

# Annie People

The Little Orphan Annie Fan Club Newsletter

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# 70!



Seven decades ago, on August 4, 1924, Little Orphan Annie made her first appearance in the funny papers. Artist Harold Gray wrote and drew the comic strip until his death in 1968. After that, various other artists tried to continue doing LOA but were not successful. In 1979 Leonard Starr took over Orphan Orphan Annie, and his stories and artwork continue today on her 70th birthday.

As in 1984 on the occasion of Annie's 60th, pages 2-5 in this issue salute this important milestone in the comic strip Annie's life.

Note: The fact that this issue of *Annie People* celebrating Annie's 70th birthday is also the 70th issue in our run is a total coincidence!

ANNIE



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Annie runs away in 1994, just as she has so many times in the last 70 years.



"Daddy" Warbucks



Sandy



Punjab



The Asp



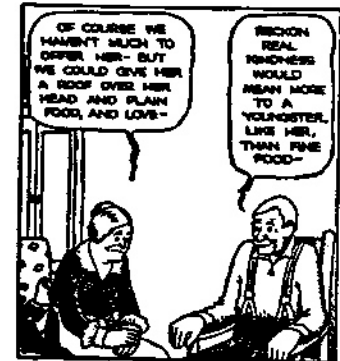
Skip Smith



Sheik Bahd-Simel



Janey



The Futiles



Eli Eon



Ezra Eon



Selby Adlebert Piffleberry  
Count De Tour



Mark Pease



The Kneck Brothers



Shanghai



Libby



Pee Wee



Nick Gatt



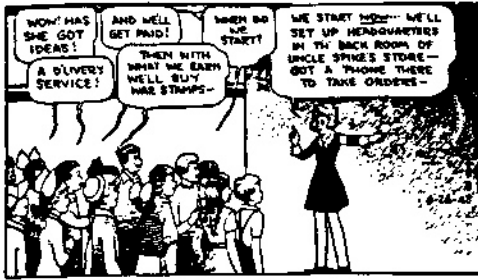
May Flowers



FIDO



Mr. Am



The Junior Commandos



Fred Free



Angela Pease



Boris Sirob



Emily Marie



Stella Han and Croesus



Huckle Flynn



The Spangles



Axel



Mr. and Mrs. Silo



Mr. Rune



Grunts and Little Casino



Spike Marlin



Dr. Sue Choors



Mrs. Bleating-hart



Wilda and Sawyer Oates



Dr. Wot and Snawky



Jack Boot



Maw Green



Anya Toze

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HAROLD GRAY AND LEONARD STARR  
 "How Many Ways Can One Draw Blank Eyeballs?"

Originally printed in AP #10, July 1984

by Tricia Trozzi

Although the pupil-less trademark of Annie and her friends has remained fairly constant over the years, most of the other visual aspects of the strip had changed during Gray's forty years at the drawing board. After Gray's death in 1968, it wasn't until 1979 that Leonard Starr put Annie back on course. Over the years drawing styles change, and a comparison involves looking at each artist in his own era.

In the Twenties, comic characters were less concerned with anatomical



Figure 1 September 1924

accuracy than with being funny. This was totally acceptable to the public, who didn't care if their heroes had huge hands and feet with tiny bodies. When Little Orphan Annie first appeared on August 5, 1924, she was a fairly well-proportioned little girl. But Oliver Warbucks started out as a typical banana-nosed, pot-bellied cartoon man. (Fig. 1) Other early characters were also very "cartoony," but that was the style of the times. In the Thirties, Gray was much more realistic in the depiction of his characters, although he always drew arms and legs that were kind of shapeless, and hands that were big and thick. Warbucks looked much more human, as did other men in the strip, except maybe for Punjab, who sometimes appeared to be nine feet tall! (Fig. 2) In the Forties and Fifties, Annie seemed to look older than twenty years earlier, as Gray's style changed with each passing decade. (Fig. 3)

His changing style is also shown in his backgrounds; some were plain with hatch lines around the word balloons, but others were full of detail and helped create the mood of the story. In the 1940s, Gray was using a lot of black in his panels, especially during World War II episodes. He was conveying a dark time in history, even for Annie, when in 1944, Mrs. Bleating-hart's large black-dressed frame appeared in several strips. Since Gray's way of



Figure 2 April 1941

depicting his characters had changed so much over the years that the 1924 Annie and the 1968 Annie seemed like distant cousins, Leonard Starr had to pick which era he would model his drawings on. He chose the Thirties, which he considered Gray's best art.

Comics, too, have changed over the years, and now in the Eighties more life-like characters appear. Leonard Starr's previous strip before Annie was called On Stage, and it was about a struggling young actress. His style is very realistic, and blank eyeballs notwithstanding, his characters in Annie look like real human beings. Annie is the right size for



Figure 3 September 1943

an eleven-year-old, looking slightly older than in some of Gray's drawings. Warbucks is far more true-to-life than his 1924 counterpart. (Fig. 4) The other renderings of characters stay in this life-like style, which is compatible with the Eighties.

Starr's backgrounds vary from cross-hatching at the top of the panel to detailed interiors of rooms. The diversity is necessary in order to make an interesting set of panels. After the movie came out in 1982, Starr adopted the Monmouth College (N.J.) building that was used as Warbucks' mansion in the film into the strip, which gives a little continuity between these two aspects of Annieness. (Fig. 5) When the Starr comics started in 1979, the logo from the Broadway show was used in the strip as a sort of tie-in. Actually, the Broadway show took the logo art from a panel drawn by Harold Gray in 1932. (Fig. 6) It just shows how all of LOA fandom is inter-connected.



Figure 4 December 1983

Through 60 years of good times and bad times, Miss Asthma's Orphanage to Oliver Warbucks' mansion, Pee Wee to Snawky, Axel to Skip Smith, Eli Eon to Ezra Eon, and all the rest, Annie has hung in there and has usually come out on top. In the drawings of Harold Gray and Leonard Starr, Annie's blank eyes, red dress, and frizzy hair have made her our favorite little orphan. May she never grow up!

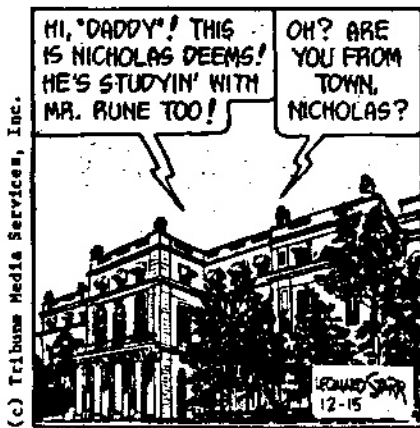


Figure 5 December 1983



Figure 6 November 1932

Annie

Suppose Harold Gray had been alive and had been the one to write the screenplay for the movie. How would he have done the ending to keep it more in tune with his Little Orphan Annie strip? Here is how reviewer Shel Dorf from The Comics Journal imagined how it might have been:

"...As everyone is singing and dancing on the front lawn of Warbucks' Mansion, the fireworks would land on the roof and set it on fire. "Daddy" Warbucks would run into the flaming building to save his valuable papers. The whole structure would collapse as Annie and her dog, Sandy, watch in horror. Annie would be left with just her dog and the clothes on her back. Presuming "Daddy" Warbucks to be dead, she would have the choice of either going back to the Orphanage or hitting the road. So, in the next scene, Annie and Sandy are picked up by a truck driver who eventually takes them home to live with his family. Then we would see how the working man himself deals with the Depression...."

## The Complete Cast of *Annie Warbucks* Off-Broadway

Following is a list of the performers who were in the final cast for the Off-Broadway production which closed on January 30, 1994. We have also noted when they joined *AW*. This is presented in order of appearance.

- Annie Warbucks...KATHRYN ZAREMBA (Original cast of the West Coast tour of *AW* August-November 1992 as Duffy; recast in title role sometime in spring 1993)
- Sandy...CINDY LOU (Replaced Chelsea in West Coast tour starting in Houston in September 1992; Cindy Lou's understudy was Cosmo)
- Oliver Warbucks...HARVE PRESNELL (Only Harve and Ray Thorne have been with this show from the beginning--all the way back to the December 1989 premiere of *Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge* in Washington, D.C., through the 1990 Goodspeed-At-Chester *Annie 2* workshop, through the Marriott Lincolnshire and Drury Lane (Illinois) *AW* in early 1992, through the West Coast tour and the entire Off-Broadway run)
- Grace Farrell...MARGUERITE MacINTYRE (Original cast of West Coast tour beginning August 1992)
- Drake...KIP NIVEN (Original Off-Broadway cast July 1993. The *Playbill* listing that we had reprinted in our November 1993 issue of AP is incorrect; we hear that the actor who is listed as Drake never actually performed due to illness, and that Michael E. Gold, as the understudy, performed as Drake for the first couple of weeks of previews before Kip Niven was cast. Kip was playing Drake by the time the show officially opened on August 9th)
- Mrs. Pugh, Dr. Margaret Whittleby, White House Aide, Wedding Guest...AUDREY LAVINE (Replaced Lola Powers (former Mrs. Pugh from the original *Annie*) in October 1993. Lola replaced original Off-Broadway cast member Brooks Almy, also in October 1993)
- Warbucks' Staff, Hobo, White House Aide, Wedding Guest...KERRY CASSERLY (Replaced Jennifer Neuland in January 1994 when Jennifer moved up into the role of Sheila Kelly)
- Simon Whitehead...ALLEN FITZPATRICK (Replaced Joel Hatch in October 1993; Joel had been with the show since the Marriott Lincolnshire in February 1992)
- Warbucks' Staff, Accountant, Fletcher, Mr. Stanley, David Lillianthal...MICHAEL E. GOLD (Original Off-Broadway July 1993)
- Warbucks' Staff, Accountant, Harry, Hobo, Senator Arthur I. Vandenberg, Wedding Guest...STEVE STEINER (Original Off-Broadway July 1993)
- Warbucks' Staff, Trainman, White House Aide, Man in a Stetson Hat...J. B. ADAMS (original Off-Broadway July 1993 (former Rooster Hannigan from the 3rd National Tour)
- Warbucks' Staff, Miss Clark, Gladys, Wedding Guest...SEAN MURPHY (Replaced Christy Baron in January 1994; Christy had replaced original cast Colleen Fitzpatrick in October 1993)
- Commissioner Harriet Doyle...ALENE ROBERTSON (Original cast of the Marriott Lincolnshire in 1992)
- Molly...ASHLEY PETTET (Original Off-Broadway July 1993)
- Pepper...MISSY GOLDBERG (Original cast for West Coast tour August 1992 as Pepper)
- Tessie...ELISABETH ZAREMBA (Original Off-Broadway July 1993)
- Peaches...NATALIA HARRIS (Began in January 1990 as one of the nameless Orphans in *A2:MHR*; played Peaches at the Goodspeed-At-Chester workshop in 1990. Joined again Off-Broadway cast July 1993)
- Mrs. Sheila Kelly...JENNIFER L. NEULAND (Began in Marriott Lincolnshire ensemble February 1992; in every ensemble since then, including original Off-Broadway cast. Replaced Donna McKechnie as Sheila Kelly in January 1994)
- Alvin T. Paterson...HARVEY EVANS (Original Drake in West Coast tour beginning August 1992. Recast as Alvin sometime in spring 1993)
- C. G. Paterson...JACKIE ANGELESCU (Original Off-Broadway July 1993)
- Ella Paterson...MOLLY SCOTT (Original Off-Broadway 1993)
- President Franklin Delano Roosevelt...RAYMOND THORNE (Been with show steadily since December 1989)
- Swing Orphan...LARISSA AUBLE (Replaced Alexis Dale Fabricant in August 1993)

Note: Whenever Missy Goldberg would go on for Kathryn Zaremba as Annie, Elisabeth Zaremba would take Missy's role of Pepper, and Larissa would come in as Elisabeth's role of Tessie. This was done to keep Pepper as an older girl. This role-swapping was even more complicated on the final Saturday matinee of January 29, 1994 when Natalia Harris was out also, and for the most part, Peaches' lines were cut. Elisabeth as Pepper picked up the rest of Peaches' lines and singing parts. The part was covered so well that the audience never realized that one Orphan was totally missing.

# KATHRYN ZAREMBA

now appearing  
as  
Tina Denmark  
in

## Ruthless! THE MUSICAL



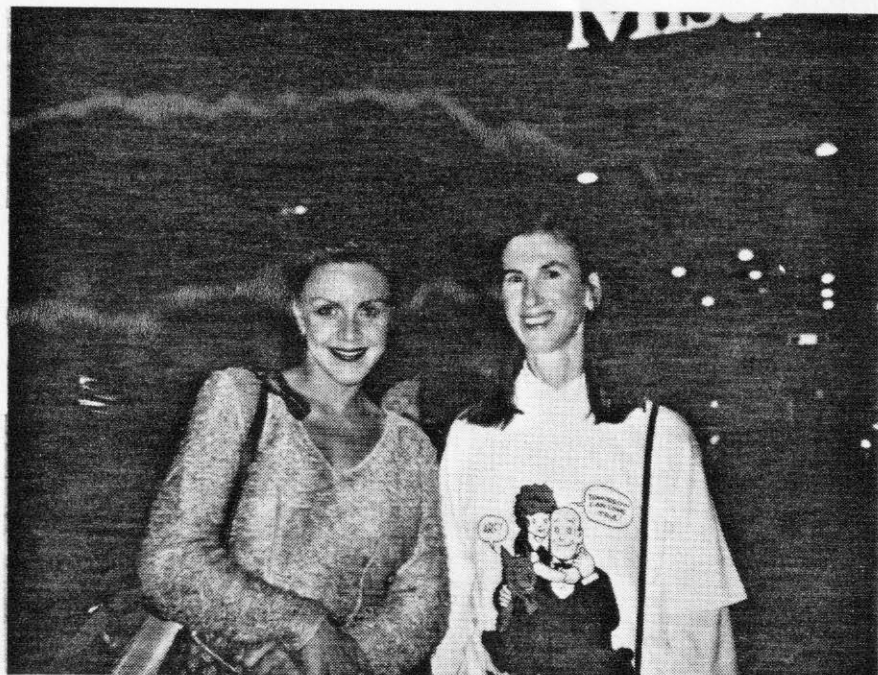
CANON THEATRE • BEVERLY HILLS

Advertisement for Kathryn Zaremba's current show *Ruthless* in California



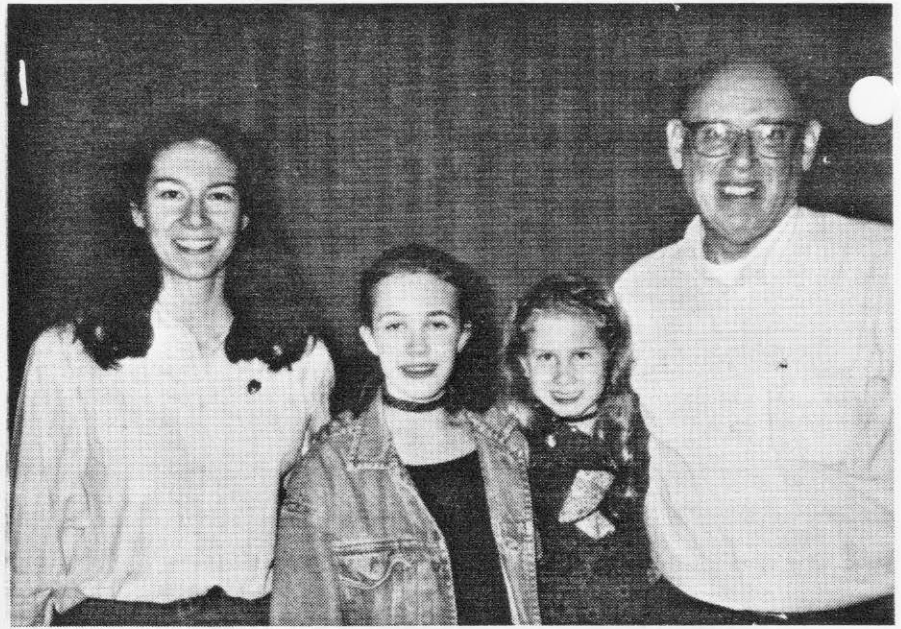
Elisabeth Zaremba  
"All Dolled Up"!

Cynthia Moser with  
Andrea McArdle  
*Les Miserables*  
New York  
May 1994





Tricia with Marguerite MacIntyre  
*South Pacific*  
Millburn, New Jersey  
May 1994



Tricia and Jon with Lauren Gaffney (left)  
and Larissa Auble. Lauren and Larissa  
performed at Robert Marks's showcase.  
April 1994

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Prodigy GRHD27A

Little Orphan  
**Annie**