

'Annie' delivers no hard knocks in smooth show

by Dana Smelser
Battalion Staff

How many ways are there to say excellent? Exceptional? Fantastic? All those words describe the opening of the award-winning Broadway musical "Annie" in Rudder Auditorium on Monday night.

As the curtain rose with four girls ages seven to 11 occupying the stage, the near-capacity crowd might have believed they were about to see a grade school play. But after the first line was spoken and the first song was sung, it was obvious that this was a truly professional production done by truly professional people. Even if some of them aren't old enough to drive.

Kathleen Sisk, who plays 11-year-old Annie, proved she was one of those professionals when she sang. Her young but powerful voice rang out when she broke into her solos of "Maybe" and "Tomorrow."

Her acting was just as convincing and her smile, whether it was being used to cajole or coach, was just as sincere. She certainly didn't show that the

part of Annie is her first role in a musical.

Ruth Williamson's portrayal of a child-hating, man-hungry drunk almost stole the show.

Annie's orphan pals provided strong performances. With their shrieks and shenanigans, one almost could understand why Miss Hannigan kept — and frequently made use of — a bottle of booze in her desk drawer.

Williamson played the part of Miss Hannigan, the director of Annie's orphanage.

Her solo, "Little Girls" summed up her frustrations: "I'm an ordinary woman with feelings; I like for men to nibble on my ear. But I admit no man has bit, so how come I'm the Mother of the Year?"

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When the orphans sang, it was hard to believe such big voices were coming out of such little people. One of their best scenes was the reprise of "You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile," which showcased their dancing ability.

Chris Noel, who played the part of Pepper, one of the orphans, was another scene-stealer. Her response to every situation was "Oh, my goodness," and she managed to put more expression into that phrase than some veteran actors could put into an entire performance.

Of course, "Annie" wouldn't be complete without Daddy Warbucks. And Gary Holcombe made Warbucks' transition from a cold, lonely billionaire to a loving father for Annie believable.

Holcombe's solo, "Something Was Missing," showed how lone-

ly he had been before he met Annie; his waltz with Annie after she agrees to be adopted by him showed how much she meant to him. The two of them made a pair that anyone could love.

Donna Thomason, who played Warbucks' secretary, was equally as good. She was convincing as the emotionally "unattached" secretary who secretly wanted to win Warbucks' affection.

Broadway came to Texas A&M on Monday and brought it to life. "Annie" is an exceptionally good musical, which shouldn't be missed.

But if you didn't see it Monday, don't worry. "Annie" will be playing again — tomorrow.

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Lubbock drug raid initiated by wiretap

United Press International
LUBBOCK — A drug raid netted almost \$3.5 million worth of chemicals and lab equipment was made possible by the first legal wiretapping of a Lubbock telephone, authorities

placed on a Lubbock telephone since the Legislature approved the use of the electronic bugs — had been in place for the last few days, McBeath said.

The alleged drug ring had been under investigation for about three months, he said.

Department of Public Safety narcotics officers raided the suspected laboratory about five miles southeast of Mineral Wells at about 7:30 Sunday morning.

Lubbock police, sheriff's deputies and drug enforcement agents raided a Lubbock residence about 20 minutes later.

Several children and two juveniles were also taken into custody at the Mineral Wells farms and turned over to child welfare officials.

Ten people were being held in the Parker County jail in lieu of \$250,000 bond each. The two

men arrested in the vehicle near Albany were placed in the Shackelford County jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond each. Bail for the Lubbock woman was set at \$100,000.

DPS officials confiscated four pounds of finished amphetamine, 12 pounds described as being in the "cooking process" and 60 pounds in the initial process from the farm house.

Street value of the drugs was estimated to be about \$3.41 million.

Officials took two grams of amphetamine, some pills, two pistols, seven shotguns, four rifles, four cameras, including a movie camera, and some mechanics' tools from the Lubbock residence.

A 9 mm machine gun, 32 rifles and 10 pistols also were recovered from the farm house.

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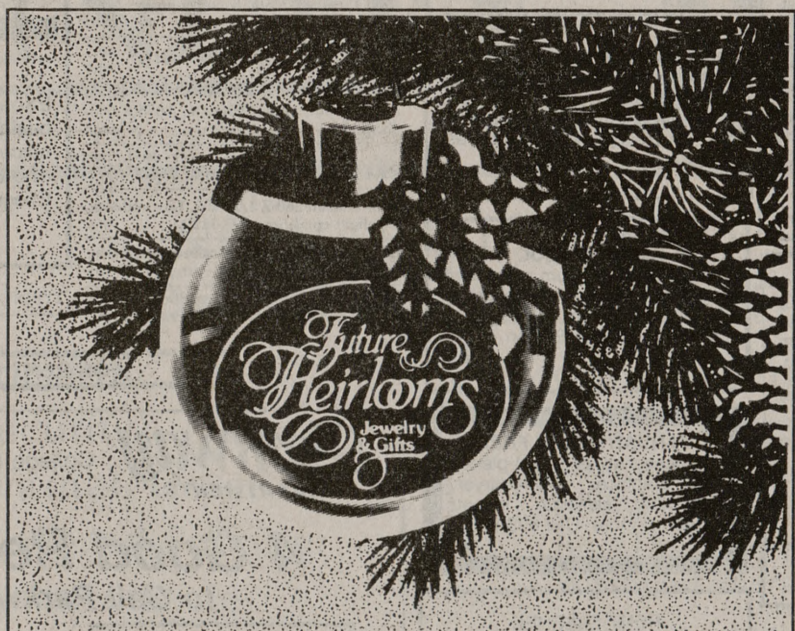
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