

# Annie People



MEMBER

A Newsletter for Annie Fans

No. 8, March 1984

Published by Jon Merrill, Box 431, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey 07927

Artwork by Tricia Trozzi

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Price: Free

Annie People is proud to have just become registered in the National Association of Fan Clubs. This nationally known and highly respected organization is the source of information for anyone wanting to join a fan club or start one.

ANNOUNCING: The Allison Smith Fan Club is now in operation. Write to Polly Mortensen, 6751 Meade Street, Hollywood, Florida 33024. The fee is \$4.00, which is for a membership card, an 8 X 10 photo of Allison, a fact sheet, and a subscription to a quarterly newsletter. We highly recommended this new club for fans (aren't we all?) of B'way's longest-running Annie.

Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Lee Costello, Annie Fan Club, 850 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10019 to get on the mailing list for the upcoming Annie Fan Club when it is formed. Shelley Bruce will be the president, and the club is expected to begin in the middle of the year. And write to Christopher White, 1010 Elm Street, St. Charles, IL 60174 for information on his very fine Andrea McArdle Fan Club.

Space does not permit us to put an Annie fan pen pal listing in Annie People, but if you would like to be on such a list and receive it, send your name, address, age, and particular Annie interests to Annie People, and we'll send a list out as a separate mailing.





Well, I finally saw the musical Annie, and I loved it. It was really like seeing it on Broadway, because it was produced in a beautiful 1,800-seat theater that's being restored, built in 1931 in the art deco style by the Warner Brothers studios.

Donald Tanner  
Torrington, CT

Do you have in your collection the following items: the Annie "Walkaround" radio by Prime Designs, another radio from Prime Designs in the shape of Warbucks' Duesenberg, the Annie Button Maker, and Annie Frozen Snacks by DCA Food Industries, Inc. Most of these items were never offered around here...

Sara Aschom  
Prairie du Chien, WI

Of those, I have only the Button Maker. I don't think those things were too common in the East, either. Anyone else know about them? --Ed.

I love your newsletter. It keeps me up on what's going on...Could you please send me all the rest of the (back) issues?

Laura Baker  
(July, Broadway)  
Simi Valley, CA

...the present Annie story is really interesting. It's full of action, and with Mr. Am there now, we can expect the plot to get pretty complicated. I miss Annie's cheerful presence, though. Annie's lurking around in the shadows like some evil mutant. Where's her heart of gold?

Chris Whelan  
Madison, WI

Yes! You're right! That line in "Let Me Be Annie for Christmas" is "I'll teach Miss Hannigan to laugh again..." I played that part over and over, but I could never figure it out...

Cynthia Moser  
Salt Lake City, UT

Cynthia is referring to the record done in 1980 by Hally McGehean, who was Pepper on Broadway. It was written by Mr. Russ Faith of Philadelphia, voice teacher to Hally and numerous other former Annies and Orphans. The record is really good, but it would be extremely hard to find now. --Ed.

It was a great thrill to see Annie People...To be part of your lives in this way gives me a great pleasure...

Charles Strouse  
New York, NY

Update on TONI ANN "MOLLY" GISONDI  
Atlantic City, February 10, 1984

What is the latest with the pretty and talented young actress with the big brown eyes that brought the character of Molly to the screen in Annie? Well, Toni Ann Gisondi is now getting to be more Annie-sized than Molly-sized, having just turned 9 this past New Year's Day. The impish grin is still there, though, and yes, so are the big eyes, which still dance when she smiles.

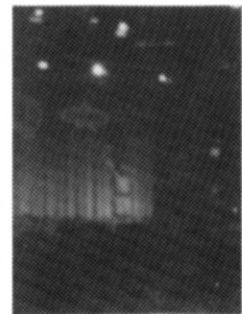
And best of all, she continues to perform. Ever since the filming of Annie ended just as she began first grade, Toni Ann has sung and danced regularly at Atlantic City functions, especially at the annual March of Dimes telethon, which she has done almost every year since she was 4. During the summer she sings weekly at the Boardwalk Star Revue on the famous Boardwalk, and



she also sang the National Anthem at a Rangers-Flyers hockey game. Toni Ann says that the songs she sings the most when she performs are "Home" from The Wiz, the Ice Castles theme, and "New York, New York," which is what we heard her sing at this year's March of Dimes telethon at Convention Hall. When she sang, we noticed a lot of new maturity in her singing voice. Dressed in a pink and white dress with a pink ribbon in her hair, she was enthusiastically applauded by the audience. Atlantic City is very proud of Toni Ann Gisondi.

Toni Ann has a younger sister named Lisa who sings and dances also. Lisa, now six years old, reminded Tricia and me a lot of Toni Ann at that age in the movie. And quite possibly the 2-year-old Gisondi twins, Linda and Kristen, will also grow into being talented performers like their older sisters.

I asked Toni Ann what was the one thing she remembered best about being in Annie. She thought for an minute, then stated most emphatically, "meeting new kids!" That well-known picture of six bedraggled Orphans on the steps of the Mansion, Mrs. Gisondi explained, was actually true to life and not staged. They really were exhausted, taking a quick rest between takes at some awful hour of the morning. Toni Ann's mother also described the nightly ordeal of washing out the grease from Toni Ann's hair, only to have the make-up people on the set put it right back the next morning. In reality, Toni Ann has dark brown hair, not black; it was greased daily that it would look dirty in the Orphanage scenes.



One mystery I just had to get Toni Ann to clear up for me, I mean aside from naming incidental Orphans in the movie, was to find out what she says near the end of "It's the Hard-Knock Life" on the soundtrack album. It is hard to hear because the Orphan chorus is singing at the same time. (Molly: "...mud in your eye...egg in your beer ...hair on your chest...")



The future? Right now it looks as if Toni Ann will happily keep on doing exactly what she has been doing, and that includes enjoying third grade and collecting "Smelly Stickers" and Annie memorabilia. In any event, for someone who enjoys performing as much as Toni Ann Gisondi, I'm sure we'll all have the pleasure of seeing a lot more of her.

# ★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

Beginning on March 19 and continuing for the next six Mondays on CBS, a new TV series featuring ALLISON SMITH will be aired. It is called Kate and Allie, and Allison plays Jennie in the program featuring two mothers and their kids in New York City. Allison was also seen in ABC's Another Twist on March 10... The March of Dimes Telethon in Atlantic City in February drew a host of local talent from various productions of Annie over the years. On Friday the 10th three of them entertained with singing: from the Broadway cast came LOREN KAUFMAN, the last July, and NICOLE NOWICKI, a former Kate. And the movie was represented by its Molly, TONI ANN GISONDI. Several former national touring company Annie performers sang on other days during the 56-hour telethon... ANDREA McARDLE is starring with Leslie Uggams and Carol Channing in Jerry's Girls, which just opened in Florida and will then go on the road, possibly Broadway-bound. Watch for it in your area...ROBIN IGNICO will be seen this summer in the theaters in a new movie called Boys Will Be Boys...KRISTI COOMBS will soon be back on the stage, which is good news, since her Broadway show, Marilyn, closed last fall after only two weeks. Kristi's new play, Kicks, will begin its run at the Kennedy Center in Washington and then move to Broadway. Does that pattern sound familiar?...SHELLEY BRUCE is singing with a new band called A.K.A. and will soon be doing clubs around New York. Shelley also recently appeared on a TV talk show in Detroit called Kelly and Company. Thanks to loyal Annie fan and Annie People supporter Larry Skrdla, a copy of AP was shown on TV during the program. It seems Larry was in the audience during Shelley's interview and was asked to stand up and be recognized by talk show host John Kelly. Mr. Kelly and Shelley and Larry talked about the Annie Fan Club and Annie People and about Larry's Annie room, pictures of which were also seen on TV...The start of the filming of Annie II, starring AILEEN QUINN, ALBERT FINNEY, and ANN REINKING, has been pushed back to June...LAURA BAKER, Broadway's last July, played the title role in a production of Annie last year in Oxnard, California. That makes three of Broadway's last group of Orphans, along with JENNINE BABO and STEPHANIE VINE, who moved up into the role of Annie in post-Broadway productions after Broadway closed...SARAH JESSICA PARKER appears in Footloose, which just hit local movie houses...PATTI GILBERT, who played Pepper when 3rd National opened with ROSANNE SORRENTINO as Annie, is now singing with a rock band and was in the film Blow-Out...ALBERT FINNEY has landed an Oscar nomination for his starring role in The Dresser...DOROTHY LOUDON, Broadway's original Miss Hannigan, is currently starring on Broadway in Noises Off...KEN SWOFFORD, the man in blue who led a wandering Annie back to the waiting arms of Miss Hannigan at the Orphanage in the movie, is now on the TV show Fame...News of some Annie old-timers: SHIRLEY BELL, the voice of Little Orphan Annie on the radio in the 1930s, is now living in Chicago and Palm Springs. ANN GILLES, who starred in the second Little Orphan Annie movie in 1938, lives in Brussels, Belgium. And MITZI GREEN, the very first screen Annie in 1932 (see AP #7), passed away about ten years ago. BIRTHDAYS: JULIE STEVENS, 14 on March 22; SARAH JESSICA PARKER, 19 on March 25, CAROL BURNETT, 50 on April 26; SHELLEY BRUCE, 19 on May 5; ALBERT FINNEY, 48 on May 9.

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When asked by the New York Post about his remembrances of being in the movie and about the movie's mixed reviews, GEOFFREY HOLDER replied, "I thought the movie was an absolute delight. It's just like The Wizard of Oz, which was criticized when it came out because it didn't star Shirley Temple. But wait and see. Years from now we'll still be going to see Annie."

BROADWAY AND NATIONAL TOURING COMPANY ANNIES

By Tricia Trozzi

Thanks go out to the AP readers who have helped us with "Annie Puzzler" #2 from the first issue of Annie People about the names of all the national touring company Annies. With your help, I think we have it pretty straight now. How about it? Have we left anyone out? Can anyone fill in some of the missing dates?

<u>Company</u>	<u>Opening City</u>	<u>Actress Who Played Annie</u>	<u>Starting Date</u>
BROADWAY	New York	Andrea McArdle	4/21/77
		Shelley Bruce	3/6/78
		Sarah Jessica Parker	3/6/79
		Allison Smith	1/29/80
		Alyson Kirk	9/8/82
	Closed: 1/2/83		
1ST NATIONAL	Toronto	Kathy-Jo Kelly	3/23/78
		Mary K. Lombardi	4/ /79
		Theda Stemler	9/30/80
		Louanne	5/20/81
		Becky Snyder	
	Closed: 9/6/81		
2ND NATIONAL	San Francisco	Patty Patts	6/22/78
		Louanne	
		Marisa Morwell	
		Kristi Coombs	12/29/80
	Closed:		
3RD NATIONAL	Dallas	Rosanne Sorrentino	10/3/79
		Bridget Walsh	3/27/81
		Becky Snyder	
	Closed:		
4TH NATIONAL	West Point	Mollie Hall	9/11/81
		Kathleen Sisk	
	Closed:		

Further questions: 1ST NATIONAL - When did Becky Snyder become Annie? How about Mary K. Lombardi? 2ND NATIONAL - When did Louanne and Marisa Morwell each become Annie? Was there another Annie after Kristi Coombs? When did 2nd National close? 3RD NATIONAL - When did Becky Snyder become Annie? Was there anyone after Becky? When did 3rd National close? 4TH NATIONAL - When did Kathleen Sisk become Annie? Was she the last? When did 4th National close?

We have so far attempted to send Annie People to everyone on the list except Kathy-Jo Kelly, Mary K. Lombardi, Theda Stemler, and Patty Patts. If anyone hears about a theater any of them are appearing at now, or any other way we can get Annie People to them, please let us know.

It is interesting to note that there never was a date on which all four national touring companies played at the same time. 4th National actually did not open until six days after 1st National closed. But they all did play for at least part of September 1981, which we could call the peak saturation month for Annie on tour.

## ANNIE MOVIE TRIVIA QUIZ

How well do you remember the movie? Well, have a go at Annie People's exclusive Annie Movie Trivia Quiz!! The Annie People staff has drawn up a series of questions about the film, which start off easy at No. 1 and get harder and harder on up to No. 20. Send in your answers to Annie People, and the readers with the most correct answers will be listed in the next issue as the Official Annie People Movie Trivia Champions. GOOD LUCK!

### EASY

1. What were the Mudges' first names?
2. Where did "Daddy" Warbucks tell the Servants to hang his new painting?
3. What did Punjab use to suspend himself from the autocopter to rescue Annie?
4. Which Orphan got a mouthful of mop from Molly?
5. What did Drake the butler do when Annie and Sandy first entered the room?

### NOT TOO HARD

6. On what street was Miss Hannigan's Orphanage located?
7. Whose portrait was behind Annie, "Daddy" Warbucks, and President and Mrs. Roosevelt when they were all singing "Tomorrow"?
8. What was the very last spoken line in the movie?
9. What did the Orphans say was "the perfect name for this dumb-lookin' dog"?
10. What was Annie doing when we first saw her in the red dress?

### PRETTY HARD

11. Which Orphan sang the line, "So, maybe now this prayer's the last one of its kind" in "Maybe" when the Orphans all sang it?
12. When they were gussying themselves up to go to the movies, what advice did Annie give Grace, advice which Grace followed beginning the next day?
13. Which scene in the movie was filmed first, in other words, in what scene was Aileen at her youngest?
14. Where did we see the date "July 3, 1933" in the movie?
15. Which two Orphan actresses were in Really Rosie before doing Annie?

### RIDICULOUSLY HARD

16. How many times was "Leapin' Lizards" said by someone other than Annie?
17. For what reason is Annie mentioned in the Guinness Book of World Records?
18. Where in Annie is there an example of Pig Latin (Igpay Atinlay)?
19. Which Broadway Annie was offered a part in one of the songs in the movie?
20. In what scene do we hear July called by name by one of the other Orphans?

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### BOSTON TEENAGER WATCHES ANNIE FOR 60 HOURS STRAIGHT!

One day a year ago in February, 15-year-old Stephen Russo of Revere, Massachusetts, sat down in front of a TV set to watch Annie on a VCR. That doesn't sound so unusual, except that he did not stop watching it for another two and a half days. It was all part of his attempt to set an all-time record for movie-watching, and thereby get his name into the Guinness Book of World Records. Reporters from the Boston Herald were on hand to document the feat, and there were also several friends on hand, no doubt in shifts, to urge Stephen on and help him stay awake by feeding him lots of coffee. Some 60 hours later, Stephen finally turned the movie off, after having watched it about 25 times nonstop. He reports having been hallucinating toward the end.

Annie movie fan extraordinaire Stephen at last report is now nearing the 100 mark for times seeing Annie. He also reads the Leonard Starr strip and finally did see the play--last summer during Alyson Kirk's tour. He credits the character of Annie as being "a major part of his life" and will no doubt keep right on seeing the movie even after the century mark is passed.

But will Stephen make the Guinness book? His record in the name of Annie fandom was documented according to rigid Guinness standards, but the log books were lost in the mail enroute to England. Now, that's the hard-knock life.



Renee Shields just finished a run of Annie in Florida. At just eight years, three months, Renee believes she may be the youngest so far to play Annie on the stage. Any readers know of any others as young as Renee?

**THE SEQUELS:** The Broadway sequel to Annie is still in the writing stage, and it is possible that its debut may not occur this year after all, but rather early next year. Filming of the movie sequel will now begin in June, rather than March, but we have not heard of any change so far to the projected Christmas '84 release date. As usual, we at Annie People will be sure to keep you posted.

**COLLECTORS:** The Annieness Arcade is a list put out by Annie People of Annie items for sale. Included this time is the set of Annie movie bubblegum cards that were made in Europe and were never sold in the United States. This is undoubtedly the rarest Annie movie collectible of all-time, and I now have a few available. Write to Annie People for your free Annieness Arcade list.

**FAN MAIL:** Many readers have written us about addresses of Annie stars. Annie People does not give out home addresses from its mailing list; however, if you would like to write to an Annie star, address the letter to her care of Annie People and we will be glad to readdress it and forward it to her.



Stickers showing 1938 movie releases, including Little Orphan Annie. Ann Gilles starred in this second try at bringing Annie to the silver screen. It did even worse at the box office than the one in 1932 did.



**Annie**

Book by THOMAS MEETIAN Music by CHARLES STROUSE Lyrics by MARTIN CHARNI  
Direction by

..... Warbucks, Koo.....  
"SOMETHING WAS MISSING" ..... Warbu.....  
"DON'T NEED ANYTHING BUT YOU" ..... Annie, Warbucks, Grace, Servants  
"SAME EFFECT ON EVERYONE" ..... Annie  
"NEW DEAL FOR CHRISTMAS" ..... Warbucks, Grace, Annie, Roosevelt, Orphans, Servant

OOPS!

# LOA Comics

The Return of  
MR. AM

1937

(c) Chicago Tribune - N.Y.N.S. Inc.

1981

ANNIE

(c) Chicago Tribune - N.Y.N.S. Inc.

1984

ANNIE

(c) Chicago Tribune - N.Y.N.S. Inc.