

Annie People



The Little Orphan Annie Fan Club Newsletter

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ANNIE NEWS THIS QUARTER

****LATE FLASH**:** *On August 8 in New York, Martin Charnin and Andrea McArdle presented the new tour/Broadway Annie: JOANNA PACETTI, 12, of Philadelphia.*

PRE-BROADWAY TOUR: Late this fall a national tour of *Annie* will go out, which will star Nell Carter as Miss Hannigan. This tour will then come to Broadway to open in April 1997 for the 20th anniversary revival of *Annie*. The auditions for *Annie* in this production started in early June, and the winner of the role was to be announced in August (*see late flash above*). Originally, it sounded as if the Goodspeed group would feed into Broadway next year, but that is not the case; rather, a separate tour is being formed to end up at New York, and it is this Nell Carter tour. This whole thing of having two major runs at the same time at the end of the year has been very confusing, but we'll try to keep you up to date. I will try to keep putting the latest breaking news about these *Annie* runs on my Web page (*see below*).

The Nell Carter tour has reportedly been booked to open at the Neil Simon Theatre (formerly the Alvin) where *Annie* began on Broadway two decades ago. It is scheduled to open on April 21, 1997, which happens to be the exact 20th anniversary date. Unsubstantiated rumors are around that two new songs are being written into the score for this Broadway revival.

GOODSPEED: *Annie* will be playing at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut from September to December 1996. This is of course where *Annie*, starring Kristen Vigard, started its pre-Broadway run in August 1976. Kathryn Zaremba was originally scheduled to play *Annie* at Goodspeed, but in June it was announced that Kathryn had landed a role on this fall's *The Jeff Foxworthy Show* on NBC-TV and will begin taping this summer. *Annie* veterans Alene Robertson will be Miss Hannigan at Goodspeed, and Ron Holgate will be Oliver Warbucks. As of press time, we had not received word as to whether a new *Annie* had been chosen yet to replace Kathryn. Goodspeed tickets may be ordered at (860) 873-8668.

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WEBSITE: Up to the minute *Annie* news will be put on the "Annie People" section of my Website; check it out periodically this autumn, because there will certainly be updates on the above information. My URL is: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/jamerrill>. I haven't seen my page on too many of the crawlers yet, but at least one of them must have picked it up, because a 13-year-old *Annie* fan in Sweden named Katarina found my page.

☆ Annie Stars Since Annie ☆

KATHRYN ZAREMBA played Annie at the Civic Light Opera production of *Annie* at the Benedum Theatre in Pittsburgh in June. Joining her on stage were **MARCIA LEWIS** and **JOHN SCHUCK**, reprising their Broadway roles of Miss Hannigan and Oliver Warbucks. Look for Kathryn on *The Jeff Foxworthy Show* on NBC-TV this fall. After Kathryn did *Annie* once more in Atlanta this summer, she began taping the sitcom in California. Kathryn had to give up the Goodspeed *Annie* production coming this fall when she received word she had been picked for the TV show....**ANDREA McARDLE** broke her ankle during a performance of *State Fair* on Broadway on June 5 while she was dancing in heels. Production spokesman Mikey Alpert said "she'd been complaining about that shoe all along." Andrea's understudy took over the role until the show closed in early summer....**MARY-PAT GREEN** (*Annie 2: MHR, Annie 2* in Connecticut) played a Russian mail-order bride on a recent episode of the ABC-TV comedy *Step By Step*....**ALLEN FITZPATRICK** (Simon Whitehead in *Annie Warbucks*) played the title role in *Sweeney Todd* at the Goodspeed Opera House this spring. **J. B. ADAMS** (also in *AW*) is currently in the Goodspeed production of *Paper Moon*. Before that he was featured in *Call Me Madam* starring Leslie Uggams at New Jersey's Paper Mill Playhouse in the spring....**KIP NIVEN** (Drake in *AW*) was in the TV movie *Gone In The Night* starring Shannen Doherty on CBS-TV in February....**ALLISON SMITH** guest-starred on *Murder, She Wrote* as one of the suspects. Allison played a young actress on a sitcom that closely resembled *Friends*, and all of the cast were suspects when their producer was murdered....**LIZ LARSEN** (A Star To Be in the 3rd National, half-sister of Broadway Orphan **STEPHANIE VINE**) and **RUTH WILLIAMSON** (Miss Hannigan in 4th National) were in the concert version of *DuBarry Was A Lady* in New York City.... We congratulate **DUFFY**, New Jersey's most-seen Sandy, on performing in his 40th production of *Annie* which was by Phoenix Productions at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, New Jersey in July. Duffy is owned and trained by **PAUL GOLDIE**, who directed the New Jersey premiere of *Annie Warbucks* in 1994 for his theater company, WestRidge Productions.... In September **LARISSA AUBLE** will have played Young Kim on Broadway in *Show Boat* for two years without missing a performance.... **RICHARD SABELLICO** (Rooster on Broadway) directed a revival of the Marx Brothers show *The Cocoanuts* Off-Broadway.... **CAROL BURNETT** was the subject of an hour-long biography called *Just To Have A Laugh* on the A&E cable network.... *Chicago* was recently revived at City Center in New York and featured **ANN REINKING** and **MARCIA LEWIS**. Marcia and **MONICA LEE GRADISCHEK** also completed runs in *Grease* on Broadway this year.... **SARAH JESSICA PARKER** will open in the revival of *Once Upon A Mattress* on Broadway on November 24, with previews starting October 24.... Fans gathered in New Jersey in July at a **DEBBIE GIBSON** fan club convention, at which time we learned that Debbie will play the title role in the upcoming national tour revival of *Funny Girl*.... At the 1996 Tony Awards broadcast in June, **BERNADETTE PETERS** and Liza Minnelli performed the opening number and also presented an award; **ANDREA McARDLE**, **DONNA McKECHNIE**, and **JACKIE ANGELESCU** were part of the number performed on the show from *State Fair*; **SARAH JESSICA PARKER** and Matthew Broderick presented an award; and the show was written by **THOMAS MEEHAN**.

NEW COLLECTIBLE DISCOVERY!

In July 1996 I saw in another collector's collection (and actually touched with my own hands) something of which I had never been aware in 15 years of Annie collecting:

45 rpm record, "I Believe In Christmas" by Andrea McArdle on Eighties records.

The record is on the same label as "Let Me Be Annie For Christmas" by Hally McGehean, which was first found by collector Cynthia Moser in the early '80s, and now of which fewer than a half dozen are known in Annie collections around the country. The single by Andrea was released in 1980 or 1981 when she was 17 or 18 and was written by Russ Faith, who also wrote Hally McGehean's song and was the voice teacher for numerous Broadway *Annie* kids back then. Keep your eyes open for this super rare item!

New Annie Items Are Just What Collectors Want

There are some new Little Orphan Annie collectibles and character news we think you won't want to miss. Last October's release of Annie as part of the "Comic Strip Classics" stamp series issued by the US Postal Service was a big success. Stamp collectors and fans of these comics eagerly purchased many sheets—some to use and some to save. In addition to the stamp pane (that's what the sheet of 20 is called) there are other collectibles relating to the stamp. The Post Office has a mail order service (the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, United States Postal Service, Box 419636, Kansas City, MO 64179-0996 or call 1-800-STAMP24) and has issued several nice items. There is a post card set of all 20 stamp designs for \$7.95, and a program (printed on newsprint to evoke the spirit of the "funny papers" themselves) from the first day ceremony which was held at the Museum of Cartoon Art in Boca Raton Florida on October 1, 1995. The program is \$9.95. An uncut sheet of six panes of stamps is \$38.40.

Very highly recommended is the Commemorative Mint Set for \$24.95. This consists of the companion book to the Comic Strip Classics stamp series and two full panes of comic stamps. The 96-page soft cover book features the stories behind the comic strips and their creators, plus reproductions of actual strips from the golden era of comics. Well-written and exceptionally well-designed, this book will inform you of Little Orphan Annie's status as one of the true classics of this American-born storytelling media. We don't know much about magnets made of some of the stamps that we found in Walgreen's drug stores in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Measuring about 2-1/2" by 3-1/2" and costing \$2.00, these seemed to be available for only a few months.

Robert Tonner is one of the most popular doll artists in America today, creating beautiful porcelain glamorous ladies. His brother John Tonner, a long-time member of the *Annie People Fan Club*, suggested that Robert create an Annie doll, and in 1995, his 13" porcelain Annie doll was issued in an edition of only 250. The doll was the subject of a feature article in *Doll Reader* magazine, and was nominated for a prestigious Doll of The Year Award for Collectible Porcelain over \$250. (The doll's original retail price was \$595—leapin' lizards!) A plush 5" Sandy from The Boyds Collection, Ltd. is included with Annie. This doll is really beautiful and well-made, right down to the tiny locket she wears. It's possible to find a doll store or mail order service that still has Tonner's Annie, and it might be reduced in price since it's last year's issue. It's definitely worth owning.

TCM Associates has issued 5 different prepaid calling cards featuring Leonard Starr's artwork. A folder containing 4 different designs is available for \$20 (each card is worth \$5) and a separate card with a classic Starr drawing of Annie and Sandy is \$3. The folder is nicely done and has a paragraph next to each card describing the characters shown with Annie (Warbucks, Sandy, Professor Eon, The Asp, and Punjab). These cards can be ordered directly from TCM Associates Inc., 3158 Des Plaines Ave., Suite 34, Des Plaines, IL 60018-4220 or call them at 847-827-4620. Phone cards are a relatively new "hot" collectible, and it's encouraging to see Annie selected for something like this; hopefully this will inspire other manufacturers to license her image.

The famous Al Hirschfeld caricature of some of the original cast of Annie (Barbara Erwin, Robert Fitch, Dorothy Loudon, Andrea McArdle, Reid Shelton, Sandy and Raymond Thorne) that was in the *New York Times* and later was featured on the back cover of the large souvenir program is now available on t-shirts and sweatshirts for \$10 each. Call 1-800-ART-TEES for credit card orders. This design would be a great novelty for your Annie t-shirt collection.

Abrams/Gentile Entertainment sends us the exciting news of a new cartoon series that they are beginning to develop. This is a completely different project than the animated Christmas special which came out on video last winter which was the pilot for the

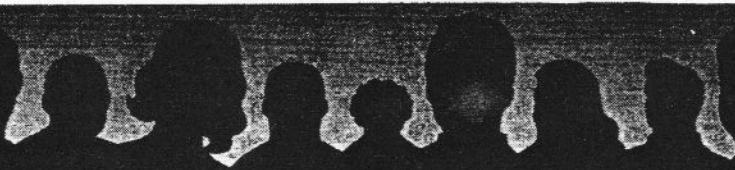
projected "Tomorrow Team" series. "The New Adventures of Annie" will be an animated, action/adventure series taking place in the present day. Abrams/Gentile, who will co-produce the weekly, half-hour show with The Fremantle Corporation, has also acquired worldwide exclusive rights to develop a Little Orphan Annie toy line for distribution by a major toy company and a full licensing program based on the new animated series. There hasn't been an opportunity to walk into a store and buy a new Annie product off the shelf since the summer of 1982, so this will be a

very good opportunity for collectors. The producers recognize that "Annie has charmed the world with her grit and spunk since 1924. The world's most favorite orphan, who belted out 'Tomorrow' on Broadway, will now bring her gentle wit and strong values to today's children—boys and girls alike....Although she's been up to her eyeballs in adventure in comic strips, the movies and onstage, this series marks the first time Annie has had her own television show." Abrams/Gentile has created, designed or produced over 100 half-hours of Saturday morning television programming, including *Sky Dancers*, *Dragon Flyz*, and *HappyNess—The Secret of The Loch* (for which Kathryn Zaremba does one of the characters voices). We will keep you posted on the development of this new series. In the meantime, show your support for Annie by adding some of these great items to your collection!



It's Macy's
search for
Broadway's new

Annie
the 20th Anniversary



Imagine, putting on a great big show like Annie without "Annie." It's unthinkable! Unimaginable even! But you can help! If you're a girl between 7 and 12 years old and 4'6" or under, the starring role in this 20th anniversary Broadway production and national tour could be yours!

Just get your hands on an application in Childrens or Juniors at your Macy's today through June 1. And bring it to the audition at Macy's Herald Square Sun., June 2, 8am sharp at 34th and Broadway (no costumes, please). Annie's director/lyricist Martin Charnin will pick the lucky actresses for final callbacks August 8 at Macy's Herald Square. Only one chaperone may accompany each child auditioning. (This is a belter's role, no sopranos please.) Annie, the Musical of Tomorrow with music by Charles Strouse and book by Thomas Meehan, goes on the road this fall and opens on Broadway Spring 1997.

macy's

Complete details on application form. No purchase necessary. Auditions limited to the first 1200 qualifying.
Based on LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE. Used by permission of Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ad appearing in New York area newspapers May 26, 1996

Theater TOMORROW AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW

PERHAPS SOME PREADOLESCENT GIRLS REMAIN snug in their beds at 8 A.M. this Sunday morning, but you wouldn't know it at Macy's, where the line of patent-leather Mary Janes snakes well around the block: Five hundred girls, all bright-eyed and many bushy-headed, all hoping to be chosen for the title role in the upcoming Broadway revival of *Annie*.

The first pack of twenty is led to the cosmetics counter; on cue, it launches into an exceedingly emphatic rendition of "Tomorrow." Reaching that last high note, it hangs on, come what may.

"Now we're going to have to do what's the most heartbreaking thing of all," says Martin Charnin, the show's director and

lyricist. A few smiles fade. "I know—but I can't have 500 orphans, can I? Five hundred Annies? I mean, *realistically*."

The cycle is repeated 25 or so times. Ninety-seven of the initial 500 are then handed T-shirts and led upstairs to the piano department.

Along the way, 10-year-old Marissa Pontecarvo tries to console her little sister, who feels left out. Having recently won a local beauty pageant ("Thirty-three percent interests, 33 percent appearance, 33 percent poise," her mother chimes in), Marissa has learned the secrets of composure. "I hope I get the part of Annie, but it's a really good experience anyway."

Up on the seventh floor, finalists are clustered again. The smallest girls in the first group are thanked and invited back to try out for supporting roles. "Wait, this

isn't for Annie?" asks Mother No. 21, indignant. "Just for an orphan? Forget it," she says, tugging her daughter out of line. "We're out of here."

Marissa sits down next to her mother and starts to cry. "I don't want to be an orphan," she sputters. Charnin tries to console her, even manages to coax a smile. She leaves with the others.

Addressing the next group of under-size finalists, Charnin is careful to keep it vague. But it is no use: They saw Marissa's tear-stained cheeks, and they call his bluff. "Others have said that the second audition's just for orphans," one mother says, feigning nonchalance. The director does his best to stay calm. "Sarah Jessica Parker started out as an orphan," one of his assistants repeats several times, straining to be heard.

Those who remain, he says, will face a few more hours of trials: singing ("Tomorrow," again) alone and in various groupings, and dancing a brief combination that they learn as they go. Despite her not-quite height, Harley Anne Mott, a red-headed dumpling with a Mason Reese smile, makes the cut.

"What are you here to have?" her mother asks, encouraging her to speak freely.

"Um . . ."

"To have . . . ?" she prompts again.

"Fun," Harley remembers at last.

"And tell her what Mrs. Newman says about you. What you're able to do onstage."

"Smile," says Harley, proving it.

"The other thing . . . ?" A nudge.

"Ad lib."

During her first solo effort, Harley gets flustered and fails to find that high note at the end of the song; by the second time around, she's so shaken that she gestures wildly from her place in formation for her mother to come hold her. Finally, she breaks rank and lands, sobbing, in her mother's lap. Despite his best efforts, not even Charnin can convince her to open her mouth again.

The girls are divided once more, with one group thanked and dismissed. Then everyone sings "Tomorrow" another time, and a further cut is made. Finally, seven hours after the auditions began, 25 hopeful girls remain. Those in charge go into a final huddle. Each has his favorites, but everyone agrees that all the remaining girls should be photographed, congratulated, and called on the phone, though only some of them will be invited back. "We don't want a riot here," Charnin says.

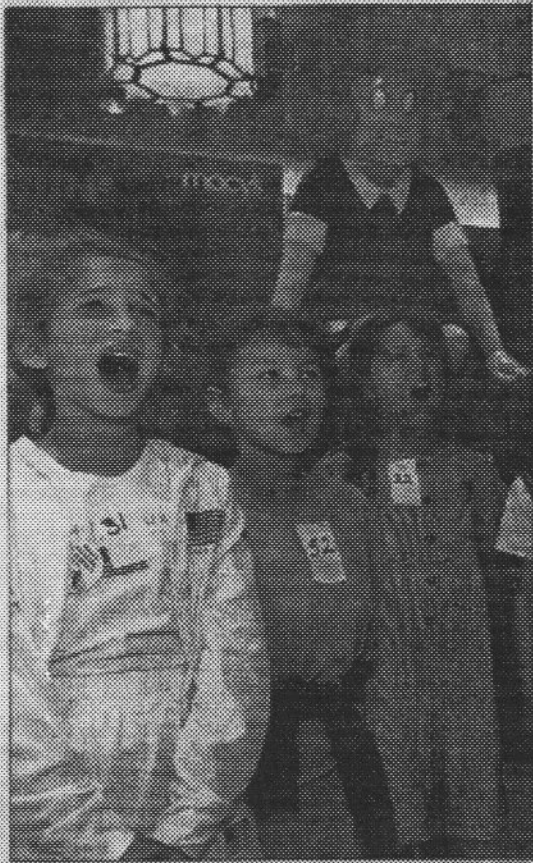
The girls behave like they've all been picked, fluttering their hands and catching their parents' eyes. But Charnin is thinking of the four regional mass auditions yet to come, as well as the disappointing phone calls half these girls can expect. "What can I say," he says, apologizing to the kids for the lack of narrative closure. "Life is not like *A Chorus Line*."

ARIEL KAMINER

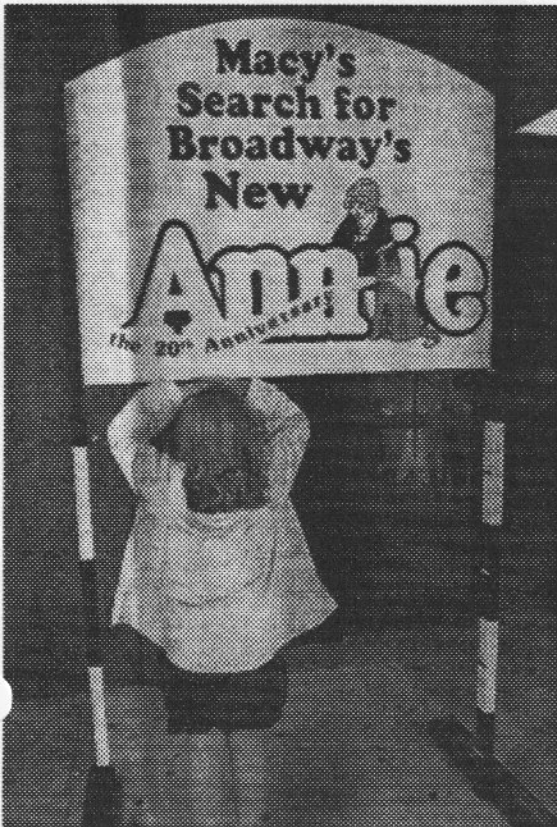
NEW YORK JUNE 17, 1996

*Mrs. Carol Newman is founder and producer of SKIT ShowKids Invitational Theater (SKIT) of High Bridge, NJ
*It's Harley Anne Mott, and she's a long-time member of

ANNIE TIME, ANNIE PLACE



THEY LOVE "TOMORROW": Young hopefuls sing big number "Tomorrow" at audition for a 20th anniversary production of the musical "Annie" at Macy's yesterday. —New York Daily News, June 3, 1996. (Below) Photo from the Newark Star-Ledger showing the height limit sign. June 5, 1996.



Martin Charnin meets the first girls on line at the audition. Article and photo from the Star-Ledger, June 5, 1996

Veteran director has an eye for picking stars of 'Tomorrow'

By SUNA CHANG

If you think trying out for Annie is challenging, try casting for the part.

Imagine having to find the perfect little girl; upon whose young shoulders rests the fate of an expensive Broadway musical. Imagine meeting thousands of little girls, all with stars in their eyes, bows in their hair, and their hopes in your hands. Imagine trying to spot that future Andrea McArdle among the hundreds of other possibilities.

Imagine listening to thousands of little girls sing "Tomorrow" over and over again.

But Martin Charnin has become an old hand at spotting young stars.

The director and lyricist for the original "Annie," Charnin auditioned thousands of girls before casting the then-unknown McArdle as the first Broadway Annie. She debuted on Broadway in 1977 at the age of 13. He met with thousands more to recast the part after McArdle left the role (she got too tall after a year), and recast three more times since. He launched another wide-scale call to find the perfect Annie for the not-as-successful sequel, "Annie 2."

Now, he's eager to discover the newest Annie.

"After twenty years, I have become trained, to find who's got that special thing in the eyes," said Charnin, as he took a short break from Sunday's audition. "Some young kids don't necessarily have the gray matter upstairs to carry the enormity of this role."

But there's more.

"I look for a fierceness, a spark," said Charnin. "Obviously, the girl has to sing but she also needs to look me in the eye. Those who are too shy, who

can't look me in the eye, they just sort of disappear."

Charnin needs to be smooth (translation: kind) with a number of the kids, and sometimes the parents, but then, he's very serious about these casting calls. They're just not for publicity; in fact, such pivotal people as producer Rodger Hess and stage manager Bryan Young also assess the young actresses.

"Over the years, there have been quite a few times I have had mixed feelings about these calls," said Thomas Meehan, who wrote the book for "Annie." "This excitement of the children who come all dolled up and eager and then we select a very small number of them. I feel strangely mean to send them away in tears ... but then it's thrilling to find that one."

Especially if that one can carry the show.

By the time the original Broadway production of "Annie" finished its run of 2,377 performances, the show had earned \$225 million during its long six-year run, won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and had gone through five different Annies.

And except for McArdle, all were from New Jersey. In fact, the remaining four Annies — Shelley Bruce, Sarah Jessica Parker, Allison Smith and Alyson Kirk — are all from Bergen County. Smith, who went on to star as Jane Curtin's daughter in the television show "Kate and Allie," enjoyed the longest run (2½ years) as the star.

What is it about this state?

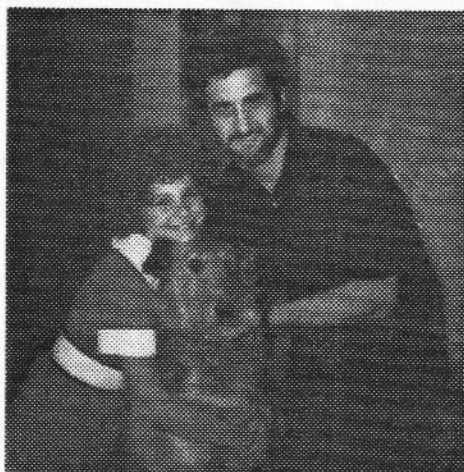
"We always have good luck with this area," Meehan said. "You get the best types here, for some reason."

Annie at the Civic Light Opera in Pittsburgh, PA • June 18 - 30, 1996

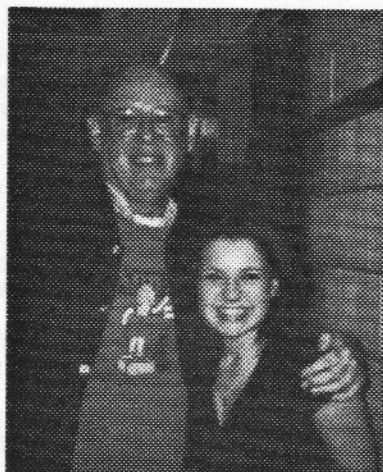


(above) Heather Masur, Annie in Pittsburgh in July 1989, with Adrienne Welsch (Tessie) and Megan Welsch

(left) Mark Baker (Rooster), Marcia Lewis (Miss Hannigan), Amanda Crocker (Orphan), and Kathryn Zaremba (Annie)



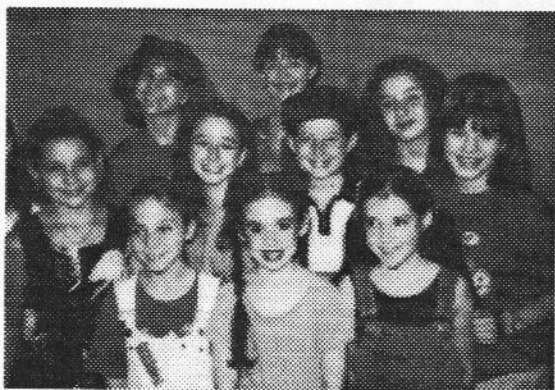
Kathryn, Cindy Lou as Sandy and Cindy Lou's owner, trainer and handler, Bill Berloni



Jon and Elisabeth Zaremba
Jon's t-shirt is from the July 1989 Civic Light Opera show



Kathryn, Cindy Lou and Cynthia Moser wearing the t-shirt from the Off-Broadway production which starred Kathryn in 1993



Back row: Adrienne Welsch (Tessie), Kelly Lynch (Pepper). Middle row: Kathryn Zaremba (Annie), Caitlin Reilly (July), Amanda Crocker (Orphan), Alece DeLuca (Orphan), Rebecca Nance (Orphan). Front row: Eliza Chetlin (Orphan), Stephanie Maloney (Molly), Erissa Scalera (Orphan).



Above: Jessica McKenzie (Orphan), Tara Blakemore (Kate), Liz Schaldenbrand (Duffy).



Tricia with the Zaremba sisters



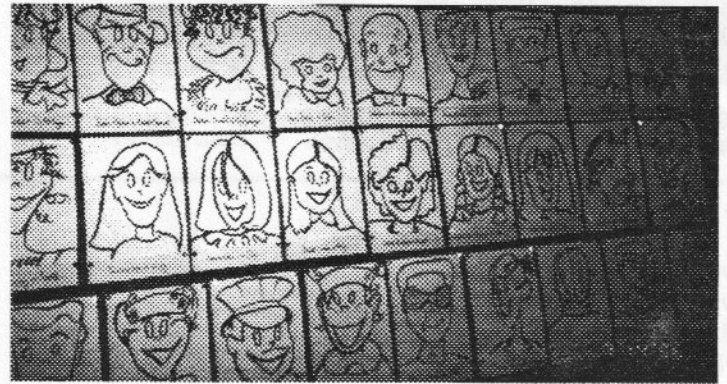
Submitted by Robert Fitch. Photo from the Waltham, MA News Tribune, June 20, 1996

Waltham, MA, June 1996 – Jesse Sinerate with Wags Conners as Sandy for the Reagle Players production. Robert Fitch directed, recreated Peter Gennaro's original choreography, and played Rooster, the role he created on Broadway. Gary Kimble played Warbucks.



(left) Annie People Fan Club member Leigh Ritz with a Blue Ribbon Winning Annie blanket that her aunt made

(Below) this unusual cast list lobby display is from the Phoenix Productions in Red Bank, NJ. Instead of photographs, black and white cartoon drawings of each cast member in character were drawn in Annie style—blank eyes, of course!



Lincoln NE – Anna A. White as Annie with her "Daddy" Warbucks and Sandy



(above) Phoenix Productions, Red Bank, NJ July 1996 – Alexis Krauss and Duffy (left) newspaper ad from the New York Daily News for State Fair. Andrea McArdle is the blonde (!) in front right.

Sun still comes out for McArdle



By Richard Brasten

Staged orphan: A 13-year Andrea McArdle, in a pensive moment in 1977 performance

WASHINGTON — Growing up onstage in *Annie* was “surreal,” says **Andrea McArdle**, now a 32-year-old wife and mother of **Alexis, 7**, who wants to be in *Annie*, too.

“But I had the best time,” adds McArdle, who’s out of *State Fair* for a while with a broken foot.

A shot from *Annie* is among 84 photos in a free Kennedy Center exhibit. Others in the show, shot by Center photographers: Rudolf Nureyev, Henry Fonda, James Earl Jones.

By Kitty Bean Yancey

from USA Today, June 20, 1996



Bill Berloni’s Cindy Lou with her “pawtograph.”

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**Little Orphan
Annie**