviewed Tricia and me about how AP got started. It was fun, and they didn't even make us read a commercial for Oxydent.

In November it was a great treat for us to meet Charles Strouse, which we did when he played a benefit with Allison Smith. Naturally, we asked him about the progress so far of the Broadway sequel, and he replied, "Well, we've written six songs--the first act..." But, 1985 may be a little early for us to expect to see it on Broadway; "...more likely, '86," says Mr. Strouse. Allison, now 5'2" and almost 15, took a break from Kate and Allie shooting to sing some Strouse-composed songs from Annie, Applause, and Bye Bye Birdie at the benefit. Two weeks later Allison appeared with Brian Bloom, her co-star in A Different Twist last year, in Morristown, NJ.



Contributed by Robert Fitch



They made (the 1977 Annie Christmas Special) around the time people started to recognize Andrea and the rest of the cast and the work they did in Annie. Its theme is as follows: The cast want to have a Christmas party since they are so far away from their homes. They are told that the only way they can have a party is if they can convince the departments--music, lights, etc.--to work overtime for free. They set about this by singing to them and playing on their sympathy....There are various songs from the play; "Tomorrow" and "Easy Street" are a couple that I remember, and they sing "Silver Bells," "The Twelve Days of Christmas," and Andrea does "The Little Drummer Boy"....

Kathy Weinberger
Philadelphia, PA

You cannot possibly imagine how happy I was to discover Annie People. Having collected comic books for many years, I was not thinking that I was the only LOA collector and fan, but I didn't know where everyone else was. The first issue I received was excellent and told me some of what I had been wondering about, including what one of my favorite Annies, Alyson Kirk, was doing now....

John Tonner
Louisville, KY

I recently received a copy of Annie People from Larry Skrdla after he saw the article on my LOA collection in the Americana magazine. I've had difficulty finding other Annie collectors and was so happy to find out there is a following....

Donna Walker
Chicago, IL

Thank you for sending me Annie People! It's really great. It keeps me informed on all my friends. I think it's a fantastic idea!

Vicky Todd
(July, 1st National)
Wilmington, DE

I really enjoyed your #10 Annie newsletter with its presentation of Annie characters and good review of the Harold Gray strip....It's really nice to see that there is still a great widespread interest in Harold Gray's Annie to make way for many projects, such as the Annie movie, Leonard Starr's strip, and articles on Annie....

Chris Whalen
Madison, WI

I was in one of the Annie companies (at Bucks County Playhouse, PA). I would like to get a subscription to the Annie newsletter because I would like to know what's going on in the Annie world....

Stephanie Todd
Cherry Hill, NJ

Collector's Corner

PLAYBILL
The Movie of
Tomb Raider
Annie

by
Tricia
Trozzi

What do you call 1-7/8" by 2-11/16" cards with unusual full color photos from the 1982 Annie movie on them? Why, the set of 100 European bubblegum cards, of course! These cards are extremely rare; they were not available in the United States at all, only in Europe, so for collectors of Annie movie memorabilia they would be quite desirable. The comparable American product is the set of 120 Topps stickers. What makes the European cards so distinctive is the selection of pictures, showing some scenes that are not in any of the major publications relating to the movie. The most noteworthy are the ten that show Aileen Quinn as herself, not in Annie costume, in her bedroom showing off her dolls and sitting behind the wheel of the "Anniemobile" she was given by the cast as a birthday present during the filming of the movie.

Some of the other cards are of behind-the-scenes views, like the one of the Orphans exhausted on the steps of the Mansion that has been widely reproduced (incidentally, the kids weren't acting tired; they really were! The picture was taken about one o'clock in the morning after a long night of filming). But again, there are never-before-seen pictures of John Huston directing the White House scene, a rehearsal of "I Don't Need Anything But You," and what looks like a costume test of Aileen in the blue "Let's Go to the Movies" dress. A few cards feature the stars in between takes; Ann Reinking and Aileen posing on the Mansion steps, the Orphans in front of the Orphanage, Albert Finney in a pensive moment in the Mansion. There is one card that shows one of the very few existing photos of the first version of "Easy Street"--Lily, Rooster, and Miss Hannigan dancing on Hudson Street soon to be followed by a million extras. Producer Ray Stark was not happy with that version, so it was scrapped and totally replaced by the all-indoor dance that we see in the movie.

The majority of pictures are of actual movie scenes, but from a different angle than pictures in other magazines, or shots taken seconds before or after ones we've seen. Perhaps the European press received an entirely different set of photographs to use. This makes them stand out from the other sources of Annie movie pictures in the American market and offer new views of LOA's silver screen experience.



☆ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ☆

Jerry's Girls, starring ANDREA McARDLE, will not be coming to Broadway this April as planned, because it is going to London in January. Show bookings in Detroit, Baltimore, and Philadelphia have been canceled to give the performers time to get ready for London in addition to a short vacation, but after London the show will be back, with a Broadway run in the cards at a later date. Good news: there will be a Jerry's Girls original cast album before year's end... Look for ALYSON KIRK's movie It Came Upon The Midnight Clear, starring Mickey Rooney, to air around the second week of December...TONI ANN GISONDI's commercial for Joy detergent is currently being seen for the holidays. She has been doing printwork in Philadelphia and will be performing at the Miss Atlantic County pageant in Atlantic City in December...News comes from VICKY TODD, July in 1st National, who is now 16 and models in the Philadelphia area. She also recently filmed a spot on The Guiding Light. Also from 1st National, DANYLE HEFFERNAN (Molly) appeared in Mrs. McThing...MARCIA LEWIS, Broadway's marvelous Miss Hannigan, is in a play in New York called Romance Language...JULIE STEVENS, Broadway's last Pepper, was in a production of West Side Story at Loch Sheldrake, NY this past summer in which she played Maria...CAROL BURNETT soon will be filming The Laundromat in Paris under the direction of Robert Altman...ANGELA LEE recently did a fine job on an episode of Hotel on ABC. Angela, you may remember, was one of the three finalists for Annie in the movie alongside AILEEN QUINN and ROBIN IGNICO...In December SHELLEY BRUCE will be playing Dorothy in the Westbury (NY) Music Fair production of The Wizard of Oz. The show will also play at the Valley Forge Music Fair in Pennsylvania, and CRISTINA CONOMOS, who played Annie in a Long Island production last fall, will play one of the Munchkins in the show...KRISTEN VIGARD, Goodspeed's earliest Annie before ANDREA McARDLE, has been active in soap operas this year. She played Morgan Richards on The Guiding Light earlier this year and is currently on One Life to Live as Joy O'Neill...ROBERT FITCH directed and choreographed a production of Annie in Waltham, Massachusetts this past summer, which starred 13-year-old KERRY BRENNAN as Annie. He also, of course, reprised his Broadway role of Rooster...RENEE SHIELDS, who played Annie last year in Florida when she was 8, is busier than ever now that she has turned 9. She traveled to California for a callback for Punky Brewster and has sung at Disney World a couple of times this year. While Renee was competing in the Miss National Pre-Teen Pageant she sang "Tomorrow," and most recently she sang the National Anthem at the Miami Dolphins NFL football game on October 28 in front of 60,000 people...Birthdays: ALLISON SMITH, 15 on December 9; LUCIE STEWART, 13 on December 14; TONI ANN GISONDI, 10 on January 1; ALYSON KIRK, 15 on January 14, ROSANNE SORRENTINO, 17 on January 15.



Renee Shields, 9, singing at Walt Disney World

"CLEAN SHEETS, ONCE A MONTH, WHETHER YOU NEED 'EM OR NOT..."



SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA - Top row from left, Angela Mace, Dotti Slate; bottom row from left, Sara Golden, Jennifer Detrich, Sarah Slate, Krissy Fraelich, Adrienne Castro (Annie). Not pictured, Toni Ann Barandon (Annie)



TOLEDO, OHIO - Jon with, top row from left, Jennifer Perry, Jennifer Shrader, Angela Perry, Janelle White; bottom row from left, Tracy Michaelis, Jeanette Rorick, Kelly Kinzel (Annie)



CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY - Top row from left, Nancy Lagos, Joanna Browne; middle row from left, Cindy Jung, Alie Smith; bottom row from left, Bayne Gibby, Janine Dambakly, Cari Golden (Annie), Katie Jung.



WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS - Kerry Brennan (Annie)

Summer and Fall 1984

UPDATE ON ANN GILLIS
Star of Little Orphan Annie in 1938

Larry Skrdla, in his never-ending search for those people significant to Annie fandom, located Ann Gillis Fraser in Brussels, Belgium. She was Little Orphan Annie in the second LOA movie, which was done in 1938 by Paramount Pictures. However, unlike the 1932 LOA movie starring the late Mitzi Green, this one is unfortunately not currently available on videotape. Maybe someday that will change, because it would be fun to own all three Annie movies.

Larry has been corresponding with Ms. Fraser in Europe and presents her answers to some questions he has asked her for Annie People:

LS: What was your first film?

AGF: The Great Ziegfeld with William Powell in 1935. I got \$25 for one day's work, which went a long way then. I also appeared in 37 others, most recently 2001--A Space Odyssey.

LS: Did you enjoy working as a child?

AGF: I did hate missing out on a normal school life. When working I studied on the set. I had no friends. I went to 20 different schools in nine years.

LS: What are you currently doing:

AGF: During the long boring breaks during filming of some of my movies I began sketching co-workers. I am now turning my one-time hobby of painting into more of a profession. I had my first art exhibit in 1975. I wouldn't be averse to acting again if the right part came along.

LS: Who were some of the other actors in the 1938 Little Orphan Annie film?

AGF: Robert Kent, June Travis, and J. Farrell MacDonald. And "Sandy." If there was ever a case of miscasting, this was it. Nothing against the dog personally, but even shaved and dyed, he was far too elegant to ever convince me.

The last time I returned from England by ferry the film they were showing was Annie. August, aside from being an anniversary for the comic strip, has been an anniversary for me also. I arrived in Hollywood on August 5th, and next year that will be 50 years ago.



Reprinted from The LOA Reader #3

ROBYN LEE TUERKHEIMER, 10, Plantation, Florida

I played July for three months last winter in Boca Raton, Florida. I always wanted to play the title role, and this summer my wish came true. I was selected to play Annie up at Stagedoor Manor for the Performing Arts in Loch Sheldrake, New York. They got me a red wig, since I have long brown hair, and even had to add some freckles, because although I have some, it was felt that I needed more. I thought your readers might be interested in these pictures and the story. It sure proves you don't have to have red hair to be Annie....



CLASSIFIED AD: Stephen Russo, 15 Tuttle Street, Revere, MA 02151. Take note of price reductions for Christmas. Check or money order to Stephen Russo.

Annie Movie Poster, 27"x41", never used, mint conditon, sent folded.....\$6.00

Annie Lobby Card Set, set of 8, 11"x14", color scenes from movie.....\$12.00

Annie Procter & Gamble Poster, 20"x28", scene at autocopter, rare.....\$1.75

Annie Movie Comic, Marvel Superspecial #24, 64 pages.....\$1.75

Topps Annie Movie Stickers, unopened packs of 5, 5 packs \$1.50, 15 packs \$4.00

Annie Strips, dailies and Sundays 2/6/84 to 3/22/84, return of Mr. Am....\$2.00

Annie Strips, 35 dailies and 3 Sundays 12/22/83 to 3/29/84.....\$1.75

Prices include postage and handling. FREE pack of Topps Stickers with each order. Orders received by December 7 will arrive in time for Christmas.

CLASSIFIED AD: Still available - dinner theater Annie glasses, 7" tall, with red Broadway logo, \$4.95 each postpaid. Order from Larry Skrdla, 8500 Adler, Lambertville, MI 48144. (A very attractive and unusual collectible--much too handsome to put Ovaltine in. --Ed.)

CLASSIFIED AD: I have a very limited quantity available of the European Annie movie bubblegum card sets described in Tricia's article. Price is reduced to \$20.00. Check or money order to Jon Merrill, Box 431, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927.

VIDEOTAPES: Having for some time envied Tricia's collection of videotaped TV appearances by Annie play and movie performers, I finally got a VCR of my own. It is the greatest thing to hit my Annie room since sliced bread. Anyone else out there collect Annie-related videotapes?

HAPPY 5-YEAR ANNIE-VERSARY to Leonard Starr, whose Annie strip will be half a decade old in early December. I wonder if Annie will have to get another bump on the head to restore her memory. Anyway, maybe it won't be too long before we find out what Abner Plumm is all about. The current story is the 17th by Starr since he began writing and drawing Annie in December 1979, and in addition, it is probably the one with more different people in it than any other.

HANDMADE ANNIE AND SANDY DOLLS

from McCall's pattern

Annie is 36" tall; Sandy is 21" tall
Annie has your choice of
eye color-blue, green, or brown
BONUS with Sandy: the address to
order the pet ID tag for him
Price for each doll or dog is \$60.-
postpaid; check or money order only, please

write to: TAMMY SAPHILOFF
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Annie
A New Musical