

Annie People



The Little Orphan Annie Fan Club Newsletter

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LOTS OF ANNIE EVENTS COMING IN 1996!

Annie will play at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut from September to December 1996. Tickets can be ordered by phone at (860) 873-8668. This run, directed by Martin Charnin, will mark the 20th anniversary of the first Goodspeed run of *Annie* in 1976 which preceded its almost six-year run on Broadway beginning in 1977. Season tickets were scheduled to go on sale in late January at the Goodspeed (other shows *Sweeney Todd* and *Paper Moon*). So far there has been no word as to the casting in *Annie*. Speculation among hopeful fans is that *Annie* may attempt to come to Broadway next year around the 20th anniversary of the original Broadway opening (April 21, 1977), what with all the success revivals have been having on Broadway lately. We'll have to keep our fingers crossed. The Goodspeed staff kindly sent a flyer to every AP subscriber, and we thank them for that.

Another national tour of *Annie* is currently playing around the country. This will be the fifth post-Broadway *Annie* tour (after 1984, 1986, 1991, 1992) and the ninth overall. Watch for it in your area and write and tell us about it in case it doesn't get to the East Coast right away.

The videocassette of *Annie: A Royal Adventure* starring Ashley Johnson is now in video stores. The movie sequel to *Annie* aired on ABC-TV on November 18, 1995. The release of the video was the "news" we referred to at the end of the Ashley interview in the last *AP*; we were told about its upcoming release but were asked not to reveal the information until after the airing of the TV movie. (Actually, it turned out that the videocassette was being sold in stores several days *before* the airing and was advertised as such in TV Guide!)

The videocassette of *A Very Animated Christmas* is also in video stores (they may have put it away with their holiday-oriented releases after Christmas, but it can be ordered). This is the animated cartoon with the three Annies, ages approximately 10, 16, and 30. This video is a preview of the *Tomorrow Team* series which will be on TV in the 1996-97 season.

An article on Orphan Annie collectibles appeared in the Winter 1996 issue of *American Country Collectibles* magazine. The author, Susan Hogan, had contacted AP for input, and we thank her for including our address in the article. We gained a number of new subscribers who are collectors as a result of this coverage, and we welcome them into the AP family. Attention, Annie collectors, this winter we are planning to put out an Annie collectibles auction list (probably before the next AP comes out) of our duplicates, and if you would like to receive this list when it comes out, send a long SASE to the AP address above. Thanks!

'Annie' movie isn't music to our ears

HOW ARF-FUL! "Annie: A Royal Adventure," tonight's ABC film aimed for younger viewers (8 o'clock), doesn't have one "Tomorrow" in it. It's strictly a nonmusical, despite the fact that a wonderful baritone from "Sunset Boulevard," George Hearn, is playing Daddy Warbucks.

This so-so lighthearted adventure features Ashley Johnson as Annie, the carrot-topped moppet, with a wig fit for a mop. Her close buddy, Hannah Apple, is played by Ann Lloyd. The two kids have their palms read and Annie is told she's heading on a long voyage rife with trouble and sinister characters.

Lo and behold, when she and Hannah return home Daddy Warbucks is loading the Rolls with suitcases, preparing for a trip to London. Annie protests she can't go, but to no avail. Well, she asks, if she has to go, can she and Hannah take the orphan Molly with them? Yes, if they get Mrs. Hannigan's permission. Surely that



KAY GARDELLA

should be a cue for a song. Something like "Please, Mrs. Hannigan." However, their pleas to the orphanage's mean mistress fall on deaf ears and they do the only thing two mischievous youngsters can do. They hide Molly in a

trunk and away they go. London is everything the palmist predicted. Professor Eli Eon (Ian McDiarmid), a houseguest of Daddy Warbucks who's traveling with him, has perfected a deadly formula that a group of shady characters, headed by Lady Hogbottom, are determined to steal. Joan Collins, looking oh-so-glamorous, adds a little zest to the film as Lady H. She befriends Daddy War-

bucks while her sleazy son and his companions go skulking about, with Annie and her buddies on their trail.

The plot is so predictable you can take it from here.

Of course, you're probably wondering why Lady Hogbottom wants to lay her hands on the Professor's formula.



'ROYAL' SUBJECTS: Joan Collins, George Hearn and Ashley Johnson in "Annie"

Well, we'll tell you (just don't tell the kids). She plans to blow up Buckingham Palace and become Queen of En-

gland. Actually, by the looks of all the London tabloid reports, she'll have to get in line!

© The New York Daily News

NEW YORK POST, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1995

'ANNIE' IS A 'ROYAL' PAIN

Michele Greppi



OUR little "Annie" without an-over-the-top rendition of "The Sun Will Come Up Tomorrow?"

'Our favorite orphan with Buster Brown curls instead of an Annie 'fro?

Leapin' lizards! What have they done to the comics heroine-turned-miniature Ethel Merman, whose theme song is only suggested with a tasteful string score?

They've cast "Maybe This Time's" precocious Ashley Johnson in the role, spun a new adventure, created a fun new ogre in Joan Collins and wrapped it all up in bedtime-story style that makes it perfectly suitable for young children, and ABC's Saturday family movie franchise.

So low key is this "Annie" that it would be downright



AT SEA: Little Orphan Annie (Ashley Johnson) takes a boat trip with Joan Collins, George Hearn and Sandy in ABC's "Royal Adventure" TV movie.

soporific if it weren't for Joan Collins' deliciously deadpan delivery as Lady Edwina Hogbottom. She's a slightly campy Cruella without the dalmations.

She'll go to any length to be Queen of England — even flirt with nutty Prof. Eli Eon (Ian McDiarmid).

Lady Hogbottom needs

Eon's potentially deadly secret formula for her plot to blow up Buckingham Palace.

She also needs to replace her bumbling henchmen, a couple of mental dwarfs who are really grumpy and sneezy after locking themselves in a meat locker on an ocean liner bound for London.

Daddy Warbucks (George

Hearn) is about to be knighted and he's brought along Eon, Annie and two pals from the orphanage run by Miss Hannigan (Carol Cleveland), as well as the faithful, four-footed Sandy (Jessie), Punjab (An-

"Annie: A Royal Adventure"

Tonight at 8 on WABC/Ch. 7

★ ★ 1/2

thony Zaki) and the Asp (David Tse).

Annie, Hannah (Emily Ann Lloyd) and Molly (Camilla Bell) get into trouble as regularly as the sun comes up.

They get out with their wits and a little help from their friends, a circle that now includes a family of English lads who take Molly to their hearth.

"Annie" could be more energetic but it couldn't be much more unworrisome.

Parents will have little interest in it, but they also have little to fear from it.

© The New York Post

Annie and Daddy Warbucks Go to London

By JOHN J. O'CONNOR

In a weekend cluttered with television movies, the best turns out to be a silly lark about an ageless 12-year-old in her trademark red dress. Little Orphan Annie is back, this time in "Annie: A Royal Adventure," a non-musical tonight at 8 on ABC (Channel 7 in New York). It will delight youngsters and even amuse adults who haven't gone completely sour.

Oliver Warbucks (George Hearn), the world's richest man, is to be knighted in London. What else to do but take along his adopted daughter, Annie (Ashley Johnson); her dog, Sandy, and two of her closest friends, Hannah (Emily Ann Lloyd) and, filched from the dreaded Miss Hannigan's orphanage, little Molly (Camilla Bell). For lodging, they take the entire sixth floor of the luxurious Savoy Hotel. The adorable Molly desperately wants to be adopted. That's one plot line.

The other involves Lady Edwina Hogbottom, who is played in dizzy high camp by Joan Collins. She is first encountered on Warbucks's voyage to England, vogueing shamelessly for the ship's photographers while gushing, "Oh my, what a glorious day for the high seas."

Edwina really wants to corral the somewhat odd Prof. Eli Eon (Ian McDiarmid), who has invented a miraculous synthetic fiber that, with some formula jiggling, could blow up the world. Edwina merely wants to blow up Buckingham Palace.

She pouts: "I just want to be

Queen. Is that so bad?"

The childlike professor is flattered:

EDWINA: Professor, would you mind if I held your hand?

ELI: Hold all you want, Lady Hogbottom.

Before the tale's end, spirited Annie and friends find themselves coping with spiked milk, a spooky dungeon, a snake pit, a secret door and an activated rocket. Annie confides to Daddy Warbucks that what she really likes is a happy ending. Of course she gets one, but not before the cast starts bellowing yet another interminable rendition of "Tomorrow," the signature song from "Annie: The Musical." There's no escaping it, even in what's billed as a nonmusical. Mr. Hearn, incidentally, segues effortlessly from bald Max in Broadway's "Sunset Boulevard" to the equally bald Oliver Warbucks.

Annie: A Royal Adventure! (Sat., ABC)—Leapin' Lizards! Annie, the mop-topped redhead, is back in a fun-filled, non-musical tale that pits her and Daddy Warbucks (George Hearn) against the scheming Lady Hogbottom (Joan Collins in a wonderful comic turn), who plans to blow up Buckingham Palace so she can become the Queen of England. It's a delightful yarn, briskly told, with Ashley Johnson perfectly cast as Annie. My score (0-10): 8

© TV Guide

7 MOVIE (CC)—Comedy 2:00/23708

"Annie: A Royal Adventure." (Made for TV; 1995) A sequel (without songs) in which the red-headed comic-strip heroine (Ashley Johnson) accompanies richest-man-in-the-world Daddy Warbucks (George Hearn) to England—where she tries to stop a plot to blow up Buckingham Palace. Lady Edwina Hogbottom: Joan Collins.

Additional Cast

Hannah.....Emily Ann Lloyd
Molly.....Camilla Bell
Prof. Eon.....Ian McDiarmid

Saturday Night At The Movies

AN ALL NEW ANNIE ADVENTURE!



© The New York Times



Annie becomes a royal sleuth on her overseas vacation!

Annie

A Royal Adventure

Joan Collins
George Hearn
Ashley Johnson

abc 8:00 WABC-TV 7



Theatre Arts Children's Theatre production of *Annie Warbucks* at the John H. Williams Theatre, Tulsa (Oklahoma) Performing Arts Center, July 1995: left, Kathryn Zaremba (Annie) and John Orsulak (Oliver Warbucks); right, Kathryn with all her Orphans. Elisabeth Zaremba as Tessie, as she was back in New York, is to Kathryn's immediate right.

Pictures submitted by Mrs. Terrie Zaremba

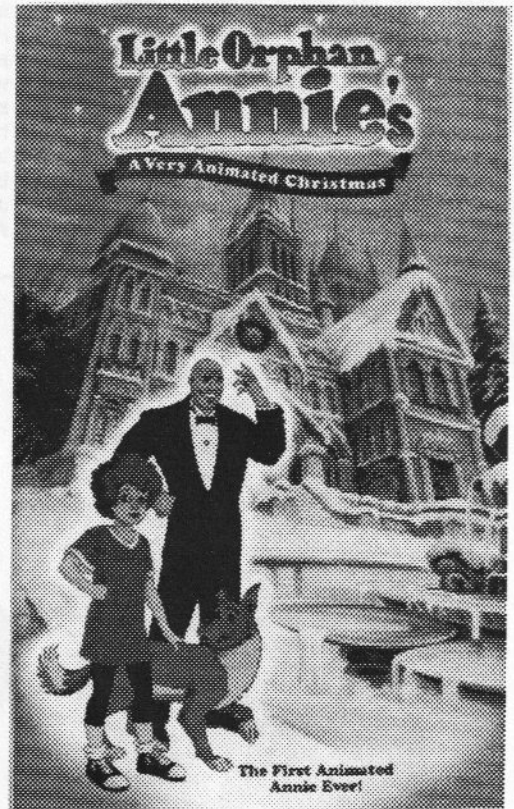
Right: Larissa Auble gave Tricia and Jon a backstage tour at the Gershwin Theatre after *Show Boat*, Dec. 1995.



Below: Reunion from the N.J. premiere of *Annie Warbucks*: Tricia (Miss Clark) with Nancy Braun (Annie) and Amanda Johnson (Tessie). Nancy and Amanda were playing Orphans in the State Theatre of New Jersey at New Brunswick production of *Annie*, Nov. '95.

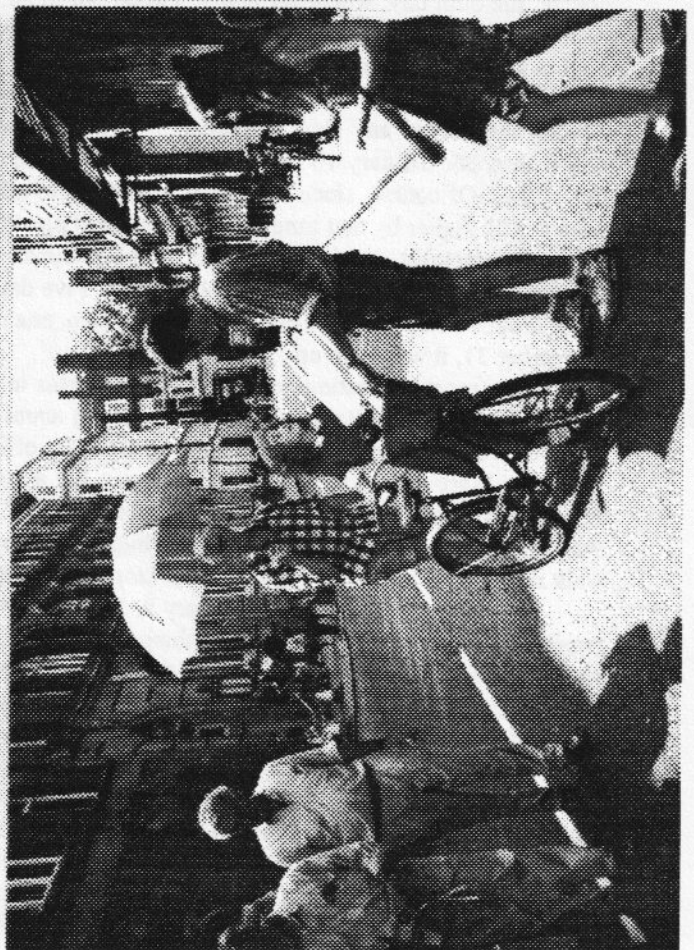
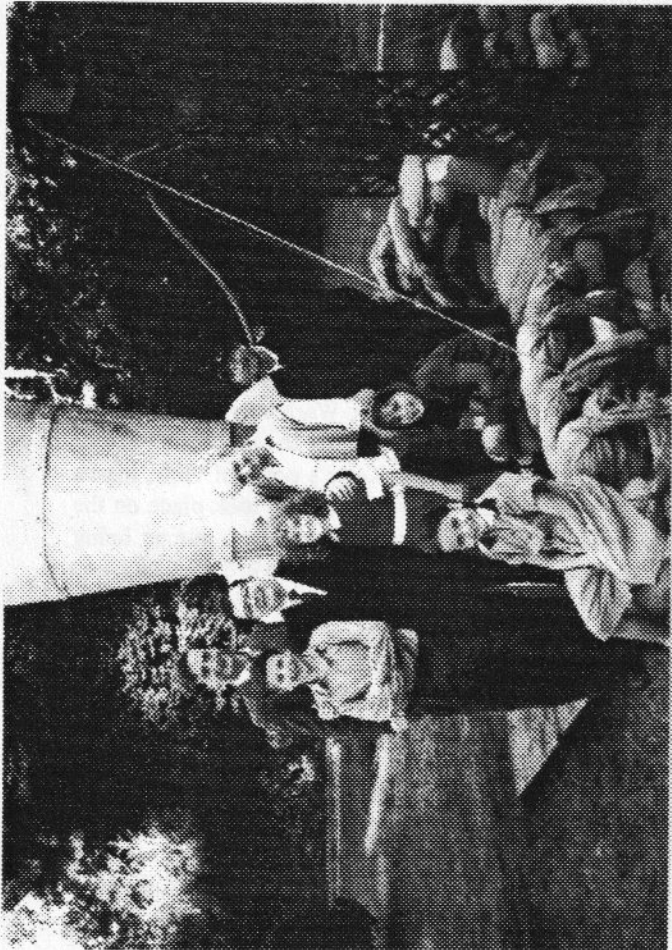


This is the cover of the new videocassette *A Very Animated Christmas*, which was released in December 1995. We'll report more on this 30-minute adventure in the next issue of AP.



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Behind the scenes of **Annie: A Royal Adventure!** Photos submitted by Ashley Johnson



THE COLD RAIN IN ANNIE WARBUCKS

Trying to speculate on the "exact" dates, as far as I could determine, of the chronology of events in *Annie Warbucks* proved to be an interesting task, and by the time I had finished, I'd discovered something rather interesting about the Warbucks Mansion at 987 Fifth Avenue in New York.

Obviously, the first scene of *AW* begins on Monday, December 25, 1933, since it is Christmas Day (up to this February 29, the calendars of 1933-34 are identical to 1995-96). The date of the next scene is unable to be determined from there, so instead I worked on Act II first. The script says that the scene with Annie at the Patersons' was on a Monday in early April 1934. Let us assume that it is the first Monday in the month, April 2. In Tennessee it very likely would be warm enough in early April for C.G. to be barefoot outside. The next day, April 3, was the White House scene, and the party on the Staten Island Ferry was the following Saturday, or April 7. The script states the party was on a "balmy" Saturday evening. According to New York weather statistics at Battery Park (back then the readings were taken there; now they are taken at Central Park and the airports), the high temperature for April 7 was 49 degrees; that up front doesn't sound too balmy, but when we realize that 1933-1934 was overall the coldest winter in New York City history with rare below zero readings occurring several times, we can suppose that 49 must have felt "balmy" to New Yorkers. (If they had held the party two days later on April 9, it would have been 68 degrees!) The show concludes on Wednesday, April 11, 1934 with the wedding at the Waldorf (a nice 53 that day).

Let us now work backward from the first scene in the second act, April 2. The script states that this is 6 weeks after the previous scene, which took place on a Thursday. Counting back 6 weeks from April 2 and then back to the previous Thursday, we find that the scene where Oliver Warbucks is meeting Commissioner Doyle at her office to sign the papers is Thursday, February 15. Since this scene was "the following Thursday," the most logical date on which the previous scene could have happened was Friday, February 9. This was when Drake and the Servants sang "That's The Kind Of Woman" and Warbucks sings "A Younger Man." Before the songs are sung, Commissioner Doyle is at the Mansion suggesting some more women for Warbucks to go out with, and as she is leaving, she reminds Warbucks that there are "34 days" left before the deadline for his marriage is up. It is here we run into a slight problem with the dates: That would make February 9 the 26th day since the 60 days began, making it so that the 60 days did not officially begin until Monday, January 15. In order to make the stated April date at the beginning of Act II fit, we have to assume that the Commissioner took three weeks after Christmas to draw up the necessary papers (which Warbucks did not sign until February 15 anyway). Of course, the 60th day, whenever it was, turned out to be irrelevant, since the whole thing was put on hold while Annie was missing, and she wasn't reunited with "Daddy" Warbucks until Tuesday, April 3.

The Orphanage scene, which happened "a month" before February 9, took place on or about January 9. Since it took place on a "chilly, wintry day," the 9th would be possible, since the low temperature that day was 36 degrees, and as any New Yorker knows, with the wind whipping around the buildings, it could feel a lot colder than 36. January 10 had a low of 32 and January 11 had one of 29, making them also possible dates for this scene. Of course, since Warbucks was about to take Mrs. Whittleby to lunch, the temperature might have been a little higher by that time in the day but still plenty wintry.

Incidentally, Annie's first week at the Mansion was interesting, weatherwise. 1933 had a rather warm Christmas that year, topping out at 54 degrees. Five days later, on December 30, a very sudden and severe cold wave dropped New Yorkers down to 6 below zero, one of this century's coldest readings. But then the next day, December 31, it was back up to 42 degrees.

The most interesting scene though, as relates to the chronology of *Annie Warbucks*, was the day at the Mansion when Commissioner Doyle was talking about additional eligible women for Warbucks to date. Mrs. Kelly arrived, bringing some more files up from the office, and the Commissioner told her to take a bus back or walk, but Warbucks took pity on her and gave her a dollar for a taxi. From Mrs. Kelly's point of view, it was very generous of Warbucks to make that offer, because, as we have deduced above, this scene took place on the 9th of February. There was no way Warbucks was going to allow the Commissioner to make a human being walk through New York or stand at a bus stop on *that* particular day! For, you see, this was no ordinary day.

It happened that Friday, February 9, 1934 was *the coldest day ever recorded* in New York City, with the temperature getting down to an astonishing 14 degrees below zero at 7:15 that morning at Battery Park! No day since then has even begun to approach that incredible record low in New York which very likely will never be broken. Even during the day of February 9 the mercury climbed up to only 8 above, which means in the morning when this scene was taking place, the temperature was very likely still way below the zero mark.

But wait! Warbucks told Mrs. Kelly he was going to give her a dollar because it was "pouring" rain. *Rain?* On the coldest day of all-time?? Hmmm.... To record a low temperature record of such magnitude, there couldn't have been a cloud within miles of New York. But who knows? Maybe it was raining *only* around good ol' 987 Fifth Avenue but nowhere else in the city! The script does say the scene took place on a "rainy winter's morning in February." In any event, next time you watch that scene in *Annie Warbucks*, be happy for Annie and Sandy and "Daddy" and everyone else who was inside, because outside it must have been a *very* cold rain....



Annie Stars Since Annie



Big season for albums, with several *Annie* performers releasing their first ones:

ANDREA McARDLE has released *On Broadway*, containing several familiar tunes from Broadway shows, some of which she has been in. Featured are "Tomorrow" from *Annie* and "It Might As Well Be Spring" from *State Fair*, in which Andrea is currently touring. The CD was produced and arranged by husband Edd Kalehoff, and daughter Alexis makes her recording debut on "Castle On A Cloud" from *Les Misérables*.

DANIELLE BRISEBOIS, who was Andrea's first Molly on Broadway, has released *Arrive All Over You* on Epic Records. It is at your local record store or can be ordered. The album contains a remake of the '60s hit "Gimme Little Sign" in addition to original material co-written by Gregg Alexander and Danielle.

MARTHA BYRNE released her album called *Martha Byrne* late last year. Martha played July with Allison Smith on Broadway in the early '80s, starred in the movie *Anna To The Infinite Power*, and is currently starring as Lily on *As The World Turns*. Order the CD with a credit card by calling 1-800-MMBYRNE.

CAROL-ANN PLANTÉ has just released an album of original material--much of which she co-wrote--called *Boy Girl Stuff* and can be ordered from Magic Records, 13601 Ventura Blvd, Suite 200, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 (\$10 for CD plus \$2 P&H). Carol-Ann was in *Annie* in Westchester County, New York in the mid-'80s and was on Broadway in *The Marriage Of Figaro* with Christopher Reeve. In the '90s she played on TV's *Harry And The Hendersons*.

The recent TV adaptation of the Broadway musical *Bye Bye Birdie* featured three new songs by **CHARLES STROUSE** and Lee Adams and was choreographed by **ANN REINKING**.... **ALLISON SMITH** turned in a very dramatic performance as a guest star on the CBS-TV series *Touched By An Angel*. Also guest starring in the same episode was Brian Bloom, who was Allison's steady boyfriend for several years in the 1980s. Allison also recently starred in the theatrical film release film called *A Reason To Believe*, and she also guest starred on *Party Of Five*....**LARISSA AUBLE** recently completed 400 performances on Broadway in *Show Boat* as Young Kim without a miss and has begun her second year in the show....**CAROL BURNETT** is currently appearing in a new comedy called *Moon Over Buffalo* in New York City. While most of the critics were not won over by the material, they all praised Carol's return to Broadway....In last fall's benefit *The Wizard Of Oz In Concert* at Lincoln Center in New York, the Musical Supervisor/Orchestrator/Conductor was **KEITH LEVENSON**, and the Production Stage Manager was **JEFFREY MARKOWITZ**, positions they held with the Off-Broadway production of *Annie Warbucks*....**ERIN TORPEY** is in her sixth year playing Jessica in *One Live To Live* and had a nice mention in *TV Guide* for her role. Erin, now 14 and in high school, played one of New Jersey's best-remembered Annies in a run at Theaterfest in Montclair, NJ in the summer of 1991....**HARVE PRESNELL** did a guest shot on *Lois & Clark--The New Adventures Of Superman* on ABC in December as Lois's father Dr. Sam Lane. Some of the exterior street scene shots for this series are filmed on the *Annie/Dale Hennesy Street*, so named after the movie it was built for and the designer who created it who died during the filming of *Annie*. Harve also guest starred on *The Client* drama on CBS. He had hair and a moustache and played a Southern minister. This was one of his lines, referring to the woman his character was going to marry: "The one thing I am sure of, and that's Verna. Sure as the sun'll come out tomorrow, and if it don't she'll be there to keep me warm."....**TIM CURRY** and the *Annie/Dale Hennesy Street* are all in *The Shadow* movie. Tim will also play Long John Silver in the fourth Muppet theatrical film, entitled *Muppet Treasure Island*, which will be released this year....**MARGUERITE McINTYRE** and **ALLEN FITZPATRICK** from NYC's *Annie Warbucks* are starring Off-Broadway once again, this time in *Mata Hari*. This is a revival of the show **MARTIN CHARNIN** did the lyrics for in 1967; this time he is directing the show himself.... **KATHRYN ZAREMBA** reprised her title role in *Annie Warbucks* last summer, this time in her native Oklahoma. **CINDY LOU** came out from the East to reprise her role as Sandy. Kathryn had been offered

the part of Hannah in *Annie: A Royal Adventure* but had to turn that down because it conflicted with *AW*. After that she performed in a benefit in New York directed by **MARTIN CHARNIN** which promoted animals in service for people with disabilities. Kathryn and **CINDY LOU** did the "Tomorrow" scene from *Annie*. Kathryn does the main voiceover on the *Happy Ness* TV cartoon, and plans are in the works in Hollywood to develop a new sitcom to feature Kathryn. **ELISABETH ZAREMBA** has also been very busy; she was an Orphan in Kathryn's *Annie Warbucks*, and after that she played Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*. Most recently Elisabeth was assistant director in an Oklahoma production of *Miracle On 34th Street*....**GERRY MacINTYRE** (Punjab in *Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge*) is featured on the new *Forbidden Hollywood* CD recording as one of the five cast members singing hilarious parodies of movies past and present. *Forbidden Hollywood* was written by Gerald Alessandrini, who for many years has written the annual editions of *Forbidden Broadway*, which was performed in a small theater in New York. These revues were very popular, and spoofs of both *Annie* and *Annie Warbucks* were in several editions. Two of Alessandrini's "Tomorrow" parodies, with lyrics like "redundant/redundant/this song is redundant" are on the *Forbidden Broadway* albums....Last June **LAUREN GAFFNEY** appeared in *Tales Of An Adolescent Fruit Fly* as part of the Collaborative Arts Project 21 Festival of New Works. Lauren continues her work in the Kids Care AIDS Network ("Kids CAN!") dedicated to raising awareness for the fight against AIDS in infants and children....Also in the national tour of *State Fair* with **ANDREA McARDLE** and **DONNA McKECHNIE** are **JACKIE ANGELESCU** (C.G. in *Annie Warbucks* in NYC), **CHARLES GOFF** (2nd National Tour '82) and **MICHAEL CONE** (who played the "Mayor 5-foot-2" Fiorello LaGuardia in *Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge*). **DEBBIE GIBSON** is touring around the U.S. in *Grease*. She had played Sandy in the London version of *Grease* last year, but now she has changed roles and is playing Rizzo. Debbie is still active in singing and songwriting too, of course, and her fifth album *Think With Your Heart* came out last summer on SBK records. In addition, her old label, Atlantic, recently released a *Greatest Hits* package which includes "Only In My Dreams" and her two #1 singles from the late '80s, "Foolish Beat" and "Lost In Your Eyes." Currently, a TV series called *Queens Of The Big Time* is being created for next season starring Debbie as a music teacher....Our condolences to **MARTIN CHARNIN** on the loss of his mother.

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Little Orphan
Annie