

Annie People



T-2

Member



National Association
Of Fan Clubs

The Newsletter for Annie Fans

No. 39, May 1989

Published by Jon Merrill, Box 431, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey 07927

Artwork by Tricia Trozzi, co-editor and columnist

Contents copyright © 1989 by Jon Merrill for the contributors

Price: Free

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

AILEEN SPENDS "A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD..."

by Tricia Trozzi

Aileen Quinn's latest activity was performing onstage near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Bristol Riverside Theatre presented an excellent production of the musical show A Day In Hollywood/A Night In The Ukraine in April and May. The first act of the play consists of six movie theater ushers performing many classic songs from 1930s and '40s movies. The second act is a Marx Brothers comedy set in Russia.

Now almost 18, Aileen shows even more performing skill than she demonstrated in Annie. She particularly loves to dance and has several opportunities in the first act to show off her skill in tap and jazz. Her famous beaming smile and great enthusiasm make the complicated time-steps look effortless. Recently Aileen was taking five dance classes a week, and all her practicing pays off in the number "Famous Feet" in which she and her partner have a tap "duel" with the steps becoming faster and more difficult. Aileen and two co-stars sing "Japanese Sandman" in three-part harmony while gliding along with a very unusual sidestep. And in my favorite number, "Doin' The Production Code," the whole company recites the restrictions on movies in the 1930s in time to an all-out tap dance. As a singer, Aileen has really improved; her voice is matured and has more power and control. In her only solo, "The Best In The World," Aileen comes close to stopping the show. The story-song, which requires acting skill as well, is about a hopeful young actress who goes to Hollywood to become a star. Aileen does a fabulous job, conveying all the emotions with the proper intensity from belting out or near-whispering the lyrics. In that number she has the (continued on next page)



The AP editors with Aileen before the show

(continued from first page) audience's complete attention.

In the second act Aileen plays the silent, curly-haired character based on Harpo Marx, showing a real talent for pantomime. (She laments that she's had to wear a wig for almost every part she's ever played!) She performs all the character's well-known traits, except for playing the harp, which is cleverly substituted by plucking the spokes of an overturned bicycle in time to a harp recording!

Aileen will graduate with honors from high school this June and will attend college in California in the fall so she can audition for parts in the Los Angeles area. She would very much like to make another movie, but we hope she will not abandon live theater completely, especially after her excellent performance in this show!

Review: Little Orphan Annie by Harold Gray, published by Fantagraphics Books

Fantagraphics Books is in the process of publishing LOA strips by Harold Gray by year, in their entirety. So far, the years 1931 and 1932 have been done, with 1933 on the way by this fall. (The LOA strip began in 1924, but the publishers decided to begin with 1931, the first year that the dailies and the Sundays were truly following the same story line. Plans are to do 1924-1930 at a later date.) These fine paperback books are the first attempt to do LOA complete, and they are very welcome to Orphan Annie strip fans who have had only small numbers of Harold Gray reprints up to this time.

Sales of these books are unfortunately only at a "break-even" situation, so many collectors have questioned whether the series will be able to be continued. The last time I talked with Fantagraphics, I was told that they are going to go on, but that they are "low priority" compared to their Little Nemo and Popeye anthologies, which are being done at the same time and are better sellers. This is why there is so much time between Orphan Annie volumes.

It is hoped that Rick Marschall's vision of doing the entire Harold Gray run becomes a reality. Buy a volume and see what you think of Gray's version of our favorite orphan; you'll probably become hooked, just like a whole bunch of us LOA strip fans. The 1931 volume involved "Daddy" Warbucks going broke and living in a cheap rooming house with Annie, at which time he goes blind in a truck accident. Fearful of being a burden on Annie, he disappears and lays plans to restore his fortune. 1932 finds Warbucks with both his sight and his fortune restored, but under the clutches of his new wife, the domineering Trixie who despises Annie and Sandy and makes their lives miserable. A hopelessly hen-pecked "Daddy" soon takes Trixie on an ocean voyage and Annie and Sandy once more are left on their own and wind up in Cosmic City, a small town, where they take up residence with the Futils and Annie becomes a successful storekeeper. The upcoming 1933 volume will feature Annie as a singer, with her and Sandy taking their act out on the road while being managed by the unscrupulous Chizzler (see AP #30, Nov. 1987, page 1).

The 1930s are the beginning of the Golden Age of Harold Gray. Try these Fantagraphics volumes and see if you don't agree.



© Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Update on MARTHA BYRNE, Soap Opera Star and Rock Singer

One of the most hard-working and versatile of the former Broadway Orphans, Martha Byrne, has been adding club dates to her already busy career. Recently she played a fine set at the Cat Club in Manhattan to an enthusiastic crowd of rock fans. Unlike most NYC clubs which cater to a dance music clientele, this club is strictly hard rock, with a little punk and metal thrown in.



Such a location is perfect for 19-year-old Martha's style, which is strictly hard-hitting rock, and lots of it. After telling the audience to "get down" for some "serious rock and roll," she was all over the stage, never stopping during her 45-minute set. Her voice is strong, her style reminiscent of Joan Jett or Pat Benatar, and her material almost all original, composed by members of her band. The lone oldie was a fine crowd-pleasing version of "All Right Now," the big hit in 1970 by the group called Free.

Martha, who grew up within blocks of both Allison Smith and Alyson Kirk, was in Annie as July with Allison in 1980. At age 12 after Annie she starred in the excellent movie Anna To The Infinite Power. Past readers of AP have read how much I raved about this film when I first saw it. Rent it or catch it on cable; it is superb viewing for the whole family. You will love it!

When Martha was about 15 she joined the cast of As The World Turns on CBS opposite Brian Bloom and won an Emmy for Best Ingenue in 1987 for her portrayal of Lily Walsh, whom she continues to play today. Fans of Kate And Allie will remember Martha's guest appearance with Allison four years ago as Jennie's sophisticated but too-influential classmate, Carter Lowe ("Oh, I think it's so a-DO-O-OH-ra-ble how you have the living room, the dining room, AND the kitchen ALL together like this....").

Martha began doing club dates late in '88 and has played a few clubs in the New York area so far this year. As for her future plans, she has begun to write songs to use in her act and wants to continue with that, with the hope of making a record someday. We wish good luck to one of Annie's most talented alumnae.



SANDY MICHAELS (center) starring in Houdini
Toronto, Ontario



KIRTLAND, OH - Top row, Karey Stevens, Danielle Carosello, Joan Dunn, Terese Sovich; bottom row, Molly, Dawn Sovich (Annie)



Record dealer Mike Corseillo put together this display at Alwilk Records in Cedar Knolls, New Jersey. The "ELECTRIC YOUTH" logo in the middle lights up.



Jon with BROOKE KRANZ
East Meadow, NY



EAST MEADOW, NY - Top row, Dolores Gaska, Pia Glenn, Melissa Mindlin, Vanda Danbunpoth; middle row, Lisa Marie Mazzella, Joy Paczkowski, Lauren Steinberg, Robin Brunet, Jordan Santeramo, Bonnie Farago, Jeana Utrecht, Amy Schumer; bottom row, Rebecca Green, Brooke Kranz (Annie)



DEBBIE HAMMOND
Cast of Sounds Of Broadway
Pittsburgh, PA



TANI TAYLOR POWERS
at Christopher's
Brooklyn, NY

☆ Annie Stars Since Annie ☆

SHELLEY BRUCE married Ray Natale on April 15th. Her predecessor, ANDREA McARDLE was there celebrating the occasion, as was BILL BERLONI. Shelley continues her work as a volunteer with the American Cancer Society and the Make A Wish Foundation. On weekends she sings with her own band....AILEEN QUINN has just finished a run in Bristol, PA, in which she starred in A Day in Hollywood - A Night In The Ukraine (see separate story)....The 3rd National's LIZ LARSEN is on Broadway starring in Starmites, a new musical about a teenage comic book fanatic who is magically transported to the land of his favorite comic book series. You may have seen Liz's sister STEPHANIE VINE when she was a guest star on Kate And Allie in March....MARTHA BYRNE performed at the Cat Club in New York in March (see separate story)....Writes NORWOOD SMITH, "Just thought you might like to know that as a veteran "Daddy" Warbucks--1st National Company for three and a half years and several hundred stock performances--I still seem to be locked into the name Annie. This time, however, it won't be the Annie we know, but a traveling company of Annie Get Your Gun in which I'll be playing Buffalo Bill. We open in Palm Beach, Florida on May 28 for two weeks, then Fort Lauderdale and Orlando. In 1986 I was Warbucks at Burt Reynolds' Theatre in Jupiter, Florida with ALICE GHOSTLEY and LINDSEY ALLEY, so it will be like "Old Home Week" as Jupiter is only 22 miles north of Palm Beach."...Broadway sequel news from the New York Daily News in April: "This sequel will be full of Annie's whiz-bang adventures and bring back the evil orphanage despot Miss Hannigan. Producer LEWIS ALLEN is already talking to DOROTHY LOUDON, who is in Chicago in Driving Miss Daisy. He wants her to reprise Miss H., a role she created and for which she won the Tony. Almost everybody involved in the original--except for "Annie" herself, now all grown up--will return with new music, book, costumes, sets, and dances. CHARLES STROUSE, TOM MEEHAN, MARTIN CHARNIN, PETER GENNARO, ROGER STEVENS, the NEDERLANDERS and Allen have answered the call. (MIKE NICHOLS will pass.) They'll also invite Annie's original press agent, DAVID POWERS...." Another article a couple of weeks later said that the creators "have been working on it pretty steadily these days, and producer Lewis Allen confirmed that they're looking forward to a date at the Kennedy Center 'possibly in January, if they have an opening at that time. If not, probably in April. We should know shortly.'"...JULIE STEVENS sang the National Anthem for the playoff games of the Philadelphia Flyers and has been on The Equalizer on TV; SARAH JESSICA PARKER was in the PBS special Life Under Water in April; and CRISTINA CONOMOS was in the movie Lean On Me....Florida's LINDSEY ALLEY is seen every day starring as one of the Mouseketeers in the New Mickey Mouse Club on the Disney Channel.... TANI TAYLOR POWERS sang a weekend gig in May at Christopher's club in Brooklyn, the same place where a month before she had been the featured entertainer at the "NYC Queen" pageant on April 9th. Always a crowd pleaser, Tani gave outstanding emotional performances of two of her recent favorites, "On My Own" from Les Miserables and "The Wind Beneath My Wings," the song Bette Midler made famous in Beaches. MELISSA KALFA was supposed to perform at the pageant also, but she had broken her arm in an accident in dance class a couple of days before. Melissa's brother Mark Kalfa has released "Once Around The Block" for Vendetta/A&M records in both 7" and 12" versions. This is his first single for the label and his first record under his own name; his pop chart hit "Yo' Little Brother" and his rhythm and blues chart hits "One Bad Apple" and "Leave The Lights On" in 1985-87 were under his former stage name of Nolan Thomas. Best of luck to Mark on the rebirth of his recording career....DAVID BRUMMEL, having finished his role as Oliver Warbucks at the Carousel Dinner Theatre in Akron, Ohio, is now starring in Evita there. He is joined in his new show by several Orphans from his Annie cast, PAULA SMITH, ELIZABETH BOGGIO, and JACLYN LINCICOME....CHARLES STROUSE and Lee Adams wrote some new songs for the revision of Golden Boy, which premiered in Florida....ALLISON SMITH has just finished her second year at NYU (New York

University) in NYC. She was able to not lose any college time in spite of Kate And Allie tapings and frequent trips this past year and will begin her junior year on schedule in the fall. Meanwhile, Allison continues to work on her upcoming album. Nothing has been announced from the network about the future of K&A, but since it has been reported in the newspapers that at least one of the two adult stars is planning to leave, it is widely assumed that this past season was its last. Kate And Allie ran for a little over five seasons, and we will all miss it. I hope you have syndicated daily reruns in your area, as we do in New York....We ran into SUSAN LIPTON's parents in Atlantic City at Andrea's show, and they told us Susan loves high school and particularly enjoys cheer-leading....AMANDA PETERSON is starring in the movie Listen To Me....DEBBIE GIBSON was nominated for seven New York Music Awards this year and won four at the annual ceremony at the Beacon Theater on April 8th. Among her awards were Artist Of The Year, Song Of The Year (for "Foolish Beat"), and Female Pop Vocalist. Debbie's Electric Youth album spent five weeks at #1 on Billboard's Top LP chart, has gone double platinum, and is still in the top five where it has been since February. No 18-year-old ever before in the history of the recording business had enjoyed a run that long at the top of the LP chart. The single of "Electric Youth" is moving up through the top 20 as the followup to "Lost In Your Eyes," which spent three weeks at #1 and is one of the biggest chart hits of 1989 so far. Catch the "Electric Youth" video on TV; Debbie does some terrific dancing in it. Debbie plans to tour Europe this summer and then the U.S. in the fall....KRISTI COOMBS and SYDNEY WEEKS starred in Babes In Arms in their native Cape May, New Jersey. Kristi played Terry Thompson in the Rodgers and Hart musical and sang "I Wish I Were In Love Again," while Sydney sang "My Funny Valentine" in her role as Susie. Sydney was Tessie in the 3rd National with BRIDGET WALSH, and Kristi was the youngest national touring company Annie at age 9 when she toured in the 2nd National with REID SHELTON....DEBBIE HAMMOND is starring in the musical revue Sounds Of Broadway near Pittsburgh. It was written by JUDE POHL, who is also producing and directing. Jude was the producer of the Annie production two years ago in which Debbie played Molly....STACY MORZE from the 2nd National appeared in a stage version of Fame in Philadelphia....CAROLINE DALY from Broadway in about 1980 is now attending Connecticut College and studying child psychology....JO ANN WORLEY, remembered from Laugh-In in the late '60s, will play Miss Hannigan in three separate week-long Annie productions this summer, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, and Detroit....That librarian who hassled poor Al Bundy about his 30-year-overdue library book on the recent rerun of Married...With Children was LU LEONARD, who played Mrs. Pugh in the movie. Also, the mad woman on ALF who kidnapped him for her traveling freak show was KATHLEEN FREEMAN, Miss Hannigan in the 3rd National....GARRISON TRUE will be doing the casting for the (1990?) Rastar/Tri-Star Annie II movie....Birthdays: STEPHANIE WINTERS, 19 on May 1; SHELLEY BRUCE, 24 on May 5; ALBERT FINNEY, 53 on May 9; ARLENE KULIS, 17 on May 12; PATTI GILBERT, 20 on May 23; CHARLES STROUSE, 61 on June 7; DEBORAH WEBSTER, 20 on June 11; LOREN KAUFMAN, 16 on June 16; STEPHANIE KAE SEELEY, 18 on June 24; AILEEN QUINN, 18 on June 28; DANIELLE BRISEBOIS, 20 on June 28.

Submitted by Tammy Saphiroff

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

Sarah Jessica Parker, 24 ...

"No more kid stuff," says the actress, who recently appeared in *The Ryan White Story* on TV. Parker prefers low-key birthdays: "I'm embarrassed when people sing to me." Born March 25, she'll have an intimate dinner complete with Vivaldi music with housemate, actor Robert Downey Jr. Next: the April PBS special *Life Under Water*, a dark comedy about coming of age.



By Lisa O'Connor

Annie

A New Musical

CHEERS UP LA SIERRA'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

by Tammy Saphiloff



With Amie "Annie" Chilson

LEAPIN' LIZARDS!!! What a swell organized production of "Annie" the Seventh-Day Adventists' La Sierra Academy's Society for the Performing Arts Association put on in, March 1989!!! There were five performances with a full house at each one. Standing ovations and floral bouquets for all cast members; as well as AMIE "Annie" CHILSON, Director Edwin Zackrison, Producer Vivienne Tjan, and outstanding orchestral accompaniment by Musical Director, Nestor Zamora, showed how thrilled the audience felt the grand performance of the show.

La Sierra Academy, is a fairly small school, nestled in a rural area of Riverside, California. My mother, Doris L. Durland, graduated over 50 years ago from Loma Linda University's La Sierra campus, and on March 11, 1989, attended the Alumni Homecoming.

"Annie" was a special free event for the Alumni on Saturday night. All attending the performance, praised this superb presentation and growth of the La Sierra Society of Performing Arts, which is only four years in existence. Needless to say, having seen the performance of "Annie" by professionals at the Shubert Theatre in Los Angeles, ten years ago, my friend and family, were greatly impressed about how closely it resembled that presentation.

WOW!!! NO ONE EVER TIRES OF SEEING AND HEARING "ANNIE"!!! WE LOVE HER!!!



Display Little Orphan Annie memorabilia

FAIRFIELD — Do you believe it?! Little Orphan Annie will be 65 years old this year — and she doesn't look a day over 11.

Celebrate Annie's birthday by viewing the display of Annie memorabilia in Fairfield's Pio Costa Library during April and May. The display is courtesy of Tricia Trozzi, a West Caldwell resident, who has been collecting items relating to the red-headed comic strip character for seven years. With over 900 items, Tricia's collection includes buttons, posters, books, records, comic books, dolls, toys, games, figurines, mugs, and lifesize cardboard cutouts.

Tricia can be described as the ultimate fan. She faithfully

reads the comic strip, and she has seen the musical play 57 times and the movie 61 times. In the display are photos of Tricia and various Annie stars. Tricia has even appeared on local television to be interviewed about her hobby. She is co-editor of the Annie Fan Club bi-monthly newsletter called *Annie People*. Attending the final performance of the Broadway show in 1983 was one of the highlights of Tricia's interest in the subject.

The library is located at 261 Hollywood Ave., Fairfield. It is open Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Jon Merrill
Annie People
Box 431
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

CompuServe 73677,135

Annie
A New Musical