

Annie People



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Artwork by Tricia Trozzi, co-editor and columnist

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ANDREA McARDLE BACK ON BROADWAY IN STARLIGHT EXPRESS

by Tricia Trozzi



© Playbill

ANDREA IN STARLIGHT

Leapin' Locomotives (I didn't make that up; that's a line from the show), it's been ten years since Andrea made her Broadway debut in Annie and now she returns in the multi-million-dollar production Starlight Express. The musical's format is "rock opera," with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Richard Stilgoe, and the Tony Award-nominated choreography is by Arlene Phillips, who choreographed the Annie movie. The three-level set designed by John Napier required a 2.5 million dollar makeover of the Gershwin Theatre (we know this theater also by its former name, the Uris, when it was the home of the last year of Annie of Broadway).

The 27 members of the cast portray locomotives and their cars by performing on roller skates and in Tony Award-winning costumes that create the appearance of trains. All the costumes have handles on the back allowing the cars to "link up" to the locomotives. Andrea plays Ashley, the Smoking Car, and her stage business is puffing away on a fake cigarette. Andrea is part of a trio of female cars that perform a few of the musical's best songs and also joins in the incredible skating races that speed up and down ramps, across bridges, and create formations of skaters. And the cast must sing at the same time! The overall effect of the sets, lights, and costumes combined with the energetic rock music and the physical skill of the performers add up to a very exciting show. The physical demands of the show make it literally a "hard-knock life" for the cast. Andrea told me after the show that she suffered a concussion during previews and in May missed some performances due to water on the knee. But Andrea skates very well and trained a long time to be in the show, so she is doing fine. At last the first Broadway Annie is back in "NYC" in a very innovative musical show.

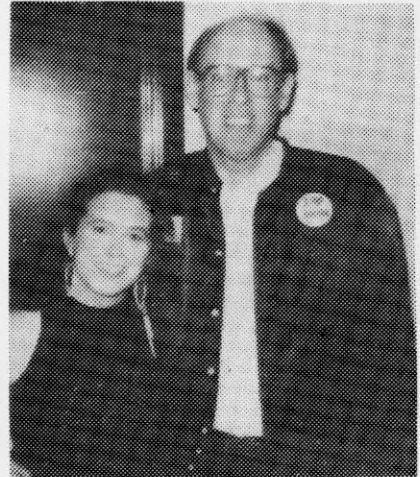
★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

MARTHA BYRNE recently won her first Daytime Emmy award for Best Leading Ingenue in an ongoing series for her role as Lily Walsh on CBS's As The World Turns.... Starlight Express continues to be a huge hit on Broadway (see related story), but ANDREA McARDLE has been in and out of the show with various show-related injuries and showed up at the Tony Awards with a black eye....ALLISON SMITH will enter New York University in NYC in September and will continue taping Kate and Allie as usual....ALYSSA MILANO will star in an NBC-TV movie called Driver's Ed with Brian Bloom and Tina Yothers....SARAH BETHANY REYNOLDS will be back on Broadway this winter in Teddy and Alice, which will start rehearsing in July and tour in Tampa Bay and Baltimore before arriving on Broadway in November. Sarah was in Broadway's Sunday in the Park With George before touring in the title role in the 1986 National Tour of Annie....HARVE PRESNELL will star in Shenandoah in Salt Lake City, Utah in August....The release date of The Frog Prince, starring AILEEN QUINN, has not yet been set, but a spokesman at Cannon Films told me over the phone that it will be "this year" sometime....TANI TAYLOR POWERS sang on TV in New York on the Joe Franklin Show and the Arthur Grundig Variety Show....JUNE HAVOC, Broadway's last Miss Hannigan, has written a play called Marathon '33, which is based on her autobiography, Early Havoc. The play, which is about the phenomenon of marathon dancing in the 1930s, is currently playing at the Shaw Festival at Niagara Falls in Ontario....MONICA GRADISCHEK has just begun a seven-week-long run of Annie at the Market Square Dinner Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA. She has been Annie in several productions in the past in the Pittsburgh area, and this time around she will be 15 1/2 years old, and therefore probably one of the oldest actresses ever to do the title role....A current national tour of The Sound of Music has in its cast ROBYN FINN (Broadway's first Pepper), as well as STACEY MOSELEY and DAVID BARRON from the recent Annie production in Darien, CT. David played Drake in the 3rd National....DANA DAWSON recently starred in an ABC After-school Special called Read Between The Lines....THOMAS MEEHAN is one of the principal writers of the current hit Mel Brooks movie Spaceballs....The New York area's first dinner theater to put on Annie was Neil's New Yorker in New Jersey in 1983. That production starred TRICIA DeLALLA in the title role; Tricia is back at Neil's this summer reunited with two of her Orphans, ELLEN CARO and CATHY TRIEN, in Singin' In the Rain. In addition, Ellen sang in the Performers showcase in Asbury Park, New Jersey....DEBBIE GIBSON's "Only In My Dreams" video has been finished (see related story), and her album Out Of The Blue and her next single "Stayin' Together" will be out soon....We wish our best to REID SHELTON, who is recovering from double-bypass surgery in Oregon....BERNADETTE PETERS can now be seen doing commercials for Breyer's Classic Ice Cream....ALEXANDRA SMITH and JESSIE SMITH performed in Annie Get Your Gun at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ. They have been Annie Orphans many times, most recently in Darien, CT with STACEY MOSELEY and KERI GLEASON....Performers at the 1987 Tony Awards telecast: ANDREA McARDLE, BERNADETTE PETERS, and JANE CONNELL. Jane was nominated for a Tony for her role in Me and My Girl....Birthdays: LARA BERK, 15 on July 12; TARA CARNES, 17 on July 16; LAURA BAKER, 15 on July 22, PATRICIA ANN PATTS, 20 on July 31; KIA GOODWIN, 14 on August 2; JOHN HUSTON, 81 on August 6; KIMBERLEE DAVIS, 15 on August 7; KIMBERLY STERN, 13 on August 12; THOMAS MEEHAN, 58 on August 14; KRISTEN SCHMITZ, 17 in August; ROBIN IGNICO, 17 on August 19; JENNIFER (GOTTESMAN) BLAIRE, 17 on August 20; ALLISON HARVEY, 14 on August 30.

Update on APRIL LERMAN (Tessie and Kate)

As the years go by since the release of the movie and the closing of the show on Broadway along with the first four National Tours, it is obvious that more and more of the former Annie "kids" are hardly kids anymore. Take April Lerman, for example, an alumna of both the 1st National (Tessie) and the movie (Kate). April is 18 now, just graduating from high school and is off to college in the fall.

Tricia and I received a kind invitation to attend April's one-woman show at her school in New York City this past May, and it gave us a chance to not only meet for the first time a very attractive young lady with a lot of Annie history behind her, but also see the potential of a fine career developing in the field of singing and songwriting.



April's career thus far has gone from the original cast of Really Rosie through the 1st National Tour and movie of Annie and then on to television. Many fans will remember her season on CBS's Charles in Charge three years ago, after which she appeared as a guest star on episodes of Kate and Allie and Growing Pains and on an Afterschool Special called Little Miss Perfect. April also starred in Rita, the pilot for the Rita Moreno series which also starred the 4th National's first Annie, Mollie Hall.

Now it seems as if April's talents are currently taking on a new dimension. Her performance of about a dozen songs included a number of her own compositions. Particularly noteworthy was a sensitive lyric describing her feelings toward working with sick children at a local hospital, something she has been doing for some time. Throughout the program, April pleased the audience immensely with her patter of comedy and funny anecdotes about her TV series work in between the musical numbers. In all, the entire program was a fine blend of different types of material, indicative of the versatility of the artist.

April's show was very well-received on a hot night in a tiny theater by a nevertheless enthusiastic crowd of guests, which included fellow New Yorkers Stefanie Anne Levy from the 2nd National and Carrie Kei Heim from Parent Trap II, both of whom have worked with April in the past. As April moves on to Brown University in Rhode Island in the fall, we wish her luck and hope to hear more of her fine voice and songwriting in the future.

Hello, Annie People! We hope you are all having a pleasant summer. As usual, it is a busy time for us with lots going on--especially having to get used to a new computer as of this issue (AT&T PC 6300 with SAMNA IV software). Since most theaters in New Jersey have done Annie by now, we find that we are having to travel a little more to see productions, such as when Tricia went to Miami last year to see Renee Shields' show. An outdoor production near Robert Redford's ski resort at Sundance, Utah this past June marks the most distant Annie show I have yet covered for AP. I have also recently seen fine Annie casts at Utica, New York and Yardley, Pennsylvania, and soon I will be traveling to Pittsburgh for a few days to see the show starring Monica Gradiscek and appear with her on a local talk show. Thanks to Larry Skrdla and Cynthia Moser for the pictures of the shows in Michigan and Ohio. If you catch a production in your area, please take a picture like the ones on pages 4 and 5 and send it to us at AP. Thanks!

Annie Across the



UTICA, NY - Top row from left, Danielle Prentice, Birgitta Victorson (Annie), Alison Socha, Teale Palazzoli; bottom row from left, Julie Sacco, Tracy McKinney, Becky Golden, Laurie Buckley



UTICA, NY - With Birgitta Victorson (Annie)



SUNDANCE, UT - Top row from left, Traci Brewster, Catie Nelson, Corinne Nelson, Holly Markgraf; bottom row, Kelsi Osborn (Annie) with Sandy

Submitted by Cynthia Moser



CANTON, OH - Top row from left, Erika Furlan, Amy Hendon, Allison Kramer, Darcie Moore (Annie); bottom row from left, Debra Blazer, Kristy Fammartino, Emily Massello



YARDLEY, PA - Top row from left, Amy Cassara, Hope Hines, Jen Mazzuca (Annie), Reshma Pradhan; bottom row from left, Jen Potter, Erica Rhodes, Sue Brown



...And at the Yardley Annie show were Yardley's own former Broadway Annie Orphans, from left, Sherry Dundish, Hally McGehean, Roxanne Dundish

Submitted by Larry Skrdla



DETROIT, MI - Top row from left, Kirsten Pepper, Jill Asmus, Sara Denawitz, Kristin Plater, Kim Ramsey; bottom row from left, Elizabeth McIntosh, Harmony Beddow, Caryn Gach

Submitted by Larry Skrdla



DETROIT, MI - Katie O'Shaughnessey (Annie)



Submitted by Misty McGrew

TOLEDO, OH - Teagan Smith, Misty McGrew (Annie)



With Stacey Moseley at Melody Maker at Panache, New York City, May 1987

DEBBIE GIBSON'S "ONLY IN MY DREAMS" IS IN THE TOP 25!
Album, Video, and Follow-Up Single Due Out Soon

Since our last report in AP about Debbie Gibson's hit record, the song has really taken off in popularity, as you well know if you have been anywhere near a radio this summer. What a pleasure it is to hear Debbie's exceptional voice over the air so often, and it seems as if we're going to be hearing (and seeing) a great deal more of her talents over radio and TV in the next few weeks.

To introduce this multi-talented young artist to the many new AP subscribers we have gained this summer: Debbie Gibson is 16 years old and lives on Long Island, not far from New York City. She played July in Annie on Long Island in the fall of 1983, and four years later she became the first former Annie Orphan ever to place on the charts with a hit record. "Only In My Dreams" on Atlantic Records began its hit status as a 12" single on Billboard magazine's national dance chart and then crossed over to the pop chart in early May where it is currently #24 on American Top 40 and moving up fast. The song has reached Top 5 locally in Miami, Hartford, and Philadelphia so far, and after peaking at #4 on the dance chart, it remains on that chart after more than five months. Debbie makes personal appearances at local discos and not only writes her own music, but she also does a great deal of the arranging and producing as well--an unusual and remarkable achievement for someone just finishing up junior year in high school.

Debbie filmed her new "Only In My Dreams" video on the beach at Asbury Park, New Jersey in June and immediately got ready to take off for appearances in Los Angeles and Hawaii this summer. By the time this issue of AP is out, you'll be seeing the video on MTV and VH-1. And soon Debbie's long-awaited debut album Out Of The Blue will be out, which will feature "Only In My Dreams" and the upcoming follow-up single, "Stayin' Together."

Now that summer is here Debbie has a chance to visit and perform in other parts of the country where her record is well-known but where her performing talents haven't been seen yet. Anyone who has a chance to see Debbie's act is in for a treat. "I love to perform," she said enthusiastically in a local radio interview. "The audience entertains me as much as I entertain them; I love it when they know the words to the song and sing along." As for her own dreams of the future, Debbie wants to (1) win a Grammy award, and (2) perform in Madison Square Garden. Lofty goals, perhaps, but maybe not impossibly lofty for one with the extraordinary talents, energy, and determination of Debbie Gibson.

Nov. 1983 *BroadHollow Theater*

CAST
(In order of appearance)

Molly	TANIA TAYLOR POWERS	JENNIFER GANDOLFO
Pepper	CHRISTINE VIGNOLA	DONNA SONKIN
Duffy	LISA RUDIN	ROBYN ZWEIFACH
July	DEBORAH GIBSON	STACY GREENE
Tessie	GAIL GAGE	RANDIE AXINN
Kate	DENISE GIBSON	JENNIE RUDIN
Annie	CHRISTINA CONOMOS	LISA RUDIN
Miss Hannigan	MARIAN STEINER	
Bundles McCloskey	JERRY DEFINA	
Apple Seller	BOB SIEGFRIED	
Dog Catchers	DONALD DOLCE, NEAL SCHIFF	
Lt. Ward	CHARLES NEWMAN	
Sophie, The Kettle	PRISCILLA BARBERA	
Grace Farrell	RENEE ELLEN	
Drake	BOB SIEGFRIED	
Mrs. Pugh	LYNNE RUDIN	
Cecille	PRISCILLA BARBERA	
Annette	STEPHANIE LARACENTA	
Oliver Warbucks	WARREN SCHAEFER	
A Star To Be	STEPHANIE LARACENTA	
Rooster Hannigan	CARL A. NORTHGARD	
Lilly	KATHY KELLY	
Bert Healy	NEAL SCHIFF	
Fred McCracken	CHARLES NEWMAN	
Jimmy Johnson	DONALD DOLCE	
Sound Effects Man	JERRY DEFINA	
Bonnie Boylan	PRISCILLA BARBERA	
Connie Boylan	STEPHANIE LARACENTA	
Ronnie Boylan	LYNNE RUDIN	
FDR	STEVE ASCIOLLA	
Ickes	JERRY DEFINA	
House	CHARLES NEWMAN	
Hull	NEAL SCHIFF	
Perkins	PRISCILLA BARBERA	
Justice Brandeis	JERRY DEFINA	



May 1985



March 1987 - 6 -

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FRIDAY, MARCH 13 SHANNON GRAMMY AWARD NOMINEE SONG LET THE MUSIC PLAY AND ALL HER OTHER HITS

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92	NEW	1	WEAPONS OF LOVE	THE FLY
93	NEW	1	ONLY IN MY DREAMS	DEBBIE GIBSON
94	NEW	1	MAN AGAINST THE WORLD	SURVIVOR
			DON'T GIVE UP	PETER GARRETT / MATE DUFF

Debbie's first appearance on the Hot 100 on Billboard Magazine, May 9, 1987

BROADWAY AND NATIONAL TOURING COMPANY ANNIES

by Tricia Trozzi

This is a revised list to the one published back in AP #8 and contains the names of all the Annies from Broadway and the National Tours. We still are not sure of all of the dates, but maybe with your help we can update it even further.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Opening City</u>	<u>Actress Who Played Annie</u>	<u>Starting Date</u>
BROADWAY	New York	Andrea McArdle	Apr. 21, 1977
		Shelley Bruce	Feb. 28, 1978
		Sarah Jessica Parker	Mar. 6, 1979
		Allison Smith	Jan. 29, 1980
		Alyson Kirk	Sept. 8, 1982
		Closed:	Jan. 2, 1983
1ST NATIONAL	Toronto	Kathy-Jo Kelly	Mar. 23, 1978
		Mary K. Lombardi	Apr. 1979
		Theda Stemler	Sept. 30, 1980
		Louanne	May 15, 1981
		Becky Snyder	Aug. 1981
		Closed:	Sept. 6, 1981
2ND NATIONAL	San Francisco	Patricia Ann Patts	June 22, 1978
		Louanne	June 12, 1979
		Marisa Morell	Dec. 19, 1979
		Kristi Coombs	Dec. 29, 1980
		Closed:	1982
3RD NATIONAL	Dallas	Rosanne Sorrentino	Oct. 3, 1979
		Bridget Walsh	Mar. 27, 1981
		Becky Snyder	Summer 1982
		Closed:	1982
4TH NATIONAL	West Point	Mollie Hall	Sept. 11, 1981
		Kathleen Sisk	Sept. 1982
		Closed:	Sept. 1983
1984 NATIONAL	Atlanta	Lisa Lynne	July 24, 1984
Closed:	Sept. 16, 1984		
1986 NATIONAL	Rochester	Sarah Bethany Reynolds	Jan. 3, 1986
			Closed:

LONGEST RUNNING: ALLISON SMITH (Broadway), 2 years 7 months.

OLDEST: SARAH JESSICA PARKER (Broadway), who began at 13 years 11 months and left the role at 14 years 10 months. Andrea McArdle also left the role at 14.

YOUNGEST: KRISTI COOMBS (2nd National), who began just two days after her 9th birthday. Louanne and Marisa Morell also started when they were 9.

ANNIE T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Leapin' lizards, everyone seems to love the Annie Broadway logo T-shirts advertised in the last issue of AP, judging from the number of orders that have come in and the comments from happy customers. The silk-screen imprint is 10" long and 4" high and is in three colors (black, white, and yellow) printed on a red shirt. Sizes available, ADULT SMALL, ADULT MEDIUM, ADULT LARGE, and ADULT EXTRA LARGE. The Adult Small would probably fit older pre-teens OK. It is washable, but I would use warm or cold water and avoid putting it into a hot dryer.

These are the finest Annie logo T-shirts I have seen. No Annie fan should be without one, so now is the time to order. Satisfaction guaranteed; money will be refunded if you are not completely delighted with your Annie shirt.

\$8.00 each, postage included. Please make checks payable to Jon Merrill. Buy a shirt and wear it proudly to show everyone that ANNIE LIVES!

I have revived my catalog of Annie collectibles for sale that I started a couple of years ago. The Annie Collectory catalog is a supermarket of Annie items including dolls, books, magazines, stickers, greeting cards, posters, key chains, jewelry, and lots of Applause and Knickerbocker items, all at big discounts. If you would like a free catalog, write to me care of Annie People.

Nothing new to report on Annie II; it is still being written, and we presume nothing will begin involving auditions and casting until it is all done. Stay tuned to AP and we'll pass on any news about the sequel as it comes our way!

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