

Annie People



The Newsletter for Annie Fans

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THE BROADWAY ANNIES ARE REUNITED!



Photo by Ed Birch

Pictured from left to right: (#1) ANDREA McARDLE, 22; (#2) SHELLEY BRUCE, 20; (#3) SARAH JESSICA PARKER, 20; (#4) ALLISON SMITH, 16; (#5) ALYSON KIRK, 16

On March 1, 1986, all five of them and Sandy were together for the first time since Annie closed on Broadway in 1983. The occasion was a performance of Annie in Englewood, New Jersey, which included a party after the show for the performers and audience and the six honored guests. Some of the party was filmed by Entertainment Tonight and aired a couple of days later. There were other TV appearances that week also for the former Annies; they were interviewed (and sang "Tomorrow" too) on ABC's The Morning Show and the CBS Morning News, and in addition, Sarah and Allison appeared on the CBS Nightly News.



ANNIE. The waif and her woofer—a tune-filled tale.

The gang's all here—
Little Orphan Annie,
Daddy Warbucks and
Sandy—in the fun
musical *Annie*, choreo-
graphed by Peter
Gennaro.



ANNIE—favorite characters come to life in song.



Annie

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES,
BROADWAY ANNIES,
ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR 1986 REUNION

Submitted by Tammy Saphiloff
Granada Hills, California

1 The waifs of ANNIE gather around the traditional Christmas tree. The long running musical also features Alice Ghostley as Miss Hannigan, the inebriated scold.

Interview with the 1986 National Tour's Annie

SARAH BETHANY REYNOLDS



Sarah and her various Annie costumes
On tour in Baltimore, Maryland

Sarah was born on July 27, 1973 and lives near Rochester, New York with her mom and dad and younger brother. She is in the seventh grade at the Monroe School of the Arts and has trained at the Rochester Academy of Performing Arts and with the Children's Repertory Company and has won numerous awards in singing and dancing competitions. Having starred in regional productions of Annie, Curly McDimple, and Oliver!, Sarah has also appeared in Mame, The Point, and Peter Pan. The (before Annie) blonde 12-year-old most recently was on Broadway as Louise in Sunday in the Park with George, where she shared a dressing room with former 4th National Orphan Sherri Leidy. To help Sarah carry on the tradition of the lead actress in Annie carrying a red tackle box for her stage makeup, Sherri presented her with one when she was picked for the 1986 National Tour.

Annie People conducted a telephone interview with Sarah in March while she was home in Rochester for a week off. Portions of this interview follow:

AP: First, Sarah, let's go back to the beginning. Did you ever see Annie before you were in it?

SBR: I saw Annie in Rochester when I was six or seven. Kristi Coombs was Annie, and I said when I saw it, 'I want to be Annie when I grow up!' All little kids like Annie. They were holding auditions for Orphans and I tried out and I was among the top ten, so I got to appear on TV with Kristi on Morning Break. I did several shows here (Rochester, NY) and did my first Annie two years ago when I was ten, just turning 11.

AP: Did you take dancing or singing lessons when you were younger?

SBR: I was taking dancing lessons when I was five. After I saw Annie I began taking singing lessons.

AP: Had you worked with any of these Orphans before? Any of the adults?

SBR: Except for Stephanie (Kae Seeley, Annie understudy and swing Orphan), who lives pretty far away, I have worked with all the kids. Last April I played Annie with Robert Tiffany as "Daddy" Warbucks.

AP: What do you think of playing in so many different places?

SBR: I enjoy it; it's kind of hard, but we get used to it.

AP: Are a lot of these cities ones that you haven't been to before?

SBR: I've been to Florida, but the tour hasn't gone there yet. I had been to Canada before too. Most of the cities are new. We were in Boston for a couple of weeks, and I really liked Boston. We took a field trip and got to see a lot of things in the city.

AP: Are you looking forward to going way out West, to California?

SBR: Yes, I'm very big on swimming! I'm looking forward to that.

AP: OK, you have all just arrived in a new city on the bus. What happens?

SBR: We go to the hotel first and then to dinner. We don't usually perform the same night we arrive, except once in a while. My mom and I have our own room, and the other kids and their moms have their own rooms too. We have school in the mornings and then we can go shopping.

AP: What kind of a performance schedule do you usually have?

SBR: We do eight shows a week—including 2 on Wednesday and 2 on Saturday. About every six or seven weeks we get a week off. I'm home now till next Monday, and I'm being tutored while I'm home with the same tutor who's with us on the tour.

AP: What are some of your memorable moments on the tour so far?

SBR: One night the dog fell asleep on the stage while I was singing "Tomorrow." I was trying to call him and I really had to slap my knees before he would come to me.

AP: That happened to the original Sandy on stage too, and they found out he had some sort of sleeping sickness. I hope Moose is all right.

SBR: Oh, he's fine. He's a very good dog.

AP: Any interesting memories of the traveling itself so far?



With Sarah and Janna Robinson (Tessie)
On tour in Baltimore, Maryland

SBR: When the bus got on the (New York) Thruway the toll booth lady made me get off the bus so she could see me to see if this was really the Annie bus. And in Pittsburgh a woman came to the show and had a baby the next day and named her Annie.

AP: She'll turn out to be one terrific kid, I bet. Back to the show, what are your favorite parts when you're doing the title role?

SBR: I like the scene where I change into the red dress, I like the radio scene, and I like the first scene. My favorite songs are "Easy Street," "Fully Dressed," and "Together at Last."

AP: That's interesting that "Easy Street" is one of your favorites, even though Annie doesn't sing it.

SBR: Well, I don't sing "You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile," either.

AP: Right, you'd think after seeing the show 51 times I'd know that! In the show, which scenes are the most difficult?

SBR: The hardest one is the one at the end of the first act.

AP: You mean, "You Won't Be An Orphan For Long," when Annie has to cry?

SBR: Yes. I'm a very happy child, so that scene is hard to do.

AP: I can imagine. How do you do that, do you think about something sad?

SBR: On the road, I'm away from my father and my brother at home, and that makes me sad, so I think about that.

AP: I understand Martin Charnin was in Boston seeing the show and working with the cast. What scenes in particular did he work on?

SBR: He worked on the Cabinet scene, and when I come to the Mansion the first time, and the first scene, and I think he worked on "Easy Street" too.

AP: What do you do on the bus while you're traveling?

SBR: We listen to tapes on our Walkmans and do our schoolwork by ourselves. Sometimes the bus rides get boring. We have two buses, one for the cast and one for the crew. There are 4 or 5 trucks. We don't use the bus much anymore, we fly to places mostly now.

AP: Tell us a little about your schooling when you're on the road.

SBR: We go to school most mornings. The tutor has the five older kids in the morning and the three younger ones in the afternoon. It's nicer than a regular classroom because you get more attention.

AP: What is it like performing in big arenas, like the one at Fairfax (VA). Do you like theaters or arenas better?

SBR: Oh, theaters--much more. I don't approve of doing a Broadway show in a place where they play hockey. It's not the right atmosphere. It's too big, people can't see. It's too hard to put up the sets, and there's no curtain. They don't always have the best equipment, not as many lights, that sort of thing. We did a few arenas, but we don't do them anymore.

AP: Finally, Sarah, how do you see the character of Annie? What do you try to feel like when you play her?

SBR: Well, Annie's an optimist. She tries to look forward more than other characters in plays. Annie's a good part for kids; there aren't too many parts for kids.

AP: Thank you very much, Sarah, for talking to Annie People. Mrs. Reynolds, how do you like being an Annie Mom on Sarah's tour?

Mom: Well, I can safely say that it's the one and only one until she does it on her own! It's very tiring for the Moms, it's really more fun for the performers cause they're doing it. It's an awful lot of fun, though; I certainly would not have wanted to miss it for anything, even though my husband and my son are back home and I gave up a career to do it. The other Moms and I have known each other for a long time.



Sarah and her understudy, Stephanie Kae Seeley
On tour in Boston, Massachusetts

★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

ANDREA McARDLE's run of club dates at Freddy's in New York was so successful that it was extended from two weeks to four weeks, ending on April 20. More on Andrea's show, which was written by MARTIN CHARNIN, will be in the next issue of AP. Andrea also sang at the AIDS benefit at the new Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York in April and will be in Utah on Memorial Day for the annual Osmond family telethon....Lots of Annie stars on TV lately: APRIL LERMAN was a guest star on Kate and Allie with ALLISON SMITH; Allison was on Phil Donahue and Hour Magazine; SARAH JESSICA PARKER guest-starred on Hotel; ROBIN IGNICO appeared in the TV movie News at Eleven; REID SHELTON was on Blacke's Magic; and SHAWNEE SMITH is a regular on All Is Forgiven....MARTIN CHARNIN hopes to have the Annie sequel open on Broadway on April 21, 1987 after a short preview run elsewhere first (don't miss AP's exclusive interview with Mr. Charnin which will begin in July). And THOMAS MEEHAN has finished writing an Annie TV pilot for NBC....DOROTHY STANLEY is currently at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey in The 1940s Radio Hour. Dorothy played Lily St. Regis in Annie there in 1983 with TARA KENNEDY and also during the last year on Broadway with ALLISON SMITH and ALYSON KIRK....Jerry's Girls, starring DOROTHY LOUDON, finished up its Broadway run in April....A new showcase called Peter's Professional Children's Revue has opened in New York. Produced by Peter Sklar, it plays Sundays at the 5 & 10 No Exaggeration club in the SoHo area. NYC area showcase fans should check this one out (212-684-2088). Brian Bloom joined ALLISON SMITH in performing at the opening on March 16, as did CARYN LYN JONES, who had just finished up as Molly in Annie in Englewood, New Jersey. 7-year-old Caryn is also currently appearing in the new Off-Broadway musical The House in the Woods along with 227's KIA GOODWIN....A segment on Best Talk in Town on New York TV in March was devoted to performing children in Barbara Klein's showcase; the segment featured singing by CAROL-ANN PLANTÉ and TANI TAYLOR POWERS....SUZANNE ISHEE recently returned to Englewood, New Jersey, this time to play the Blue Fairy in Pinocchio. She has played Grace Farrell in Annie twice this year, once in North Carolina with AILEEN QUINN and HARVE PRESNELL, and again with SUSAN LIPTON in Englewood, where the Broadway Annies Reunion took place. Before that Suzanne toured in Jerry's Girls with ANDREA McARDLE....Birthdays: SHELLEY BRUCE, 21 on May 5; ALBERT FINNEY, 50 on May 9; CHARLES STROUSE, 58 on June 7; STEPHANIE KAE SEELEY, 15 on June 24; AILEEN QUINN, 15 on June 28; DANIELLE BRISEBOIS, 17 on June 28.

Open Call is setting up a Personalized Computer Talent Search which will help you kids living in or planning to be in the PA/NJ/NY area get notices of casting calls which match your own interests and talents. Write: Open Call, Box 68, Chalfont, PA 18914, or call (215) 822-8180 for further information and the fees for this new service.

Let us know if you are planning to be in "Hands Across America" on May 25. It would be fun to know if there will be other Annie fans in the big hand-to-hand line. Probably the total number of Annie fans in it will be at least 627 women and 619 men--all claiming to be Annie's parents, of course.



CYNTHIA MOSER in her Annie room
Salt Lake City, Utah



With Dorothy Stanley at
The 1940s Radio Hour
Millburn, New Jersey



BROADWAY ANNIE REUNION - Top row, Tricia
Trozzi, Jon Merrill; middle row, Andrea
McArdle, Marian Burden (reunion party coor-
dinator), Sarah Jessica Parker; bottom row,
Allison Smith, Alyson Kirk, Shelley Bruce
Englewood, New Jersey
March 1, 1986



ENGLEWOOD, NJ - Back row, Kristen Kuhn,
Sybelle Franklin, Kelly Ridge, Alexandra
Smith, Mary Staunton; front row, Susan
Lipton (Annie), Caryn Lyn Jones



ENGLEWOOD, NJ - With Suzanne Isnee (Grace Farrell)



Harve Presnell and Aileen Quinn
Fayetteville, North Carolina



With Aileen Quinn on the Annie stage
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Submitted by Bonnie Bearden

TOUR UPDATE: The 1986 National Tour continues into its fifth month with no end in sight, and there have been some significant changes. Martin Charnin rehearsed extensively with the cast during their Boston and Baltimore runs and fine-tuned some of the more subtle aspects of the script and staging, which have brought this production to an even higher level of expertise and class. Each time the AP staff sees the tour, we notice lots of little changes and improvements, and the "Broadway touch" is now very evident in this production. We are delighted and grateful, as is the cast, that Mr. Charnin has become involved in helping with this fine production of Annie. The structure of the tour has also changed in that the one-night-stand, bus-and-truck aspect is now over; it now travels by plane to week-long engagements or longer at fine theaters around the country. Plans are that after Memorial Day the tour will go to the Pacific Northwest before taking the summer off, after which it will resume performances in the fall in California and again on the East Coast.

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Annie People has taken out a membership in FOCUS, a new organization run by the National Association of Fan Clubs. FOCUS (Ferret Out Clubs Unethically Sound) is dedicated to being a kind of Better Business Bureau for fan clubs in an attempt to blow the whistle on those clubs which are not being properly run and are ripping off the public, thereby giving our hobby of fan clubbing a bad name. AP is proud to belong to FOCUS and display its logo along with the NAFC logo, and we urge all Annie-related fan club presidents to join and support FOCUS; It will help each and every one of us. Join through Trina at the NAFC.

Annie People also supports the "JUST SAY NO" clubs, which are being formed nationwide by children who want to join others who have pledged to "JUST SAY NO" if they are offered drugs. If your youth group or school class is interested in more information, write to us here at AP and we'll send it to you.

Jon Merrill
Annie People
Box 431
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

