

# Annie People



Member



National Association  
Of Fan Clubs

The Newsletter for Annie Fans

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## ANNIE WILL PLAY IN TOKYO IN JUNE



RINA NISHIBE, 11

SHINO YANAGI, 11

Japanese Annie fans--and I understand there are a great many--will have a chance to see their favorite musical in the near future, when Annie comes to Tokyo for a one-month run. There were reportedly several thousand girls in Japan who tried out for the show, and two girls will share the title role--two talented eleven-year-olds named Rina Nishibe and Shino Yanagi.

On April 16th the staff of Annie People was invited to participate in a publicity session in NYC on the occasion of the visit to America by the two little Annies. It was their first visit to the United States, and although they were suffering a little from jet lag, they seemed thrilled to see up close the city which plays such an important part in the Annie story. Also visiting were the show's director, Mari Natuki (Miss Hannigan), the girls' mothers, and about a

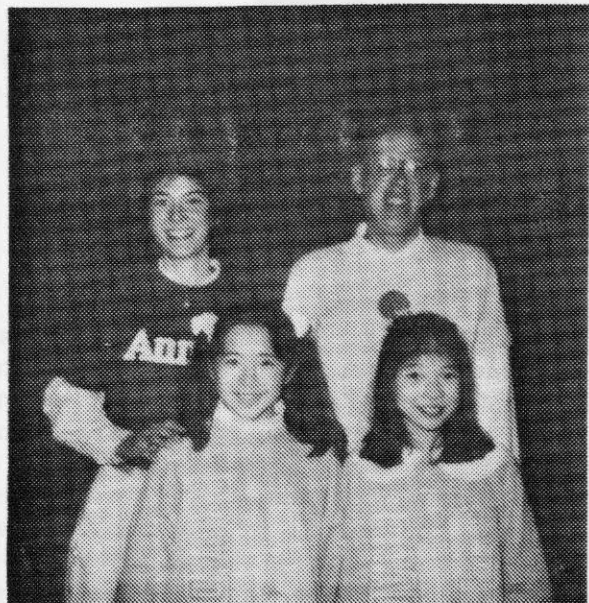
dozen members of the Tokyo press. The session, at which a videotape of the proceedings was made to be shown on Japanese television, was conceived and created by Mitzhie Takeuchi, who also engineered Rina and Shino's trip.

Also invited to the session was nearby Long Islander Tani Taylor Powers, so that Rina and Shino would be able to meet an American girl around their age who had been in Annie and could share some of her Annie experiences and later show business experiences with the Japanese people by videotape. Of course, since the Japanese girls didn't know English and Tani didn't know Japanese, an interpreter was present who did a terrific job keeping up with the animated talk of three little girls as they talked about Annie in their respective tongues.

Once the interview with Rina and Shino and Tani began, one of Tani's first requests was that the girls sing "Tomorrow" in Japanese, and they did so, showing off their fine singing voices. Both Tani and the Japanese girls were very curious as to what each country does about school during rehearsal time and performance time, and it turned out that their replies were remarkably similar. Rina and Shino were also interested in hearing about Tani's career on the stage and TV and in movies following her Annie run which was when she was only six years old. The Japanese mothers present then asked about Tani's mother's part in her career, and Mrs. Powers was asked to be interviewed. No doubt echoing the feelings of many mothers of Annie kids over the years, Tani's mom said that traveling to auditions and performances with her daughter is "a full-time job."

Tricia and I were also interviewed about fandom for Annie here in the U.S. and were photographed presenting Rina and Shino with some Annie People souvenirs to take back to Japan. The director then asked us about some of the more subtle points of interpretation and blocking of the script, and during our discussion with him (which tested the interpreter's skill and stamina to the fullest) we learned that he is planning to leave just about all of the "local" jokes in the script as usual, even though some of them might be difficult to understand in a foreign country. I suppose that has been the case right through the years in the numerous foreign translations Annie has undergone.

We wish our new Japanese friends all the best in their Tokyo production, which will run from June 3rd through June 27th. During the afternoon I was struck by a moment that occurred after Tani and Rina and Shino were interviewed: as the cameramen were setting up the stage for the second part of the interview, off in a corner were the three girls together poking out tunes on the piano and chattering away, not a word of either language being understood, but sharing a new friendship--a friendship brought about by a musical called Annie.



Tricia and Jon with  
Rina and Shino  
April 16, 1988



Rina (left) and Shino sing  
"Tomorrow" in Japanese  
for Tani Taylor Powers  
April 16, 1988

Concert Review: Debbie Gibson's "Out Of The Blue '88" College Circuit Tour

On April 30th Debbie Gibson performed to 2,200 fans at Seton Hall University, which coincidentally is located two miles from my house in my home town of South Orange, New Jersey. This was the last in a series of college dates Debbie had been doing; now she will concentrate on working on her second album and finishing up her last few weeks of high school in Merrick, New York.

About one year ago I had seen Debbie perform at her very first club date in the area just after "Only In My Dreams" had come out, and at that time she had two male dancers with her as she sang to a prerecorded track. Nowadays, she still has two male dancers, but she also has two female dancers who double as background singers, and--a five or six piece rock band behind her. Debbie's is a class act; it is highly polished, and she is a tremendous crowd pleaser.

Much has been written in Annie People and in other magazines about her songwriting and producing talents. However, this night was a chance to see firsthand Debbie the performer. It is obvious that her background of being in musicals like Annie when she was younger has really paid off. I feel that despite her now well-known expertise in the recording studio, this artist is really most at home when she is on stage, performing to a live audience.

Debbie sang well over a dozen songs; almost the entire Out Of The Blue album plus a number of new songs not yet heard on record by her yet. One of the new ones was "Lost In Your Eyes," but I can't remember if she sang "Speed Of Light" at this show; "Speed Of Light" is a current dance hit by a singer named Reimy and is, I believe, the first Debbie Gibson composition that has been released by another artist. Her live version of her current hit "Foolish Beat" was a standout, as was "Red Hot" from the album. Of course, I have always been partial to "Red Hot," and it was great to see her do it live. Debbie never stops moving while she sings, and she constantly reaches out into the first couple of rows to shake hands with her fans.

During an extended version of "Shake Your Love," Debbie featured each member of the band by having him come out front on stage playing his instrument. She is obviously very proud of her band and seemed to want the audience to get to know them as something other than just some instruments playing in the background. A nice gesture. As I said, this is a class act. And the audience was thrilled with dancer Keith doing splits and dancer Buddy doing back handsprings and flips, right there on the stage.

Debbie even reached way, way back in her New York area musical heritage and surprised us all by singing the famous doo-wopp oldie from 1956, "In The Still Of The Night." Debbie did it superbly, and it was very moving to those of us in the audience who were old enough to remember when that song was first out.

By the time "Only In My Dreams" was done and Debbie and her entourage took their bows, screams and chants of "Deb-BIE! Deb-BIE! Deb-BIE!" showed that this was no ordinary evening. You will see what I mean if you catch a show during her national tour which begins this summer. This singer is here to stay.

During a brief time talking to Debbie and a few members of her family this night, I learned that, like here, her popularity in Europe is really taking off these days also. At the moment she is too busy with school to do much overseas traveling for a while, but England is so eager to see her again, they just might bring her over there on the Concorde to perform briefly for her English fans. But, for the time being, graduation is foremost in Debbie's mind, and then her tour starts around the first of July.

I hope lots of AP readers have a chance to see one of the most versatile and talented teenage (Debbie is 17 and will be 18 on August 31) singers to come along in years. Drop us a note at AP after you see Debbie's show and tell us what you thought about it.



Debbie just before the show  
So. Orange, NJ Apr. 30, 1988

# ★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

ALLISON SMITH was the grand marshal in a parade in NYC on May 7 honoring composer Irving Berlin on his 100th birthday. She also recently went out to Los Angeles to do an upcoming and as yet untitled Afterschool Special....MARTIN CHARNIN's No-Frills Revue is doing very well in NYC. One scene in the revue is a scene from Annie as if it had been written by Stephen Sondheim. Mr. Charnin's daughter Sasha is making her Off-Broadway debut in the show (she had auditioned for Annie years ago when she was 13 but had to be turned down by her father because she was "too tall"). Soon his new show Mike, about the life of movie producer Mike Todd, will be opening at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. The book for Mike is by THOMAS MEEHAN. We all wish a complete and speedy recovery to Mr. Charnin, who is recuperating from quadruple bypass surgery....KATHLEEN SISK recently starred in Fair Game, a Young People's Special on ABC-TV....ANDREA McARDLE has not been too active in show biz lately because she and her husband Edd Kalihoff are expecting their first child this year....TANI TAYLOR POWERS will be the voice of Marcie on eight new Peanuts specials of an educational nature coming to TV this fall, including stories about the Mayflower and the Wright Brothers. She has done two of them already and will be going to California each time a new one is done....MONICA LEE GRADISCHEK recently played the part of Frenchie in Grease in Pittsburgh....The NBC Annie "butcher version" of the movie aired for the third time on May 13th--all 96 minutes of it....ALYSSA MILANO appeared on the panel of Animal Crack-Ups....At a recent production of Annie in New Jersey in which she played the title role, JAIME LEIGH CRODDICK told us that her old friend Staci Keenan came to see one of her performances. She also told us that she believes that Staci was not ever in Annie after all. Maybe Teen magazine, which reported on Staci's past theater experience before My Two Dads, was referring to that "other" show--you know, the one about the gun....Birthdays: STEPHANIE WINTERS, 18 on May 1; SHELLEY BRUCE, 23 on May 5; ALBERT FINNEY, 52 on May 9; ARLENE KULIS, 16 on May 12; PATTI GILBERT, 19 on May 23; CHARLES STROUSE, 60 on June 7; DEBORAH WEBSTER, 19 on June 11; LOREN KAUFMAN, 15 on June 16; STEPHANIE KAE SEELEY, 17 on June 24; AILEEN QUINN, 17 on June 28; DANIELLE BRISEBOIS, 19 on June 28. Belated greetings to ROXANNE DUNDISH, 15 on March 1;

\* \* \* \* \*

DEBBIE GIBSON won two New York Music Awards on April 9th (see separate story). She also performed at Madison Square Garden at the 40th Anniversary of Atlantic Records show. Representing, as she put it, the "new generation" of Atlantic recording artists, she was enthusiastically welcomed and received by the crowd when she did three numbers, including a medley of her first three hits. She was scheduled in prime time alongside other long-time Atlantic groups and singers, and as a result was seen performing on the HBO telecast. Debbie's third single "Out Of The Blue" became her first hit to finally slip past the #4 position and peak at #3 in the U.S. to become her highest pop chart position yet. But the 12" version of the song did hit #1 on the dance chart just as its predecessor "Shake Your Love" had done. Now that Debbie has a live band, she wants to get away from the dance style a little and be more of a rock singer, but the club DJs and fans at discos aren't so willing to let her go, and the dance versions of her songs still sell just as well as ever. You may remember that "Only In My Dreams" was ranked the #1 best-selling dance single for the year 1987 by Billboard magazine. Debbie's current single "Foolish Beat" is a change of pace for her in terms of hit singles by being a ballad, but it is moving well on American Top 40 just like her first three. She is currently working on a new album which will be out probably in early fall. Meanwhile, there will eventually be a fifth single from Out Of The Blue--"Staying Together," another cut on the album which was co-produced by Debbie.

**Q.** What happened to Aileen Quinn, the little  
redhead who played Annie in the movie?  
— Tony Renzi, Mount Clemens, Mich.

**A.** The moppet is now 16 and an A student at prep  
school in New Jersey (favorite subjects:  
journalism and languages). After the 1982 musical,  
she recorded an album, Bobby's Girl, and she  
continues to hone her show-biz skills today. Quinn  
will be onstage singing, not tomorrow, but May 21,  
with a 106-piece orchestra in Pottstown, Pa.

The above newspaper clipping inspired us at AP to enlarge upon the idea:

**AILEEN QUINN** (Annie) recorded the album Bobby's Girl for Columbia Records in the summer of 1982, just before she and her family went all over the world to promote the movie. She did the voice of Dorothy for an animated version of The Wizard of Oz in 1983 and a couple of years later performed the same role on stage in Fayetteville, North Carolina when she was 14. A few months later Aileen was back in the same city doing Annie on the stage with Harve Presnell. Since then she has starred in the upcoming movie for Cannon Films called The Frog Prince. Aileen moved from Yardley, Pennsylvania in February 1984 and now lives in New Jersey. She will be 17 in June.

**TONI ANN GISONDI** (Molly) performs often at telethons and showcases in Atlantic City, New Jersey. She was in the TV miniseries Harem in 1985 and last summer she won first place in talent in the Miss New Jersey Pre-Teen Pageant. Toni Ann lives near Atlantic City and became a teenager (can you believe it?) in January.

**ROSANNE SORRENTINO** (Pepper) had toured as Annie in the 3rd National for a year and a half before going right into the movie. Consequently, she decided to take a breather from show biz during her high school years. However, she did do one very fine Off-Broadway play in NYC called Sacraments in the summer of 1984. Rosanne is now 20 and still lives on Long Island in New York.

**ROBIN IGNICO** (Duffy) moved from Florida to California right after Annie and has done a lot of television work since. She appeared regularly on Trapper John M.D. and starred in the TV movie Don't Go To Sleep. Robin was most recently seen on Brothers on HBO. She can also be heard as the voice of Annie on a series of children's albums made the year the movie came out. Robin lives in Los Angeles and will turn 18 in August.

**LARA BERK** (Tessie) starred with Molly Picon on the Grandma Didn't Wave Back TV movie in 1982. Since then she was in the movie A Chorus Line and has made numerous singing appearances in New York City showcases. Lara will be 16 in July and lives in New York City.

**APRIL LERMAN** (Kate) had been Tessie in the 1st National before the movie. After the film she starred on Charles In Charge on NBC with Scott Baio. Later on she did a couple of guest-star appearances on Kate And Allie and Growing Pains. In 1987 she did a one-woman singing show of original material in New York, just as she was about to graduate from high school. April is now 19 and has just finished her first year at Brown University in Rhode Island.

**LUCIE STEWART** (July) went back to England right after Annie and we at AP have never been able to make contact with her since to find out what she has been doing. Lucie turned 16 last December.

Perhaps some of you saw Celebrities--Where Are They Now with Edward Asner on TV in 1985 on which the original seven children from The Sound Of Music were all reunited on the 20th anniversary of the premiere of the movie. Sounds like a great idea--Annie Orphans, don't plan anything else for May 21, 2002.



MARLBORO, NJ - Top row from left, Allie Byrne, Jodi Krauss, Jaime Leigh Croddick (Annie), Brenda Dillon; bottom row from left, Lora Morosco, Christine Paccillo, Joy Silberstein, Becky Gowarty, Mandie Lynn Drucker, Melissa Brooke Davis.



Jon with Debbie Gibson  
April 30, 1988

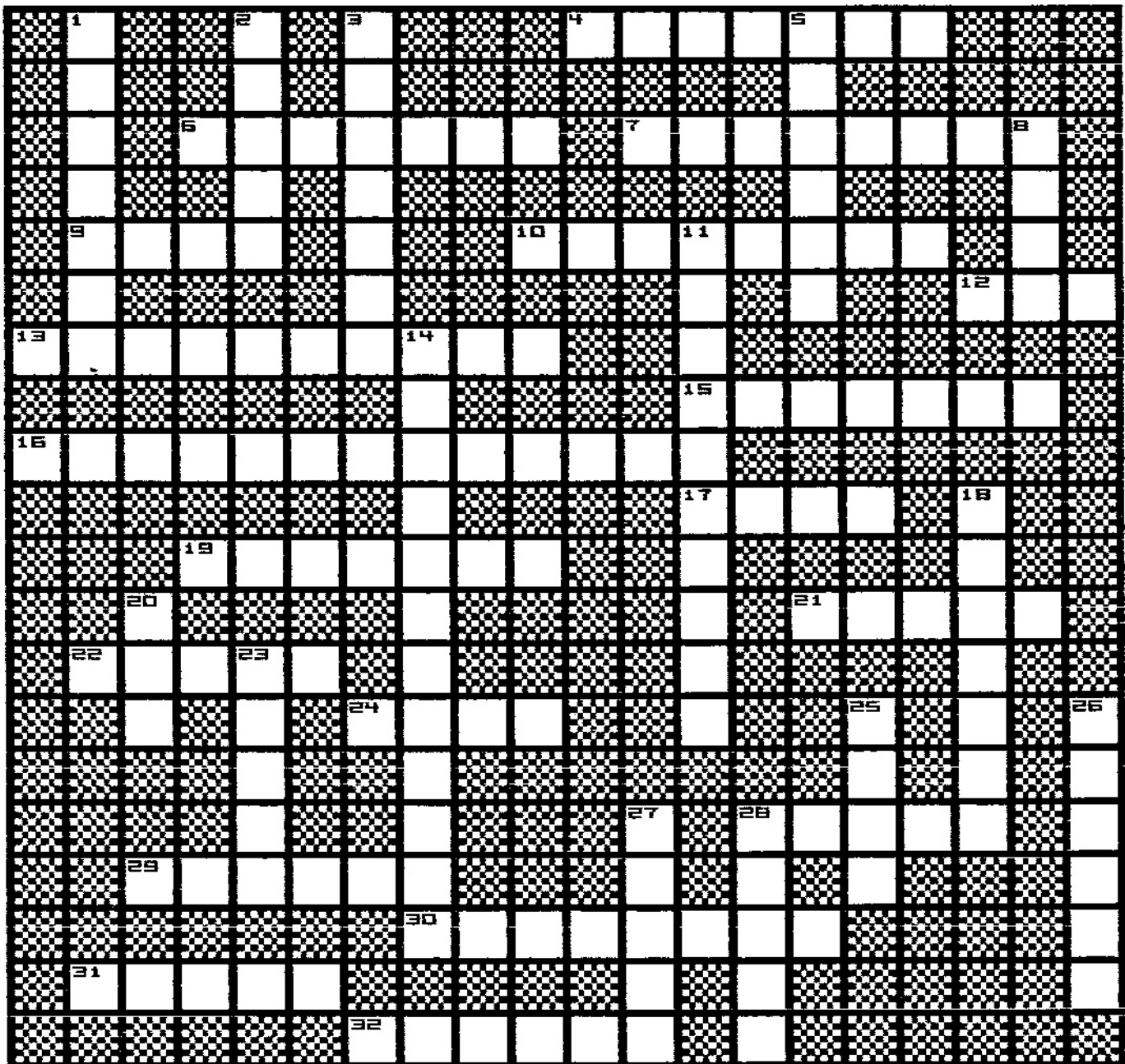
ALL GOOD THINGS...

New York: It was indeed a dream come true when seventeen-year-old DEBBIE GIBSON finally met up with a most important idol, BILLY JOEL, backstage at the recent Grammy festivities in New York. Suffice to say, the two did discuss working together in the future, as well as enjoying the post-show activities.



Seen (left to right) DEBBIE GIBSON and BILLY JOEL

Thanks to David Salidor of DIS Company in New York for sending us this photo and press release. Thanks also to him for taking the above upper right photo backstage at Debbie's concert at Seton Hall University on April 30th.



ACROSS CLUES

4. Bert Healy's toothpaste.
6. Rooster to Miss Hannigan.
7. Month that Annie was left at the Orphanage.
9. "A New \_\_\_\_\_ for Christmas."
10. "Oh, my \_\_\_\_\_!"
12. A song from Act I.
13. "What did Harpo want?"
15. Annie composer Charles \_\_\_\_\_.
16. What Miss Hannigan always taught Annie.
17. One of the two items left with Annie by her parents.
19. David and Margaret \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Miss Hannigan's first name.
22. "I'm richer than \_\_\_\_\_."
24. "Annie loves her new \_\_\_\_\_."
28. The youngest Orphan.
29. Any one of the Boylan Sisters.
30. Warbucks gave Annie a package from \_\_\_\_\_.
31. That canine star.
32. "We'll need flowers, caviar, champagne, and \_\_\_\_\_."

DOWN CLUES

1. Original Broadway Annie.
2. Annie opened in which month?
3. Where did Warbucks take Annie to lunch?
5. Annie's age.
8. "It's only 45 blocks!"
11. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a car."
14. The other item (see 17 Across).
18. Balph and \_\_\_\_\_ Mudge.
20. "Also known as Danny the \_\_\_\_\_."
23. Where Annie opened in New York.
25. Rooster's girlfriend.
26. Warbucks' first name.
27. Warbucks' butler.
28. Song that begins and ends Act I.

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 V R A Y TIFFANYS  
 E K B SANDY  
 R CHEESE E

## DEBBIE GIBSON WINS TWO NEW YORK MUSIC AWARDS

On April 9th the New York Music Awards were presented at the Beacon Theatre in NYC. These awards, which are given out every year, are kind of like New York City's version of the Grammy awards, and are presented to singers and other people in the music business who make their homes in the metropolitan area.

Debbie Gibson, 17, whose Out Of The Blue album had recently reached platinum status, was nominated for six awards. This was considered quite an outstanding achievement, inasmuch as Debbie had not been heard on New York radio until about a year before and was competing against many seasoned artists from the area. By the time the presentations were over, Debbie had picked up a pair of awards: one for Best Debut Artist and the other for Best Album by a Debut Artist for Out Of The Blue.

Debbie was wildly applauded and cheered by the New York crowd, who had been among the first in the nation to hear "Only In My Dreams" on local radio in the winter of 1987. We all anxiously awaited her performance, which, as it turned out, was scheduled as the very last act of the evening. It was well worth waiting for, and she received loud New York-style ovations when she began her first song, which was the yet-to-be-released ballad, "Lost In Your Eyes." Of course, she sang her big hits too, including the Top 3 hit "Out Of The Blue" and her latest single, "Foolish Beat." From where I was in the balcony, I could easily see that there were a LOT of other enthusiastic Debbie Gibson fans there who were happy to see her sing and happy to see her win two well-deserved awards.

Congratulations, Debbie, and we'll see you there again next year!



Billboard

Debbie accepting an award

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**Annie**  
A New Musical