

Annie People



MEMBER



A Newsletter for Annie Fans

No. 14, March 1985

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Artwork by Tricia Trozzi, co-editor and columnist

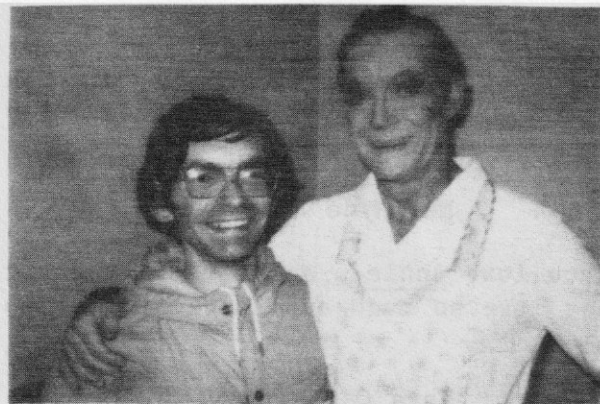
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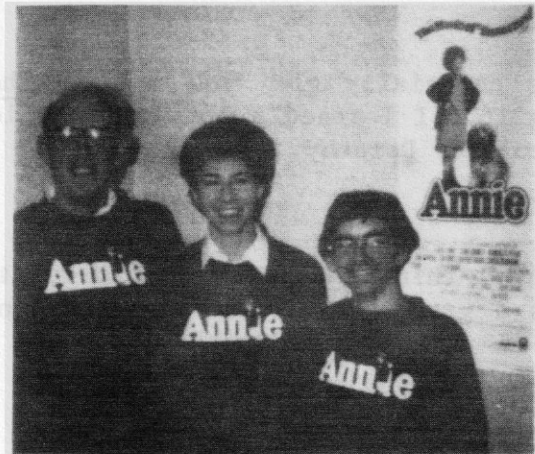
Annie People is published every other month in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Publication has been continuous since January 1983.

MOVIE SEQUEL - It is expected that The Perils of Annie will begin filming this coming summer, and it is hoped that it will be directed by Bobby Roth, whose Heartbreakers movie will open soon in New York. As for the scenario for the Ray Stark production, it will center around the kidnapping of "Daddy" Warbucks and subsequent searching for him by Annie--sounds as if it will be reminiscent of the Little Orphan Annie comic strip. This film will not be a musical like the 1982 Annie movie, but rather a comedy-adventure, which will likely be shot in the South. Stark is looking toward the idea of a whole new cast this time around, although Aileen Quinn, who will be 14 in June, is being considered in the running to play Annie again. But how about Oliver Warbucks? It has been suggested that Bob Hoskins from The Cotton Club might be great to take over where Albert Finney left off. And--how about this? Annie will have a teenage boyfriend in the movie. Leapin' lizards!! I hope his name isn't Huckie Flynn.

KATE AND ALLIE - Just as this issue of AP was about to go to press, the episode of K&A (see page 3) that featured Jennie--played by Allison Smith--was on TV. It was terrific; I hope you all watched it. It was an interesting coincidence that this particular episode was on March 18th, which is also the birthday of Polly Mortensen, the president of the Allison Smith Fan Club.



Larry Skrdla with Keene Curtis
(in costume but without wig)
La Cage Aux Folles, Detroit



Jon, Tricia, Larry get together
to celebrate 2nd Annie-versary
of Annie People, January 1985



I was just shown your latest edition of Annie People where you write about a "branch" of Something Different in Montclair, N.J. I just wanted to inform you that there is only one original Something Different, and that is, and always has been, on NYC's Upper East Side....

Patricia Young
Producer, Youngstars
New York, NY

AP regrets the error. In spite of the similarities in name, the two establishments are not affiliated with each other in any way. --Ed.

Glad you heard about the Waltham (MA) Annie--it was very successful! Guess you hadn't heard about the other production in Big Bend, Washington in April. Largest Annie cast ever; no doubling on parts. I did "Scarecrow" in The Wizard of Oz in Kansas City last summer. Was standing by in Accidental Death of an Anarchist at Belesco, so couldn't do Shelley Bruce package....(have been doing) promos on Channel 13 (PBS) doing magic and juggling....

Robert Fitch
(Rooster, Broadway)
New York, NY

Just wanted to let you know I'm still interested in Annie People. You are truly terrific to offer such a fantastic newsletter to so many people! It kind of ties the casts to their fans. Thank you bunches for all you've done to keep us all up to date on what's happening in this Annie-filled world....

Nancy Nyman
Boise, ID

I'm staying here in Indianapolis to get some regular school in, since I've missed so much for the last year and a half. Tutors are okay, but you miss the regular kids. It was nice meeting you in New Haven and I'm sure all the kids enjoy reading about what's happening to everybody....

Sarah Litzsinger
(Pepper, 1984 Nat'l Tour)
Indianapolis, IN

I was especially glad you enjoyed The Wizard of Oz, since I had so much fun doing it. I learned a lot from Shelley's performance and hope to someday play the role of Dorothy....

Cristina Conomos
New Hyde Park, NY

I really think that it is wonderful that you love Annie. And I think that it takes a great person to take something they love so much and share it with so many, as you have done with Annie and Annie People....

Tara Carnes
(July, 3rd National)
Philadelphia, PA

ON THE SET OF KATE AND ALLIE

CBS's Kate and Allie, featuring Broadway's Allison Smith, continues to be one of America's top rated situation comedies as it becomes one year old. Recently I attended a TV taping in New York, where I had a chance to see first-hand how a weekly episode of Kate and Allie is put together. As you all know, 15-year-old Allison plays the part of Jennie in the series, which also stars Jane Curtin, Susan Saint James, Ari Meyers, and Frederick Koehler. At this particular taping, Allison was joined on the set by one of her former Broadway Orphans in a guest appearance--Martha Byrne was July for part of Allison's run as Annie and today played the role of Carter, Jennie's new friend who turned out to be not a very good influence for Jennie. This was a special episode of Kate and Allie for Allison's fans, since the story-line featured Jennie, and it is expected to be aired sometime in late March. You'll love this episode!

After the taping I had a chance to chat with Allison and Martha, and also with Brian Bloom, who starred with Allison last year in A Different Twist. Brian is currently on As The World Turns, which is filmed in a studio next door to Kate and Allie's.

Allison said that the cast of Kate and Allie sees the script seven to ten days before taping day, and cue cards are not used during taping. They rehearse each weekday, and then the tapings are done usually on Tuesdays and Fridays. Each taping session before a live audience takes about two hours, consisting of the 23 minutes of actual filming time, moving the cameras to each new "room" on the set, and goofs and fluffs that have to be redone (such as one scene that was fine except that the refrigerator door wouldn't close).

Work on Kate and Allie finished for the season in February, after which Allison, Ari, and Frederick went off on a skiing weekend at Susan Saint James' home in New England. Now it's back to school for all of them until filming for 1985-86 resumes in July. Congratulations on a great season!



Jon with Allison Smith and Brian Bloom: on the set of Kate and Allie, Jan. 1985

CELEBRITY THOUGHTS

by Larry Skrdla

I wrote to a number of celebrities asking them what they thought of Annie. These are some replies that have come in so far:

LADY BIRD JOHNSON, former First Lady - "I am indeed another Annie fan! I have seen the play more than once and have enjoyed taking my grandchildren to see it."

BARBARA CARTLAND, novelist - "Unfortunately, I have not seen the play Annie, but I understand from friends that it is very good indeed, and if one goes by the number of people who have seen it, it must be really excellent."

DON BUDGE, tennis champion (yes, he was available!) - "I saw the play and thought it was beautifully done. Not because I was mentioned, either. It's just too bad that there couldn't be more entertainment like that for particularly the kids of today to enjoy and be exposed to. I went backstage and introduced myself to the cast and said 'that as long as my name was mentioned in the play, I wanted to come back and say hello.' I don't know anyone who has seen the show that didn't like it."

★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

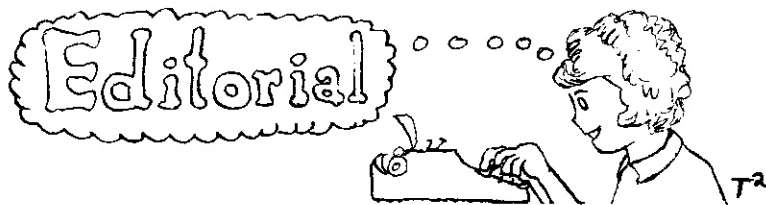
Annie was well-represented this year by singing former Orphans at this year's March of Dimes telethon in Atlantic City on February 10: Broadway - NICOLE NOWICKI (Kate) and LOREN KAUFMAN (Swing Orphan); the 2nd National - DANA DEWES (Molly), ARLENE KULIS (Tessie), and CHRIS NOEL CANTERA (Pepper); the 3rd National - PATTI GILBERT (Pepper); and the movie - TONI ANN GISONDI (Molly).... Plans are in the works for MARTIN CHARNIN soon to be directing a new revue on Broadway called Nancy's Turn, which will star Nancy Walker....ANDREA McARDLE, will be performing this spring in Florida, Baltimore, and Philadelphia while Jerry's Girls is on vacation....CHARLES STROUSE is currently writing the music and the lyrics for a Broadway musical based on NYC mayor Ed Koch's book Mayor. Jeff Moss will be the director, and Warren Leight is writing the book. Mayor Koch apparently loved the Broadway show of Annie and reportedly "leaped at the idea" of Charles Strouse's doing a musical comedy about City Hall. Former Broadway Oliver Warbuckses REID SHELTON, JOHN SCHUCK, and HARVE PRESNELL have been mentioned as possibilities for the role of the Mayor himself....ALLISON SMITH has finished up with Kate and Allie for the season, but she has been keeping busy singing on a couple of telethons, and in April she will be performing at the White House (her third time) at an Easter celebration....MOLLY RINGWALD's latest movie, The Breakfast Club, has opened to very favorable reviews. She also starred in the TV movie Surviving....PATTI GILBERT, Pepper in the early days of 3rd National, plays club dates in New Jersey as lead vocalist in a rock quartet called Dreams....KEENE CURTIS, who played Oliver Warbucks in the 1st National, was recently in a Detroit production of La Cage Aux Folles along with the movie's Bert Healy, PETER MARSHALL....CAROL BURNETT is writing her autobiography, due out next year, which will focus on her early life, rather than her TV and movie successes in recent years....DANIELLE BRISEBOIS is planning to record a 12" single in Canada this year, and she is also working on a project for her own line of cosmetics....Just before the Dolphins were about to meet the 49ers in the Super Bowl in January, RENEE SHIELDS sang a song called "It's the Dolphins' Pride" written by her father to the tune of--you guessed it--"It's the Hard-Knock Life." It was played on local Miami radio as part of pre-Super Bowl hoopla, and the phones rang off their hooks. But what Renee looks forward to the most is playing Annie againBirthdays: LISA LYNNE, 12 on April 11, CAROL BURNETT, 51 on April 26, SHELLEY BRUCE, 20 on May 5, ALBERT FINNEY, 49 on May 9, ARLENE KULIS, 13 on May 12, PATTI GILBERT, 16 on May 23.



Arlene Kulis, Dana Dewes, Chris Noel Cantera, Nicole Nowicki, Loren Kaufman; Atlantic City, N.J. February 1985



Patti Gilbert and her rock group Dreams



We often get inquiries from readers who want to write to Annie stars. Stars do like to receive mail, just as we all do; however, the life of a star can be a busy one, especially if she is working in addition to going to school, and we must realize that some of them do not have time to answer fan mail. But don't let that stop you. Go ahead and write a little note of appreciation to your favorite Annie star or put her on your Christmas card list or remember her on her birthday. That does mean a lot to a performer, and even if you don't get an answer from her, she will appreciate your thought. We have found that former Annies and Orphans look back on their Annie experience with a lot of affection and appreciate it when fans like us remember them from Annie.

Some words about addresses. Respecting the privacy of stars and their families is an absolute must and is the responsibility of all of us. The Annie People mailing list is computerized and is stored on software with password protection, and no one but the AP editor could possibly get at it, not even the most diligent computer hacker. Out of respect for stars who have provided AP with their home addresses so that they can receive the mag, we do not give addresses out to fans. Aw, shux. However, if you would like to address a letter to an Annie star care of "Annie People, Box 431," etc., we will be glad to put whatever address we have in our files on it and forward it on for you. People have done that for us, and we're happy to do it for our readers.

Surprise telephone calls to a star at her home are not appreciated by their families, and such calls are considered to be in very bad taste. Don't do it! A telephone call should be considered only if you have already developed a pen pal relationship that has gone on for a while. Then, if you think that a call might be appropriate, write and ask her permission first, asking when might be convenient for her (and her parents), and then wait for that permission. Do not risk getting yourself labeled as an "annoyance" caller among families of stars; use your common sense and realize that parents of kids who have been in the public eye have an extra big responsibility to protect their kids from unsavory characters who give fandom a bad name and spoil it for all of us.

When you write: Remember that not every last Annie Orphan has gone on to bigger and better things in show business. Some of them chose to leave the business entirely after Annie and just concentrate on school and normal teenage life. Still others are working hard on improving their skills and continuing to compete for the minuscule number of parts available for young actresses who have outgrown Annie. If your favorite Annie star is struggling through the audition circuit looking for another part, give her your encouragement. However, if she has chosen to leave show biz and is enjoying school and living a more "normal" life, be happy for her!

One last thought: When you write to a star the first time, don't ask a lot of questions or ask her to write back or even hint that you expect her to write back; let her decide whether she wants a pen pal or not. Just be pleased if she does send you something and be extra appreciative next time you write.

To sum up--and I cannot overstress this point--just because you do not hear from your star does not mean that your letter was not received and appreciated!

Good luck. Don't forget, writing to a star is helping to keep Annie alive.

A number of people have written to AP wanting to know a little more about its editors, and both of them requested a little bio on each of us. So, here goes:

JONATHAN ALDEN MERRILL lives in South Orange, New Jersey and works at AT&T in Morristown (N.J.) as a word processing operator. Jon was also an elementary school classroom music teacher for several years, as well as a radio DJ. He became an Annie fan when he saw the play in September 1981 in London and has an Annie room with about 500 items on display in it. His favorite Annie song is "It's the Hard-Knock Life" and he has seen the play 30 times and the movie 44 times. His second favorite play is The Sound of Music, which is also his second favorite movie. In addition to Annieness, Jon also collects Donald Duck, Uncle Scrooge, and Little Lulu comic books, and publishes a Little Lulu fanzine called The Stanley Steamer every other month in the months opposite from Annie People. He is a sponsor for Save The Children, a Girl Scout troop leader, and a professional competitor in Frisbee disc golf. He also follows pop and country music record charts and likes Rod Stewart, Bonnie Tyler, Bruce Springsteen, and Don Williams. Jon will turn 40 in May.

PATRICIA LYNN TROZZI lives in West Caldwell, New Jersey and is a student at Montclair (N.J.) State College, majoring in Fine Arts. Tricia and Jon met outside the stage door of the Uris Theatre while waiting for autographs the day Annie closed on Broadway in January 1983, and then later that month the first issue of AP was published. Tricia's very full Annie room has over 600 items in it, and she first became interested in Annie when she started reading the Leonard Starr strip in early 1980. Her favorite Annie song is "Maybe," and she has seen the play 20 times and recently celebrated her 20th birthday in January with her 50th viewing of the movie. Her second favorite show is A Chorus Line and her second favorite movie is The Wizard of Oz ("actually, it's tied for #1," confesses Tricia, who is a member of the International Wizard of Oz Club). Before Tricia had her Annie room, she had a room full of Star Wars memorabilia. She also likes Shirley Temple, Judy Garland, Cyndi Lauper, the Go-Gos, and movie musicals from the 1930s. Tricia loves shows, tap dancing and acting and plays bass guitar in a rock band called Paradox.



Jon and Tricia with Cristina Conomos and Shelley Bruce; The Wizard of Oz, Westbury (N.Y.) Music Fair, Dec. 1984



With Toni Ann and Lisa Gisondi, February 1985

THE ANNIE COLLECTORY
(formerly The Annieness Arcade)
Catalog #5, March 1985

Hello, Annie Collectors! In response to many requests, I have gotten some more collectibles together for sale to Annie People readers. This is how AP is financed and kept free for everyone, so if you get this list and are not a collector, maybe you could pass it along to someone who is. Thanks!

All orders over \$5.00 will receive a FREE 1982 Annie daily newspaper strip.
All orders over \$15.00 will receive a FREE 1982 Annie Sunday strip, in color.
All orders over \$30.00 take a 10% discount off the total.

Satisfaction guaranteed; return any item within one week for a full refund. All items are in original boxes or wrappers. Quantities are in most cases extremely limited, so order right away! All prices listed include postage and handling. Please make checks or money orders payable to Jon Merrill. Send your order to: Jon Merrill, Box 431, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey 07927

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|---|------|------------------------------|------|
| Applause Mugs, "Hard-Knock Life," I Don't Need Anything But You" | each | \$4 | |
| Applause Annie Key Chains, plastic, 6 different varieties | each | \$3 | |
| Applause Annie Rag Doll, 16" | \$12 | Applause Annie Rag Doll, 14" | \$9 |
| Applause Clip-On Annie, 4", nice to wear while attending <u>Annie</u> | | | \$4 |
| Applause Annie Picture Frame, rectangular, beige, ceramic, very nice | | | \$15 |
| Knickerbocker Vinyl Annie Doll, 6"; What? You don't have one of these? | | | \$4 |
| Earlier version of same Annie doll but with locket, rare | | | \$6 |
| Knickerbocker Annie Fashions, 2 varieties (Nightgown and Dress-up Coat), fits vinyl Annie doll, nice variety if you have more than one doll | | | \$5 |
| Red Dress from Knickerbocker Vinyl Annie Doll; I have lots of extras | | | 50¢ |
| Knickerbocker Annie Miniature, Annie in red dress, RAREST of them all! | | | \$2 |
| Norcross Annie wrapping paper, 3 varieties, very rare, \$3 or all 3 for | | | \$8 |
| Parker Brothers Annie "Path to Happiness" Board Game | | | \$10 |
| Topps Annie Stickers, individual numbers; I have lots, send want list, 10¢ each | | | |
| Annie Puffy Stickers, 4 varieties, each \$1.50 | | or set of 4 for | \$5 |
| "Pac-Man Eats Annie" sticker, 4" by 3", the rarest of all Annie stickers | | | \$3 |
| Annie Stamp Fun Book, gummed stamps with Annie characters to go in book | | | \$2 |
| European Annie Movie Bubblegum Cards, rarest Annie collectible ever, many seldom-seen photos (see AP #12). I have only 2 packs left | | | \$20 |
| Annie Pez Candy Dispenser, plastic, comes with two packs of Pez candy | | | \$3 |
| Annie Pencil, white, round, with eraser | | | 50¢ |
| Annie View-Master Set, 3-D shots from movie <u>and</u> the handheld View-Master | | | \$8 |
| Annie Presto-Magix, "Warbuck's (sic) Farm," real schlocky, please buy it | | | 50¢ |
| Annie License Plate, plastic, 3" x 2", cartoon Annie on bike | | | \$2 |
| Annie Ruler, 12", in plastic case, cartoon pictures of Annie characters | | | \$3 |
| Annie Bookmarks, set of 6, plastic, nice pictures of Aileen in the movie | | | \$3 |
| Annie Note Pad, 3" x 3", cartoon pictures on cover | | | \$1 |
| Annie Gumball Bank, plastic, 7-1/2 inches high, has real gumballs, rare | | | \$8 |
| <u>Tomorrow Is Today</u> by Shelley Bruce, 1983, out of print and very scarce; hardcover book was \$15.95 in stores | | Book mailed 1st class | \$20 |
| <u>Dynamite Magazine</u> , June 1982, article on movie, Aileen on cover | | | \$2 |
| <u>Mad Super Special</u> , Fall 1981, lots of funny parodies of Annie strip | | | \$4 |
| <u>Mad Magazine</u> #236, January 1983, contains movie parody "Awful Annie" | | | \$3 |
| <u>Cracked Magazine</u> #191, November 1982, contains movie parody "Acnnie" | | | \$3 |
| Annie Official Movie Magazine, 1982, lavender cover, lots of pictures | | | \$5 |
| Marvel Treasury Edition Comic, oversize pages, movie in comic book form | | | \$3 |
| Book - <u>Annie Finds A Home</u> , great for reading to Annie-loving toddlers | | | \$2 |
| Crayola Annie Coloring Book - "Tomorrow" | | | \$1 |

P.S. Is there anything in particular you want me to search for? Let me know!

ANNIE-RELATED FAN CLUBS

The newest fan club in the Annie world is the one for SHELLEY BRUCE. All fans of Shelley are invited to write for details to Deana Brinkmann. If you have seen Shelley on stage or have read Tomorrow Is Today, Deana would love to hear from you! ~~Here~~ off to all these fan club presidents who work hard to keep us all informed about what their "honorary" is doing (that is what fan clubs call the person their club is for). In reality, fan club presidents are fans just like you or me who have decided to spread the word to others about their favorite, and that's why they deserve our support! Fan clubs provide members with up to the minute news of the honorary via a newsletter as well as photographs and other items, many of which are exclusive to fan club members.

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

SHELLEY BRUCE FC - Deana Brinkmann, 6023 Belair Drive, Florence, KY 41042

ALLISON SMITH FC - Polly Mortensen, 6751 Meade Street, Hollywood, FL 33024

Friends of DANIELLE BRISEBOIS, Box 2243, Canoga Park, CA 91306

JUST IN TO AP: The U.S.A.'s youngest Annie is going to have her own fan club! Red-headed, freckle-faced RENEE SHIELDS played Annie when she was 8 years old, and now that she's 9, she'll do it again!

To have your name put on the mailing list for this club, write to Polly Mortensen, 6751 Meade Street, Hollywood, FL 33024. You will be contacted when the club begins operation.

Jon Merrill
Annie People
Box 431
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

