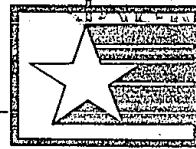


Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/G44-1100



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Daddy Warbucks

Bill Hayes enjoys grown-up role

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

IT'S BEEN A LONG time since Bill Hayes appeared on television's "Your Show of Shows" and the young singer of those days is now a mature performer, whose newest role is as Daddy Warbucks in the musical "Annie."

"It's going to be a wonderful show," Hayes said with enthusiasm, in a phone interview last week from "The Munny," nickname for the Municipal Opera Theatre Association in St. Louis. "Annie" opened there Monday for a seven-night run. "Then I fly Monday, the 28th, to open in Detroit," he said.

The show starring Jo Anne Worley of "Laugh-In" fame will be presented Wednesday, Aug. 30, through Sunday, Sept. 3, at Meadow Brook Music Festival's Baldwin Pavilion, on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Three members of the original Broadway cast are featured in the show, and 11-year-old Danielle Findley plays Annie, with Moose, a dog from the Staten Island ASPCA, as Sandy.

The handsome, dark-haired singer from "Your Show of Shows" has gone gray in real life. On stage in "Annie," Hayes' hair will be covered with a bald cap, to give him that Daddy Warbucks look so familiar from the comic strip.

"I TRIED one on the day before yesterday, to take a picture," he said. "It takes a while, to get it fitted to your head. It's glued to your head."

Since getting his start on "Your Show of Shows," the Sid Caesar-Imogene Coca sensational hit of TV's early days, Hayes has gone on to continued success in show business. He has performed in many stage productions but also has a loyal following from the many years he was on television in "Days of Our Lives."

Hayes joined the cast in 1970 and played on the soap opera until 1987. "It was a happy experience," he said. Hayes and the life of costar Susan Seaford were permanently entwined when they married in 1974.

He played Doug, the owner of a nightclub (he got to sing on the show), and she was Julie, who started out as a teen ager who grew up and became a designer. "The whole country watched us fall in love," Hayes said.

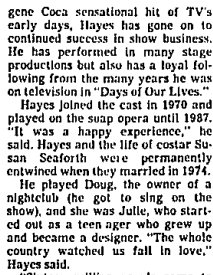
"Sixteen million people came to our wedding," he continued, referring to the on-air ceremony when their two characters married, in 1976. "We used the same ceremony on the show as in real life."

HAYES AND his wife also made history by appearing on the cover of Time, in January 1974. "Time did a big story on songs," he explained.

Although Hayes had never watched soap operas before he got his chance to be on the popular "Days," he quickly became impressed with the show's quality. "All through the '70s we had great story-lines and wonderful lines," he said.

Appearing as a regular on "Your Show of Shows" from 1950 to 1954, was a lucky break for Hayes who was hired by producer Max Liebman who had scored on a summer replacement TV series starring Olsen and Johnson.

Hayes grew up in Chicago, studied



'I saw the show on Broadway and the movie. I'm having such a ball . . . It's very real. If we do it right, it's very moving.'

— Bill Hayes

English and music at DePauw University in Indiana and then got a job in the summer of 1947 with the National Touring Company of "Carousel." This led to joining comedy stars Olsen and Johnson on tour, as a singer, which in turn led to television.

Describing his costars on "Your Show of Shows," Hayes called them "the most talented group of performers every seen anywhere." Besides Caesar and Coca, the 90-minute Saturday night show also starred Carl Reiner and Howard Morris. This was live television, and Hayes remembers the night Caesar, playing a general, forgot to put a pad under his jacket and when a medal was pinned on him in one scene, "They stuck the pin in his skin."

HAYES SANG on the show, often doing duets with Judy Johnson.

Other singing regulars were opera stars Marguerite Piazza, Robert Merrill and Jan Peerce. Because their show was followed by "The Hit Parade," Hayes said he didn't sing many pop songs but mainly "old Rodgers and Hammerstein and old film songs."

These were good times for the boyish-looking performer but, "It's wonderful to grow up," he said, because of the variety of roles open to him now. In the last five years he has played the priest, Father Farley, in "Mass Appeal," Solbert in "Amadeus," George, the nightclub owner, in "La Cage aux Folles," and Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol."

Enjoying the opportunity to be Daddy Warbucks in "Annie," Hayes said, "I saw the show on Broadway and the movie. I'm having such a ball." Of the story about the little orphan and the millionaire who adopts



Bill Hayes and Jo Anne Worley costar as Daddy Warbucks and Miss Hannigan in the Broadway hit musical "Annie," opening Wednesday, Aug. 30, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival.

her, he declared, "It's very real. If we do it right, it's very moving." In the musical, Hayes has only a few lines to exchange with Jo Ann Worley, who plays the mean-spirited orphanage operator, Miss Hannigan. His relationships develop with Annie — "She's lonesome and needs her parents. He's lonesome and needs someone." — and Oliver Warbucks' secretary — "An interesting little love thing. Is he ever going to figure out she's a girl?"

The show's Annie — Broadway and TV actress Danielle Fendley — "has played it before, and it helps," Hayes said. Lisbe Larson, Warbucks' romantic attraction, is "a very pret-

ty young blonde. She sings nicely." He mentioned the three actors from the original Broadway production of "Annie." They are Raymond Thorne, who plays F.D.R.; Edwin Bordo as Drake, the Butler; and Robert Fitch as Rooster Hannigan (Fitch won a Best Feature Actor award for this role).

Performances of "Annie" will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, and at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31, and Saturday, Sept. 2. Ticket prices range from \$9 to \$27.50, depending upon performance. For more information, call the box office at 377-2010.

Day Jones' belief: don't monkey with success

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Day Jones feels like The Monkees in the middle. Apparently, not all is well with the fab three (which is already minus Mike Nesmith). A seed of discontent has grown into a wild weed of inner squabbling that could very well make this the last Monkees' tour for awhile.

According to Jones, Micky Dolenz has brought in a manager with the ultimatum that he either manages the group or Dolenz won't participate.

So, subsequent tours, an album and a film featuring the 1960s television music group could be on hold. The situation has the normally happy-go-lucky Manchester, England, native in a tizzy.

"That's the bitterness, if any," said Jones, who will perform with The Monkees on Sunday at Meadow Brook Music Festival. "Micky's

brought in this guy who is not qualified. "We've been) like brothers. That's why this is so confusing. Micky's brought this manager in, which is very selfish of him. After doing it on our own and trusting one another all these years, he wants to have a central clearing-house."

"Every time we need to speak to him, we have to go through this guy. And I've known Micky for 20 years."

THE HARSH realities of the music business has finally smacked The Monkees upside the head.

The discord won't be music to the ears of the legion of Monkees fans. Unlike The Who, The Rolling Stones and other groups of that era, The Monkees were mama's boys seemingly immune to controversy such as drug busts and break-ups.

The were Hollywood's creation, a video band before MTV. The Monkees were a TV sitcom of a rock 'n' roll group, who were actors playing musicians.

The first album, "The Monkees," was released to coincide with the premiere of the TV series. The disc sold an amazing three million copies in a three-month span.

After winning Emmys for the series, and several successful tours, The Monkees called it quits.

In a short amount of time, The Monkees garnered a cult status, further fueled by MTV rerunning the series. The group — minus Nesmith because of business commitments — bit the concert trail again in 1986 to commemorate their 20th anniversary.

That tour was a success. Jones said things are a bit more difficult this time around. Rock 'n' roll reunion business is booming with The Who, The Beach Boys, The Doobie Brothers and Chicago cashing in on the nostalgia craze.

"There's a lot of people out on the road," Jones said. "We're withdrawing our horse from the race at this point because there is too many people . . . If we would've known there



Day Jones of The Monkees were so many people out there this year, we wouldn't have gone out.

"WE DON'T have a single out that doesn't have an album out. It's getting kind of hard to have fun singing the old tunes."

The Monkees is only one part of

Jones' career. He's returned to "Oliver!" to play the role of Fagin. He started in the famed theater production in 1981, playing the role of the Artful Dodger.

Jones, who will be 44 this year, lives in England with his wife Anita and two daughters, 22 and 18. He collects cars and breeds racehorses. He admits there's a few more lines on the face, but adds, "It makes me feel good when my daughter's friend says 'Your dad is a major babe.'"

One of his latest projects is an autobiography, "They Made a Monkee Out of Me," chronicling The Monkees. The book is filled with photos and anecdotes from the early days.

Jones also goes into great detail about the phenomenon behind The Monkees, sometimes poking fun at himself. "I just wanted to explain to myself what happened," said Jones, who financed the release of the book himself.

The book also was designed to bring a close to that part of his ca-

reer. He looks back on The Monkees with a sense of pride.

At the time some people, mainly music critics, had a difficulty with the group's credibility because they were a creation of television. Some believed The Monkees were merely a TV rip-off of The Beatles.

"We heard all that," Jones said. "John Lennon said it best. He thought we weren't like The Beatles. We were more like The Marx Brothers. The more we thought about it, the more we began to think it was true."

"Our show ('Oliver!') was on the same night as The Beatles were on 'Ed Sullivan,'" he added, "and I saw what was happening and I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I knew if they would scream for these long-haired weirdos, I wanted a piece of the action."

The Monkees will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester Hills. For information, call 377-2010.

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