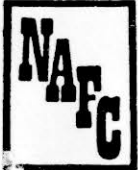


# Annie People



Member



National Association  
Of Fan Clubs

The Newsletter for Annie Fans

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Artwork by Tricia Trozzi, co-editor and columnist

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LEAPIN' LIZARDS, SANDY!  
-You and I, and a cast of spunky  
orphans will, once again, sing and  
dance our way into the hearts of  
Goodspeed audiences!

# Annie



A New Musical Workshop Production

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## ANNIE 2 IS REBORN IN CONNECTICUT

Annie 2 opened at the Goodspeed Opera House in Chester, Connecticut on Thursday, May 17. This is not far from the other Goodspeed in East Haddam where Annie was first staged fourteen years ago. There have been numerous changes, not only in the script and score, but also in the cast since last January when Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge closed in Washington after a four-week run at the Kennedy Center. First of all, this new version has no subtitle.

AP learned on April 9th that Danielle Findley would not be playing Annie in the Goodspeed production because since the beginning of rehearsals last fall for the Kennedy Center and through the run she grew almost two inches. Martin Charnin is looking ahead to a possible run on Broadway starting at the end of the year, and based on this rate of Danielle's growth, she would certainly be much too tall by then. So it was decided that rather than have Danielle go through Goodspeed with all the revisions and changes to be made there and then not be able to go to Broadway, it would be better to start over with a new, smaller Annie right away at Goodspeed. As many Annie actresses know, every new inch of height counts, and it is a sad fact of life in the Annie world that height alone can determine whether a girl gets (or keeps) the part or not.

Danielle has remained in New York all winter and spring doing Mr. Charnin's revue and has also been going on many auditions, so it is very likely that we will be seeing a lot more of Danielle in future years in other things--perhaps in a production of Annie somewhere else where the height requirement is not quite so stringent. Danielle is one of the nicest and most talented kids we have ever known, and we wish her well. She sounded the best we had ever heard her in the revue, and we look forward to following her career in AP. One thing is for sure--Danielle will be one of Orphan Annie's greatest fans for a long time to come.

Annie at Goodspeed is being played by LAUREN GAFFNEY of Summit, New Jersey. Lauren is 10 years old, in fourth grade, and four feet two inches tall. Although Lauren has been acting for most of her life and has been a big Annie fan for many years, this is her first time playing Annie. Many of you saw the photo in lots of newspapers of some girls in the line outside the theater at the Annie 2 open call in New York last September--one of them was Lauren. Most recently Lauren just finished a run of The Sound Of Music as Marta at New York's Lincoln Center with Debby Boone. Toward the end of the run there was a chance that this show would move into the vacant Marquis Theatre on Broadway, but since it did not, Lauren was available to try out for the Goodspeed Annie 2. After Lauren found out that she had won the part, Danielle came to see Lauren in The Sound Of Music and wish her well at Goodspeed. Lauren's show closed on April 22nd and she reported to Annie 2 rehearsals the very next day.

Other cast changes: Broadway veteran HELEN GALLAGHER is Miss Hannigan, and SARAH KNAPP (from Washington's ensemble) is the new Grace Farrell. HARVE PRESNELL continues as Oliver Warbucks, and MARIAN SELDES continues as Commissioner Stark (new name for Mrs. Christmas), SCOTT ROBERTSON, formerly the head of the Brooklyn Academy of Beauty, plays Drake in this production, and RAYMOND THORNE is still FDR. Lionel McCoy, Punjab, and the Asp are not in this show, but a brand-new character named Steve McCall is played by ABE REYBOLD. The four Orphans are still played by the same girls--JENNIFER BETH GLICK (July), MORIAH "SHINING DOVE" SNYDER (Molly), NATALIA HARRIS (a new one named Peaches), and LISA MOLINA (Tessie)--but Kate Maguire this time is played by BLAZE BERDAHL. BILL BERLONI's brand-new dog CHELSEA (they wanted a new dog that more closely resembled the original Broadway Sandy with droopy ears) is Sandy, understudied by BEAU from the Washington show. Original Broadway Annie choreographer PETER GENNARO has joined Annie 2 this time around.

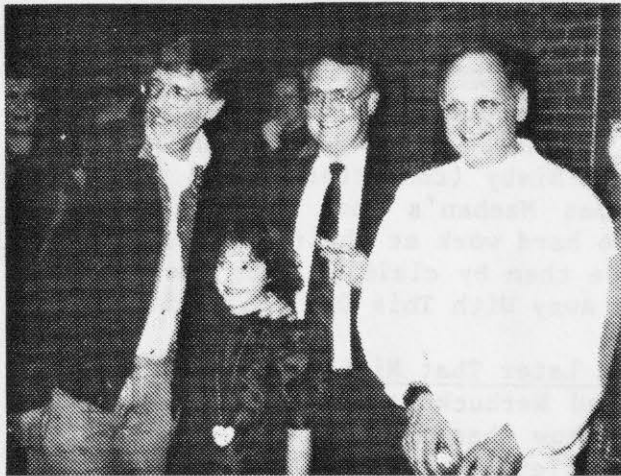
The show is being billed as "A New Musical Workshop Production"--note the word "workshop"; this means that the show will be constantly changing and there were no press reviews when it opened. We at AP plan to see it again near the beginning of the run and again at the end, so we will be passing on news of the changes as it goes along before closing at Goodspeed on the 8th of July.



Jon with Lisa Molina, Jennifer Beth Glick, Natalia Harris, Moriah "Shining Dove" Snyder, and Lauren Gaffney after opening night



Martin Charnin, Lauren Gaffney, Harve Presnell, Thomas Meehan, Peter Gennaro

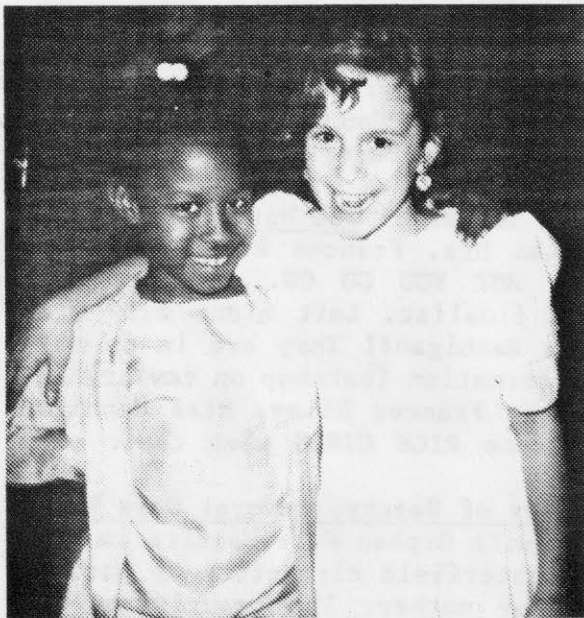


Martin Charnin, Lauren Gaffney, Lauren's dad, Charles Strouse



Chelsea

Submitted by Mary Lee, Photo by Martha Swope



Natalia Harris, Blaze Berdahl



ANNIE 2 AT GOODSPEED-AT-CHESTER

by Tricia Trozzi

This synopsis is of the opening night performance of the "new" Annie 2 (note no subtitle), as seen on Thursday, May 17, 1990. Since over the course of the eight-week run in Connecticut the show will change and evolve, later on we will be reporting on that. The Norma Terris Theater is a very small (200-seat) house and allows for only the most minimal scenery--so no rocking tugboat, no Art Deco office, etc. Musical accompaniment is provided by two pianos and percussion. Most of the costumes are ones used in Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge (hereafter referred to as MHR).

Act I opens in Annie's Bedroom in the Warbucks Mansion, July 1934, which is 3 months later than in MHR. Annie is with Sandy and she is anticipating "Daddy's" arrival home from a business trip. Grace joins Annie as the latter sings a new song called HE'LL BE HERE about the fun that Annie is looking forward to having with her "Daddy." When he arrives, he invites Annie not to the Bronx Zoo where she would like, but rather to The Warbucks Building Office, Later That Day. Annie feels out of place amidst the business dealings, but Warbucks asks her to stay because he tells her "WHEN YOU SMILE, I smile...." Commissioner Margaret G. Stark from the Child Welfare Authority (she was Congresswoman Marietta Christmas in MHR) arrives to present the order that Warbucks, a single parent, must marry in 90 days or lose custody of Annie. The scene is essentially the same as in MHR, including Annie's initial suggestion of Grace as a suitable wife, and Annie singing CHANGES. The Next Day in the Orphanage Playroom, Annie is visiting and bringing presents to her old friends Molly, Tessie, July, and a new one named Peaches, while another unfriendly orphan, Kate Maguire, looks on. Fred and Gert Bixby (characters meant for the original Annie but who appear only in Thomas Meehan's book Annie: An Old-Fashioned Story) arrive to select an orphan to hard work at their bakery, at the suggestion of Miss Stark. The Orphans dissuade them by claiming each one is THE PERFECT KID (melody of MHR's "Just Let Me Get Away With This One") but with many humorous faults.

Back in The Atrium of the Warbucks Mansion Later That Night Annie decides to take a more active role in bringing Grace and Warbucks together (all in all, Annie is more central to the action in this show than in MHR), and while Warbucks and Miss Stark discuss the suitable qualities for a wife, Annie encourages Drake and the other servants to tell Warbucks THAT'S THE KIND OF WOMAN (melody of MHR's "Beautiful") he should marry. "GRACE-ful, charming, GRACE-ful, charming" they sing while pointing to Miss Farrell, who reacts with embarrassment. At the beginning of the show, Grace was offered a job in Washington by Steve McCall, a young, handsome member of FDR's staff. This sets up a series of connections: Warbucks is jealous of Steve's attentions to Grace and wants her to stay. Grace is undecided by still feels ignored by Warbucks and Annie wants Warbucks to marry Grace. Annie again mentions this to "Daddy," and he responds as in MHR with A YOUNGER MAN.

The interviews for Warbucks' wife goes on as in MHR at The Warbucks Suite at the Plaza Hotel. A woman identifying herself as Mrs. Frances Riley describes her life--"Christmas dinners at the Automat, BUT YOU GO ON...." Over Miss Stark's objections, Warbucks chooses her as a finalist. Left alone with Miss Stark, Frances Riley is revealed to be--Agatha Hannigan!! They are in on this scheme together, Miss Stark providing inside information (ketchup on caviar) and using reverse psychology to have Warbucks choose Frances Riley. Miss Hannigan and Miss Stark sing how they are going to become RICH GIRLS when their plan succeeds.

A clandestine meeting at The Brooklyn Academy of Beauty, Several Days Later at Midnight brings Miss Hannigan and Miss Stark with Orphan Kate Maguire in tow. Kate has been promised \$100 and a carton of Chesterfield cigarettes to pose as Annie for a day to select Frances Riley as her mother. The beauticians Flo Winkowski, Mitzi, Glenda, and Charlie the Janitor sing how Kate will be trans-

formed into ANNIE TWO.

The Next Week, in the Art Gallery of the Warbucks Mansion (no Soong Dynasty vase, however) the Orphans and Annie are playing and Annie is still trying to persuade Grace that marriage with Warbucks is possible. Grace is not as sure, and sings that HE DOESN'T KNOW (I'm Alive). Grace decides that even though she cares for Annie very much, she is going to quit her job and take the offer to work in Washington with Steve McCall. Annie laments to the Orphans that her very presence in Warbucks' life has caused this whole problem of finding a wife, making him unhappy, and now causing Grace to quit. IF I WASN'T AROUND, decides Annie, maybe everything would be all right again. Annie says goodbye to the Orphans and Sandy and runs away.

Act II opens in The Communications Room at the White House, Several Days Later. President Roosevelt and the FBI are assisting in the search for Annie. Warbucks and his new secretary, blonde, pretty, but slightly inefficient Phyllis Wardlow are there, as well as Grace and Steve McCall, tracking leads on Annie, hoping SHE'LL BE HERE (reprise of the opening song with the opposite gender). Annie is found, prowling the grounds of the White House, and alone with Warbucks sings a reprise of CHANGES with him. Warbucks promises to take Annie a fun outing, so they go to A Movie House in Manhattan.

We hear the movie characters' voices singing I CAN DO NO WRONG, while Annie and Warbucks lip-sync along and perform a tap dance while seated (!) watching the movie. Another theater patron distracts Warbucks while someone else puts a hand over Annie's mouth and takes her away to be replaced by Kate Maguire in disguise. "Annie" suddenly develops a cold and places a handkerchief over most of her face.

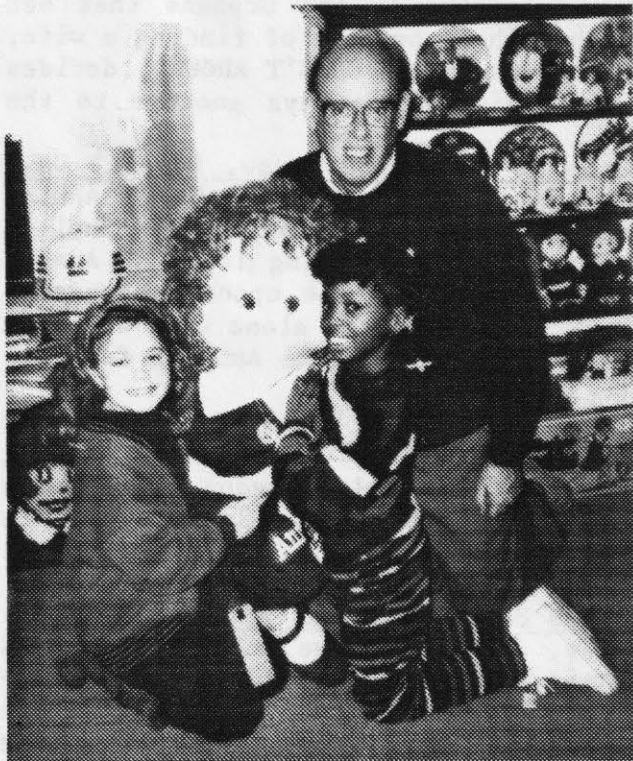
The selection of a wife takes place in The Ballroom of the Warbucks Mansion. The Orphans, dressed in pretty party dresses, are glad to be ALL DOLLED UP, as are the other elegantly attired guests. The Orphans notice that there is something strange about "Annie"; Molly says, "She doesn't smell like Annie." Grace is there with Steve McCall, and we find out that he is married and has three kids. Phyllis the secretary also proves to be inefficient in organizing things. One prospective wife, Abigail Dabney, sings CORTEZ, followed by Frances Riley singing THE TENEMENT LULLABY. "Annie" chooses Frances, and Miss Stark "reluctantly" agrees and tears up the court order from Child Welfare. Warbucks, once along, is still thinking about Grace and sings a reprise of A YOUNGER MAN.

The Morning of the Wedding in the Warbucks Suite at the Plaza Hotel, Miss Hannigan is paying off Abigail Dabney and still promising Kate a carton of Chesterfields. Miss Stark is overjoyed at the success of the plan--the next steps to be "Annie" will run away never to be seen again and later a piano will fall on Warbucks' head. The real Annie is there too, tied up. Miss Hannigan envisions her future wealth as ISN'T THIS THE WAY TO GO. Annie, left alone, still has hope, "he won't forget, MY DADDY, he'll save me yet, my Daddy." Suddenly Warbucks and Grace enter the room. Grace is explaining her suspicions -- Annie's constant handkerchief over her face and calling the President Rooz-velt instead of Rose-velt. And Grace had Frances' glass from the ballroom sent to the FBI for fingerprints. The report come back that the real Frances Riley is dead, and she had been a childhood friend of none other than Aggie Hannigan and Margie Stark! Warbucks can't believe this at first, but at the sight of the real Annie held prisoner it all comes together.

Later That Same Day on the Deck of the Warbucks Yacht, Justice Brandeis (not Mayor La Guardia as in MHR) is preparing to officiate the wedding ceremony. All the guests know the truth about Frances Riley, so it surprises only her and Miss Stark when the real Annie pops up in the middle of the ceremony. This scene is similar to the finale of MHR, with Miss Hannigan and Miss Stark going to jail and Warbucks and Warbucks and Grace marrying right there. WHEN YOU SMILE is reprised and the curtain closes on the first performance of the "new" Annie 2.

Note: Another scene in the second act listed in the program (The Fulton Fish Market That Night, with Frances Riley singing LIVE A LONG, LONG TIME) was cut at 5:00 p.m. on May 17th and was not performed opening night.

# LAUREN GAFFNEY



Lauren and her friend La Shonda Hunt (Molly in Englewood, NJ, October 1989) visited Jon's Annie room last winter



Jon congratulates Lauren (now a redhead!) after Annie 2 opening night at Goodspeed



Lauren (center) with some of the kids in The Sound Of Music, April 1990. The ones on the left were in the show; the four on the right with Debby Boone are Debby's own children.





From the Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger, April 1, 1990

Photo by Martha Swope

Broadway songwriter Martin Charnin, center, with the cast of his new cabaret show, 'The Hits and The Ms.'s,' clockwise, Danielle Findley, Sarah Knapp, Karen Murphy, Mary-Pat Green, Karen L. Byers, Corinne Melancon, Jane Bodle and his daughter, Sasha

The Hits and the Ms's - A Personal Songbook was a revue presented at the famous Rainbow and Stars room at Rockefeller Center in NYC in March and April. The songs were by many different composers and were from shows over a 30-year span, all with lyrics by Martin Charnin. He told amusing anecdotes about the songs and the shows they were from, and about show business itself. He himself sang many of his songs too, including a new one containing a humorous reference to Annie 2. He even wore a jacket with a picture of Annie on the back--with one eye blackened, a sling, and a bandage on her head. Six extremely talented ladies from the ensemble of Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge in Washington, plus Danielle Findley, and Martin's daughter Sasha also sang. Annie was represented by stories of its creation and a demonstration of some of the other purposes "Tomorrow" has been used for. "NYC," "Maybe," "It's The Hard-Knock Life," and "Tomorrow" were sung as the finale. This show had a good variety of material and really showed off the abilities of all involved.



Tricia and Jon with Danielle Findley  
at the Rainbow and Stars, New York  
(closing night at Martin Charnin's show)  
April 7, 1990



Lee Sforza  
Little Shop of Horrors  
New Rochelle, NY  
March 31, 1990

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**Annie**  
A New Musical