

Annie People



The Little Orphan Annie Fan Club Newsletter

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Tricia Trozzi, Editor and Publisher

Member of:

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20th Anniversary Tour Extended Into 1999

I hope that all of our *Annie People* readers have been able to make it to the 20th Anniversary Tour at least once since the show began its cross-country journey last October. Here are the future tour dates as taken from the web site (<http://www.annie20th.com>) but is subject to possible change:

Week of:	City	Week of:	City	Week of:	City
7/21/98	Rosemont, IL	11/3/98	Boston, MA	2/9/99	Edmonton, AB
7/26/98		11/8/98		2/14/99	
7/28/98	Columbus, OH	11/10/98	Atlanta, GA	2/16/99	Spokane, WA
8/2/98		11/15/98		2/21/99	
8/4/98	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	11/17/98	Indianapolis, IN	2/23/99	Portland, OR
8/9/98		11/22/98		2/28/99	
8/11/98	Tampa, FL	11/24/98	Milwaukee, WI	3/2/99	Little Rock, AK
8/16/98		11/29/98		3/7/99	
8/18/98	Orlando, FL	12/1/98	Minneapolis, MN	3/9/99	Des Moines, IA
8/23/98		12/6/98		3/14/99	
9/8/98	Toronto, ON	12/8/98	Iowa City, IA	3/16/99	Detroit, MI
9/20/98		12/13/98		3/21/99	
9/29/98	Tempe, AZ	12/15/98	Salt Lake City, UT	3/23/99	Washington, DC
10/4/98		12/20/98		5/2/99	
10/6/98	New Orleans, LA	12/22/98	San Francisco, CA	5/4/99	Wallingford, CT
10/11/98		1/3/99		5/9/99	
10/13/98	Louisville, KY	1/12/99	Los Angeles, CA	5/11/99	Philadelphia, PA
10/18/98		1/24/99		5/16/99	
10/20/98	Cincinnati, OH	1/26/99	Seattle, WA		
11/1/98		2/7/99			

Annie

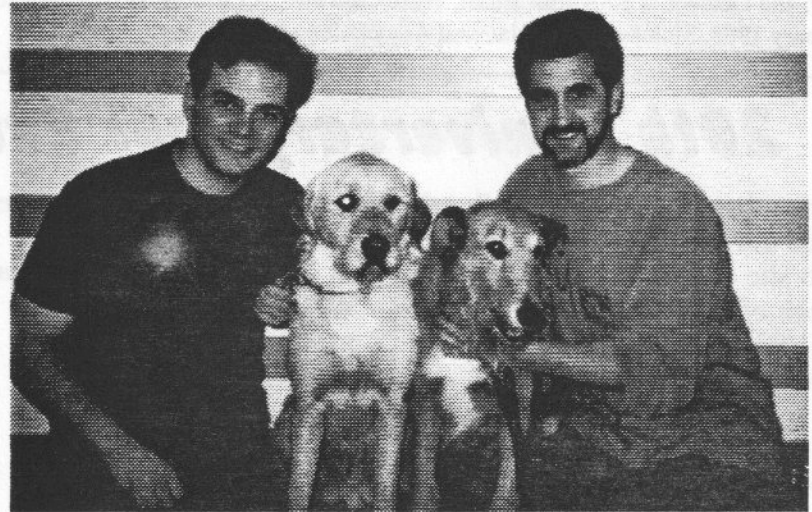
AT THE
NEW JERSEY
PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER
JUNE 12-14, 1998



Tricia with Alene Robertson (Mrs. Greer/
Frances Perkins).



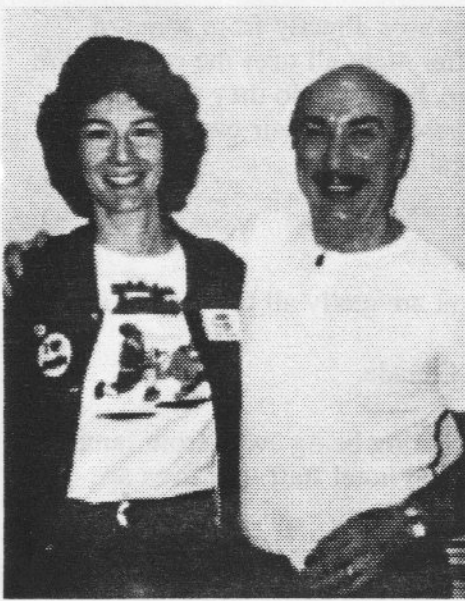
A complete set of 6 Orphans (plus)—in front, Victoria Pontecorvo (Molly),
Kristen Alderson (former Molly). Back row, Jordan Jessica Upmalis
(Pepper), Jane Bailey Patterson (swing), Tessa Ludwick (Kate), Bianca
Collins (Duffy), Jamie Hughes (July), Courtney Leigh (Tessie), Casey
Tuma (former July).



Todd Serenbetz is the Animal Handler for the tour. Buster, the understudy,
appears as the stray dog that the dog catchers put in the cart just before
Annie finds Sandy. Cindy Lou wins over the audience as Sandy. Bill
Berloni is the owner and trainer of both dogs, and many other "Sandys."



Karen L. Byers (Lily St. Regis) and Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell) relax during
the dinner break between Saturday's performances. Karen was in the
ensembles of **Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge** in Washington DC
and **Annie 2** at Goodspeed-at-Chester in 1990. Lisa joined the 20th
Anniversary company at the end of the New York engagement.



Left: Tricia with Laurent Giroux (Rooster Hannigan). Laurent played Warbucks' lawyer, Felix Frankfurter, in **Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge**, and also was in the ensemble for **Annie 2**.

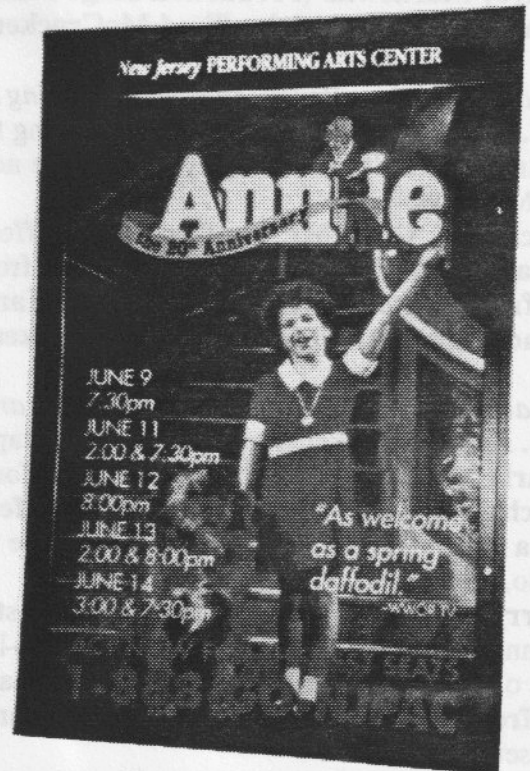


Right: Sally Struthers (Miss Hannigan) and Conrad John Schuck (Oliver Warbucks) share a smile before the performance. Sally joined the tour in early January 1998.



Above: Britny Kissinger (Annie) and Tricia.

Below: Tricia with the one-and-only FDR, Raymond Thorne. Ray has played FDR since the very beginning at the Good-speed Opera House in 1976, all through the original Broadway run, and through all of the sequels (**Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge**, **Annie 2**, and **Annie Warbucks**).



Michael E. Gold (Mr. Bundles/Sound Effects Man) with Tricia. He was also in the ensemble for **Annie Warbucks** in NYC.

A questionnaire was sent to people in the 20th Anniversary Tour Company to hear directly from some of those talented individuals who are bringing our favorite show to life night after night all over the country. We admire their fine work during the performance, whether onstage or backstage, but what do they think about their participation in Annie history? We are please to share their thoughts, presented in their own words. Many thanks to those who took the time to respond, listed here in alphabetical order.

What is your favorite aspect of touring?

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): Sampling America.

Marla Egan (Stage Manager): Seeing how different places on this continent are really all the same—small world.

Michael E. Gold (Mr. Bundles/Sound Effects Man): Seeing the U.S. and Canada.

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): I love seeing new parts of the country!

Larry Kleiber (Swing): I am a big fan of touring—I always have been. Excepting being away from family and friends, there's no simpler way to live—between our company manager and hotel staff, our lives are totally taken care of.

Jeffrey Markowitz (Production Stage Manager): Seeing old friends in various places.

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): Travelling, exploring new towns, per diem.

What is your least favorite aspect of touring?

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): Having to travel and pack once a week.

Marla Egan (Stage Manager): There are no days off for the crew. We are lucky if we only have to travel on Mondays.

Michael E. Gold (Mr. Bundles/Sound Effects Man): Miserable people! Lugging bags!

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): Being away from my husband and living out of a suitcase.

Jeffrey Markowitz (Production Stage Manager): Being away from New York and my wife.

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): Definitely living out of a suitcase.

What do you do during the tour when you are not at the theater?

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): VCR taping/watching, movies, sleep, go on-line.

Marla Egan (Stage Manager): SLEEP! Tourism—some small cities have hidden treasures.

Michael E. Gold (Mr. Bundles/Sound Effects Man): Sight-see, rollerblade, tennis, canoe, gym, etc.

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): My roommate and I try to see as much of the town as possible—all the sights. Also, work out!

Larry Kleiber (Swing): When I'm not on stage, which is a lot, I read, write letters, listen to music, etc.

Strange as it may seem, I watch the show—lots—from backstage, different parts every night. I truly do not tire of it. It also helps keep me on top of changes and my tracks [roles] in the show.

Jeffrey Markowitz (Production Stage Manager): In the rare free moment on the road, I might ski or golf, museum or mall.

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): Pretty much the norm—eat, shop, go to movies.

What is your favorite bit that you do in the show—what do you look forward to performing every night?

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): Pinching Annie [in "I Think I'm Gonna Like it Here"].

Michael E. Gold (Mr. Bundles/Sound Effects Man): Enjoy Bundles, sound man, Marine but really like it all.

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): The faint when Warbucks says, "Grace, that's a very pretty dress."

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): Harold Ickes, no question.

What is your most difficult moment in the show (a particularly fast costume change, a line that just won't stay in your head, an emotion which is difficult to portray)?

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): As Morgenthau: "The trouble is it's all happening at once..."

Michael E. Gold (Mr. Bundles/Sound Effects Man): Carrying that darn MONA LISA!

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): The high heels. By the end of the week my dogs are tired.

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): After two years, it's all pretty much a second skin.

What do you like about the rehearsal process (discovering your character, and watching the whole production come together)? What input/direction did Martin and/or Tom give to you about your character?

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): Loathe rehearsing. Love previews before opening when trying out things with an audience.

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): I wasn't part of that process.

Larry Kleiber (Swing): Because I joined the show without the benefit of the rehearsal process, it was more difficult to learn—I had four blocking/choreography rehearsals, two music rehearsals, and finally one rehearsal with the company, and I was on Broadway!

Jeffrey Markowitz (Production Stage Manager): Making it possible for the authors and creatives to get as much done as efficiently as possible.

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): I find rehearsal t-e-d-i-o-u-s.

Since these characters are so familiar to many theatergoers, what unique things do you try to bring to your portrayal? Do you make different choices when there is a cast change and you are now acting with a new person?

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): For Drake: Arthur Treacher/John Gielgud. For Bert Healy: Arthur Godfrey/Jack Benny.

Michael E. Gold (Mr. Bundles/Sound Effects Man): Just me and yes, things change as actors do. Always a challenge.

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): I just bring my vision to the character.

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): Since all actors are different, every portrayal is unique.

With all the changes the show has gone through, with lines/songs cut out and other ones changed, how do you keep from saying the old lines which you have had memorized for so long?

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): Easily forget all lines I don't have to say.

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): It's only difficult if you're tired or on auto-pilot. If you keep yourself rested and focussed it's not a problem.

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): Memory!

How do you keep your performance fresh night after night? Do you use any specific acting techniques to keep your performance truthful and make it exciting for yourself to continue playing the role?

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): If it's fresh, I guess by just listening to the play as it unfolds without telegraphing results.

Michael E. Gold (Mr. Bundles/Sound Effects Man): Just listen to the words as if I'm hearing them for the first time.

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): I make sure I'm focussed and I take what I'm getting on stage—that's where my reactions are based. I also find the joy each night.

Larry Kleiber (Swing): Because I don't do the show every night, I don't have the challenge of keeping the show fresh over long periods of time. My challenges are unique to swings.

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): Who knows?

Can you relate any on-stage bloopers (either yours or someone else's) or funny/weird things that have happened? (costume ripping, went onstage without a prop, went up on your lines, kids from the audience talking back...) (This is not to imply anything negative about anybody, but it is live theater and you are all only human!)

J.B. Adams (Drake/Morgenthau): Warbucks called me "Grace" once.

Marla Egan (Stage Manager): We do often have children speak to the stage but specifics are not that interesting.

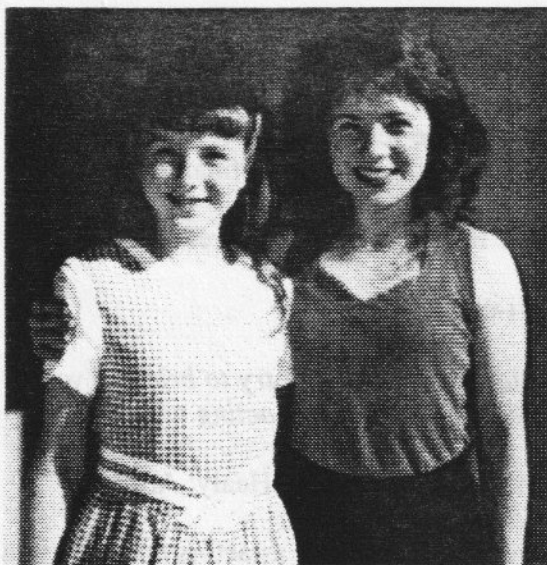
Michael E. Gold (Mr. Bundles/Sound Effects Man): Was missing bow tie as servant, props quickly made one with black gaffers tape!

Lisa Gunn (Grace Farrell): After Drew Taylor had gone on for Warbucks in NYC he was given a horrible Hitler-esque wig to wear as his normal track. It was the worst! A most funny experience—everyone was cracking up.

Jeffrey Markowitz (Production Stage Manager): I'd get shot if I told ya! Well, there was the bird that got trapped in the auditorium somewhere...

Brad Wills (Harold Ickes/Fred McCracken): No, better not.

...TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE



submitted by Kristen Calvin



February 1998—*Annie* People Fan Club charter member Larry Skrdla with Sally Struthers and Conrad John Schuck at the 20th Anniversary Tour in Detroit, Michigan.

both photos submitted by Larry Skrdla

1998—12-year-old Kristen Calvin with Aileen Quinn at *Peter Pan*.

In our October 1996 issue, we showed a candy wrapper from the 1930s. Here is another food product from the 1930s that we just discovered: Biscuits (cookies) baked by Sunshine. The box is 5½" wide by 3" tall, with a string handle like Animal Cracker boxes. I wonder what the cookies tasted like!

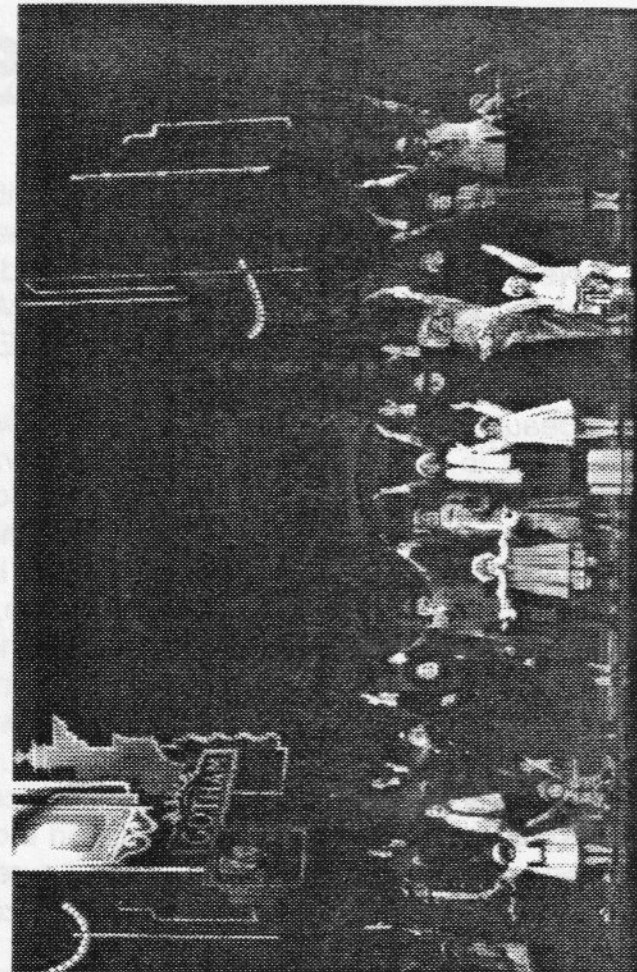
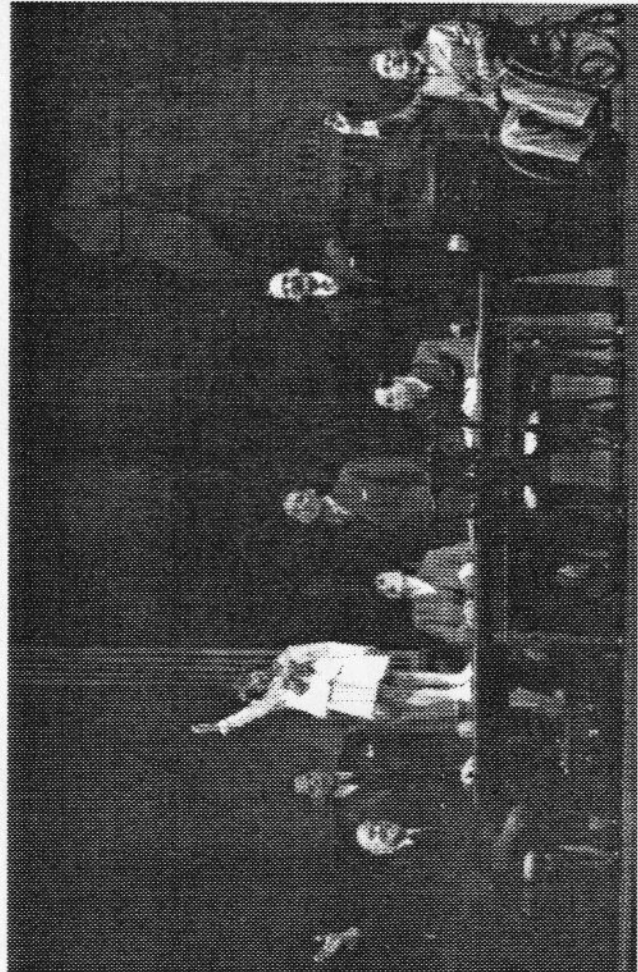


submitted by Larry Skrdla

October 1997—Larry Skrdla with Andrea McArdle at *Oliver!* in Toledo, Ohio.

SCENES FROM THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION ON BROADWAY

Original Broadway Company of March 1997. Photo credit: 1997 Carol Rosegg. Submitted by Cromarty & Co.



☆ Annie Stars Since Annie ☆

ROBERT FITCH writes that he is currently starring as Will Rogers' father in *The Will Rogers Follies*, which is being performed at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, New Jersey. Bob had previously played this role in the Broadway production of this show several years ago. At the Paper Mill, Will Rogers is being played by John Davidson, who played ANDREA McARDLE's father in *State Fair* on Broadway in 1996 ...DEBORAH GIBSON just finished up a nine-month run playing Belle in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway. Her bio in the program states that she still intends to bring her original musical *Skirts* to Broadway. This project of Deborah's (which started out as a future movie screenplay) has been in the works for many years. Her latest album, *Deborah*, is her sixth. Long before Deborah became an international recording superstar in the late '80s as Debbie Gibson, she played July in a production of *Annie* in Farmingdale, New York in 1983 when she was 13. She tried out for the Broadway *Annie* national tours back then but never landed a role, because "I was always too tall!"...Former Rooster GARY BEACH is back playing Lumiere in *Beauty in the Beast* and is winning raves from the audience with his energetic performance of "Be Our Guest"....*Annie 2/Annie Warbucks'* LAUREN GAFFNEY has teamed up with Miss America, Kate Shindle, in the fight against AIDS. Several years ago Lauren organized Kids CAN!, a group dedicated to raising youth awareness of the disease. Says Lauren, "Our mission is to educate teens about AIDS and to link them with other organizations in their area that need help."

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