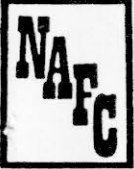


Annie People



Member



National Association
Of Fun Clubs

The Newsletter for Annie Fans

No. 37, January 1989

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

Artwork by Tricia Trozzi, co-editor and columnist

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Price: Free

Annie People is published every other month in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Publication has been continuous since January 1983.



'Annie's' baby...

Would you believe it? Little "Annie" has a daughter! **Andrea McArdle**, the original orphan in the Broadway hit "Annie," has grown up. She's now the mother of **Alexis Page Kalehoff**, 5 months—and here is the first family portrait, provided to us by celebrity photographer **Mark**

Raboy. Alexis posed with her mom in Atlantic City, where Andrea opens with **P.J. Benjamin** in "Singing in the Rain" at the Claridge, Jan. 10. Alexis' daddy is musical director **Edd Kalehoff**, whom Andrea married last year. Who knows? We may have a new "Annie" in the making.

HAPPY 1989
To All Our Readers
From the AP Staff

ANDREA McARDLE, then and now.

MARK RABOY

York Daily News

★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

AILEEN QUINN's Cannon Films movie The Frog Prince is out and available on video-cassette now. Aileen filmed the screen adaptation of the well-known Brothers Grimm fairy tale in Israel almost three years ago when she was 14, and she does her usual fine job of singing and dancing as Princess Zora. Of particular note is Aileen's opening song "Lucky Day," sung and danced in the princess's bedroom in the castle as she awakes to a new day. Look for the videocassette at your local video store or watch it on the Disney Channel in the near future....**THOMAS MEEHAN** was the writer of One Magic Christmas, aired on NBC-TV on December 23rd**MARCIA MASLO**, who played in Annie for several months in Connecticut in 1987, has been busy with more shows: She played Wendy in Peter Pan and leads in Frankenstein For President and Three Wishes For Christmas. Marcia also played the lead role in an educational video called I Blew It: Learning From Failure**ROGER STEVENS**, who was instrumental in bringing Annie to the Broadway stage in 1977, was one of five recipients this year of the Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, D.C. The telecast of the 11th annual gala was on CBS-TV on December 30th and featured an extended tribute to Annie, including the singing of "Tomorrow"....**ANDREA McARDLE** has just begun a three-month run in Singin' In The Rain at Claridge's Palace Theatre in Atlantic City. She is playing the part of Kathy Selden, the role originated by Debbie Reynolds in the 1952 movie of the same name. Andrea said that the part requires her to "sing sweetly"--not a difficult task, but it is different for her, not having to belt out or sustain long notes. She also says that there's a "ridiculous" amount of dancing in the production, which was pared down to 90 minutes by cutting out a lot of the dialogue. This is Andrea's first stage production since the birth of Alexis Page Kalehoff five months ago....**MEGHAN ROBERTS**, a former Molly in central New Jersey two years ago, has since played Alice in Alice In Wonderland and also recently played Belinda in A Christmas Carol, and last spring she played the lead in the educational film Mindplay....**ROBERT FITCH** played in Carnival in Cleveland to the following review: "...it is worth the price of admission to see Robert Fitch as Paul's old friend Jacquot perform the "Cirque de Paris" ballet, arms and legs whirling like windmills in a demonstration of physical comedy that transcends words." The cast of Annie in Akron, Ohio, including Bob's old fellow Broadway Annie cast member **DAVID BRUMMEL**, went to see Bob perform, and he in turn came to see them. Toward the end of Bob's Broadway run as Rooster in early 1980, David joined the cast as Louis/Jimmy Johnson/Apple Seller, and in 1988-89 he played Oliver Warbucks in Akron....Correction: **MELISSA KALFA**'s brother Mark's new single "Once Around The Block" will be released under his own name, Mark Kalfa, not under his former stage name of Nolan Thomas as reported in the last AP....**DEBBIE GIBSON** appeared on Celebrate The Miracles, produced for TV by the Children's Miracle Network. Debbie was enthusiastically applauded by her new friend and new youngest fan, little Jessica McClure, who is fine now after her fall into the well a year ago last October. Debbie's second album Electric Youth is just out (see separate story)....The 3rd National's **MONICA MILLER** recently did Shakespeare's The Merchant Of Venice in Princeton, New Jersey and has done printwork for Readers Digest and book covers. Look for Monica soon in a Cherry 7-Up commercial....**JEANNE LEHMAN** played opposite Barry Williams in I Do! I Do! in Kansas City, and in The Wizard Of Oz in Pittsburgh with Cathy Rigby. She has also had concert dates for fund raisers in Chicago, Arizona, and Alaska, and then went to Seoul, Korea to train local performers there....Birthdays: **TONI ANN GISONDI**, 14 on January 1; **NICOLE ANTHONY**, 16 on January 1; **ALYSON KIRK**, 19 on January 14; **ROSANNE SORRENTINO**, 21 on January 15; **DANA MATLES**, 17 on January 21; **SYDNEY WEEKS**, 18 on January 22; **MARISA MORELL**, 19 on January 25; **LOUANNE**, 19 on January 26; **JANNA ROBINSON**, 14 on February 4; **MOLLY BETH TOTTEN**, 15 on February 4; **APRIL LERMAN**, 20 on February 6; **MOLLY RINGWALD**, 21 on February 14; **ERIN DALY**, 13 on February 15; **STEPHANIE VINE**, 17 on February 23; **JENNINE BABO**, 18 on February 25; **BERNADETTE PETERS**, 41 on February 28.

CALENDAR OF ANNIE-VERSARIES

1989

JANUARY

- 2 The Broadway show closed at the Uris Theatre after 2,377 performances, 1983
- 3 The 1986 National Tour opened in Rochester, 1986
- 5 Sandy's first appearance in the comic strip, 1925
- 14 Broadway's fifth Annie, ALYSON KIRK, will be 19
- 15 The 3rd National's first Annie, ROSANNE SORRENTINO, will be 21
- 20 Little Orphan Annie comic strip creator HAROLD GRAY was born, 1894
- 25 Annie in the 2nd National, MARISA MORELL, will be 19
- 26 Annie in the 2nd National and the 1st National, LOUANNE, will be 19
- 29 Allison Smith became Broadway's fourth Annie, 1980

FEBRUARY

- 7 The Broadway show's 2,000th performance, 1982
- 28 Shelley Bruce became Broadway's second Annie, 1978

MARCH

- 1 Annie Broadway preview opened at the Kennedy Center in Washington, 1977
- 1 The 5 Broadway Annies had a reunion at an Englewood, NJ Annie show, 1986
- 6 Sarah Jessica Parker became Broadway's third Annie, 1979
- 23 The 1st National Tour opened in Toronto, 1978
- 25 Broadway's third Annie, SARAH JESSICA PARKER, will be 24

APRIL

- 11 The 1984 National Tour's Annie, LISA LYNNE, will be 16
- 21 The Broadway show opened at the Alvin Theatre, 1977
- 21 Andrea McArdle became Broadway's first Annie, 1977

MAY

- 3 The London show opened at the Victoria Palace Theatre, 1978
- 5 Broadway's second Annie, SHELLEY BRUCE, will be 24
- 9 Harold Gray died at age 74, 1968
- 19 Bill Berloni found Sandy in the pound in Connecticut, 1976
- 21 The movie premiered in New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto, 1982

JUNE

- 5 Annie won 7 Tony Awards including Best Musical, 1977
- 7 Annie's composer, CHARLES STROUSE, will be 61
- 22 The 2nd National Tour opened in San Francisco, 1978
- 28 The movie's Annie, ALLEEN QUINN, will be 18

JULY

- 22 Allison Smith's 1,000th performance on Broadway, 1982
- 24 The 1984 National Tour opened in Atlanta, 1984
- 27 The 1986 National Tour's Annie, SARAH BETHANY REYNOLDS, will be 16
- 31 The 2nd National's first Annie, PATRICIA ANN PATTS, will be 22

AUGUST

- 5 Harold Gray's Little Orphan Annie comic strip began, 1924
- 5 The movie's director JOHN HUSTON was born, 1906
- 10 Annie, starring Kristen Vigard, opened at the Goodspeed Opera House, 1976
- 14 Annie's writer, THOMAS MEEHAN, will be 60
- 28 John Huston died at age 81, 1987

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Principal filming of the movie ended, 1981
- 8 The 4th National's first Annie, MOLLIE HALL, will be 19
- 8 Alyson Kirk became Broadway's fifth Annie, 1982
- 11 The 4th National Tour opened in West Point, 1981
- 12 The Broadway show's 1,000th performance, 1979
- 27 Annie meets "Daddy" Warbucks in the comic strip, 1924

OCTOBER

- 3 The 3rd National Tour opened in Dallas, 1979
- 18 Ann Marie Mudge Warbucks was born, 1922 (movie version)
- 27 The comic strip was dropped from the Chicago Tribune, 1925
- 28 The comic strip was reinstated in the Chicago Tribune, 1925
- 28 Ann Elizabeth Mudge Bennett Warbucks was born, 1922 (play version)

NOVEMBER

- 2 Little Orphan Annie Sunday comic strip began, 1924
- 5 Broadway's first Annie, ANDREA MCARDLE, will be 26
- 19 BILL BERLONI shares his birthday with Broadway's SANDY, who will be 15
- 24 Annie's lyricist and director, MARTIN CHARNIN, will be 55
- 30 The second Little Orphan Annie movie, starring Ann Gillis, premiered, 1938

DECEMBER

- 3 Leonard Starr's Annie comic strip began, 1979
- 9 Broadway's fourth Annie, ALLISON SMITH, will be 20
- 24 The first Little Orphan Annie movie, starring Mitzi Green, premiered, 1932
- 27 Annie in the 2nd National, KRISTI COOMBS, will be 18
- 31 Annie was left on the Orphanage steps, 1922

Over the years, we AP editors have received numerous letters with inquiries about various aspects of Annie fandom. We are also peppered (no pun intended) with questions from enthusiastic groups of Orphans at Annie productions. So, in an attempt to keep everyone well informed, we will now answer them all at once:

1. Q. *What is the answer to AP's most frequently-asked question?*

A. Auditions won't start until they have finished writing it.

2. Q. *Where was the movie filmed?*

A. The Warbucks Mansion in the film is the administrative building on the campus of Monmouth College in West Long Branch, New Jersey. You can visit it any time, but to get inside you have to be there on a weekday, not during the summer. The Bridge is in East Newark, New Jersey next to the Passaic River, easily visible from the train or the highway. The New York scenes, including Radio City Music Hall, are on location, of course. The only scenes in Annie not filmed on location were at the Orphanage; that was a set at Columbia in Burbank, California. The whole New York street scene was a permanent set created especially for Annie at a cost of \$1 million and has been used since in other movies and TV shows.

3. Q. *Will Annie be any older in the Broadway sequel? Will there be Orphans in it? What about the other characters?*

A. We don't know for sure about Annie's age; when Annie II was going to come out in 1983 or '84 we presumed that she might age a little. Now that it has been so long since Annie's Broadway run ended, we don't know whether the authors will revert back to her usual age. Orphans? So far the creators, who have been at work writing it for years, are content to let us be surprised concerning what the sequel is all about. About all we could get out of Martin Charnin about the sequel in AP's interview with him (AP #25, January 1987) concerning the characters was: "There are three people who are definitely in this musical: Annie, Grace, and Warbucks. And past that, nobody's sacred....(and) Sandy of course will be in it...."

4. Q. *How can you both keep going to the play so many times, over and over?*

A. Every production, every cast is different. That's what makes it fun. Most times the casting in local productions is good, and we don't even mind "variations" as long as these variations are more or less "correct" in the general frame of the musical. What makes the difference between a good local production and a mediocre local production is whether the director has a good feel in general of what Annie is all about and is able to interpret the script without making changes which are considered "errors." Examples: staging the scene where Warbucks gives Annie the unwanted locket in the softer, quieter manner of the movie is a legitimate variation. But, having Annie cower in Miss Hannigan's presence and cry out in pain and fear when she is paddled is an error. (Annie's defiant attitude compared to the other Orphans is precisely why Miss Hannigan hates her so much.) Having the Orphans attend the Christmas party at the Mansion at the end in the "rainbow" dresses is an error too (they should correctly be worn only at the curtain call), but I guess we have to realize that if some long-suffering Orphan mom has gone to the trouble to make six of those dresses, they would like to show them off and get as much mileage out of them as they can.

5. Q. *What's the worst error you have ever seen in a local Annie production?*

A. No problem there. Once Annie came to the adoption party not in the red dress we all know and love, but in a maroon, velvet, full-length robe with mink-looking cuffs and collar, and no wig. I know it sounds as if we made this up, but the one thing Miss Hannigan taught us was, "Never tell a lie!"

6. Q. *Did Aileen Quinn really climb all the way to the top of that bridge?*

A. Oh, no! There were stuntmen for Annie, Rooster, and Punjab. Bobby Porter, a 29-year-old male who makes his living doing stunts for children in movies, climbed all the way up in a red dress and wig just like Aileen's. (Notice the thickness of his muscular thighs as he is climbing; definitely not those of a little girl!) All the long-shot Bridge scenes, including the dangling from the helicopter, were done by stunt people (but "Rooster" sliding all the way down the Bridge was probably a dummy). However, as you can plainly see, Aileen herself had to climb up about ten rungs of the ladder-like bridge herself, which is admirable (I myself climbed up about three of them in 1982 and said "that's enough for me!"). Any time you see a close-up of Aileen's face during the climb (or the other two, also), that was done on a model of the very top of the Bridge made later on at the Burbank studios in California (when Aileen is dangling by her fingertips, she is probably only about a foot off the floor). Then, through the magic of editing, both the real New Jersey Bridge scenes and the fake California Bridge scenes were spliced together for the final print. The one exception to this is the very last moment when Punjab and Annie come down and Warbucks grabs Annie. This scene had to of course be done with the real actors on location and was accomplished with a crane off-camera and a stepladder to get them several feet off the ground before they were lowered. A very fine shot of this maneuver is in the book Annie On Camera.

7. Q. *Why did the movie use Punjab and the Asp? They weren't in the play.*

A. Actually, Punjab and the Asp have been around for decades in the Little Orphan Annie comic strip by Harold Gray. The writers of the play decided not to have those two characters in it because they were trying to get away from the "cartoon" idea, which would not have worked well on a live stage. The movie screenwriter merely put Punjab and the Asp back in; in many ways, the movie is closer to the old Little Orphan Annie of years gone by than the play is. For example, in the old radio show of the 1930s Orphan Annie's birthday was October 18th, not October 28th, and in the movie Annie's birthday was restored back to its original date.

8. Q. *How can I find about auditions for Annie and other shows in my area?*

A. In the New York area there are two newspaper publications which come out each week, Show Business and Backstage, which list many calls for upcoming theater productions. If you are serious about doing the audition circuit, find yourself a manager; there are a number in the area who specialize in child performers. In other areas around the country, you may have to depend on local newspapers or word of mouth for auditions. Many cities have theater groups or showcases especially for kids. Or, your voice, acting, or dance teacher may very likely hear about auditions you might be interested in.



Debbie Hammond on stage in Pittsburgh

AKRON, OH - Top row, Paula Smith, Elizabeth Boggio, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, Aisling Mulhern (Annie), Jaclyn Lincicome, Julie Flynn, Jaclyn Severns; bottom row, Jennifer Stacy, Stephanie Chapman



submitted by Larry Benton

RIGHT: Final scene at Salt Lake City production - the characters are frozen under the word balloons (with stuck-on blank eyes, yet!)



Tricia's mother at home at Christmas with her dolls



CENTEREACH, NY - Top row, Meg Sweeney (Miss Hannigan), Brooke Schiffman, Melissa Smith, Gretchen Meek, Tracy Pitts; bottom row, Melissa DeBeer, Casey Hushion (Annie), Laura Cummings, Rachel Schmatenberger

SALT LAKE CITY, UT - Top row, Elizabeth Stewart, Kristy Taylor, Casey Minix, Kelsi Osborn; bottom row, Adrienne Gunn (Annie), Amy McClellan, Kassidy Osborn, Robyn Marie Huff



submitted by Larry Benton



submitted by Larry Benton

THREE 1987-1988 UTAH ANNIES MEET:
 Sheryl Cummings (Perry)
 Adrienne Gunn (Salt Lake)
 Kelsi Osborn (Sundance)



with Casey Hushion
 Kids For Kids Productions
 Centereach, New York



PERRY, UT - Top row, Caylee Rose, Jessica Pace, Shelley Cummings, Sheryl Cummings (Annie), Sarah Vause, Maranda Anderson, Diana Handy; bottom row, Noel Parkinson, Tori Anderson, Katie Pace

submitted by Larry Benton

DEBBIE GIBSON'S SECOND ALBUM RELEASED THIS MONTH

Electric Youth, the follow-up album to Out Of The Blue by Debbie Gibson, was released in January 1989. Although AP had to go to press before we had heard the album and could review it, the first single from it has been out since early in the month. This new hit is the excellent ballad "Lost In Your Eyes," very familiar to all those who attended Debbie's concerts last year, as she has been including it in her repertoire now for over a year. This song seems sure to bring Debbie back near the top of the chart in early 1989. Like her June 1988 #1 hit "Foolish Beat," both sides of Debbie's latest single were produced by her; the flip side is superb: "Silence Speaks (A Thousand Words)," which I like even more than the hit side. Check this one out. And by the time you receive this issue, Debbie's album should be out too.

At the end of the year there were numerous awards for Debbie's work during 1988. Even though Out Of The Blue had come out in 1987, Billboard magazine still ranked it the #7 album for 1988, due to its continuing strong sales (it went triple platinum--3 million copies sold--at the end of the year). In addition, Debbie was rated by Billboard as the #1 Female Pop Album Artist for 1988, edging out Tiffany and Whitney Houston. Congratulations, Debbie! And she was the #2 Female Pop Singles Artist, just behind Whitney in that category, as well as the #5 Pop Artist overall for singles and albums, ranked between Michael Jackson and Guns N' Roses.

Debbie's biggest award nomination yet--Best Female in the Rock category of the National Music Awards--was announced in early January. We'll all be rooting for Debbie when the awards are telecast later in the month.



Debbie and Baby Jessica

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Annie
A New Musical