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Stage Right offers 'Annie' as season ender

By **Tori Brock**

Published: 07.22.10

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Annie has been the star of a comic strip, Broadway musical and blockbuster movie. Now, audiences in Conroe can see everyone's favorite orphan find a family on the stage of the Crighton Theatre.

Stage Right of Texas will perform "Annie," with Friday and Saturday night performances at 8 p.m. starting tonight and continuing to Aug. 8 with two Sunday matinees on Aug. 1 and 8 at 2 p.m.

Tina Cafeo, no stranger to Broadway having performed there herself, is directing this show and said she has found the folks of Conroe to be accommodating and hard working.



Hope Harris, as Annie, is shown in a scene from Stage Right's production of "Annie" during a rehearsal Wednesday at the Crighton Theater in Conroe.

"Everybody is so nice to work with in Conroe," she gushed. "Every time I do a show in Conroe, I love it."

"They want to jump in and make it all happen and bring the show to life," she added. "I like to say, the magic of theater is that somehow, it all happens. They're working real hard to make that a reality for us."

From the orphanage to Oliver Warbucks' mansion, Annie's journey includes a cast of characters hard to forget, from young orphan, Molly, to boozy Miss Hannigan.

"Rehearsals are going fantastic. We started off with a cast where a lot of our chorus people didn't have much experience and boy, they're doing great."

"This past week everyone is sounding fantastic and doing great with their numbers," she added. "Our leads are all excellent and our comedy leads are hysterical."

The lone four-legged member of the cast, Sandy, was rescued from the shelter and was going to be available for adoption after the show. Fate stepped in, however, and Sandy has already found a forever home.

"I've done this show five or six times in the past and a good friend of mine suggested getting a Sandy who could be adopted," Cafeo explained. "I suggested it to Carolyn (Corsano Wong) of Stage Right and she thought it was a great idea."

"We double cast the role of Annie and one of our Annie's has adopted Sandy (real name: Ginger), so she'll have Ginger after the show is over," she explained. "It worked out really great."

During performances, Stage Right members will be accepting donations to benefit the Montgomery County Animal Shelter.

For anyone concerned about the profanity used in the movie version of "Annie," Cafeo said you can rest assured – this is a family friendly event.

"There will be no profanity – none whatsoever," she said. "This is such a family-oriented show and we don't want anyone to come and be the least bit offended.

"This is nothing but 100 percent good and wholesome fun," she added. "Families will love it and it will be a wonderful experience for the whole family."

Stage Right of Texas will present "Annie," the final show of its 2009-10 season tonight through Aug. 8 on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. There will be two Sunday matinees held at 2 p.m on Aug. 1 and 8. Performances will be held at the historic downtown Crighton Theatre, 234 N. Main Street in Conroe.

Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$12 for students and can be purchased by calling the Crighton box office at (936) 441-SHOW (7469) or online at www.crightontheatre.org. Discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by calling the box office.

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