

# Annie People



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**HERE THEY ARE: ANNIE AND SANDY IN ANNIE 2!**



Photo by KEW CLARK

**DANIELLE FINDLEY**



Photo by MARTHA SMOPE

**BEAU**

Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge began rehearsals on November 6, 1989. It will rehearse in New York and then move to Washington, D.C. where it will play its pre-Broadway run at the Kennedy Center from December 22nd to January 20th. Previews on Broadway at the Marriott Marquis Theatre will begin on February 6th, and the big opening will be on the 1st of March.

There will be a cast of 35 in the new musical, with DANIELLE FINDLEY (see separate story) in the title role. DOROTHY LOUDON, the original Miss Hannigan in Annie, will be back in her Tony Award-winning role. HARVE PRESNELL, who began as Oliver Warbucks in the 3rd National with Rosanne Sorrentino and ended the run on Broadway with Allison Smith and Alyson Kirk, will be back as our favorite bald-headed billionaire. LAUREN MITCHELL, the last Grace Farrell on Broadway with Harve, will be back in her old role as well. RAYMOND THORNE, who played FDR for Broadway's entire run and who played it this past summer with Danielle, will be on hand again as FDR and, according to one newspaper account, will sing a song called "When You Smile" with Annie. Miss Hannigan's love interest, a new character named Lionel McCoy, will be played by RONNY GRAHAM, and MARIAN SELDES will play another new character, Mrs. Christmas. Other roles new to Annie fans will be Maurice (SCOTT ROBERTSON) and Spit, a young boy (P. T. ASHLOCK). Warbucks' butler Drake, a character familiar to us all, will be played by TERRENCE CURRIER. In a stage musical for the first time--having been in the Little Orphan Annie comic strip since the 1930s--are Punjab (GERRY McINTYRE) and The Asp (FEILY MATIAS), Warbucks' bodyguards. And last but not least, newcomer BEAU will play Sandy. Beau was adopted by Bill Berloni four years ago at the ASPCA in New York and lives on Bill's farm with lots of animal friends including Broadway's original Sandy. Beau has ears that stick straight up just like the comic strip Sandy, and it will be interesting to see what Beau will be doing in the play; the press release states that "Beau will have a more demanding role in Annie 2 than Sandy had in Annie."

Many familiar behind-the-scenes Annie faces will be back for Annie 2, among them the creators, of course, MARTIN CHARNIN (director and lyricist), CHARLES



RICHARD CORKERY DAILY NEWS

STROUSE (composer), and THOMAS MEEHAN (book). LEWIS ALLEN will again co-produce, and DANNY DANIELS is new as this play's choreographer.

Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge begins six weeks after Annie ends at the Women's House of Detention in downtown Manhattan and will continue to the summer of 1934. Miss Hannigan is out to hatch a diabolical plot to get Annie away from Warbucks and back into her clutches--plotwise, that's about all we know now. What we have read, however, is that the sets will be rather interesting: among others, the Fulton Fish Market in New York, an indoor tennis court on Fifth Avenue, and--the deck of "Daddy" Warbucks' luxurious yacht! I know many Annie fans join me in saying, "I can't WAIT to see this show and find out what it's all about!"

## MEET THE NEW ANNIE

### Danielle Findley

Photo by KEN CLARK



On October 10, 1989, it was announced that the search for the newest Broadway Annie was over and that Danielle Findley of Lee's Summit, Missouri had won the role over 400 other girls. Danielle is eleven years old, has dark brown hair and blue eyes, is 4'5" tall and weighs just 68 pounds. Born July 18, 1978, she has been singing and dancing since she was five years old.

Our regular AP readers will remember that Danielle was in our last issue, having played the title role in Annie this summer in Kansas City, St. Louis, and Detroit. Like many Annies before her, she was inspired to someday be Annie on the stage after seeing the play for the first time, which she did when she was four (the 4th National with Kathleen Sisk in Kansas City in 1982). She played an Orphan in Grandview, MO when she was eight and then fulfilled her dream of wearing the red dress herself in the summer of 1989. Danielle says that she likes singing and dancing equally well but that her favorite part of Annie is when Annie first arrives at the Warbucks mansion and senses how different her life is about to become.

Two weeks after finishing Robert Fitch's production of Annie in Detroit, Danielle came to New York to begin the several weeks of callbacks that would eventually place her in Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge. She was sad to have to leave her sixth grade classmates behind in Missouri, but before she left for New York, her school had "Danielle Findley Day" to give their talented schoolmate a grand sendoff to Broadway. Within days after her arrival with her grandparents, who will be here with her during the show, Danielle was interviewed on Good Morning America, Entertainment Tonight, and Live At Five in New York. She also appeared on Inside Edition with Andrea McArdle who had gone through 13 years ago what Danielle is experiencing now.

New York isn't totally new to Danielle; she understudied the part of Miranda Bigelow in Coastal Disturbances at Circle In The Square in '87. She also was Beth in Faith's Body at the Playwright Horizons Theatre in NYC that same year and was a soloist on Hurray For Kids on TV cable several times in '88 and '89.

Now she is in rehearsals each day as Annie 2 takes shape getting ready for its opening in Washington in December. She loves dogs (she has one of her own named Bandit who will be coming to New York soon to be with her) and is learning all the signals to handle her co-star Beau--that in addition, of course, to dancing, singing, acting, and learning the script! All in all, she is very excited--particularly about going to D.C., since she has never been there.

But she is definitely not looking forward to the dreaded day when her lovely, very long brown locks come off to be dyed and permed Annie-style for the play. However, she says that it is just as well not to be bothered with a wig on stage; the ones she wore for Annie in the summer were hot and uncomfortable and complicated to get on and off because her hair is so long. And, she said, they made her hair curl funny underneath.

Be sure to check out the November 1989 issue of Life magazine, which has several pages on the Annie 2 auditions (New York, Washington, Los Angeles) and on Danielle. You will also see the runners-up for the title role--Courtney Earl and Juliana Marx. Danielle enjoys being tutored in a group of five kids, along with P. T. Ashlock, who plays Spit, and his understudy.

When I talked to Danielle on the phone the second week of rehearsals, I told her that I was NOT going to ask her anything about the score--OR the plot--OR any other specifics about the play, but I did ask her one question: Now that she is learning the part of Annie in a brand-new musical, does it still feel like the same character she played all summer in Annie? She replied very much so. I guess the most important things never change, and that's why our favorite red-haired orphan is still so much a part of us after 65 years.

# ★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

JO ANNE WORLEY has just opened on Broadway starring in Prince Of Central Park. While doing Mame in California, she was called in at the last minute to do this show after the original lead was injured during a rehearsal. Jo Anne came to Broadway around the same time that her Annie co-star from last summer, DANIELLE FINDLEY, was picked to star on Broadway in Annie 2....ALLISON SMITH took time out from working on her album to star in an episode of Hunter on NBC in November....AISLING MULHERN recently played Annie in Englewood, New Jersey; she set perhaps an all-time Annie record in 1989 by playing the title role three different times in three different states (Ohio, New York, New Jersey) all in one calendar year....NORWOOD SMITH starred on a recent episode of Top Of The Hill on CBS....MONICA LEE GRADISCHEK starred in a very funny spoof called Dracula--The Musical?, which played in Delmont, PA in October. For her role as the nervous maid who was chased all over the stage by the evil villain, Monica had to learn a cockney accent, and a local newspaper review said, "Nelly Norton the maid is played by pert and bouncy Monica Gradischek, who deserves kudos for her true blue English accent"....CAROL BURNETT will star in Carol and Co., a half-hour comedy series which will be a midseason replacement on NBC. Also, an ABC special with Julie Andrews is coming, reminiscent of the famous one the two did many years ago....Two former Michigan Annies HOLLY SMITH and REBECCA BAHLING danced in The Music Man in Detroit in November....DEBBIE GIBSON wrote and sang a song called "Come Home" for the soundtrack of The Wonder Years TV show. Also on the album is "In The Still Of The Night," the oldie she has performed many times in concert. Early in the new year Debbie will begin filming Skirts, for which she will also be composing the soundtrack. Her total number of hit singles so far is nine....ALIE SMITH performed on Star Search 90 in the Teen Vocalist category in October; also performing on the show recently was KRISTY GRAVES, a former Florida Annie....TARA FORD starred in the title role in Peter Pan last summer in Spring Lake, NJ at the same theater where she played Pepper in Annie a few years ago. Now attending The University of Maryland, Tara is currently in Little Shop Of Horrors....DUFFY, owned and trained by PAUL GOLDIE, is playing Sandy in New Jersey in November and December, while his buddy BRANDY at Goldie Theatrical Dogs, Inc. will come out of retirement to play Sandy in two productions, one in New Jersey and one in Pennsylvania....MONICA MILLER played Jaclyn Smith's character as a teenager on the NBC-TV movie Settle The Score on October 30th....LIZ LARSEN and RUTH WILLIAMSON is starring in Rhythm Ranch at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ. Ruth was Miss Hannigan in the 4th National with MOLLIE HALL and KATHLEEN SISK, and Liz was A Star To Be in the 3rd National and is the older sister of Broadway Tessie STEPHANIE VINE....THEDA STEMLER, Annie in the 1st National after MARY K. LOMBARDI and before LOUANNE, has graduated from college and is an interior designer in her native Virginia ...ROGER MINAMI directed Rip Roarin', a lavish production starring comedian Rip Taylor at Resorts International in Atlantic City. Roger has been involved with numerous productions in Atlantic City ever since he played the Asp in the Annie movie....Former Ohio Annies KELLY MICHAELIS and ERIN O'NEILL are both in Annie in Toledo during November and December....SHADOW LAWN MANSION in W. Long Branch, NJ was recently mentioned in an article on New Jersey movie locations. In 1985 the building was designated a National Historical Landmark, but not because Annie was filmed there (aw shux); it's because Woodrow Wilson stayed there in the summer during his term as U.S. President....Birthdays: ANDREA McARDLE, 26 on Nov. 5; THERESA DIANE, 20 on Nov. 19; SANDY, 15 on Nov. 19; MARTIN CHARNIN, 55 on Nov. 24; KIMI PARKS, 18 on Nov. 26; ALLISON SMITH, 20 on Dec. 9; DANA DEWES, 18 on Dec. 10; LUCIE STEWART, 18 on Dec. 14; HALLY McGEHEAN, 18 on Dec. 18; ALYSSA MILANO, 17 on Dec. 19; CHRIS NOEL CANTERA, 19 on Dec. 20; MARTHA BYRNE, 20 on Dec. 23; SHERRI LEIDY, 15 on Dec. 26; KRISTI COOMBS, 18 on Dec. 27.

## MOOSE

by Tricia Trozzi

"Sandy comes wandering in all alone. He stops center and sits, looks right, looks left, and trudges off looking for Annie as the marquees, the neons, and billboards of Times Square fade in the background...." (Act I, Scene 6) No one dog had performed that "NYC Crossover" more than Moose, who died on October 2, 1989 during emergency surgery for a stomach abnormality. He was 11 years old.

Moose was discovered at the Staten Island (NY) ASPCA by Bill Berloni. Two months later, in 1979, this large, mixed breed dog opened in the 3rd National Company with Rosanne Sorrentino and Harve Presnell and stayed with that company for four and a half years before replacing Roxanne for the last few months of the 4th National. Since 1983, Moose had been Bill Berloni's Number One touring dog for traveling all over the country to perform in professional and amateur productions of Annie. Moose played the role of Sandy almost continuously for ten years! He had many more performances to his credit and worked with more people in more theaters in more places than any other dog. I saw him in Annie many times; in New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Delaware, Michigan, and several productions in New Jersey, including the one in Montville in 1985 in which I played in the orchestra. I got to know Moose then as a very friendly dog who was easygoing and always ready to perform his tricks and give "pawtographs."

Moose played Sandy in three major post-Broadway tours: the 1983 Guber and Gross tour, the 1984 National, and the 1986 National. His handlers during his long career included Jude DeProspero and David Hemenway (3rd National), Karen Johnson ('84 National on) and finally Lane Haverly ('86 National on). Other credits included several TV commercials, guest appearances on TV shows, a performance for President Carter and Navy troops, and the 1987 Off-Broadway revival of The Miracle Worker. The loss of Moose is indeed a big one in the world of Annie, as few dogs could be as reliable and well-behaved, and certainly no dog has made more audiences say, "Aww, what a cute Sandy!" in several thousand performances across the country. Moose will be sadly missed very much by us Annie fans.



Photo by MARTHA SMOPE

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**Annie People** would like to send special thanks to David Powers, Bill Berloni, Mary Lee, Bernadette Thompson, and Brenda Lasater for photos and information used in the articles in this issue.



FLORHAM PARK, NJ - Top row, Nicole Battista, Michelle Mechanic; middle row, Karen Goberman, Lauren Porter, Amy Pero, Molly Hupcey, Lauren Bass, Sharon Northrup; bottom row, Brandy, Veronica Rummier, Nicole Passalacqua, Margo Passalacqua (Annie), Laura Bianco



NEW HOPE, PA - Top row, Megan Moran (Annie), Cindi Winget (Annie), Jennifer Smith, Chris Loughlin, Suzanne Slade, Shanna Longo; bottom row, Lauren Sypek, Sandy, Tera-Lee Pollin, Brooke Osterhage, Faith Marie Mackenzie



Tara Ford as Peter Pan  
Spring Lake, NJ



ENGLEWOOD, NJ - Top row, Kelley Faulkner, Aisling Mulhern (Annie), Caroline Messihi, Kelly Kristjanson; bottom row, Brittany Murphy, Karen Klein, La Shonda Hunt

Photo by MARTHA SWOPE



MARY LEE, the original Sandy's "nanny"; BEAU; and his owner/trainer, BILL BERLONI. Beau is 4 or 5 years old and weighs 75 pounds. He rehearsed with a young girl on a stage for 2 hours every day in preparation for the rehearsals for Annie 2. Because of the interest in Annie by prospective dog owners in the New York metropolitan area, it is much harder for Bill to find Sandy-type dogs in the local animal shelters to train to be Broadway stars!



Aisling Mulhern at Englewood, NJ meets Kimi Parks, who played Tessie in the 4th National with Kathleen Sisk and in Robert Fitch's 1983 post-Broadway tour with Alyson Kirk. Later on, Kimi was on Broadway in The Rink with Liza Minnelli, and for six months in 1986 she played the role of Dorie on Guiding Light. Kimi hopes to do more TV acting after high school, "but not necessarily a soap opera again."

LEONARD STARR'S ANNIE STRIP CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

It was in December 1979 that Leonard Starr took over the Little Orphan Annie comic strip. Now, a decade and some 30 stories later, it is going as strong as ever as we approach the 1990s. Harold Gray had done it from 1924 until his death in 1968, at which time several artists attempted to keep it going without much success. From April 1974 until December 1979 Tribune Media Services, Inc. reprinted old strips from the 1930s and 1940s in the newspapers.

The official unveiling of Mr. Starr's new strip was on Sunday, December 9, 1979, but his first week of daily strips began on December 3rd, in order to make the transition from the old story (reprinted from 1948) into the new story which would begin on the 9th.

On that Sunday we found Annie at home with "Daddy" Warbucks and Punjab. As was the case in the Harold Gray strip, contemporary issues were present in the plots of the strip, and in December of 1979 the energy crisis and United States dependence on oil being bought from the Middle East was a hot topic of the day. "Daddy" announces to Annie, "I've SOLVED the energy crisis!" Annie learns that "Daddy" has discovered a method of getting oil from wells originally thought to be used up, by means of a secret formula he calls the Lazarus Process.



(c) Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Naturally, unscrupulous foreign oil producers are eager to get their hands on "Daddy's" formula at any cost. So, they kidnap Annie and take her to the Middle East to the infamous Sheik Bahd-Simel, who plans to hold Annie prisoner until Warbucks gave up his Lazarus Process formula.

Warbucks, Punjab, and Sandy immediately take off for Sheik Bahd-Simel's country to try to rescue Annie. Meanwhile, Annie has escaped from the sheik's clutches and is heading alone across the endless expanse of desert. Sandy picks up Annie's scent and runs across the sand to a very surprised and happy Annie.

However, Bahd-Simel's men are also looking for her, and when they encounter "Daddy" and Punjab, "Daddy" is shot while trying to protect Annie. Punjab takes out his magic cape, puts it over himself and "Daddy," and both he and "Daddy" miraculously disappear to some mystical "location"--known only to Punjab--leaving the enemy soldiers standing there with their mouths open. (It is a whole year and four stories later when Warbucks returns to the strip.)

Annie is taken in by another sheik who is friends with "Daddy" and arranges for her to be brought home to the United States. While waiting for "Daddy," she is placed under the care of a senator in Washington. But that's another story.

So ends Leonard Starr's first Annie story, which went until March of 1980. Over the next ten years, our favorite red-haired orphan would encounter many different adventures--adventures with kidnapers, dog-nappers, terrorists, unusual children, unusual teachers, robots, illegal aliens, unknown animal species, new friends, old friends from previous strip stories (for example, Mr. Am), corruption in government, corruption in business, and, of course, the usual times being stranded alone on some far away island fending for herself.

Congratulations, Mr. Starr, on Annie's 10th anniversary. We Annie People look forward to lots more exciting adventures with Annie in the next decade!

(Sorry we're so late with this letter which arrived at AP some months ago....)

June 28, 1989

Thank you for your kind letter and the May issue of Annie People; I enjoyed both immensely. If it wouldn't be too much to ask, I would appreciate receiving future issues. Although I was involved only with the motion picture, I did manage to meet many of the girls who performed in the stage productions and therefore enjoy keeping up with their careers.

As you know, a motion picture sequel is in the offing; however, at this writing, it is difficult to say exactly when the film will go into production. Earlier this year we began seeing potential Annies here in Los Angeles and had plans to audition in other cities. Unfortunately, the film was postponed. Last reports are for a mid March 1990 start. Producer Ray Stark is a very determined man, so I would think that date could very well hold true.

I cannot say that I will be involved with the casting at that time. However, I will keep you posted if I am asked to find the new Annie. Aileen Quinn is a hard act to follow, but I am sure there is some very talented girl waiting somewhere to give it a try. By the way, it seems only right that I am writing you on this special day, Aileen's birthday.

Again, thank you for your kind efforts and concern. I think it is wonderful what you and Tricia Trozzi are doing for all of us Annie People.

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