

Annie People



The Little Orphan Annie Fan Club Newsletter

No. 80, January 1997

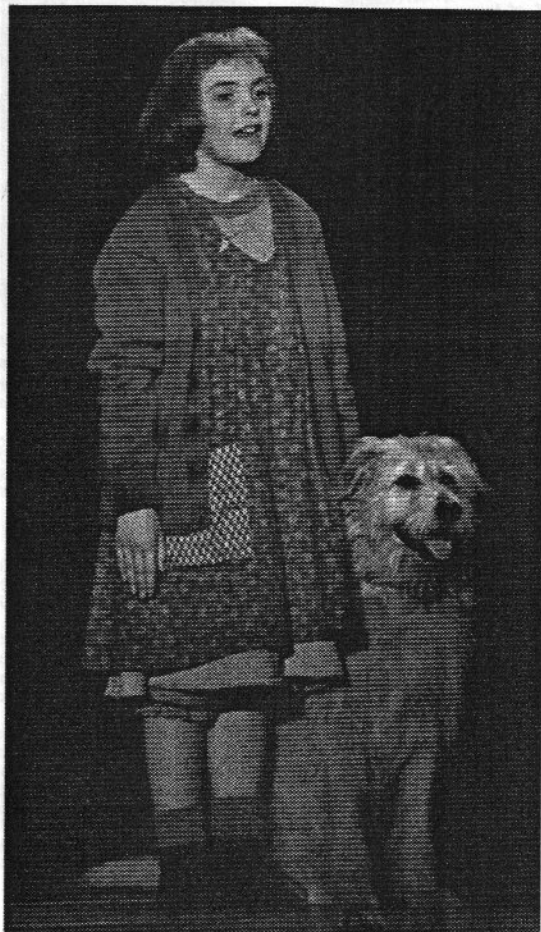
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Goodspeed ends successful 20th Anniversary Revival on January 5, 1997

The Goodspeed Opera House's production was so popular with audiences that the run was extended for two weeks past the originally-announced closing date of December 22, 1996. It is gratifying to know that this outstanding revival could do that kind of business and prove once again that even after 20 years and innumerable productions, *Annie* still has the power to enchant audiences. On the following three pages are photographs and reviews of the show. We were sent 19 reviews, and out of those only three could be called "negative." Those are almost more interesting to read than the positive reviews: to see what that particular critic could have found fault with. All of the reviews and photographs on pages 1, 2, 3, and 4 were generously supplied to us by the Goodspeed Opera House. Special credit goes to press contact Jennifer Wislocki and photographer Diane Sobolewski. And thanks to the cast and production staff at the Goodspeed for a job very well done!



'Annie' ensures rosy tomorrow at Goodspeed

By MALCOLM JOHNSON
Courant Theater Critic

CASSANDRA KUBINSKI,

as Annie, and Ron Holgate, as Oliver Warbucks, provide two of the best reasons to see the new Annie, at the Goodspeed Opera House, which premiered the show 20 years ago.

DIANE SOBOWLEWSKI

The prospect of seeing double orphan redheads this season at the Goodspeed Opera House and the Oakdale Theatre might be cause for some anxiety. But "Annie" is in good small hands in East Haddam.

The success of the 20-year-old Thomas Meehan-Charles Strouse-Martin Charnin adaptation of Harold Gray's "Little Orphan Annie" depends almost entirely on the child recruited to play the adorable but feisty Depression sweetheart, and Goodspeed has found a winning mini-heroine in

STAGE REVIEW

Enfield's Cassandra Kubinski. Blessed with a sharp-edged clarion soprano, a classic profile and great hair (blond dyed a flaming red), Kubinski also proves an appealing actress, spitting out lines in staccato bursts, almost like comic-strip balloons. Her only fault lies in her understandable tendency to follow direction too studiously. But as the show runs on, she will probably loosen up a bit.

Charnin, the "Annie" librettist-director, has himself a near-perfect "Annie," for Kubinski looks enough like the movie kiddies (Alleen Quinn) to please kiddies who have watched the movie endlessly,

Please see Cassandra, Page E3

'Annie'

back home

brightly as the original



Annie that can drive that has ears.

but it's hard to especially if

ings here is sandra Kubinski Connecticut on-stage eyed. An just be

ing voice is not and probably not trained, out it is pleasant and adequate.

As Oliver Warbucks, Ron Holgate pours a lot of love out under the gruff exterior. He seems to have a real rapport with Annie. And as Rooster, the notorious con man who pretends to be Annie's father, Bobby Clark is nothing short of a hoot. He is a Gumby man of a dancer and always has the hint of a twinkle in his eye. His sidekick, Lily, is played with a properly blowzy sexiness by Jodi Stevens.

Some unevenness creeps in to this production, though: As Miss Hannigan, the nasty keeper of the girl's

imagi who als in the or and), he star — ance from who play and Sparky often! H and lovei ing himi ue — ar on to smile knows how lifting hi



Diane Sobolewski / Goodspeed Opera House

Ron Holgate, Cassandra Kubinski and Sparky star in "Annie."

by Michele Assaf injects high spirits into the tale of Annie's escape from Hannigan and acquisition of a new wardrobe.

The high point of Act I arrives when Alene Robertson's blowsy, floppy Hannigan joins with the strutting, cocky Rooster of Bobby Clark and the leggy, sultry Lily of Jodi Stevens on the eccentrically danced "Easy Street." Act II opens with high-energy, back-to-back renditions of "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile" by NBC radio folks and agile orphans.

Kubinski picks up her second rendition of "Tomorrow" by climbing atop a White House conference table, but thereafter "Annie" sags, reaching its most tear-jerking moments in the orphan-millionaire duet-dance, "I Don't Need Anything But You." But with the help of Ron

All told, a good kiddies. "Annie" will be around until Dec. 22.

'Annie,' a good show for the kids, is back at Goodspeed

Continued from Page E1

STAGEREVIEW

ANNIE, book by Thomas Meehan, music by Charles Strouse and lyrics by Martin Charnin, based on "Little Orphan Annie" by Harold Gray; directed by Charnin; choreography by Michele Assaf; scenery designed by Peter Harrison; costumes designed by Theoni V. Aldredge; lighting designed by Phil Monat; orchestrations adapted by Keith Levenson from the originals by Philip J. Lang, musical direction by Michael O'Flaherty. Presented by the Goodspeed Opera House, Michael P. Price, executive director.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------|
| Annie | ..... | Cassandra Kubinski |
| Molly | ..... | Samantha Diaz-Hennessey |
| Pepper | ..... | Tiffany Provencher |
| Durly | ..... | Evin Diaz-Hennessey |
| July | ..... | Nora Blackall |
| Tessie | ..... | Kaitlyn Ashley |
| Kate | ..... | Courtney Leigh |
| Miss Hannigan | ..... | Alene Robertson |

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Bundles McCloskey, Sound | ..... | Billy Vitell |
| Effects Man, Ickes | ..... |  |
| Apple Seller, Jimmy Johnson, | ..... | Craig Mason |
| Hull, Justice Brandeis | ..... |  |
| Dog Catcher, Fred | ..... | Douglas Carabe |
| McCracken, Howe | ..... |  |
| Dog Catcher, Star to Be, | ..... | Julie Dobrow |
| Ronnie Boylan | ..... |  |
| Sandy | ..... | Sparky |
| Sgt. Lumpkin, Bert Healy, | ..... | Brad Willis |
| Honor Guard | ..... |  |
| Lt. Ward | ..... | Marc Mouchet |
| Sophie the Kettle, Mrs. Pugh, | ..... | Lynn McNutt |
| Perkins | ..... |  |
| Grace Farrell | ..... | Christy Baron |
| Drake, Morgenthau | ..... | Marc Mouchet |
| Cecile, Bonnie Boylan | ..... | Judith Marie Walton |
| Annette, Connie Boylan | ..... | Carol Tapley |
| Oliver Warbucks | ..... | Ron Holgate |
| Rooster Hannigan | ..... | Bobby Clark |
| Lily | ..... | Jodi Stevens |
| Oxydent "Smiles" Producer | ..... | Shawnda James |
| Kaltenborn's Voice | ..... | Archie T. Tridornston |
| FDK | ..... | Ron Worsick |

ing, regal and more than a little absurd. Holgate embodies Warbucks as a rock-ribbed Republican who can network with Franklin Delano Roo-

sevelt for his own capitalist purposes. He also shows deep but appropriately restrained affection for the little "orphan" who has come into his life.

As Miss Hannigan, the talented performer, Baron is a decorative addition to the Warbucks menage, and plays the role methodically. But she is a victim of the

angry and defiant...timized waf. Most notable is Bobby Clark as the unconscionable Rooster, Miss Hannigan's brother. A gifted dancer as well as

Fifth Avenue billionaire who clawed his way out of Hell's Kitchen. Even in gray rags at the orphanage, this Annie projects the air of a natural aristocrat — in part because of her bobbed, swinging bell of hair; she seems to have found a friendly salon in the neighborhood. (The touring version coming to Oakdale will have to search far to come up with as good an Annie.)

Not even a young Sarah Bernhardt could transmute "Annie" into immortal theater. But Kubinski and a well-chosen, cleverly directed and buoyantly choreographed company overcome the episodic feeling of the show and breathe as much life as possible into the grab bag of songs.

In torpedo-headed Ron Holgate, Kubinski has a great bull moose of a Daddy Warbucks, towering, boom-

lionaire with...tures. Thomas Meehan, wrote the book, is true to the original feel of the comic strip, but constructs a workable plot, complete with villains and heroes. All cut-out paper dolls, and we all

Spunky 'Annie' ages quite well

By DAVID A. ROSENBERG
Hour Arts Writer

20th anniversary production of this musical sparkles with style and spirit.

By FRED SOKOL
Theater writer

After staging the original "Annie" 20 years ago, Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn., has brought the show back with a stylish and delightful production. The actors move precisely under the direction of Martin Charnin, who has reinvigorated the musical.

Charnin also wrote the lyrics, based upon Thomas Meehan's book, with music by Charles Strouse.

"Annie," which runs through Dec. 22, is the tale of the red-haired girl (Cassandra Kubinski of Enfield, Conn.) stuck in a New York City orphanage during the early 1930s.

The girls in the orphanage live under the watchful eye of the supposedly menacing Miss Hannigan (Alene Robertson).

Annie's wishes come true at Christmas time, when she's brought to the home of wealthy industrialist Oliver Warbucks (Ron Holgate). Tiny Annie and tall, bald Warbucks look like a mismatched pair, but they bond swiftly.

He wishes to adopt her but, unfortunately, has already offered a \$50,000 reward to any couple who can prove that Annie is their child.

Ultimately, F. Clark) and Lily hoping to get rich posed as frauds, an "for both



The orphan girl finds a happy ending with "Daddy" Warbucks (at right) in "Annie," at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn.

EAST HADDAM — Adorable little girls, a smiling dog, Christmas, a sentimental capitalist, dopey politicians, unending gifts and the wish for uncritical parents add up to "Annie." The smash musical, having cotton-candied its way around the world for lo these 20 years, is now back where it started, Goodspeed Opera House. Audiences who've never seen it or are dying to rekindle an earlier experience should be delighted.

Based on the Harold Gray comic strip, "Little Orphan Annie," the show — which ran over five years on Broadway — was conceived by Martin Charnin who directs, as he did the New York original.

Charnin tries for more depth this time: gray-and-white sets and costumes indicate "hard-knock lives of orphans and Hooverville prelicts. A fruit seller even profers black-skinned apples. In the phanage, Annie sleeps on the floor.

The director has added one fun-bit: In the Warbucks mansion, which is full of sunny color, Annie heard offstage running down less flights of stairs. But entering and slick as this "Annie" production doesn't soar and individual performers don't shine. Maybe the heavy-handedness is grate. It's as if Charnin sees now as something other than efficiently oiled, beautifully staged musical comedy.

Charnin's experiences sequel have intervened. Warbucks" was a doomed that went through numerations before a 200-perfor-

Broadway run. Maybe or needs Mike Nichols, if the Broadway original sort of artistic advisor

ouder. Bobby Clark's charac- (the villainous Rooster ten Clark did the same 91 Candlewood Play- tion, he had a cock- Clearly a

nearly as much as it tells, through clever scenic design by Peter Harrison.

Sets slide on and off stage as the audience watches the young trans- manage to people liv- h Street Mansion, radio City to the "ie" Kud win-

numbers, hitting the high and low notes and everything in between.

As a group, the orphans are mischievous crowd favorites. They perform "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile," choreographed smartly by Michele A saf, with an irresistible enthusiasm.

Most precious of all is the drously uninhibited Samantha az-Hennessey, a 6-year charmer awaiting her pern front teeth, and able to poor Miss Hannigan in a fl-

can belt out a tune with the best of them.

Holgate is solid as Oliver his singing voice, 91 Candlewood Play-



By Phyllis S. Dono
Record-Journal staff

EAST HADDAM — 1 years have passed since the pressible little red-haired or "Annie," first made the jump l the funny papers onto the stage the Goodspeed Opera House. It only fitting that "Annie," whic went on from here to win seven Tony Awards on Broadway and was later transformed into a glitzy movie, returns to East Haddam where her meteoric career started out.

Scenery designer Peter Harrison's remarkable set retains the wonderful artificial look of the comics, starting with the stage curtain featuring the round-eyed Annie and her dog Sandy which appears to be a highly magnified panel from a Sunday comic strip, complete with dot pattern. Building a black slash design, and furniture, sets and costumes have the exaggerated colors and strong black outlines reminiscent of the flick.

Early scenes in the orphanage and in a "Hooverville" hobo village during the Great Depression

'Annie'
Where: Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam.
When: Through Dec. 22.
Current schedule: Wednes- days-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Satur- days, 4 and 9 p.m.; Sun- days, 2 and 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday matinee, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$19 to \$35.
Information: Call the box office at (860) 873-8668.

Roosevelt and her upbeat philosophy prompts the stirrings of the New Deal.

Naturally, Miss Hannigan, her conniving brother, Rooster, and his flashy floozy scheme to knock her back along with money.



the F.B.I. the most- est in Annie (and Holgate's roving- eye look) seems more infatuation than fatherly protectiveness, (but that's another story).

Alene Robertson as Miss Hannigan hunches into a frowny, bullying role which can't really cover her natural good looks, but she sings lustily and is suitably hateful to the clutch of cute and moppets who share her knock li-

The sun doesn't come out on 'Annie'

...light-footed character with a sexy, self-centered girlfriend, (Jodi Stevens) in tow. With Hannigan, they dream of cashing in on Annie's good fortune and living on "Easy Street," the trio gliding into the bluesy number with dance moves as slick and slippery as a slide trombone.

...ted by Good- Charnin, who the original production remains true to the original. Michele Assaf choreographed the busy, crowd-pleasing dance numbers and Michael O'Flaherty directs the Goodspeed orchestra.

The number of children attending the press night performance was evidence that many parents want to share the joy of the show.

ANNIE: Appeal 20th anniversary New 'Annie' lacking pizzazz

Continued from 1D

pealing 12-year old who can act, sing and spit out lines in edgy staccato fashion even better than Andrea McArdle, who originated the part in the Tony Award-winning Broadway production.

More importantly, there is never any calculation or ego in her performance. She not only projects the image of an abandoned child dumped on the steps of a Dickensian orphanage, but the willpower to get up and get out. Under Charnin's careful tutelage, she's the best performer in the show. And yes, her dual renditions of "Tomorrow," that showstopper paean to an optimistic future will send shivers up and down your spine.

Smoothly directed by Charnin "Annie" is played out against a and-white, 3-D comic book se switches to color in much the fashion as "The Wizard of Oz: Annie meets Oliver Warbuck" Fifth Avenue billionaire and ally will

Theater review
PLAY: "Annie" book by Thomas Meehan; music by Charles Strouse; lyrics and direction by Martin Charnin; choreographed by Michele Assaf
THEATER: Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam
TIMES: Wed at 2:30 and 8 p.m.; Thurs, Fri at 8 p.m.; Sat at 4 and 9 p.m.; Sun at 2 and 6:30 p.m. Runs through Dec. 22.
TICKETS: \$19-\$35
BOX OFFICE: 860-873-8668

By SHIRLEY MATHEWS
 Theater reviewer

It's a bit of a jolt when "Annie" walks onto the stage at the Goodspeed Opera House — her trademark red hair is cooed down into a bow. "Brown do."



Cassandra Kubinski of Enfield is Annie and Sparky stars as Sandy in the Goodspeed Opera House's 20th anniversary production of "Annie," which runs through Dec. 22.

ingenuousness about them. Kubinski's voice has more quality of a yell than a resonant sound, and she doesn't have the power to thrill when she sings about the hope and new day promised by a sweeter "Tomorrow."

Also, she doesn't seem to listen very well to the other actors. Her attention doesn't seem focused on else's lines.

Ron Holgate, as Oliver Warbucks, and Alene Robertson, as the guardian of the New York City Municipal orphanage, absolutely steal the show.

Robertson's Hannigan is a moth-eaten battleship of a woman, and when she sloppily slumps in her chair, sneers at her charges and cheerfully sings about those "Little Girls," her lips curl at the eager thought that "someday I'll step on those freckles/Someday I'll straighten their curls..." She is as hilarious as she is ghoulish.

Holgate is as imposing a presence as the captain of industry he is portraying — tall, bald and robustly fit. He tries hard to connect with Kubinski, and his energy and great humor in their scenes together often lift up the eighth-grader's performance to a level that is almost enthused.

Jodi Stevens, as the trashy Lily St. Regis ("I was named after the hotel") is an over-the-top hoot, as is Bobby Clark — crowing, scheming and dancing.

At some time or other, every theater seems to do this cast-proof musical of soaring optimism and cartoonish villainy.

And all any theater really needs is a little girl with a great big smile, an evil Miss Hannigan and a little boy who is both a hero and comic. Goodspeed has two out of three.

Cassandra Kubinski seems a bit far too sophisticated for Annie, especially when she is

A revival to rival the original 'Annie' back at the Goodspeed

Herald Press
 Sunday Review

cheering up the orphans in the marvelous "It's a Hard Knock Life" or singing the familiar "Tomorrow" to an appreciative Sandy or admiring F.D.R., Kubinski keeps Annie charmingly upbeat. Her voice is clear, steady and rings to the rafters, with each phrase enunciated nicely.

It's hard to pick special moments in this show because there are so many: The NYC scene in which Warbucks and Grace, his secretary sweetly played by Christy Baron, show Annie the town is highly effective with its stunning city backdrop and assortment of 1920's Miss Manners. Alene Robertson's Miss Hannigan is a nasty proprietress of the most amusing and unpleasantly dominant, as she comes

show spoofs those of the original, although the main mimics a little girl who brings down the house with a hilarious version of "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile." One of the joys of these shows is that everyone seems to be having such a good time doing it.

Annie's spirit pervades all. Or is that the way of a comic strip, which keeps re

to a minimum? As Mr. (later Daddy) Warbucks, Holgate is extremely tall, towering the diminutive Annie, especially in the dance scene. He sings and acts with assurance, as does Ron Wisniski, an amazingly able version of F. D.R. who plays Sandy with a perfect touch, a perfection by William Berloni, a Berlin resident, who also manages to find the first Sandy in a Humane Society as he did this one. The loving attention Sandy fixes on Annie as a girl is worth the whole price of admission and it warms the heart to see him hug his certain augh hugly.

It was good to see so many young people in the audience, as this is truly a show, done to perfection by an excellent cast, each of whom brings a happy mood. And so it is a show of depression and turns yours around. "Annie," Sandy, the orphans and the performance of this marvelous show will be running through the end of the year.

Just in case you didn't fall in love with "Annie" and her dog Sandy 20 years ago when the show had its tryouts at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, the endearing duo is back, once again in the opera house, in a revival to rival the original.

And, as if a marvelous shaggy dog and a little girl with an Ethel Merman-style voice weren't enough, the show has a happy, bouncy score, a collection of adorable little girl orphans, some lively dance numbers, a fine cast, and a lot of happiness to share.

Set in the 1920's at the time of the Depression (Annie even gets to meet and cheer up President Franklin Delano Roosevelt), Annie escapes from the depressing orphanage only to meet and be brought back by the handsome Sandy, Mr. Warbucks' secretary.

The external optimism of the house-

viewing benefit of the time the house Warbucks, the scene (in colors) which needed dose wish, however, have picked up runs one-and-a-bit long for the dances - the 7-to-1 Cassandra Kubinski foundling Annie, who defies the national policy (i.e. FDR) and lives happily with the Great

show going by her name, Hannigan, played by Alene Robertson has the unenviable following in the theatrical world and her put-upon Hannigan gets our sympathy - especially the "Little Girls" number gives the

search. imposters, but... and Sandy and D... on forever.

Directed by Martin Charnin, who directed the first "Annie," the show is a consistent personality of Kubinski effective throughout the

Street... ly danced... friend, portrayed... Even Annie's appeal... moments, as the



Cassandra Kubinski, stars as Annie

There's always 'Annie'

By James Ri
 © 1996 Republican

EAST HADDAM

It's a five-letter conjures up saccharine cute kids, sunny American as apple pie. Charnin, the director of this rosy 1976 musical, unexpected flair to the 20th Anniversary Goodspeed production, "Annie" takes the show to the point where the song and one-liner is and festive.

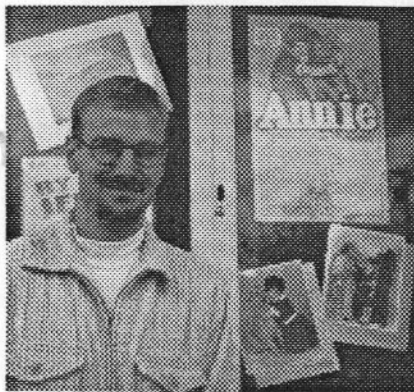
It's a good thing, too. Another production of the show, also directed by Charnin, road next year with Nellie and Miss Hannigan. Following stop at Wallingford's Oakdale in February, the revival on a 14-week city tour, before on Broadway in late February.

Some things never change take the appeal of "Annie" the 1976 musical hit about the cartoon orphan which debuted at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam. It defied the old showbiz adage to never put kids and animals onstage and became a hit, and it has done it again with the 20th anniversary edition of the show.

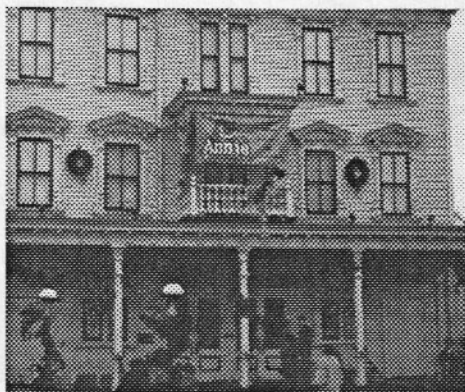
Originally panned by critics when it first played Goodspeed, "Annie" became an irrepressible hit advocating optimism in the face of disaster, much like its creators Thomas Meehan (book), Charles Charnin (music) and Martin

Joyous homecoming for 'Annie'

insipid... to Thank You (Herbert Hoover)" has a splendid satirical edge to it, that's beside the point: "Annie" has an innate charm about it that shines through its endless reprises of "Tomorrow." Director Charnin has staged this revival in a two-dimensional style at accents the cartoon backdrops and clockwork plot. The show is easy to watch and follow, but it is decidedly flat during orphanage scenes.



Annie People Fan Club member Rick Talley flew from southern California to Connecticut to see four performances at Goodspeed.



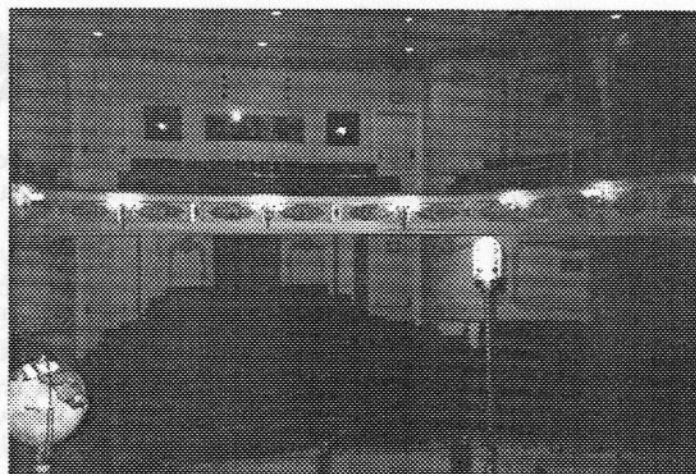
The Goodspeed Opera House with Annie banner and Christmas decorations.



Tricia with Cassandra Kubinski (Annie).

Below: a view from the stage of the Goodspeed Opera House. The light on the pole is known as the "ghost light" and is always kept lit between performances.

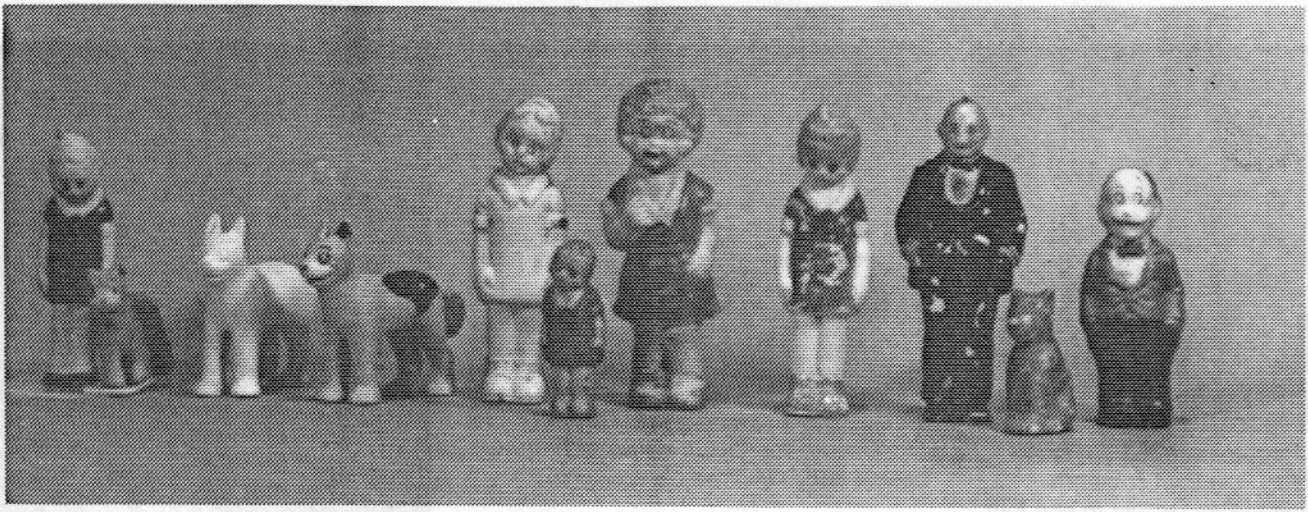
Backstage in the Orphans' dressing room, Alene Robertson decides that for the next performance she won't be playing Miss Hannigan but instead will give the title role a try!



Samantha Diaz-Hennessey (Molly), Evin Diaz-Hennessey (Duffy), Tiffany Provencher (Pepper), Nora Blackall (July), and Cassandra Kubinski (Annie). Not Pictured: Kaitlyn Ashley (Tessie) and Courtney Leigh (Kate).



Director/Lyricist "Archie T. Tridmorton" Martin Charnin with Tricia in front of the Opera House, September 1996.



An Assortment of Little Friends Bisque figurines of comic strip characters were very popular in the 1930s. Some of the Little Orphan Annie ones are shown above. They range in height from 1 ¼" to 3 ½". The third and fourth ones from the right are known as "nodders," meaning their heads are attached to their bodies with an elastic cord, so the heads could be posed like they are nodding. The Warbucks nodder is in a black suit, which we believe to be the original paint job, but this figurine also came in a light-colored suit. We will be showing more photos of Annie collectibles in upcoming issues.

☆ Annie Stars Since Annie ☆

JOANNA PACITTI will be coming into New York soon to begin preparing for her title role in *Annie's* 20th Anniversary Broadway production. Exact dates are not set, but right now it is thought that the run will begin previews in mid-March. The show will play at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre, where *Grease* has been playing....**ANDREA McARDLE** is currently playing Eponine in the national tour of *Les Misérables*, which recently played in her home town of Philadelphia. Her daughter Alexis Kalehoff is in the show also, alternating between Young Eponine and Young Cosette....**AILEEN QUINN** is currently starring at the Off-Broadway Samuel Beckett Theatre in *Dreamstuff*, a remake of the Aladdin and the Lamp story. Previews opened January 22, and the show will run through March....**HARVE PRESNELL** guest-starred on Don Johnson's series *Nash Bridges* on October 18 on CBS. In case you didn't recognize Harve, he has hair and a mustache now....**CAROL BURNETT** guest-starred on the 100th episode of *Mad About You* as Helen Hunt's mother. (Obscure Trivia: **AILEEN QUINN's** mean older sister in *The Frog Prince* was played by Helen Hunt.)....*Show Boat* closed on Broadway after almost 2-1/2 years in early January, and **LARISSA AUBLE** played Young Kim for the entire run, never missing a single performance. Her solid 100% attendance in a Broadway run of this length (approximately 960 consecutive performances) without a miss is thought to be an all-time record for a child actress. Congratulations, Larissa!...**ALLISON SMITH** guest-starred on *Beverly Hills 90210* and was in the TV movie *Lying Eyes*. This spring Allison will star in a new TV series called *Spy Game* on ABC-TV....A full-page ad in the Newark (N.J.) *Star Ledger* raved about **SARAH JESSICA PARKER** and her current starring role on Broadway in *Once Upon a Mattress*. There was also a featured 4-page article on Sarah in the January issue of *Biography* magazine. The only problem was that the photo used to illustrate Sarah in her *Annie* days was not Sarah; it was **DANIELLE BRISE-BOIS!**...Annie in the 1992-93 National Tour, **HEATHER SOROKA**, has performed the National Anthem at so many professional hockey and basketball events in the Washington, D.C. area, she is known as Anthem Annie....**MARTIN CHARNIN's** new album *Incurably Romantic* is now out. The selections are songs from various musicals he has written over the years, some of them very obscure. *Annie* and *Annie Warbucks* fans will recognize **ANDREA McARDLE**, **KATHRYN ZAREMBA** and **CHRISTY BARON** on the album. Compact discs may be ordered by phone (by American Express only) at (203) 544-8288, or you can send a check to Original Cast Records, Box 496, Georgetown, CT 06829. CD's are \$14.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling. Highly recommended.

CALENDAR OF ANNIE-VERSARIES

1997

JANUARY

- 2 The Broadway show closed at the Uris Theatre after 2,377 performances, 1983
- 3 The 1986 National Tour opened in Rochester, 1986
- 5 Sandy's first appearance in the comic strip, 1925
- 5 *Annie* at the Goodspeed finished its 20th anniversary five-month run, 1997
- 14 Broadway's fifth Annie, ALYSON KIRK, will be 27
- 15 The 3rd National's first Annie, ROSANNE SORRENTINO, will be 29
- 20 *Little Orphan Annie* comic strip creator HAROLD GRAY was born, 1894
- 20 *Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge* finished its one-month run in D.C., 1990
- 25 Annie in the 2nd National, MARISA MORELL, will be 27
- 26 Annie in the 2nd National and the 1st National, LOUANNE, will be 27
- 29 Allison Smith became Broadway's fourth Annie, 1980
- 29 *Annie Warbucks*, starring Lauren Gaffney, opened in Chicago, 1992
- 30 *Annie Warbucks* finished its seven-month run in New York, 1994

FEBRUARY

- 7 The Broadway show's 2,000th performance, 1982
- 28 Shelley Bruce became Broadway's second Annie, 1978

MARCH

- 1 The Broadway preview opened at the Kennedy Center in Washington, 1977
- 1 The 5 Broadway Annies had a reunion at an Englewood, NJ *Annie* show, 1986
- 4 Annie in the 1st National, THEDA STEMLER, will be 30
- 6 Sarah Jessica Parker became Broadway's third Annie, 1979
- 13 (approx.) *Annie*, starring Joanna Pacitti, will begin previews on Broadway, 1997
- 23 The 1st National Tour opened in Toronto, 1978
- 25 Broadway's third Annie, SARAH JESSICA PARKER, will be 32

APRIL

- 11 The 1984 National Tour's Annie, LISA LYNNE, will be 24
- 21 The Broadway show opened at the Alvin Theatre, 1977
- 21 Andrea McArdle became Broadway's first Annie, 1977

MAY

- 3 The London show opened at the Victoria Palace Theatre, 1978
- 5 Broadway's second Annie, SHELLEY BRUCE, will be 32
- 6 Annie in the 4th National, KATHLEEN SISK, will be 25
- 9 Harold Gray died at age 74, 1968
- 17 *Annie 2*, starring Lauren Gaffney, opened at Goodspeed-at-Chester, 1990
- 19 Bill Berloni found Sandy in the pound in Connecticut, 1976
- 21 The movie premiered in New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto, 1982

JUNE

- 5 *Annie* won 7 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, 1977
- 7 *Annie's* composer, CHARLES STROUSE, will be 69
- 22 The 2nd National Tour opened in San Francisco, 1978
- 28 The movie's Annie, AILEEN QUINN, will be 26

JULY

- 8 *Annie 2* finished its two-month workshop run at Goodspeed-at-Chester, 1990
- 8 *Annie Warbucks*, starring Kathryn Zaremba, opened in New York, 1993
- 18 Annie in *Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge*, DANIELLE FINDLEY, will be 19
- 22 Allison Smith's 1,000th performance on Broadway, 1982
- 24 The 1984 National Tour opened in Atlanta, 1984
- 27 The 1986 National Tour's Annie, SARAH BETHANY REYNOLDS, will be 24
- 31 The 2nd National's first Annie, PATRICIA ANN PATTS, will be 30

AUGUST

- 5 Harold Gray's *Little Orphan Annie* comic strip began, 1924
- 5 The movie's director, JOHN HUSTON, was born, 1906
- 10 *Annie*, starring Kristen Vigard, opened at the Goodspeed Opera House, 1976
- 14 *Annie's* writer, THOMAS MEEHAN, will be 68
- 28 John Huston died at age 81, 1987
- 29 Broadway's Sandy died at age 16, 1990

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Principal filming of the movie ended, 1981
- 7 Annie in the 1991-92 National Tour, SARA ZELLE, will be 16
- 8 The 4th National's first Annie, MOLLIE HALL, will be 27
- 8 Alyson Kirk became Broadway's fifth Annie, 1982
- 11 The 4th National Tour opened in West Point, 1981
- 16 The Goodspeed's 20th ann. *Annie*, starring Cassandra Kubinski, opened, 1996
- 12 The Broadway show's 1,000th performance, 1979
- 24 Annie in *Annie Warbucks*, KATHRYN ZAREMBA, will be 14
- 27 Annie meets "Daddy" Warbucks in the comic strip, 1924

OCTOBER

- 3 The 3rd National Tour opened in Dallas, 1979
- 16 Annie in *Annie 2* and *Annie Warbucks*, LAUREN GAFFNEY, will be 18
- 18 Ann Marie Mudge Warbucks was born, 1922 (movie version)
- 20 The 1992-93 National Tour opened in Bloomington, Indiana, 1992
- 27 The comic strip was dropped from the Chicago Tribune, 1925
- 28 The comic strip was reinstated in the Chicago Tribune, 1925
- 28 Ann Elizabeth Mudge Bennett Warbucks was born, 1922 (play version)
- 31 The 1991-92 National Tour opened in Rochester, 1991

NOVEMBER

- 2 *Little Orphan Annie* Sunday comic strip began, 1924
- 5 Broadway's first Annie, ANDREA McARDLE, will be 34
- 11 Annie in the 1992-93 National Tour, HEATHER SOROKA, will be 16
- 18 *Annie: A Royal Adventure*, starring Ashley Johnson, aired on ABC-TV, 1995
- 24 Annie's lyricist and director, MARTIN CHARNIN, will be 63
- 30 The second *Little Orphan Annie* movie, starring Ann Gillis, premiered, 1938

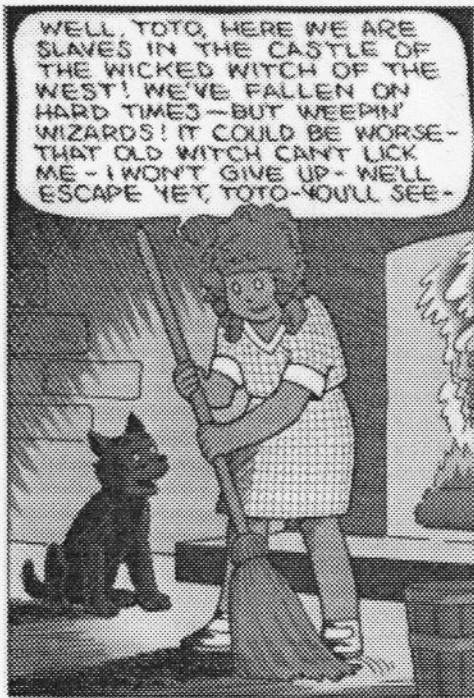
DECEMBER

- 3 Leonard Starr's *Annie* comic strip began, 1979
- 9 Broadway's fourth Annie, ALLISON SMITH, will be 28
- 22 *Annie 2: MHR*, starring Danielle Findley, opened in Washington, D.C., 1989
- 24 The first *Little Orphan Annie* movie, starring Mitzi Green, premiered, 1932
- 27 Annie in the 2nd National, KRISTI COOMBS, will be 26
- 31 Annie was left on the Orphanage steps, 1922



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Comic strip update: Annie has her memory back now, but her hair still has a long way to go.



This panel is from "If Six Great Cartoonists Had Drawn Oz Comics" by Eric Shanower, from *Oz Story Magazine* No. 2, May 1996. Each panel was written, drawn, and lettered in the style of a famous cartoonist. Here, Annie/Dorothy and Sandy/Toto are shown in a scene from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* book, and perfectly captures the art and writing of Harold Gray. ©1996 Eric Shanower and reprinted with permission of Hungry Tiger Press.



The Tour is Coming... this billboard is one of two located on the northbound side of Interstate Route 95 in Connecticut. The banner that Sandy is holding reads "The 20th Anniversary" and it says "Pre-Broadway" above the show dates.

SET THOSE VCRs... ABC-TV Network will devote an entire episode of their news-magazine program **Turning Point** to the story of **Annie** and the upcoming Broadway revival. It is currently scheduled to air on **Sunday evening, February 16, 1997**. Check local listings for the exact time and channel in your area.

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Up-to-the-minute Annie news is at Web site

**Little Orphan
 Annie**