

Annie People

MEMBER



A Newsletter for Annie Fans

No. 11, September 1984

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ANNIE SWEEPS THE COUNTRY - ONE MORE TIME!

The Broadway musical Annie is alive and well in 1984 thanks to the latest National Tour. For those fortunate enough to have lived close to one of the stops on this tour, a treat was in store. It was Broadway all over again.

Due to a surprise change in itinerary, the staff of Annie People got to see the show in New Haven, Connecticut, only about two hours away from our native (just think) New Jersey. It was decided to delay the West Coast opening by a week so that the tour could play one stop in New England.

Eleven-year-old Lisa Lynne, from southern New Jersey, was a gem as Annie. The pretty, petite redhead was reminiscent of Allison Smith and Alyson Kirk in looks as well as her portrayal of Annie, which is much to her credit. Up until her winning the title role for this tour, Lisa's only Annie experience had been one run at the Riverfront Dinner Theatre last year in Philadelphia. Her voice was clear and true, and she brought the sensitivity to the role we would expect from someone with much more Annie experience. Quite possibly the mid-'80s Annie has been discovered.

Veteran comedienne Martha Raye was a tremendous crowd-pleaser as Miss Hannigan. She wiggled and shuffled and grimaced all the way through both acts, as only Martha Raye can, and the audience loved it. Dean Dittman, who appeared with Martha Raye during a short run of Annie last year in the Midwest, was a particularly joyful, ecstatic Oliver Warbucks, and Lynne Wintersteller was exceptional as a statuesque, dignified Grace Farrell.

Most of the Orphans had been in Annie before, either on Broadway or on tour, and their singing and dancing abilities showed through better than ever. What would Annie be without delightful Jennine Babo, who has played Annie and just about every Orphan so far except Pepper? In this tour, the talented Pennsylvanian was Duffy, the role she was playing when Broadway closed. Jennine is 13 now, and although this was the eighth time I have seen her on the



ANNIE ORPHANS ON TOUR - Top row from left, Kimberly Stern, Dana Dawson, Jennine Babo, Sarah Litzsinger; middle row, Lisa Lynne (Annie); bottom row from left, Shelly Paul, Sherri Leidy, Regina Meredith.

Annie stage, I surely hope it is not the last. Newcomer Shelly Paul, 8, was wonderful as Molly, with a strong voice and a feeling for comedy and is definitely an Annie star to watch in future years. Sharing the hard-knock life on stage with them were Indiana's Sarah Litzsinger (Pepper), 12, recently on Broadway as Bet in Oliver! and as Kristi Coombs' understudy in Marilyn; Kimberly Stern (Tessie), 9, formerly in the 4th National as Molly; Dana Dawson (July), 10, who was also July in last year's tour with Jennine and Allison Smith; and Regina Meredith (Kate), 10, who played Molly in the 2nd National. Sherri Leidy, who toured with Alyson Kirk last summer, was this tour's Swing.



ARF, ARF!! - Bill Berloni, Sandy, Tricia, and O'Malley in Sandy's dressing room at New Haven.

The original Broadway Sandy was back, his first time on the Annie stage in several months. He was not a regular on this tour, but since New Haven was so close, Bill Berloni brought him up for this run. After the show Mr. Berloni showed us the backstage sets for the 1984 National Tour, the same sets that were used for the 4th National Tour. We then paid a visit to Sandy's dressing room to meet the famous Annie canine star who was on stage at the Goodspeed Opera House eight years ago this month. A somewhat weary Sandy did manage an "Arf" or two for the staff of Annie People and gave each of us his famous "pawtograph." O'Malley was there also and didn't seem to mind being Sandy's understudy, as he had so many times on Broadway, for yet

another time. O'Malley had just finished being in the limelight during a run in Annie of his own in Edison, New Jersey, just a week before.

It is unfortunate that because of difficulties in getting bookings for the tour at theaters several of the scheduled stops near the end of the tour (Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia) had to be cancelled. The tour closed in Denver on September 16 after two months and seven cities.

However, is there a Broadway run at Christmas in this tour's future? According to an item in the New York Daily News in August, yes, it is still being at least considered. I guess no one knows for sure yet when and even if it might be, but if the tour does indeed make it to good old "N.Y.C.", details will be in the November issue of Annie People. Let's hope it does; what a marvelous Christmas present it would be for New York to have Annie come home.



Tammy Saphiloff (right) and Mary Frances Clark with Lisa Lynne after Annie in Los Angeles

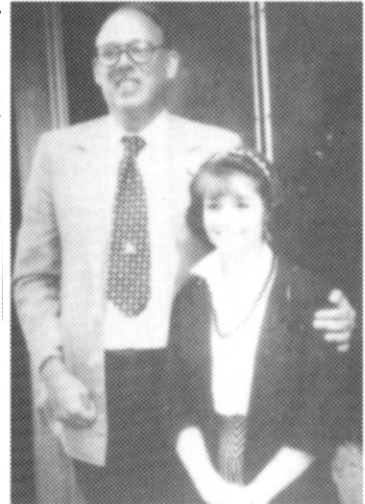
UPDATE on the First Annies of the 3rd and 4th National Companies

- - - ROSANNE SORRENTINO, New York City, July 8, 1984 - - -

When New York's Rosanne Sorrentino was 11, she won the part of Annie in the new 3rd National touring company of the Broadway show, which was to open in Dallas in October 1979. Rosanne had been touring a rigorous schedule for almost a year and a half by the time auditions for the movie were being held, and the energetic 13-year-old critically-acclaimed Annie probably would have toured even longer, had she not landed the role of Pepper in the film.

It is no wonder then that after filming ended and Rosanne was back home on Long Island for the first time in two years, she was content to remain out of the public eye for a while. She has, however, kept on enjoying acting ever since in productions at her high school.

The staff of Annie People was fortunate to attend one of Rosanne's few professional engagements in the last couple of years. Rosanne, now 16, played in the Off-Broadway play called Sacraments, a delightful comedy about the various stages in the lives of three generations of one family. This role was an excellent vehicle for her acting talents and was certainly very different from that of both Pepper and Annie.



When we talked with Rosanne after the show, I was surprised by one thing. In the film as Pepper, she towers over the other Orphans, and for that reason, I expected a rather tall girl to come out of the stage door. Actually, Rosanne is quite petite. It was a pleasure to meet this exceptional young lady who brought so much talent to Annie on both stage and screen, and who I hope will continue to appear once in a while in productions in the area.

- - - MOLLIE HALL, New York City, August 12, 1984 - - -

My daily custom of combing the New York Daily News for bits of Annieness paid off in August when I stumbled upon a picture of a pretty teenage actress named Molly (sic) Hall, who was about to open in an Off-Broadway play. I called the



theater and found out that the star of the show was indeed going to be Mollie Hall, who had been Annie when the 4th National opened in West Point in 1981.

The play was called The Other Woman, a sometimes cute, sometimes sensitive story about a young girl who received a rather novel birthday present from her father of a life-size clothing-store mannequin (the Other Woman). 13-year-old Mollie was superb in the lead role, which called for many varied emotions associated with the growing pains of adolescence. Mollie admitted to me later that she would prefer to be singing and dancing, rather than doing straight drama, but she seemed right at home in this type of performance. Like Rosanne, she has not been in the national spotlight too much since her year touring as Annie, but she has been active in local commercials in her native Maryland. It was great to finally meet Mollie, who has always been an enthusiastic supporter of Annie People and recalls her Annie days (she earlier played Kate in the 3rd National) with much affection, which she did during our lengthy chat after her play performance. She sees her fellow Orphans often and saw her old friend Rosanne's play when she was in New York for her audition for The Other Woman. I certainly hope that there are many future roles ahead for talented and charming Mollie Hall.

★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

Broadway, the 1st National, and the 2nd National are represented in TV sitcoms this fall: APRIL LERMAN is playing Lila on Charles in Charge, a new series on CBS which stars Scott Baio. In addition to her role of Kate in the movie, New Yorker April played Tessie in the 1st National. ALYSSA MILANO, who was July in the 2nd National, is Tony Danza's daughter Samantha on Who's the Boss, premiering on ABC this season. And, of course, ALLISON SMITH will continue as Jennie as Kate and Allie begins its new season on CBS. The word is that Allison will be featured on some very good upcoming episodes. Don't miss!...News of Orphans from the 3rd National: TARA CARNES (Kate) is now going to the Philadelphia Performing Arts School; MELISSA KALFA (Tessie) has had parts in movies and in the TV miniseries called George Washington, MAURA ERIN SULLIVAN (Duffy) played in Open Admissions on Broadway earlier this year, and MONICA MILLER (Molly) has been doing commercials and voiceovers. All four are part of the Show Biz Kids performing group in central New Jersey (see page 7)... LARA BERK was in The Bloodhound Gang on 3-2-1 Contact and continues singing at Youngstars in New York...MOLLIE HALL was recently in a play in New York called The Other Woman...KIMI PARKS, who toured with Alyson Kirk last year, was on Broadway earlier this year with Liza Minnelli in The Rink...CAROL BURNETT was supposed to begin filming in Hawaii for The Late Christopher Bean this month, but she has had to drop out of the film because of illness due to overwork and exhaustion. She also had to miss the Emmy Awards show, where she was to be co-host...JESSICA SMITH, Pepper in the 3rd National, has played the part of a cheerleader on a couple of episodes of Silver Spoons...CATHY TRIEN, who was Pepper in a 5-month dinner theater run in New Jersey last year, was in a play for children in New York called The Little House of Cookies...DOROTHY LOUDON, Broadway's original Miss Hannigan with ANDREA McARDLE, will become the first female actress ever to receive The Lambs' Shepherd Award on October 14. She will join John Barrymore, Fred Astaire, and Irving Berlin on the Lambs' Wall of Fame. Dorothy is currently being seen on Broadway in Noises Off... Birthdays: MOLLIE HALL, 14 on Sept. 8; DOROTHY ANDRES, 9 on Oct. 13; ANDREA McARDLE, 21 on Nov. 5; SANDY, 10 on Nov. 19; MARTIN CHARNIN, 50 on Nov. 24.

CLASSIFIED AD: Stephen M. Russo, 15 Tuttle Street, Revere, MA 02151. This is just a sample of the stock of nice Annie movie items Stephen has available for sale. Prices include postage and handling.

Movie Script (preliminary) dated March 21, 1981, 130 pages, rare.....\$24
(Very different from final script; fascinating for Annie movie buffs)
Official Movie Poster, large standard size, sent folded.....\$9
Set of 8 Lobby Cards, 11x14, full color scenes from movie.....\$18
Set of 12 8x10 black and white glossy stills, scenes from movie.....\$17
Proctor and Gamble movie poster, shows Annie, Sandy, "Daddy" and
Punjab by the Autocopter.....\$3
Movie Comic, Marvel Superspecial #24, 64 pages, story of movie.....\$2
"Travels" Crayola coloring book, rare.....\$2

Write to Stephen for his complete list and his newsletter for collectors of Annieness called Tomorrow. The first issue of his newsletter has a reproduction of the very last reprinted (1948) Harold Gray strip dated December 2, 1979, which immediately preceded the first Leonard Starr strip. Stephen has been able to come up with some pretty rare stuff, and I have ordered a lot of things from him lately, such as a large plastic poster that was an advertisement for Annie on a bus in New York when the play first opened. It looks nice in my Annie room up there next to all them Duesenbergs hangin' on the wall.

"WHY ANY KID WOULD WANT TO BE AN ORPHAN, I'LL NEVER KNOW..."



WESTON, VERMONT - Clockwise from bottom, Janet Trimboli, Christine Reekie, Ashleigh Kicklighter, MaryAlice Larocque, Melissa Gerry, Kara Watters (Annie), Cassy Kicklighter. Ashleigh, at age 4, was the youngest Orphan I have yet seen.



EDISON, NEW JERSEY - Clockwise from top, Tracey Lynn, Jennifer East, Natalie Polizzi (Annie), Karen Stafford. The dog in this show was O'Malley, who was an understudy to Sandy on Broadway.



ADRIAN, MICHIGAN - Top row from left, Carrie Robinson, Laura Davis, Torrey Clements (Annie), Amy Siler, Debbie Duncan. Bottom row from left, Heather Mitchell, Gwyneth Kozbial, Kelly Kinzel. The Annie People staff will be seeing Kelly in the title role in a Toledo production of Annie in October.



SHAWNEE, PENNSYLVANIA - Top row from left, Jenna Bevan, Dorothy Royle; middle row from left, Tracy Gross (Annie), Abigail Royle, Carolyn Bugden, Kristin Hapke, Alexondra Lee; Bottom, Tara Zahra. Among the older Annies of recent years, 14-year-old Tracy was excellent in the title role.

Summer 1984

Collector's Corner

PLAYBILL
\$1.00
The Movie of Tomorrow
Annie

by
Tricia
Trozzi



Some collectibles have the distinction of being "cross-collected"; that is, appeal extends to more than one type of collection. Such is the case with the Annie Collector's Plate Series, by artist William Chambers, manufactured by the Edwin M. Knowles China Company, and issued by the Bradford Exchange, 9333 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles Chicago, IL 60648. These plates are desirable by those who collect all plates, and they are also some of the nicest Annie collectibles around. The first plate was "Annie and Sandy," and it was honored with the title "Plate of the Year" for 1983 by the National Association of Limited Edition Dealers. Its issue price was \$19, but it is now quoted at more than twice that value. The Bradford Exchange literature boasts that the plates are the first "ever to celebrate the fantastic world of America's favorite, and legendary, orphan." So far, that world seems to be the 1982 Columbia movie, even though artist William Chambers said, "I wanted to create an Annie who was new, unique, and alive, not a reproduction of somebody else's interpretation. My Annie is different...." Some of the other literature is ambiguous as to whether or not this series is really based on the movie. It definitely is, however. "Annie and Sandy" shows the stars in the foreground of the 8 1/2" diameter plate, sitting on the floor in front of a bed, chair, and bucket that suggest the Orphanage. Despite Mr. Chambers' statement, "his Annie" bears more than a passing resemblance to Aileen Quinn, and the dog looks like Bingo, who played Sandy in the film. The second issue, "'Daddy' Warbucks," acknowledges the likeness of Albert Finney in the brochure and presents the bald billionaire standing with his fists on his hips in front of a marble fireplace, with a picture of Annie in the background. The third plate is "Annie and Grace," and it shows them leaning with their heads together. This time the portrait of Aileen is more accurate, but I feel the depiction of Ann Reinking as Grace is slightly off, although good enough for recognition.

Mr. Chambers is a fine artist who shows skill in his renderings as well as being able to evoke a feeling about the characters. His paintings give an insight into the personalities of his subjects. One can sense the optimism and self-reliance of Annie, the strength and kindness of Oliver Warbucks, the elegance of Grace and her affection for Annie. The characters do seem "alive," not only because of the resemblance to the movie actors we all love, but because of the gorgeous way they are presented. The plates are really miniature works of art, and it is possible that William Chambers became something of an Annie fan by doing this series. This year he was commissioned to do plates based on the movie The King and I, and he said, "If you had told me two years ago that I would ever do something better than Annie, I wouldn't have believed you." One would hope that he is not done with the Annie series; that there will be more plates in the future. Maybe if Annie II is released, the series will be continued, but to date there has not been any news from the Bradford Exchange about a fourth Annie plate.

The three plates are made extremely well; the colors are fired on high-quality china--so I would not recommend using them for eating your Texas grapefruit, Virginia ham, Idaho potatoes, Wisconsin cheese, Washington apples, and baked Alaska. I would, however, recommend an Annie collector obtaining these plates. They are a truly fine set of movie collectibles which will appreciate in value over the years and also provide memories of a favorite film.

CLASSIFIED AD: Dinner theater Annie glass, 7" tall, has Broadway logo on it, \$4.95 postpaid. Order from Larry Skrdla, 8500 Adler, Lambertville, MI 48144

FORMER 3RD NATIONAL ORPHANS PERFORM AT THEATER SCHOOL OPENING

Sunday, August 26, was the grand opening of the Show Biz Professional Training Center in Edison, New Jersey. Performing in the show were four former members of the 3rd National touring company of Annie: Melissa Kalfa, 13; Tara Carnes, 14; Monica Miller, 10; and Maura Erin Sullivan, 10. All four girls are part of the Show Biz Kids, which is the performing element of the theatrical school which provides classes in acting, singing and dance for area children interested in theatrical careers.

The four former 3rd National Orphans, who have remained friends ever since their company closed two years ago, gave spirited performances of "It's The Hard-Knock Life" and "You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile." They were joined on stage by 9-year-old Karen Pierson, who filled in the part of Molly. Although Karen has never been in a production of Annie, she learned the part this summer and did it so well that the audience would never have believed that she had not been part of the 3rd National just like the others.

These multi-talented Annie girls also performed in other singing and dancing numbers in the hour-long revue, which featured the 23 youngsters who make up the Show Biz Kids performing group. Gail Pearson, who was Annie's dance captain for the 3rd National, is the dance teacher at the school. The school's director is Marty Winkler, who has worked with Allison Smith and Lara Berk.



SHOW BIZ KIDS - Top from left, Melissa Kalfa, Tara Carnes; bottom from left, Monica Miller, Maura Erin Sullivan.

LOA STRIP FANS: Don't miss the current (#8) issue of NEMO magazine, which would be available at your local comic-books-for-collectors store. The whole issue is devoted to Harold Gray and LOA. It includes a reprint of the entire Bucking the World Cupples and Leon book and also has articles by several Annie collector/writers, including a fine one by Annie People reader Harry McCracken.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: Feel free to write to us at Annie People if you have any Annie questions, and we will go maybe far away or maybe real near by to dig up the answers for you (Examples: Who were the Orphans when Allison Smith opened on Broadway? Why wasn't Molly in the room when all the other Orphans sang "Maybe" in the middle of the movie? Are Ezra Eon and Eli Eon in the strip related? How did July get her name?). Maybe we can't answer all of your questions, but we'll give it a try. (Exactly what do Democrats eat??).

ADDRESSES OF STARS: We receive many requests for addresses of Annie stars. Naturally, in order to respect their privacy, we cannot give them out to fans (aw, gee), but we will help you get a letter to your favorite Annie performer. Just send it to her care of the Annie People address, and we will put her correct address on the envelope and stick it back in the mail. You can bet your bottom dollar she'll receive it and enjoy hearing from you too! We have been doing this for fans ever since we've been publishing AP, and we're glad to do it, since we often ask readers to do the same for us, so that we can get AP to as many former Annie stars as possible.

BACK ISSUES: Annie People has been published continuously since January 1983, and back issues of AP #1-#10 are available, if you are missing any.

TRIVIA: There is no #987 on Fifth Avenue in New York.

There is a brand-new fan club for SHELLEY BRUCE!!! The president is long-time Annie People reader and contributor Deana Brinkmann. Write to Deana at 6023 Belair Drive, Florence, KY 41042.

ANDREA McARDLE Fan Club - Christopher White, 1010 Elm Street, St. Charles, IL 60174.

ALLISON SMITH Fan Club - Polly Mortensen, 6751 Meade Street, Hollywood, FL 33024.

ANNIE FAN CLUB - Ms. Lee Costello, 850 7th Avenue, Suite 803, New York, NY 10019.

This past summer I sent in for fan club materials from a club calling itself "The Friends of DANIELLE BRISEBOIS." That was in July, and I still haven't heard from them or received anything. If this club for Danielle is active, we'd like to advertise it in Annie People. Do any of you out there belong to this club?



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A New Musical