

Annie People



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MEMBER



The Newsletter for Annie Fans

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NATIONAL TOUR OFF AND RUNNING

The new 1986 Annie National Tour opened on January 3 in Rochester, New York, and so far has played almost a dozen cities in the Northeast. After having no tour in 1985, It is a pleasure to know that there is a tour of Annie out there as fine as this one.



I have seen it three times so far: the opening in Rochester, and again in Fairfax, Virginia and in West Point, New York. Headlined by Sarah Bethany Reynolds as Annie, Robert Tiffany as Oliver Warbucks, and Teri Gibson as Miss Hannigan, this is a "must-see" for every Annie fan when it comes to your area.

Sarah is a delight as Annie. She is one of the smallest I have seen recently, but the energetic 12-year-old handles the (continued on page 2)

AILEEN PLAYS ANNIE ON THE STAGE

by Tricia Trozzi

Fayetteville, North Carolina. It doesn't sound like a mecca for Broadway-caliber entertainment. Well, from January 17 to 19, 1986, the Cumberland County Auditorium in Fayetteville was the home of a production of Annie that boasted two of the biggest stars in all Annie-dom. Playing Oliver Warbucks, with more than 2,000 performances to his credit, was Harve Presnell, thought by many to be the best Warbucks ever. And, as Annie in her debut in the title role on stage, was Aileen Quinn, who can now be considered one of the best stage Annies ever. Another (continued on page 5)



role with complete confidence and sensitivity. Coming from Broadway as Louise in Sunday in the Park with George, she moved into this tour, having played Annie before in a couple of upstate New York productions. Her singing voice is very reminiscent of Kristi Coombs' early Annie style, which is even more noticeable because of Sarah's similar diminutive size (4'6"). The scenes Sarah does with Robert Tiffany as "Daddy" Warbucks are particularly striking, and Teri Gibson, with many Broadway and film credits behind her, brings to the role of Miss Hannigan the right empathy for the character without overacting. And a real highlight of the company is Leslie Castay as Grace; she is as fine a Grace as I've seen anywhere. The ensemble adults are a young but experienced group and bring plenty of vitality and enthusiasm to this tour of Annie. For long-time Annie fans there are two familiar faces--Moose and understudy Roxanne, who bring the unique Bill Berloni touch to this exceptional cast. The full orchestra, too, is of course a big plus.

Of particular mention are the Orphans assembled for this tour. All of them have many regional credits behind them, some in local productions of Annie. They are all members of the Children's Repertory Company at the Rochester Academy of Performing Arts, and because they have all worked together before this Annie tour, they seem to work unusually well together and are thrilled to now be part of a professional company. The expert choreography of Carla Roetzer Vitale brings out the best of the talent in these girls and challenges them so that the Orphans' dance numbers are as high-quality as the rest of the dance numbers in the show. The Orphans' "Fully Dressed" routine was particularly well-received by the audience, with talented Janna Robinson as Tessie up front with a great solo. Behind her are Nicole Anthony (Kate), Erin Daly (Molly), Alison Harvey (July), Kristen Schmitz (Pepper), and Molly Beth Totten (Duffy). Stephanie Kae Seeley is the understudy for Annie and the swing for all the Orphans.

When you check the advertisements of this tour when it comes to your area (it is being billed as the "Fifth" National Tour; AP will continue to more properly call it the "1986" National Tour), you may be surprised to find that it might take place in the biggest theater in your city, or even in a large arena on a college campus. "Unlike past productions of Annie," reads the official press release, "the all-new set design and staging allows the show to play larger arenas on a portable stage. Tickets for the [1986] National Tour have been priced specifically with the family market in mind."

The "bus-and-truck" structure of this tour means that it will play many different cities, although maybe for only a few days or so. So keep your eyes open for ads for it. Right now tentative plans are to play the East and South through the spring, be off for the summer, and then head West in the fall.

Though the names of the cast members in this company are all new to fans of former Annie tours, they are equally professional and talented and should not be overlooked. These are the Annie stars of "tomorrow." Go see them!



1986 NATIONAL TOUR - Top row, Allison Harvey, Stephanie Kae Seeley, Nicole Anthony, Kristen Schmitz; middle, Erin Daly; bottom row, Janna Robinson, Molly Beth Totten



Sarah Bethany Reynolds stars as Annie in the latest National Tour

ANNIE PEOPLE READERS CHOOSE THEIR ALL-TIME FAVORITE ANNIE SONGS!

Last fall we asked AP readers to send us lists of their three favorite Annie songs in order. We compiled all the votes, and here is the list. Each song received three points for being #1, two points for being #2, and one point for being #3 on each reader's individual ballot.

The Top 5 vote-getters were fairly predictable, but there were some surprises to us further down the list of 18 Annie songs. Of the 18 songs, every song received at least a third-place vote on someone's list with the exception of "You Won't Be An Orphan for Long," which received not one single vote.

Of over 100 ballots we received, only one reader duplicated my own list exactly (#1 It's The Hard-Knock Life, #2 Tomorrow, #3 Maybe); she was 14-year-old Hope Hines of Yardley, Pennsylvania. Hope is the proud winner of a \$50,000 certified check paid to the order of The Jig Is Up.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>1st Place Votes</u>
1.	Tomorrow	138	34
2.	Maybe	112	16
3.	It's The Hard-Knock Life	89	17
4.	You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile	87	12
5.	I Don't Need Anything But You	45	7
6.	Easy Street	26	1
7.	Something Was Missing	21	4
8.	N.Y.C.	20	2
9.	Dumb Dog/Sandy	18	4
10.	We'd Like To Thank You, Herbert Hoover	14	2
11.	I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here	11	2
12.	A New Deal For Christmas	10	1
13.	Little Girls	9	1
14.	Let's Go To The Movies	8	1
15.	Annie	7	1
16.	Sign	3	1
	(Write-in vote for "The Overture")	3	1
17.	We Got Annie	2	0
18.	You Won't Be An Orphan For Long	1*	0

*a "sympathy" 3rd place vote from Tricia ("...because Grace sings it...")

ANNIE RECYCLINGS: In the current National Tour, the red dress worn by Sarah Bethany Reynolds is the exact same one that Andrea McArdle wore on Broadway. She will probably be able to wear it for the entire tour, since, says 4 feet 6 inch Sarah, "it is still a little big on me." In addition, Sarah also wears Shelley Bruce's Broadway sailor dress and Rosanne Sorrentino's pink coat and Radio WEAJ dress from the 3rd National. Some of the other clothing you will see in the tour came from other former tours as well. But whatever happened to the Broadway locket? It was kept by fifth and final Broadway Annie Alyson Kirk, who finally took it off on January 2, 1986 after wearing it for exactly three years after the Broadway show closed.

SEQUEL UPDATE: Annie, Part II is reportedly "finished," and it is hoped that the show will be on the road by the end of this year. Plans are to have it play elsewhere for a while (like Annie) before New York. The best news of all is that Broadway's Harve Presnell will be back in the role of Oliver Warbucks. No concrete news on the plot yet; we asked Harpo, but he didn't say.

★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

AILEEN QUINN starred with HARVE PRESNELL in Annie in Fayetteville, North Carolina in January (see related story). Aileen, at age 14 1/2, is to the best of our knowledge the second oldest actress ever to play the title role in an Equity production; only SARAH JESSICA PARKER, who finished up as Annie on Broadway in January 1980 at age 14 years 10 months, was older....ANDREA McARDLE starred in Snoopy in Detroit in January, playing the part of Peppermint Patty. Andrea's club act, which was written and directed by MARTIN CHARNIN, will begin in New York in late March....ALBERT FINNEY is currently rehearsing for his starring role in Orphans, which will open in London in April. The rehearsals are taking place here rather than in England because the director is currently acting in another play in New York....SUSAN LIPTON was Annie in Englewood, New Jersey in a production in which Grace Farrell was played by SUZANNE ISHEE, who reprised the role she had played a month earlier in North Carolina with AILEEN QUINN and HARVE PRESNELL. At the March 1 performance there was a reunion of all 5 Broadway Annies, ANDREA McARDLE, SHELLEY BRUCE, SARAH JESSICA PARKER, ALLISON SMITH, and ALYSON KIRK. More about this reunion will be in the next issue of AP. Yes, you're right, SANDY was there too....A poll done by the Michael Levine Company of letter carriers in southern California named ALLISON SMITH and her Kate and Allie co-star Ari Meyers among the top 10 teenage TV stars for volume of fan mail received....MOLLY RINGWALD's latest Paramount movie is called Pretty in Pink. Molly, who just turned 18, has been offered a deal for three pictures by United Artists, for which she would not only act, but would be the producer as well....MONICA MILLER played Baby Louise in Gypsy in at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia in December and January....TARA CARNES was in a play in Philadelphia called Lunacy of Moons, a "very deep drama" according to fellow Philadelphian JULIE STEVENS. Julie has been singing this winter at Philadelphia Flyers games and at a showcase in New York. Both Tara and Julie will celebrate "Sweet 16" this year, an important landmark reached just in the two months of December and January alone by several former Annies: ALLISON SMITH, ALYSON KIRK, MARISA MORELL, and LOUANNE....TONI ANN GISONDI was seen in the ABC-TV movie Harem, which aired in February....RENEE SHIELDS recently finished up a very successful two-month run as Annie at the Marco Polo Hotel in Miami, Florida. When the dog ran away before one of the performances, necessitating a quick stand-in, the story made newspapers nationwide and was mentioned on national cable TV news....GARRISON TRUE has completed his Annie-like search for the star of Pippi Longstocking. Picked was 11-year-old Tami Erin Klicman of Pembroke Pines, Florida....ANGELA LEE was recently in an episode of Who's the Boss on ABC with ALYSSA MILANO. And APRIL LERMAN recently appeared as a guest star on Growing Pains, also on ABC. Last year April was nominated by the Youth Awards for best supporting actress in a TV series for her 22 episodes of Charles in Charge....KATHLEEN SISK was in the Disney Sunday night movie on ABC-TV called The Girl who Spelled Freedom....JOHN HUSTON recently married Maricella Hernandez at his home in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico....The Journey of Natty Gann, starring MEREDITH SALENGER, was out in February and was great! Did you see it? JULIE STEVENS has told AP that Meredith is the Orphan pictured on the extreme left on Topps Sticker #13....STEPHANIE WINTERS, who was the Swing Orphan with LOUANNE in the 1st National in 1979, is now on All My Children on ABC. And MARTHA BYRNE continues as Lily Walsh on As the World Turns on CBS...Birthdays: SUSAN LIPTON, 13 on March 4; JULIE STEVENS, 16 on March 22; SARAH JESSICA PARKER, 21 on March 25; LISA LYNNE, 13 on April 11; SHARON JORDAN, 14 on April 22; CAROL BURNETT, 52 on April 26.

exceptional asset to this production was Suzanne Ishee as Grace, and the rest of the cast, comprised mostly of Fayetteville residents, was also very good.

As the run of the show was only 4 performances, Jon and I were able to make the trip to Fayetteville to see all the shows. We also brought with us selected pieces from our respective collections and made a display of Annie memorabilia in the lobby for the audience to look at as they went into the theater. The overall production of the show would have pleased any devoted fan; the sets and costumes were excellent, and the Army band from nearby Fort Bragg did a fine job with the music.

But of course the main attraction was to see Harve and Aileen, together for the first time in the two leading roles. Harve gave his role the full Broadway treatment, with all the littlest jokes and nuances done to perfection. The business of picking up Molly with her head in the gift box and holding her over his head as he wondered where to put her almost brought the house down as Harve played up the joke with funny facial expressions. "Something Was Missing" was really spine-tingling as Harve's fantastic baritone voice conveyed all of Warbucks' feelings in the song. And when the Mudges arrive and made their claim on Annie, the audience could see Warbucks' heart breaking at the thought of losing Annie. The best scene in the entire show, in my opinion, was "I Don't Need Anything But You." They did the Broadway choreography, and the high-knee step in the beginning was made even funnier by Harve moving sort of as if he were a wooden puppet on strings.

Harve and Aileen worked exceptionally well together throughout the show. At 14 years and six months, Aileen is one of the oldest Annies ever, but she did not appear to be too big, especially playing opposite 6'4" Harve. Aileen did a totally straight Broadway interpretation of the role, and had one not known she had been the motion picture Annie, one would not have guessed it from seeing her on the stage. Her performance was an accurate, not to mention excellent, stage Annie, not a replay of the movie character she played just as well before the cameras years ago. It is to Aileen's credit that she could make the transition from movie to play with such ease and skill. As in the movie, Aileen's rendition of "Maybe" was a high point, but even more affecting was the reprise in Act II ("Silly to cry..."), where she showed some fine acting in conveying Annie's feelings to the audience.

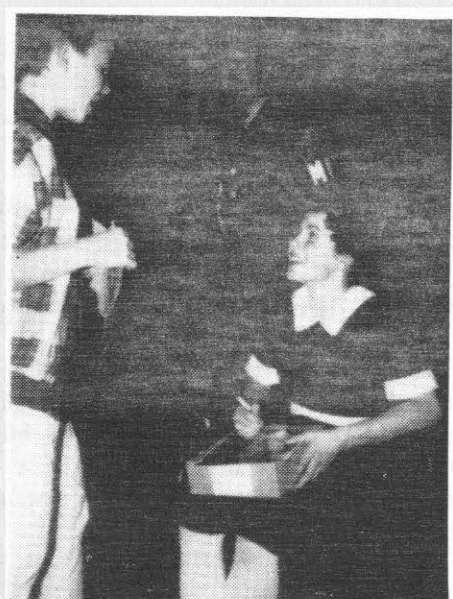
All in all, led by excellent performances by Aileen and Harve, this was a very successful show. It was great to see both of them "together at last," and we hope it is not the last of their working together!



FAYETTEVILLE, NC - Top row, Liza Latella, Stephanie Freccia, Trisha Hurley, Melody McDaniel; middle row, Alison Curry, Kristen Weingardner, April Martin, Blair Anders; bottom row, Suzanne Evans, Allison Aldrich



Harve Presnell as "Daddy" Warbucks



Aileen signing autographs after Annie at Fayetteville

In December I had the pleasure of meeting the 2nd National's third Annie, Marisa Morell, during the run of her starring role in The Wizard of Oz in Westbury, New York. A native New Yorker herself, the charming 15-year-old filled me in on the stages of her career, both before and after Annie.

Marisa, the daughter of opera singer Ernesto Gasco, took over as Annie in the 2nd National from Louanne in December 1979. She turned 10 years old very soon after and toured in the title role with Reid Shelton and Jane Connell until Kristi Coombs replaced her in December 1980. In her dressing room at Westbury, Marisa talked at length about her Annie tour experience and of the people she worked with during her year as Annie. Tom Hatten, who played FDR in Marisa's company and now lives in Los Angeles, talked to AP last fall on the telephone and enthusiastically remembered Marisa's talents.

Before Annie Marisa was on Broadway in the Richard Rodgers-Martin Charnin musical I Remember Mama, starring Liv Ullmann, and she also then spent a few weeks as one of the children in the Broadway production of Peter Pan, which starred Sandy Duncan. She also appeared on As the World Turns and played Jane Alexander's daughter in the Oscar-winning film Kramer vs. Kramer.



Most recently Marisa appeared in the ABC-TV Afterschool Special I Want to Go Home with Maddy Corman. And late in 1985 she played Dorothy at the Westbury Music Fair production of The Wizard of Oz with many of the same cast members who were in it a year earlier when Shelley Bruce played the lead. Marisa was a believable and sensitive Dorothy, with an excellent singing voice that struck me as having just the right blend of "belt" and sweetness. Seeing Marisa on stage made me realize just one more time that I regret not discovering Annie a lot sooner so that I could have seen more of the earlier Broadway and national touring company Annies.

Cynthia Moser sent in the following column by Joseph Walker, TV critic for the Deseret News, Salt Lake City:

"All right, who turned the Texas chainsaw killer loose in NBC's editing room?

"That's the only justification I can think of for the savage butchering the movie musical Annie underwent for the network's prime time presentation last Monday night (24)...I mean, I haven't seen this much senseless cutting since Silent Night, Deadly Night.

"In the first place, one has to wonder at NBC's decision to air a 128-minute long musical in a 120-minute slot. Taking away for commercials, that means you have to trim about 45 minutes--more than one third of the movie. They should have just called it Ann.

"Granted, the movie version isn't quite up to the standards of its illustrious stage forbear. And it could use a little trimming here and there. But 45 minutes? That's not just editing; that's making a whole new movie, especially when you're dealing with a musical, which relies so heavily on the flow of music within the dramatic context.

"Viewers familiar with the show missed key songs like 'Easy Street' and portions of other sequences. Those unfamiliar with the piece saw a choppy, uneven production that lacked much of the charm and sparkle of the original...."

Submitted by Carol-Ann Planté



Carol-Ann Planté with Christopher Reeve at the Broadway production of The Marriage of Figaro, Oct. 1985



Kimi Stern at the Paper Moon NYC, November 1985



With Allison Smith at Kate and Allie Ed Sullivan Theatre, NYC, Dec. 1985



Tricia and the National Tour Truck



Andrea McArdle and Annie fan Larry Skrdla backstage at Snoopy, Detroit, January 1986

Submitted by Larry Skrdla

Submitted by Polly Mortensen



MIAMI, FL - Top row, Lissa Grossman, Kimberly Danse, Marcy DeBardelaben, Elani Pennant; middle, Renee Shields (Annie); bottom row, Nicole Bergman, Tara Dickman, Lisa Walkowitz, Nicole Lewin



MIAMI, FL - Top row, Michelle Lewin, Anne Sager, Dayami Esteville, Spring McClure; bottom row, Christi Cuthbert, Kimberly Gregory, Jessica Freedman, Cheryl Fishman

Submitted by Polly Mortensen

As I reach my Golden Jubilee 50th seeing of Annie on the stage, I say thanks to all the Annies and casts for all those 100 or so memorable hours!

1	London, England	Geoff McLean	9/25/81
2	New York, NY	Allison Smith	7/28/82
3	New York, NY	Alyson Kirk	9/26/82
4	New York, NY	Alyson Kirk (2)	1/2/83
5	Westbury, NY	Allison Smith (2)	4/2/83
6	Valley Forge, PA	Kristi Coombs	5/14/83
7	Mountain Lakes, NJ	Jenice Gasior	8/13/83
8	Mountain Lakes, NJ	Tricia DeLalla	8/26/83
9	Killington, VT	Elyse Allen	9/3/83
10	Killington, VT	Colleen Lynch	9/3/83
11	Hillburn, NJ	Jennine Babo	10/8/83
12	Hillburn, NJ	Jennine Babo (2)	10/16/83
13	Mountain Lakes, NJ	Jenice Gasior (2)	10/22/83
14	New Hope, PA	Stephanie Yine	11/6/83
15	Farmingdale, NY	Cristina Conomos	11/20/83
16	Budd Lake, NJ	Lisa Thomas	12/3/83
17	Mountain Lakes, NJ	Jenice Gasior (3)	12/28/83
18	Amundale, NJ	Cindi Winger	5/19/84
19	Hescon, VT	Kara Watters	8/4/84
20	Edison, NJ	Maria Palizzi	8/17/84
21	New Haven, CT	Lisa Lynne	8/25/84
22	Shawnee, PA	Tracy Gross	9/2/84
23	Swarthmore, PA	Adrienne Castro	9/30/84
24	Toledo, OH	Kelly Kinzel	10/6/84
25	Chatham, NJ	Carl Golden	11/1/84
26	Chatham, NJ	Carl Golden (2)	11/9/84
27	New Hope, PA	Cindi Winger (2)	12/2/84
28	Jersey City, NJ	Heidi Pierson	12/8/84
29	Mountaintop, PA	Tracy Gross (2)	12/29/84
30	Somerset, NJ	Danielle Tetro	2/15/85
31	Montville, NJ	Nancy Lagos	5/18/85
32	Piscataway, NJ	Mitzi Vermillion	5/24/85
33	Montville, NJ	Nancy Lagos (2)	6/1/85
34	Hatwan, NJ	Suzanne Lawrence	6/9/85
35	Lincroft, NJ	Michelle Diamond	6/22/85
36	Glassboro, NJ	Christina Santarlas	7/5/85
37	Beach Haven, NJ	Sybella Franklin	7/18/85
38	Spring Lake, NJ	Debbie Behrens	7/26/85
39	Jennerstown, PA	Danielle Tetro (2)	8/11/85
40	New Hope, PA	Krissy Fraulich	11/30/85
41	Rochester, NY	Sarah B. Reynolds	1/3/86
42	Fayetteville, NC	Aileen Quinn	1/17/86
43	Fayetteville, NC	Aileen Quinn (2)	1/18/86
44	Fayetteville, NC	Aileen Quinn (3)	1/18/86
45	Fayetteville, NC	Aileen Quinn (4)	1/19/86
46	Fairfax, VA	Sarah B. Reynolds (2)	1/25/86
47	West Point, NY	Sarah B. Reynolds (3)	2/2/86
48	Englewood, NJ	Susan Lipton	2/22/86
49	Englewood, NJ	Susan Lipton (2)	2/23/86
50	Englewood, NJ	Susan Lipton (3)	3/1/86

MAIN FLOOR CTR L 214	FT. BRAGG PLAYHOUSE Presents AILEEN QUINN in		MAIN FLOOR CTR L 214
	ANNIE		
CUMBERLAND COUNTY MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM		FAYETTEVILLE, NC	\$12.00
18		SATURDAY 8:15 P.M.	

FAYETTEVILLE ANNIE TICKET

Leapin' Lizards! First a comic strip, then a Broadway musical, then a movie, and next a TV show?? According to USA Today, there is talk of a possible Annie half-hour sitcom on NBC next fall--if they buy the pilot. Stay tuned!

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The staff of Annie People remembers and honors the seven astronauts aboard the space shuttle Challenger

* * * *

Jon Merrill
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