

Annies, Annies everywhere

Red-haired waifs abound for charity

By Margaret Miller
staff writer

"The neighbors really wondered about all those orange heads on my front lawn," laughed Jan Henrick of Redford.

The "heads" were wigs she was preparing for a crew of little girls dressing up as movie's hottest new personages, "Annie."

And her experience was just one of the interesting moments in the saga that has taken 11 small dancers from a

Livonia school to a starring role in a premier party next week.

The students of Sheryl Sulek, all enrolled at Sheryl's School of Dance on Seven Mile, will participate in a benefit party following the movie's premier at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Americana The-

ater, Southfield.

Funds raised will go to support children's programming on Channel 56, Detroit's public television station.

THE AREA YOUNGSTERS have a routine of three songs from the stage

show and new movie. Their performance involves singing and a few simple steps designed to avoid getting them not too much out of breath.

Already they have put on their act for one post party, the pre-premiere festivities hosted by a committee of 170 prominent citizens to advance the drive for funds for public TV.

"They are absolutely adorable," said Phyllis Marra of Bloomfield Hills, who with her husband Frank S. chaired that

gathering at the Whitely mansion in Detroit and will again be in the limelight for the American party.

"I think Daddy Warbucks should adopt every one of them," she added. Marra also said she thinks the girls' involvement has boosted sales of the \$50 movie premiere tickets.

Their song-and-dance appearance next week will bring them in touch with more celebrities as they share the spotlight with a local Daddy Warbucks, FDR and Sandy.

THE ANNIES currently achieving fame are Jennifer Walbridge and Julie Walkowicz of Livonia, Bonnie Stadler

and Tammy Henrick of Redford, Mari Beth Galasso, Cindy Haack and Holly Novack of Farmington Hills, Julie Sulek of Southfield, Melissa Lee of West Bloomfield, Tina Limbriht of Novi and Stevi Van Meter of Keego Harbor.

Ranging from 7 to 13 years of age, they are members of a class of 26 that meets regularly at the studio, and they were picked by lot after Sulek heard from Phyllis Marra, chairperson for the benefit gala in May, that a troupe of performing Annies would be a welcome addition for entertainment at that party.

"We could just draw lots," said Sulek, because all the girls in the class are talented dancers.

Actually, these girls are following a tradition of several years' standing for Annie performances at the studio, and the changing faces that go with the red dresses and orange wigs go right along with the way the stage show operates.

Annie dancers, like Annie stars, grow up and are replaced by younger children.

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Mari Beth Galasso of Farmington Hills adjusts her wig in preparation for the benefit party that will follow the premiere of the movie

"Annie." Two other Farmington Hills residents, Cindy Haack and Holly Novack, will also be participating in the party.



The local dancers have two things in common with film star Aileen Quinn, shown here with the movie's Sandy. They are the newest in a succession of little girls in the role, and they are wearing red and white dresses from a new Sears line.

INSIDE ANGLES

SURE ENOUGH the time quickly is approaching for the annual wing-ding — The Farmington Founders' Festival and a tradition of bygone years will be revived by the Farmington Area Jaycees. That's the chicken barbecue which will run from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the three days of festivities, July 29-31. The menu will be a la carte. The booth space has already been reserved in the Downtown Farmington Center parking lot on the Grand River side.

THE SALVATION ARMY and Common Ground recently received a mayoral boost from hizzoner Jack Burwell, of Farmington Hills, who has proclaimed June 25-27 as "Hospitality Week-end." The mayor has requested that all restaurants in Oakland County contribute the proceeds from the sale of coffee during the weekend to benefit the two agencies.

THEY'RE STARTING to pop up all over town — the 1 1/2 Woodcreek bumper stickers. The parents over at that fine school thought it would be a good idea to tell everyone how they felt about the school administered by Principal Ronald Jackson. Selling for \$1, the stickers are going like hotcakes, according to Jackson. The proceeds will be used for the student-parent beautification projects.

TOUGHLOVE, a group of parents who give moral support to each other during family/adolescent crises, are meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Farmington City Hall. Best of all, it's free.

BRIAN ROBERTS, of Farmington Hills is tuning up with the Southern Michigan Youth Chorus at a pre-tour concert at 3 p.m. June 20 in the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. Roberts will join the 26-member chorus group in travels through seven countries on a three-week tour. They will sing in churches, cathedrals and concert halls in such cities as Rothenberg, Kitzbuhl, Venice, Florence, Geneva, Paris and Chartres.

FIREWORKS AT THE FREEDOM Festival are just around the corner and the folks over at the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) want to make sure your trip is a pleasant one. They are providing a number of buses so you can leave your car and traffic worries at home. SEMTA park and ride bus will be stationed at Ford Field on Farmington Road, between Schoolcraft and Lyndon in Livonia. The bus will leave at 7:30 p.m. for the fireworks. It will depart from Jefferson Avenue between

Woodward and Brush 25 minutes after the conclusion of the fireworks. Round-trip fare is \$2.75 per person. Children six years and under not occupying a seat will ride free. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available at the SEMTA Shelby Station in downtown Detroit and the Livonia City Hall on the 4th floor. Tickets also may be purchased by mail if you send a check to SEMTA Firecracker Special, 660 Woodward, Detroit 48225. Specify whether you are ordering train or bus tickets. For additional information, call the SEMTA customer information center at 982-5515.

A THOUSAND STARS IN THE SKY and WDIV would like from one to three to sing its "Go 4 It" theme song. So Channel 4 will listen to 500 vocal acts between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. June 19 in the massive marathon audition. If you want to be part of the fun and a shot at the big time, bring an application form to the station on June 19. Those forms may be picked up at all Harmony House outlets, Bad Records, Detroit Audio and Now Playing/Record Breaker locations.

"We wanted to open the competition up to the many talented vocalists in this area, who are still unknown," says Dick Weinberg, WDIV director of marketing services. While contestants may have professional experience, the rules stipulate that they cannot be currently signed to a recording contract. They must be at least 18-years-old and a Michigan resident. The competition is only open to individual vocalists, vocal duos or vocal trios. The talent that is chosen will have a musical arrangement of "Go 4 It" written especially for them. The chosen singer/s and arrangement will be the focus of a new WDIV promotion campaign similar to the current one. The initial audition is being conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

HAVING TROUBLE getting your security deposit back? Get a free leaflet from the Tenants Resource Center that explains the steps you need to take. To get a free leaflet, send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to Security Deposit Leaflets, Tenants Resource Center, 855 Grove, East Lansing 48823.

SINGLES ATTENTION, the Solo Flight Singles Meeting at Temple Beth El on June 23 at 8 p.m. will feature a Broadway review of hit tunes from Ice Castles, Greatest American Hero, Annie, Body Electric, presented by Tri-Talent Productions of Birmingham. Following the review there will be dancing as well as wine and cheese. Singles, 35 years and older are invited. The charge is \$3 for members and \$6 for guests. The temple is at 7400 Telegraph.

Diane Von Furstenberg
invites the night

You've waited all day for this moment to come. Slip into something comfortable. Something silky. Like Diane's newest night time collection in cool aqua with lilac piping. Shown, long gown with spaghetti straps, \$22. Matching coat, \$36. In nylon tricot, sizes P-S-M-L. Awaiting in Hudson's Fantasies, at Northland, Oakland and Twelve Oaks.

Fantasies
hudson's