Local girl is littlest orphan

By JOSEPH SULLIVAN

It may be a hit premature to say that nine-year-old Shannon Burrows is a natural for a career on the stage. After all, when she begin in the play "Annie" at the Fisher Thaeter, on March 20, it will be her first professional acting job.

But the Birmingham youngster is definitely off to a running start.

definitely off to a running start. Shannon began rehearsing Twesday for the part of "Molly." the smallest of the six orphans in the play, and already she has memorized not only her own lines but those of most of the other characters. She won the part over 400 other Detroit-area girls, who auditioned for the play in January at the Fisher. She is scheduled to perform in the show's final three weeks in Detroit, then travel with the troupe to Chicago for an indefinite run there.

of the auditions.
"She's a born ham who loves to sing and dance," Mrs. Burrows said.
"She didn't really have any preparation, no vocal instructions, but she does have a lot of natural ability.
"I guess that's what they wanted for the play, a child they could mold."

mold."

Shannon's acting experience consists of rehearsing six weeks for the part of Marta in Birmingham Seaholm's spring production of "The Sound of Music." Due to playing in "Annie," she will have to give up the

part she won over 195 other girls.
The third-grader at Midvale Elementary School in Birmingham
seemed to have adapted to the
switch pretty well. Besides running
through some of her lines Friday
morning, the 4-foot-linch package
of energy displayed a tap dance step
shell do in the song "You're Never
Fully Diressed Without A Smile"
from the slow.

From the show.

SHANNON SAW "Annie" once at
the Fisher before her tryout and
was enthusiastic about it then.

"I loved it," she said. "The night I
saw it Kathy-lo (kelly, who stas
Annie) was sick but it was still really good."

The Burrows home has been topsy-turry since the rehearsing for the
play started Tuesday, Mrs. Burrows
said.

Besides Shannon, a new "Annie," Mary K. Lombardi from Philadel-phia, and a new actor for the role of "Julie" will also be added on March

20.

Rehearsals end about 6 p.m., and the new acts members then stay around the Fisher to watch the evening performance, Mrs. Burrows said. Shannon is lucky to be home by

"I've gotten a girl to chaperone Shannon while the play is in Detroit, and I'm hoping she'll want to travel with them to Chicago," Mrs. Burrows

"I just can't keep up this schedule, and Shannon wants to stay with the rest of the cast in the Leland House, so I think that's what we'll probably do."



A high-stepping Shannon has already learned her lines and most of the others in preparation for her first Fisher appearance on March 20. (Staff photos by Stephen Cantrell).



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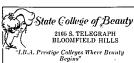
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