

STAGE RIGHT

presents

Just Some Orphans, Looking for a Good Home

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong



**YOU'RE NOT SEEING DOUBLE-FIND OUT
WHY ANNIE IS AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER**



**WE FOUND
SANDY!**

**HER NAME IS GINGER
AND SHE'S LOOKING
FOR A GOOD HOME**



STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crichton Theatre in downtown Conroe, is pleased to present one of the all time favorite 'feel good' musicals for tough times- ANNIE - from July 23 to August 8, 2010. Set in the Great Depression of the 1930s and based upon the popular Harold Gray comic strip Little Orphan Annie, the musical tells the story of a spunky orphan who is trying to find her parents and brings her message of hope to all she encounters. When first produced in the late 1970s, ANNIE ran for nearly six years on Broadway, spawned numerous productions in many countries, as well as national tours, and won the Tony Award for Best Musical. Songs like "Tomorrow," "NYC," "You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile" and "It's A Hard-Knock Life" are sure to delight both the young and the young at heart. ANNIE will return to Broadway for a 35th Anniversary production in

2012 but you can see this American classic at the Crighton Theatre this month.

We had an amazing turnout for auditions and have gathered a cast of Broadway caliber performers for this production. Director Tina Cafeo, herself a former Broadway musical comedienne, found TWO girls so perfect for the part of Annie, she cast them both. The girls will alternate performances. Our two Annies are Hope Harris and Kaylie King.

Hope Annelisa Harris is 12 years old and a student at McMeans Junior High in Katy, Texas. She has been performing vocally since she was 8, when she won a Radio Disney singing competition. Hope has sung at many local festivals including, Galveston Rodeo, Fort Bend County Fair, and Katy Rice Festival. She sings with the Sugarland Express Singers directed by Jeannie Bryant. Hope has also taken dance for 2 years at Adamson Ballet Academy and Westwood Dance, both in Katy. Hope loves the role of Annie because she "likes the fact it makes everyone feel hopeful about the future. No matter how hard life is just try to think positive thoughts and be kind to others and life will be better". She also likes the fact that the musical is highlighting the local animal shelter. Hope loves animals and she wishes everyone would find it in their heart to adopt a pet. "Animals love you and are always there for you."

Kaylie King is a home schooled eighth grader who will turn twelve years old in September. Kaylie has been in many church productions with solos and dancing roles. Also, she recently appeared in CYT's Annie Jr. as an orphan and their summer camp production of Newsies as a soloist. STAGE RIGHT audiences may remember Kaylie as Lillian in last summer's production of CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN and in the Vaudeville show as Frances Gumm (Judy Garland). Kaylie's mother Terrie and her younger sister Rebekah are also in this show. This will be the second time the family has worked together on a STAGE RIGHT production. When asked why she wanted to play Annie, Kaylie said: "I enjoy the role of Annie because she has a lot of singing parts, and I love to sing. I also like that "Sandy" will be getting a new home. We have adopted all three of our dogs and have rescued many lost dogs and matched them with their owners or found them a good home. In addition to my natural red hair, I am like the character Annie because I have a determined personality."

As both girls mentioned, Annie won't be the only orphan looking for a home in this production. For this show STAGE RIGHT has chosen to highlight the needs of the Montgomery County Animal Shelter (MCAS) and use one of their dogs as Sandy, Annie's canine companion. This isn't the first time a 'shelter dog' will be in a STAGE RIGHT show. Former shelter resident and now certified therapy dog, Harley Wong appeared last summer as Dog in our production of CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN. Audiences were amazed that the handsome well behaved Harley was found at the shelter. Like Annie in the show, who is looking for her forever home, the shelter processes hundreds of animals a month and strives to find homes for

Continued on page 72 ☞

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presents
Annie
Story: Thomas Meehan
Music: Charles Strouse
Lyrics: Martin Charnin



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July 23 - Aug. 8, 2010**

Friday & Saturday performances at 8 pm
Sunday matinees Aug. 1 & 8 at 2 pm
Call: 936-441-5110V (7469)
\$17 adults, \$12 students
Online tickets: www.crightontheatre.org
www.stage-right.org

We will collect items for donation to the Montgomery County Animal Shelter during the run of the show.
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them as well.

Recently, Kaylie and Hope went to visit the shelter located at 8535 Hwy 242 East in Conroe to look for their 'Sandy' and learn about the wonderful work being done in an effort to make the county a 'no-kill' community. The Montgomery County Animal Shelter (MCAS) was originally established in 2001 to investigate complaints about animal cruelty and

to protect the public from dangerous and nuisance animals. Today, its mission is "to promote humane treatment of animals, prevent cruelty to animals, and provide a facility to return animals to their rightful owners. [They] are a shelter established to protect, feed, and house the stray, injured, abused or unwanted animals in Montgomery County, Texas." The shelter cares for an astounding average of 500 lost and stray cats and dogs in the county daily. According to Dr. Pat Ryan, director of the

shelter, recent changes have been made in an effort to reach their goal of saving more lives. The shelter recently opened a 6,680-square-foot expansion, which increased the size of the facility to nearly 26,000 square feet. Following are some features of the expansion area:

- New dog and cat isolation rooms
- New large stray-hold rooms, each with 30 kennels for dogs
- New separate nursery for puppies
- New stray cat holding rooms
- New grooming room
- New cat playroom
- New commercial grade laundry room
- New food storage room

THIS IS WHERE GINGER NEEDS TO BE; OUTSIDE, IN THE SUN WITH SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH



The expanded space allows for a larger adoption area and the separation of stray cats and dogs from the general population. MCAS now has 3 dog adoption rooms, 1 puppy adoption room and 1 cat adoption room! In order to make sure the animals up for adoption are healthy, the shelter provides vaccination upon intake, free heart worm treatments, and low-cost spay and neuter surgery. The shelter also has an exceptional foster program. This allows the animals to get out of the shelter and be seen in the community which greatly improves their chance of being adopted. To make sure the animals are healthy after adoption, the shelter offers the community low cost veterinary services. Check out their website to see hours and the many services available.

Dr. Ryan admitted that despite the hectic pace she and the staff stop and cheer out loud when the

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adoption bell rings. Recently, MCAS placed a large silver bell in the shelter which is rung once an adoption is completed. When you come to our production of ANNIE we will have information in the lobby regarding adoption and the many services provided by the shelter. Maybe you'll want to ring the bell once you see the wonderful dog we found at the shelter. If you are not able to foster or adopt a pet now we hope you can support the shelter by bringing a donation with you to the show. A full list of items can be found on our website: www.stage-right.org or the shelter's site: www.mcaspets.org. The most pressing need is food: Purina Dog, Cat, Puppy or Kitty Chow are always welcome donations. Make a difference in our community by supporting our local animal shelter and help them to achieve their goals. "It's a hard knock life" as Annie and the orphans sing in the show, but with your help we hope to make many more "Tomorrows" possible for shelter animals. ♦

HOPE HARRIS, GINGER AND KAYLIE KING JOINED BY MCAS STAFF PENNY EVENS, JUANITA MILLARD, BARBARA EGAN AND MINDA HARRIS



ANNIE
Performances at the historic Crighton Theatre • 234 N. Main St. in downtown Conroe

July 23-Aug. 8, Fri. & Sat. at 8 pm
Sunday matinees Aug. 1 & 8 at 2 pm
Tickets: 936-441-SHOW or online at www.stage-right.org or www.crightontheatre.org

Ticket prices: \$17 adults, \$15 seniors/groups, \$12 youth/groups over 20 persons



This photo of the Crighton Theatre appeared with the Stage Right article in the June issue of Dock Line Magazine. The photo was taken and submitted by Wayne Atkinson. For more information and to view other photos taken by Wayne go to his website at www.foto5studio.com

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