

All about Annie

Music by CHARLES STROUSE
Book by THOMAS MEEHAN Lyrics by MARTIN CHARNIN

Based on *Little Orphan Annie*
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Original Broadway production produced by Irwin Mayer, Stephen R. Friedman, Lewis Allan,
Alvin Nederlander, The John F. Kennedy Centre of Performing Arts, Icarus Productions

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on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York

Directed by
STEVE DAVIES

Musical Director
TIM JONES

Choreographer
ROB STEVENS

Turning Harold Gray's *Little Orphan Annie* into a musical comedy was the inspiration of lyricist-director Martin Charnin, who convinced composer Charles Strouse and librettist Thomas Meehan to join in creating it. The show, which places Annie, Daddy Warbucks and Annie's mutt, Sandy, in New York City in the midst of the Depression, opened on Broadway on April 21, 1977. It went on to win seven Tony Awards and became the third longest running musical of the 1970s with 2,377 performances.

Librettist Thomas Meehan described Annie as "a metaphorical figure standing for innate decency, courage and optimism in the face of hard times, pessimism and despair." Writing in *The World of Musical Comedy*, author Stanley Green has said, "As a direct descendent of Dorothy in *The Wizard Of Oz* and *The Wiz*, *Carnival's Lili*

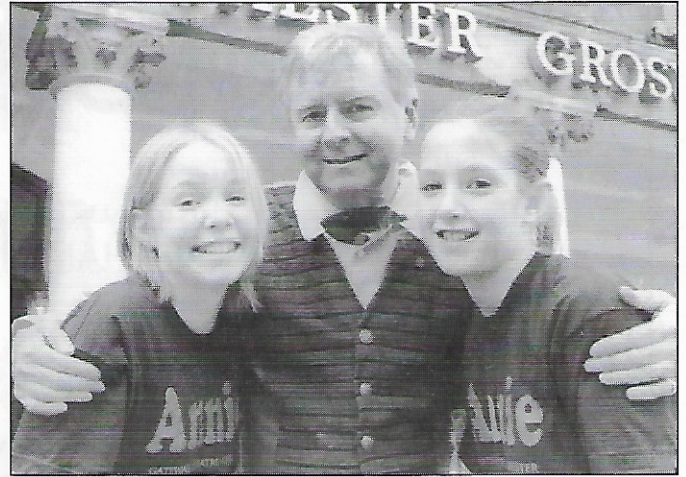
and *Oliver!'s* Oliver, she has unquestionably taken her place as Broadway's most beloved waif of all times."

The immense, enduring popularity of *Annie* resulted in the creation of *Annie Warbucks*, a second musical starring the beloved red-haired moppet. It opened at the 499-seat Variety Arts Theatre on August 9, 1993. In the best comic strip tradition, *Annie Warbucks* begins exactly where *Annie* leaves off. As the curtain rises on *Annie Warbucks*, the sun has come out and Annie and Daddy Warbucks are together forever? until the authorities announce that Daddy has to find Annie a mother or return her to the orphanage. The adventure continues with new songs, new heroes, new villains and new problems to be solved.

Cast Profiles

Charlotte Britton - *Annie* (New York Team)

Making her debut at the Gateway Theatre as Annie is Charlotte Britton. Charlotte, who is 13 and from Holt, Wrexham, attends the Hammond School in Chester, where she has appeared as Helen in *Jane Eyre*. All of Charlotte's family, including her two elder sisters, Cassie the dog and Chilli the chinchilla are thrilled about her securing the role of Annie and will be cheering her on. Charlotte, whose ambition is to be an actress when she leaves school, is looking forward very much to working with Tip Top at the Gateway.



Charlotte Britton
Annie
(New York Team)

Eric Jones
Drake

Samantha Kelly
Annie
(Washington Team)

Samantha Kelly - *Annie* (Washington Team)

Sammy Kelly is 11 years old and from Great Sutton, S. Wirral. Sammy is a pupil of Whitby High School where her favourite subjects are Music and Gymnastics, her least favourite is Maths, although she is keen to point out this is no reflection on her Maths teacher! Sammy has a twin sister, Kate, (although they are not identical) with whom she shares a cat called Phoebe. Her love of music (and she enjoys S Club 7 just as much as musical theatre!) drew her attention to Stagecoach Theatre School, whom she has been with for a year now. She is delighted to have landed the lead role in Tip Top's production of *Annie*, especially as she had to withdraw from the West End Production due to unforeseen circumstances. Sammy would eventually like to pursue a career in musical theatre.

Eric Jones - *Drake*

Eric specialises in comedy roles and has played all of the comic leads in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, which are his first love. He is often asked to repeat these characters for other societies. He has also played in the following shows: *Gypsy Love*, *Gypsy Baron*, *La Vie Parisienne*, *Kismet*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Boy Friend*, *Godspell*, *The Ragged Child*, *Nightshriek* and *Half a Sixpence* and *Singin' in the Rain*. With Tip Top Musicals he was successful as Drake in *Annie* in 1992, Jacob in *La Cage aux Folles* and Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady*. He has an antique shop in Chester and is a qualified counsellor working for the NSPCC.



Leslie Churchill Ward - *Miss Hannigan*

Leslie is a founding member of Phoenix Theatre Club (Columbus, Ohio) and an award winning American actress. She graduated with honours from Ohio University School of Theatre with a degree in Acting. She has performed in many diverse roles - including the deadpan and androgynous Clovis Sangrail (the NYC world première of *Beast and Superbeast*, American Chamber Opera Company), Pinch (*Comedy of Errors*, Washington Shakespeare Company), the deliciously evil White Witch (*Narnia*, Circuit Playhouse) and Mother Superior (*Agnes of God*, West End Productions). Other favourite roles include Bella (*Lost in Yonkers*), Agnes (*Dancing at Lughnasa*), and a Guest Artist appearance as Edith Frank (*The Diary of Anne Frank*, Playhouse on the Square) for which she won the 1997 Best Supporting Actress award at the Memphis Theatre Awards. Before moving to the UK, Leslie sang the role of Pitti-Sing in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* (Washington Savoyards) and fulfilled one of her childhood dreams by

narrating Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* (Georgetown Symphony Orchestra).

Since moving to Great Britain, Leslie has been working as a voice-over artist (represented by The Voice Box Agency) and most recently recorded for the BBC/Discovery Channel. She has been busy working with the young people in her community - directing the Street Wise production of *Coming Out*, which concluded a successful tour around Wales last year, and working as an acting/music teacher with Jolly Good Show Productions. Leslie will soon appear in a leading role in the upcoming independent film *Stripped* (written and directed by Brian Gorman) which begins shooting in and around Chester in the coming months.

Maureen McIntosh - *Grace Farrell*

Maureen's first appearance with Tip Top was back in 1989 with their first fund raising concert at Grove Park Little Theatre. Since then she has taken the part of Miss Hannigan in the 1992 production of *Annie*, Maria in *The Sound of Music* and Jacqueline in *La Cage aux Folles*.

As well as working with Tip Top, Maureen has been associated with other societies in the Chester area, performing at the Gateway Theatre and Theatr Clwyd in a variety of singing roles from Gilbert & Sullivan to Sondheim. A few favourite roles have been Julie in *Carousel*, Joanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Tessa in *The Gondoliers* and the title roles in *Kiss Me Kate* and *Calamity Jane*.

Last year Maureen was back with Tip Top for *Movie In My Mind III* and is looking forward to appearing as Grace (a far more pleasant character than last time) in *Annie* 2001.



Rob Tolefree - Oliver Warbucks

Rob moved to Chester in 1985, planning to stay for eighteen months. Sixteen years later he's still here and during this time has been involved with a number of local societies. Initially swearing never to set foot beyond the back row of the chorus, Rob has taken a number of roles including Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*, The Pirate King in the Broadway version of *The Pirates of Penzance* and Jud Fry in *Oklahoma!* His two favourite roles have come in the form of two very different barbers, playing the title roles in Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Rob made his Tip Top debut in 1993 as part of the off stage chorus in the original *La Cage aux Folles*. He then took a break of several years before returning in *Movie In My Mind III*.

He is looking forward to Warbucks and is currently negotiating hairstyles with the director!



Simon Phillips - Rooster

Simon has been a member of Tip Top for about 5 years and his previous roles with the company have included Ralph in *Bouncers* earlier this year, Ernst Ludwig in *Cabaret*, Frank in *No Love Lost*, Steve and Reg in *Up 'n' Under* and several pantomimes. Elsewhere he has played Michael Peters in *The Golden Pathway Annual*, Dancairo in *Passion Flower* and Robert in *Betrayal*. Later this year Simon will again play the part of Robert in *Betrayal* in a professional production in Reading.

Also with Tip Top, Simon was Musical Director for the recent production of *The Movie in my Mind III* in Wrexham and *West End to Broadway* at the Gateway in Chester. He is a keen musician; he plays piano, clarinet and saxophone and has previously appeared as a soloist with the Midland Festival Orchestra. Simon has a very busy life fitting in a full-time job among his very full time hobby. However, he loves every moment of it!



Gareth Pierce - Bert Healy

Gareth's first stage appearance (since one brief one in school) was in *Annie* with Tip Top the first time we produced it at the Gateway. He then worked backstage on the first production of *La Cage aux Folles*. Since, Gareth has appeared in many plays at Grove Park Theatre. They include *What the Butler Saw*, *Dangerous Corner*, *Run for your Wife*, *An Evening with Gilbert & Sullivan*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Amadeus*, *Hobson's Choice*, *Cabaret* and *Our Day Out*. Also, he has appeared in *Pirates* with Cefn Musical Society. As well as plays, Gareth also enjoys pantomime and has played comedy duo, as dame and solo comedy roles.

Gareth was Assistant Director and DSM for *Tons of Money* and *Dancing at Lughnasa* and directed *No More Sitting on the Old School Bench*. His most recent appearance has been in *Katherine Howard*, playing Thomas Culpepper.

By day, Gareth is a primary school teacher at Whittington C. of E. Primary School near Oswestry, where he is a Key Stage 2 co-ordinator with responsibility for Science and ICT.



Robert Hopkins - President Roosevelt

This is Bob's fourth appearance with Tip Top Productions, each one of which has proved to be thoroughly enjoyable for him.

Although he has been playing leading roles with several local societies over the past thirty years, often portraying Dukes and Barons, this is the first time he has filled the presidential seat.

Last October he was called upon, at very short notice, to play Alfie P. Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* for the fourth time, not a bad career move, from dustman to president in six months! Bob spends his leisure time conducting two junior choirs and performing himself in numerous concerts.



Laura Pemberton - Star To Be

Laura is currently 18 years old and studying for her A-levels in English,

Media and Theatre Studies at Yale College in Wrexham.

She has been a member of Tip Top now for two years, during this time Laura has appeared in the play *Our Day Out*, Tip Top's musical collection *West End to Broadway* at the Gateway recently, but she is most well known for her parts in the Pantomime, having previously played Daisy in *Mother Goose* and the Princess in *Aladdin*.

Having been offered a scholarship to attend the prestigious "Studio La Pointe" college in Leeds, this may be Laura's last show with us for some time as she will move away to study the three year course in Musical Theatre.



Joanne Lloyd - Lily St. Regis

At the age of 17, Joanne was awarded scholarships to study at three major music colleges and elected to study at the Royal Academy of Music, London. She has appeared professionally in theatre, opera, cabaret and jazz. Theatre credits include the U.K. national tour of *The Sound of Music*, *One Touch of Venus* at the Barbican, London, and *Music of Life*, directed by Simon Callow at the Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue. Joanne has played numerous roles for Tip Top productions, including Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret* and her favourite role to date, L.V. in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, in which she had to impersonate over ten famous female singers! In 1992 Joanne played the part of Grace in *Annie* for Tip Top Productions, but is now looking forward to playing the role of a 'dumb blonde' in this production.



Production Team

Steve Davies - Director / Producer

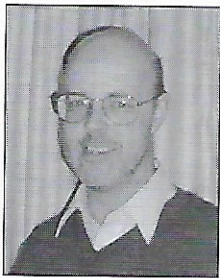
Stephen Davies first became interested in the theatre by taking part in school productions, and then in the sixth form he played Doody in *Grease*. He then joined the Clwyd Youth Theatre and appeared in *Once in a Lifetime* and was principal dancer in 'Steam Heat' in *The Pajama Game*.

After a break of a couple of years, Steve joined Tip Top Musicals (our original name) when the company was formed. Since that time, he has appeared with Tip Top and Grove Park Theatre, Wrexham many times. For Grove Park Theatre his roles have included Valmont in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, Bob in *Straight and Narrow*, Dan in *An Evening with Gary Lineker*, Ernst Ludwig in *Cabaret* and Billy Shake in the world première of *Shakespeare Country*. For Tip Top - Max, in another Bt Biennial world première, *No Love Lost*, Ray Say in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* and Emcee in *Cabaret*. He has also played Cornelius Hackl in *Hello Dolly*, Hannah in *La Cage aux Folles* and each year is boo-ed and hissed as the 'Baddy' in our Christmas pantomime. Most recently, Steve has turned his hand to directing. Productions to date are *The Golden Pathway Annual* for Grove Park, and *Up'n' Under*, *The Movie in My Mind I, II and III* for Tip Top and *West End to Broadway* for the Gateway Theatre.

For his day job Steve travels the length and breadth of the country as a Regional Project Manager for Deeside College.



Tim Jones - Musical Director



Tim began his musical directing career with Penyffordd Girls Choir in 1980, performing many concerts locally and also conducting them at the Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall, London and Montreux, Switzerland. Although he no longer runs the choir, he is pleased to have a current member as one of the orphans!

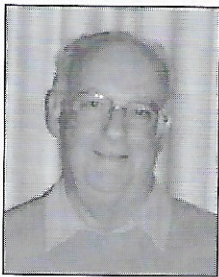
His links with musical theatre began with Wrexham Musical Theatre Society, when he conducted *Hello Dolly*, *Carousel*, *Oklahoma*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Hans Andersen*, *My Fair Lady* and *Guys and Dolls* at Clwyd Theatr Cymru. His association with Tip Top began with the first *Annie* in 1992. Since then, he has conducted *La Cage aux Folles* (3 times!), *The Sound of Music*, *Oliver!*, *Godspell*, *My Fair Lady*, *Cabaret* and all the Tip Top pantos. For 10 years he was Head of Music in a Shropshire secondary school, but since September he has ventured into Chester, where he is Head of Music in the Catholic High School.

Rob Stevens - Choreographer

Rob trained in Theatre and Dance at Yale College and Salford University. He has worked professionally with 'Bitesize Theatre Company', touring schools with a pantomime, and for the past two summers has worked as a Parade dancer in Disneyland, Paris, taking various roles such as an Arab, Zebra, Musician and a Snowball! Locally, Rob has been involved with Tip Top for a number of years, appearing in *Hello Dolly*, *La Cage aux Folles* and most recently, *West End to Broadway* which he also choreographed. This is the first 'major' show Rob has choreographed for Tip Top but he has choreographed various shows and musicals in the area for a number of societies. Rob teaches dance with Pam Evans-Hughes and during the day you will find him working in 'The Disney Store', a job which sees him returning to his Disney roots!



Cliff Lloyd - Assistant Musical Director



This is the eighth year that Cliff has been with Tip Top Productions in the role of Assistant Musical Director. During this period he has assisted with the production of musicals such as *The Sound of Music*, *Hello Dolly*, *Oliver*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Godspell*, *My Fair Lady*, *Cabaret* and a variety of other Tip Top projects and pantomimes. Born in Lodge, Brymbo, his life has never been without music, playing classics, jazz and organ, and appearing with many local bands, musicians and celebrity artists. Apart from music his hobbies include golf, and he is currently President at Clays Golf Club.

Chrissy Evans - Deputy Stage Manager / Producer

Chrissy's first show with Tip Top was *Annie*, way back in 1992, when she spent the whole week terrified out of her wits. Even though she has worked on almost every show since then, she is still terrified every night! Having just finished working on Tip Top's pantomime, and two productions of *Bouncers*, one in Wrexham and one for The Gateway Theatre, Chrissy is looking forward to a well deserved rest at the end of *Annie*. During her 'spare' time Chrissy works as a secretary in Chester.



Lee Hassett - Company Manager / Publicity



Since first joining Tip Top helping back stage in 1996, Lee has become very involved with a variety of roles within the group. On-stage singing and acting, his favourite part to date was playing the Genie in *Aladdin* earlier this year, his pantomime debut! Off-stage Lee looks after the Tip Top website and our contacts database! This is Lee's first 'official' role within the Production Team and has primarily been the point of contact for all cast members issues and has also handled all publicity for the show. Outside theatre Lee fits in time for his work as a European IT Business Support Manager.

Chorus

Allan Forrest
Anna Ivison
Annie Hughes
Barbara Davies
Bethan Edwards
Catherine Beer
Chris Wright
Claire Davies
Daniel Lee Davies
Dave Pearce
David Gillespie
David Pollard
Helen Holland
Jayne Buist
Jenny Jackson
Kellie Grace
Lara White
Lesley Ivison
Muriel Jennings
Naomi Hall
Nell Guy
Oliver Sammons
Pam Ball
Pat Pearce
Paul White
Sheila Whittingham
Wendy Healiss



New York Team

ANNIECharlotte Britton
MOLLYNicola Russell
PEPPERNatalie Brett
DUFFY.....Faye Anglesea
JULYSian Roscoe
KATESophie Bill
TESSIEMary Mason
RUBYLisa Evans-Hughes
NANCYNicola Struggles
CHRYSTALRebecca Taylor
SALLYLena Simone
TILLYKatie Gilmore
CHARLIEGeorgia Thomas
ROSIERebecca Griffiths
JESSIELucy Gerrard

MISS HANNIGANLeslie Churchill-Ward
GRACE FARRELLMaureen McIntosh
DRAKEEric Jones
OLIVER WARBUCKS.....Rob Tolefree
STAR TO BELaura Pemberton
ROOSTER.....Simon Phillips
LILY ST. REGISJoanne Lloyd
BERT HEALYGareth Pierce
RONNIE BOYLANPauline Guest

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Washington Team

ANNIESamantha Kelly
MOLLY.....Amy Jones
PEPPER.....Sarah Jones
DUFFY.....Louisa Howell
JULYDaniella Fray
KATEKaty Williamson
TESSIELizzie Mason
SAFFIEEmily Robinson
VINEGARChloe Jones
DOTTYCaroline Buist
TILLIEHannah Smith
MEGANLeanne Howell
ELIZACatherine Barnard
BECKYKayleigh Melliush
SALTIENatalie Wright
ROSIE.....Maria Woosey

BONNIE BOYLANTamara Hall
CONNIE BOYLANLaura Roberts
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELTBob Hopkins
HOWEAllan Forrest
ICKESNeil Mason
MORGANTHAU.....Derek Way
SANDYJacko

All other parts played by
members of the company

Director
Steve Davies

Musical Director
Tim Jones

Choreographer
Rob Stevens

Producers
Steve Davies
Chrissy Evans

*Assistant
Musical Director*
Cliff Lloyd

Deputy Stage Manager
Chrissy Evans

*Publicity /
Company Manager*
Lee Hassett

Wardrobe
Marion Thomas
Allan Forrest
Barbara Davies
Jean Leath

Hair and Make-up
Jean Leath
Lyn Povey

Lighting
Rick Armitage

Sound
Richard Stokes

Properties
Sue Edwards



New York Team

Back Row (l to r): Faye Anglesea, Nicola Struggles, Charlotte Britton, Natalie Brett, Mary Mason

Middle Row: Rebecca Griffiths, Lucy Gerrard, Lena Simone, Sian Roscoe, Katie Gilmore

Front Row: Lisa Evans-Hughes, Georgia Thomas, Nicola Russell, Sophie Bill, Rebecca Taylor



Washington Team

Back Row (l to r): Lizzie Mason, Kayleigh Melliush, Daniella Fray, Samantha Kelly, Louisa Howell, Leanne Howell

Middle Row: Caroline Buist, Chloe Jones, Katy Williamson, Sarah Jones, Natalie Wright, Hannah Smith

Front Row: Catherine Barnard, Amy Jones, Maria Woosey, Emily Robinson



Born in the USA

by
Peter Swingler
Chairman

Tip Top Productions began as a germ of an idea back in 1985 when I directed a play in Boston, USA. I saw first hand how community theatre worked in another country. Then in 1988 when I was working in London, and because I was away from home, my mind started to work overtime about things "theatrical".

I have been involved in amateur theatre since 1973, but I was always slightly disappointed with standards. Most amateur groups, Tip Top is no different, sometimes struggle to cast the right person in the right part. I had sat through countless shows in which the production was flawed because of this most vital ingredient. Any director worth their salt will tell you that your show will succeed if you get 90% of the casting right.

And so with time on my hands, I started to think the unthinkable. Why shouldn't there be an independent company, stripped of all its membership trappings? Totally open auditions were imperative as most groups at that time insisted on full, paid up members trying out for parts. If this succeeded then I would be on the way to creating my dream - a tip top show. Incidentally, the name Tip Top came from Wrexham Leader theatre critic Les Chamberlain.

In April 1989 I called a public meeting to launch this new

theatre group. We had no money. Our first independent concert raised the grand total of £800! The original intention was to stage just one show each year, drawing on the talent right across Wrexham, Chester and the North West, but subsequent events led us down the road to where we are today. We produce 5 shows each year, we are self-financing and are as ambitious as any other company.

There has been animosity to Tip Top from established groups fearful that Tip Top would "steal" their members. It has never been our policy to demand commitment beyond the current show. There should be no fear, the intention is to raise standards and allow people the chance to perform.

Tip Top is a sociable group that has an open door to any person with talent. We now perform plays, pantomimes as well as large scale musicals. We set our sights to perform quality productions and I believe that most of the time we achieve this aim.

Tip Top is now flourishing. If you want to know more about us why not make contact? The addresses are in this programme.

Our aims are simple: Good, enjoyable community theatre that involves both performers and audience and that includes everyone.

Tip Top Productions aims to promote music, drama and theatre for all, and participation is open to anyone interested, either on stage, backstage or front of house. If you want to know more about Tip Top, our future programme, or to be placed on our mailing list, then please contact us using the postal or email address below.

Chrissy Evans, 4 Walnut Street, Rhosddu, Wrexham LL11 2NE

Email: info@tiptopproductions.co.uk