

# Annie People

The Little Orphan Annie Fan Club Newsletter

No. 90, July 1999

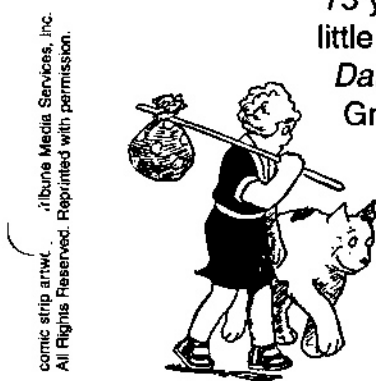
Tricia Trozzi, Editor and Publisher

Contents copyright © 1999 for the contributors. *Annie People* is published four times annually; in January, April, July, and October at 57 Annin Road, West Caldwell, NJ 07006-6801. Publication has been continuous since January 1983. Member of the National Association of Fan Clubs.

Member of:



75 years ago this summer our favorite red-haired, blank-eyed little orphan girl debuted in the "funny papers" of the *New York Daily News*, *Chicago Tribune* and other newspapers. Harold Gray's creation continues to enchant us with, in his words, "a heart of gold and a fast left."



comic strip artw. Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission.

# News of the Upcoming TV Movie

## **The New Annie And Miss Hannigan!**

### **Kathy Bates Will Be Miss Hannigan in TV "Annie"; Les Miz Kid is Title Orphan**

April 26, 1999 —By Kenneth Jones from Playbill On-Line

Academy Award-winner Kathy Bates will bemoan "little girls" as orphanage matron Miss Hannigan in the upcoming TV movie-musical version of "Annie," the producers announced. The title role of the musical, which was a smash on Broadway beginning in 1977, will be played by 11-year-old New York actress, Alicia Morton, who currently rotates with two other actresses in the roles of Young Cosette and Young Eponine in Broadway's "Les Miserables." Bates won the Oscar for playing the psychopathic fan in "Misery."

Broadway's Rob Marshall ("Little Me," "Cabaret") will direct and choreograph TV's "Annie." His previous TV dances were in "Mrs. Santa Claus." Executive producer Chris Montan (of Walt Disney) and executive producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan (of Storyline Entertainment) are re-teaming following their 1997 success with the ABC "Wonderful World of Disney" broadcast of "Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella." Mary Kay Powell of Rastar Productions will executive produce and Brad Krevoy will co produce.

After a national search of 3,000 candidates for the roles of Little Orphan Annie, the red-haired moppet from the famous newspaper comic strips, producers chose the already-proven Morton. Previous Annies Andrea McArdle (of the original Broadway show) and Aileen Quinn (of the film) are still working on stage: McArdle starred in "State Fair" on Broadway and now plays Belle in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" on Broadway, and Quinn was seen in national tours of "Fiddler on the Roof" and the Cathy Rigby version of "Peter Pan."

## **Casting Confirmed: TV Musical, "Annie," to Star Cumming, Chenoweth, McDonald & Garber**

June 7, 1999 — From Playbill On-Line

Producers of the new Disney-produced TV movie-musical, "Annie," are confirming now what had been previously talked about: Tony Award winners Alan Cumming, Audra McDonald and Kristin Chenoweth, and multiple Tony-nominee Victor Garber, will star with movie actress Kathy Bates in the TV musical, "Annie," filming this summer. Chenoweth's Tony is still warm from the mint: She won a Best Featured Actress award June 6 for her role as Sally in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Walt Disney Telefilms confirmed the casting June 3. The TV movie, drawn from the 1977 Broadway smash, "Annie," about Little Orphan Annie being adopted by billionaire Oliver Warbucks in the 1930s, will air on "The Wonderful World of Disney" in fall 1999. Oscar-winner Kathy Bates, playing orphanage matron Miss Hannigan, will snarl at an Annie played by 11-year-old Alicia Morton, a recent young Cosette in Broadway's "Les Miserables." Bates will sing a new song, written for the TV movie by the stage show's song-writers, composer Charles Strouse and lyricist Martin Charnin.

Cumming left the Broadway company of "Cabaret" June 6. (He won a Best Leading Actor Tony Award for the role in 1998.) Chenoweth's previous New York credits include Lincoln Center's "A New Brain" and Broadway's "Steel Pier." McDonald is a multiple Tony Award-winner for "Master Class," "Carousel" and "Ragtime."

Cumming will play Miss Hannigan's criminal brother, Rooster, Chenoweth will play Rooster's girlfriend, Lily, and McDonald will play Daddy Warbucks' personal assistant, Grace Farrell. Garber, a Tony Award nominee for "Deathtrap," "Damn Yankees," "Little Me" and "Lend Me a Tenor," will play bald-pated Daddy Warbucks. Garber previously played the King in the "Wonderful World of Disney" TV musical, "Cinderella," from the same producers as the upcoming "Annie." Miss Hannigan, Rooster and girlfriend Lily are expected to sing what was a show stopper in the Broadway original: "Easy Street."

Add Ernie Sabella to the list of Broadway stars making an appearance. Sabella is taking a brief break from the Las Vegas production of "Chicago" to play laundryman Mr. Bundles in the "Wonderful World of Disney" version of the smash Broadway musical comedy. Bundles is the laundryman who unknowingly spirits Little Orphan Annie away from Miss Hannigan (played by Kathy Bates) and the orphanage while picking up linens. Newly announced in the roles of Annie's orphan pals are Marissa Rago as Pepper, Danelle Wilson as Duffy, Nanea Miyata as July, Lalaine as Kate, Sarah Hyland as Molly and Erin Adams as Tessie. Adams was discovered in a nationwide open call audition.

Filming for "Annie," under the direction of Rob Marshall (Roundabout's "Little Me" and "Cabaret"), is expected to begin June 22 in Los Angeles. This is Marshall's TV directorial debut, although he choreographed the recent TV "Cinderella."

## They Got Annie! Andrea McArdle Will Be Special Star in TV Movie, "Annie"

June 21, 1999 — From Playbill On-Line

Andrea McArdle, the original red-headed mopplet in Broadway's Annie in 1977, will make a special appearance in the upcoming TV movie adaptation for "The Wonderful world of Disney." McArdle, who is currently Belle in Broadway's "Beauty and the Beast," will appear in the "N.Y.C." number in the TV musical, playing the Star to Be (as the character was called in the original show), a hopeful young actress new to the city. "N.Y.C.! Just got here this morning!" she sings. "Three bucks, two bags, one me!" The late Laurie Beechman originated the part — a center-stage cameo for a belter voice — on Broadway.

## "Annie" TV Movie Will Have the Faves of the Classic Score

June 28, 1999 — From Playbill On-Line

Although a new musical number by Annie songwriters Martin Charnin and Charles Strouse will not be added to the new TV musical version of the Broadway hit, the show's signature numbers will be in place, say producers.

The songlist for the "Wonderful World of Disney" production of "Annie" (currently filming in Los Angeles for a November 1999 air-date) is expected to include "Maybe," "(It's a) Hard Knock Life," "Tomorrow," "Little Girls," "I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here," "N.Y.C.," "Easy Street," "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile," "Something Was Missing" and "I Don't Need Anything But You." Apparently not in the mix are 1977 originals "We'd Like to Thank You" which was also cut from the recent Broadway and touring revivals), both "Annie" and "You Won't Be an Orphan for Long" (two songs for the chorus of Warbucks' servants) and "A New Deal for Christmas." Rob Marshall directs the TV version of the musical that surprised everyone with its optimism (and won Best Musical) in the post-Vietnam, post-Watergate era.

## Orphan Revisited

July 26, 1999 — From Marilyn Beck and Stacy Jenel Smith syndicated newspaper column

Andrea McArdle found last week's trek to L.A.—to play a role in the Disney/ABC tele-pic special of "Annie"—a "sort of surreal" experience. Of course, the original Broadway musical made McArdle a juvenile start in the '70s, and, as she notes, "no matter what role I play, my name is going to be associated with the show forever." This time around, she has the grown-up part Star-to-Be, and the famous orphan, Annie, is being played by Alicia Morton—who happens to be the best friend of McArdle's daughter, Alexis.

"There were those moments when I'd hear the musical playback of Alicia singing and feel a little strange. But I love the way they're doing it. They're getting incredible stuff, capturing the feeling of the Broadway show, unlike the film."

For herself, "it felt like closure for me, because Alicia will be the Annie for this generation, and they'll leave me alone. And also, it was an honor to play Star-to-Be. We lost the actress who originated that part, Laurie Beechman, to ovarian cancer last year. She was the standard for young girls who dreamed of going on Broadway." McArdle's heart definitely belongs to Broadway, where she's the current Belle in "Beauty and the Beast."

*(thanks to Paul Goldie for submitting the information on the tv movie)*

# Annie



Submitted by Paul Goldie

**Meet "Cooper"** This is the newest Sandy in the care of Paul Goldie of Goldie Theatrical Dogs. Cooper will soon be seen on the stages in the New York/New Jersey area.



JUST FOR VARIETY

ARMY ARCHERD

**G**OOD MORNING: It was close to 100 degrees Wednesday in the Valley and on Stage 25 at Universal a huge Christmas tree stood in the living room of Daddy Warbucks' mansion where I visited "The Wonderful World of Disney's" \$12 million "Annie." Flashback to June 3, 1981, when I visited the set of Col/Ray Stark's bigscreen "Annie" which was filming in a 130-room mansion (cost \$10.5 million to build in 1928) in Long Branch, N.J. John Huston was directing with Albert Finney playing Warbucks, Carol Burnett as Miss Hannigan, Aileen Quinn as Annie, Ann Reinking as Grace, Bernadette Peters as Lily and Tim Curry as Rooster. In the Disney version, it's Rob Marshall making his TV directorial debut, Victor Garber plays Warbucks, Kathy Bates is Miss Hannigan, Alicia Morton, "Annie," Alan Cumming is "Rooster," Audra McDonald is Grace Farrell, and Kristin Chenoweth is Lily. "We would not have made this (TV) version if the movie had been great. There would have been no reason to remake it," said Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, who exec produce with Chris Montan. Well, the Huston pic was far from "great." *Daily Variety's* review called it "lumbering and largely uninteresting with the obvious waste reaches Pentagonian proportions." And our reviewer (Jim Harwood) was not alone in his opinion! But I predict otherwise after watching a scene Wednesday with this new group. This cast of Oscar, Tony and Emmy-winning performers and seasoned crew burst into applause after the dog Sandy so effectively (and on cue) growled at the conniving and camouflaged Bates and Cumming who posed as Annie's parents. Pooch trainer Joel Silverman, couched under the camera of d.p., Ralf Pöde. P.S. Sandy ("Chester") is a pound-rescued pooch making his starring debut.

**T**HE CAST IS WORKING for below its usual salaries and Oscar-winner ("Misery") Bates admitted to me, "I act so I can afford to direct." Her last effort was "Dash And Lily," starring Sam Shepard and Judy Davis for A&E, hoping for Emmy nominations. The versatile Bates who played Adam Sandler's mom in "The Waterboy," next stars in "Uncontrollable Love" with Rupert Everett directed by P.J. Hogan in Chi and London. Bates sings in this "Annie" and was recommended for the role by her "Titanic" costar Victor Garber during his confabs with the producers. Garber, who shaved his head for the Warbucks role, will have time to re-grow before starting "Wise Guys" with Nathan Lane on B'way. He was last seen on stage in "Art" ... "Annie" came over to Disney from Col courtesy of Ray Stark. And Disney assigned it to its "Cinderella" dream team of Zadan, Meron and Montan, with Mary Kay Powell, president of Rastar Prods. also exec producing ... Bates will surprise all with her singing ability ("Easy Street" and "Little Girls"). "First time out — of the shower," she laughed. The Disney vidversion has several firsts, including tunes omitted from the movie. And three-time Tony winner McDonald is the first black actress to play the role of Warbucks' devoted personal assistant, Grace, and the producers also tell me that it's "implied that she and Daddy Warbucks get together when all the smoke of the adoption of Annie has settled." Adds Zagon and Meron, "we also made sure that all the orphans in this version are also multi-racial." As for the new "Annie," 12 year-old Alicia Morton — I viewed her opening sequence — and listened to her version of "Tomorrow" and if there's a tear on this page, excuse me... Tony-winner ("Cabaret") Cumming as Rooster, had been at the preem of "Eyes Wide Shut" the previous night — he plays the hotel clerk in an eyebrow-raising scene with Tom Cruise. The brief scene required a week's filming. Now, he bicycles between stages of "Annie" and "The Flintstones" prequel with the latter pic getting preferred call on his services... And returning for the "NYC" number in the pic is Andrea McCordle, the original B'way "Annie" who gets time off playing "Belle" in Disney's legit "Beauty and the Beast" for her special "Annie" scene... The vidmovie also filmed on WB's N.Y. Street (as did John Huston's troupe) in the broiling heat last week — of course, it was a snow scene. Stephen Hendrickson is the ace set designer who makes it all look real inside and out — winter or summer ... "Annie" airs Nov. 7...Producers Zadan, Meron and Montan reteam with "Cinderella" producers Whitney Houston and Debra Chase for a live touring company of that Disney vidwinner. Casting starts after the first of January and a B'way transfer is hoped for.

©Variety magazine, Thursday July 15, 1999  
submitted by David Powers



In this early February 1925 Sunday strip, Annie goes for a wild ride in a horse-drawn buggy and ends up in a tree!

## LEONARD STARR'S ANNIE STRIP IS ALMOST UP TO 20 YEARS!

<u>Story</u>	<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1. Annie is kidnapped and taken to the Middle East	15	12/3/79-3/16/80
2. Annie uncovers corruption in Washington, D.C.	12	3/17/80-6/8/80
3. May Flowers joins Big Cheese International	16	6/9/80-9/28/80
4. Skip Smith kidnaps Annie from Anya Toze	19	9/29/80-2/8/81
5. A couple of doctors investigate hospital fraud	11	2/9/81-4/26/81
6. "Daddy" Warbucks falls in love with Angela Pease	17	4/27/81-8/23/81
7. Mark Pease tries to save the whales	14	8/24/81-11/29/81
8. Annie's elderly neighbor lady uses a gun	13	11/30/81-2/28/82
9. Sawyer Oates's granddaughter Wilda returns home	9	3/1/82-5/2/82
10. Sandy is dognapped by the Kneck brothers	13	5/3/82-8/1/82
11. "Daddy" outwits Stella Han and Croesus	14	8/2/82-11/7/82
12. Annie has a mysterious new playmate named Libby	14	11/8/82-2/13/83
13. Annie goes treasure hunting with Ezra Eon's robot FIDO	19	2/14/83-6/26/83
14. Annie visits Angela Pease near the Mexican border	22	6/27/83-11/27/83
15. Annie has a strange new school tutor, Mr. Rune	18	11/28/83-4/1/84
16. Annie calls her new creature friend "Snawky"	21	4/2/84-8/26/84
17. Annie helps out in Taffy Appleton's restaurant	20	8/27/84-1/13/85
18. Annie is pursued by the dastardly Shaddo	20	1/14/85-6/2/85
19. Annie visits her old friend Huckey for the summer	16	6/3/85-9/22/85
20. Annie's friend Amity seems oddly old-fashioned	15	9/23/85-1/5/86
21. The villainous Stella Han is after Annie once again	12	1/6/86-3/30/86
22. Stella Han is further thwarted by L. C. Masters	9	3/31/86-6/1/86
23. Annie escapes from Stella Han aboard a ship	23	6/2/86-11/9/86
24. Brander King is in cahoots with Stella Han	18	11/10/86-3/15/87
25. Annie tangles with a street gang and "The Stinger"	21	3/16/87-8/9/87
26. Annie runs into a strange character named Zeph	24	8/10/87-1/24/88
27. Annie runs into trouble at Blackhull Island	15	1/25/88-5/8/88
28. Mr. Am saves Annie in a strange dream	13	5/9/88-8/7/88
29. Ezra Eon's robot helps rescue Annie from Cazzbar	14	8/8/88-11/13/88
30. Sandy is lost and "adopted" by H. R.	17	11/14/88-3/12/89
31. Annie is tutored by Flora at the woods cabin	15	3/13/89-6/25/89
32. Annie meets Mr. Bigg and the Burnf twins	17	6/26/89-10/22/89
33. Annie is with Angela Pease in South America	25	10/23/89-4/15/90
34. Annie is reunited with Snawky once again	17	4/16/90-8/12/90
35. Annie and Punjab are aided by Amity's ghost	19	8/13/90-12/23/90
36. Annie goes with "Daddy" to the Arctic	17	12/24/90-4/21/91
37. Annie tries to save the "itt" animal's life	23	4/22/91-9/29/91
38. Mr. Am helps Annie understand Huckey's adventure	25	9/30/91-3/22/92
39. Annie helps a disabled athlete regain confidence	22	3/23/92-8/23/92
40. Sandy drinks a chemical and becomes a dog genius	16	8/24/92-12/13/92
41. "Daddy" is involved in a space shuttle mission	25	12/14/92-6/6/93
42. The new housekeeper has a strange daughter named Ariel	22	6/7/93-11/7/93
43. Annie goes to be tutored at the home of G. G.	21	11/8/93-4/3/94
44. Annie is abducted by gun dealer Jack B. Knimble	25	4/4/94-9/25/94
45. Annie's new friend George thinks he is an angel	15	9/26/94-1/8/95
46. Annie wonders why Angela Pease has kidnapped her	21	1/9/95-6/4/95
47. Annie is astounded to find out who "Fuzzy" really is	16	6/5/95-9/24/95
48. Annie meets Punjab's nephew Punjee	25	9/25/95-3/17/96
49. Annie helps Taffy look for her escaped gorilla Muffin	22	3/18/96-8/18/96
50. Mrs. Proffett runs a home for young drug junkies	22	8/19/96-1/19/97
51. "Daddy" gets mixed up with Shaq in the kingdom of Kwaq	29	1/20/97-8/10/97
52. Annie and Sprit go looking for Dolphin Rock	21	8/11/97-1/4/98
53. Stella Han is involved in animal genetic engineering	15	1/5/98-4/19/98
54. "Daddy" is dating witch-like Mrs. Devilla	16	4/20/98-8/9/98
55. Annie meets Gerry, a computer superhacker	23	8/10/98-1/17/99
56. Annie has a strange dream about Punjee	22	1/18/99-5/16/99
57. Annie is visiting Huckey, who hasn't been himself lately		5/17/99-



# ☆ Annie Stars Since Annie ☆

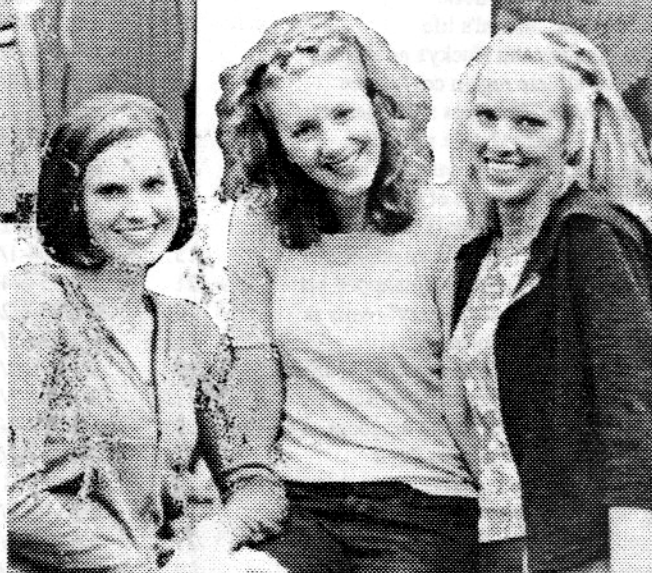
Congratulations to **TONI ANN GISONDI**, who was married in Atlantic City on July 3, 1999.... **BERNADETTE PETERS** won the Best Actress in a Musical Tony Award in June for *Annie Get Your Gun*, which won Best Musical Revival.... **DEBORAH GIBSON** just finished up a run at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey as The Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. A tour of the show starring Deborah has just started in Cleveland and is going around the country. As always, the busy singer/actress has many things in the works, including writing a musical called *Skirts*, a project she has been working on for several years... Thanks to the Annie movie Web site of Katarina Larsson (see page 7), **ROSANNE SORRENTINO** has been located after many years. Rosanne is married with two children and is an 8th grade English teacher in New York. Check out Katarina's site at [www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Picture/1287](http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Picture/1287) ... Utah *Annie* alumnae **KELSI OSBORN** and **KASSIDY OSBORN**, are, along with their older sister Kristyn, three of country music's biggest rising stars as the group **SHeDAISY**. As of this printing, their *Billboard* chart numbers are impressive and all on their way up: #3 country single ("Little Good-byes"), #43 Hot 100 pop single, #7 country album (*The Whole SHeBANG*), and #99 pop album. They are on tour this summer around the country, and every tour stop brings more and more fans. The term **SHeDAISY**, which is Native American for "little sister" or "my sister," was discovered by a cousin of the Osborn sisters while doing a mission for the LDS church in Navajo country in Arizona. Pictures of the singing Osborns, then and now, are below.



## SHeDAISY

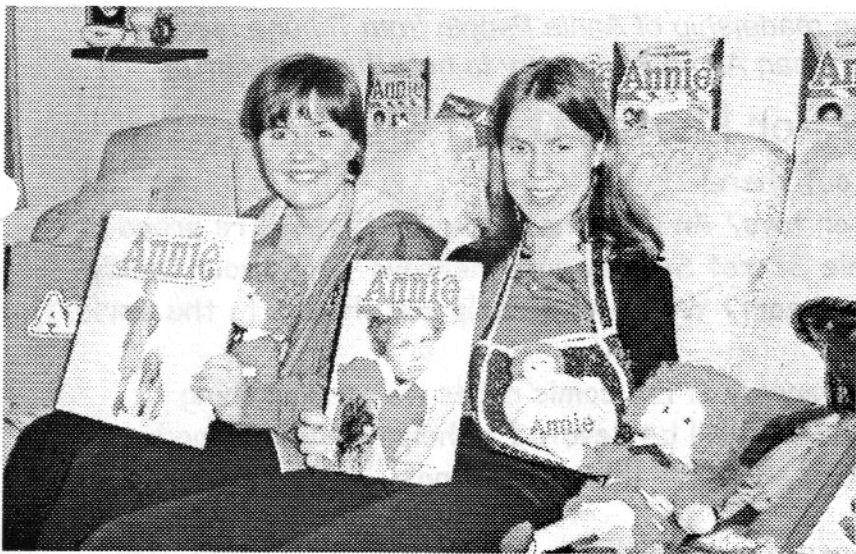


Kelsi, 14, extreme right, and Kassidy, 12, center, were Orphans in *Annie* at Salt Lake City, Utah, December 1988

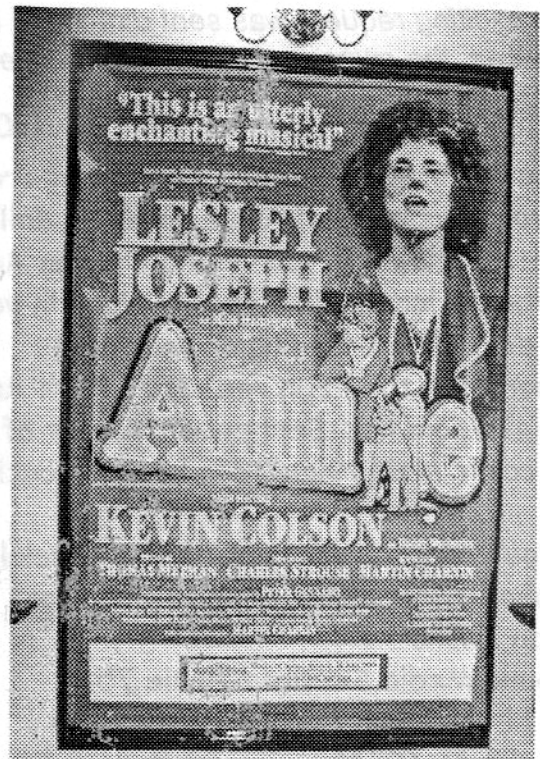


Kelsi, 12, center, in the red dress, as *Annie* at Sundance, Utah, July 1987

SHeDAISY in 1999. Left to right, Kelsi, 24; Kassidy, 22; Kristyn, 28. Kelsi has opted for a short auburn hairdo these days, so that she and Kassidy will not look almost exactly alike, which they did when they were younger.



(April 1999) – AP readers Sally Hickling of Nottingham, England and Katarina Larsson of Nyköping, Sweden meet and go through some of their favorite memorabilia. The photo at right shows the production lobby advertisement poster.



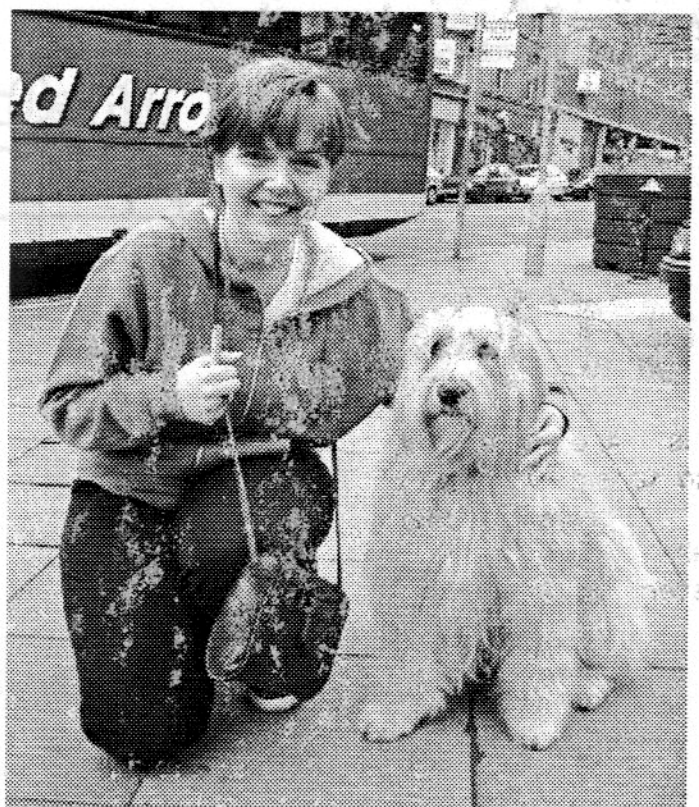
All photos on this page submitted by Sally Hickling.

Of course Annie is not only popular in the United States; Japan and the United Kingdom are only two of the countries around the world which have seen numerous productions of the Broadway show. Evidence of Annie's international appeal are in these photos and letter from Sally Hickling:

*"As you might already know I live in Nottingham, UK, and I have been an Annie fan for over 17 years. I've been corresponding with Jon for over two years now - it was so nice to find another Annie fan on the Internet, and Jon is such a nice person... You and Jon have certainly done terrific work with "Annie People" through the years! It was such a treat when the London production of Annie performed in Nottingham back in April - I went to see it, and it was a terrific show. A few days previously I got to meet another Annie friend of mine for the first time - Katarina from Sweden (Katarina and myself are pictured on the attached photo - I am on the left, Katarina is on the right - we are surrounded by both our Annie collections!) - we had an absolutely wonderful day when she visited."*



(April 1999) – Sally stands next to another advertising lobby display.



(April 1999) – Sally meets the Sandy from the production. He's a pretty chubby dog!



*This exciting request was sent directly to the readership of Annie People from Tribune Media Services, the owners of the rights to Little Orphan Annie, so let's try to help the celebration!*

## ★ Call For Photos ★

Come on Annie collectors we know you're out there!

Do you have original Annie artwork, dolls or toys? An Ovaltine Shake-up that you're proud of? Want to show off your Radio Orphan Annie Secret Society paraphernalia? Does your Daddy Warbucks lamp hold a special place in your heart? We'd love to help you show it to the world and do a little bragging of your own!

In honor of the little redhead's 75th Anniversary in the comic pages we are launching Annie75.com this September. A part of the site will be devoted to helping radio, Broadway and comic strip Annie fans keep in touch and show off their collections.

If you'd like to be a part of this special celebration site please e-mail your pictures to [szupko@tribune.com](mailto:szupko@tribune.com) or send them to:

Sarah Zupko

Tribune Media Services-Annie 75

435 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1400

Chicago, IL 60611

It's free to post your pictures, but the deadline to be a part of the site launch is September 1, 1999. However, we will be accepting and updating with new photos through September 1, 2000. No phone calls please.

---

Tricia Trozzi

*The Annie People Fan Club*

57 Annin Road

West Caldwell, NJ 07006-6801

The logo for "Little Orphan Annie" is displayed in a stylized, bubbly font. The words "Little Orphan" are stacked above the word "Annie", which is significantly larger and more prominent. The letters are outlined in black and filled with a light color, giving it a classic, hand-drawn appearance.