

# Hawaii Children's Theatre



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*HCT's "Annie" will delight the entire family!*

Contact:

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**Leapin' lizards!** The timeless tale of Little Orphan Annie is back on Kaua'i after a ten-year absence. Hawaii Children's Theatre (HCT), is giving a whole new generation of children and their families the chance to experience one of the world's best-loved musicals about never giving up hope. Boasting one of Broadway's most memorable scores, including "It's the Hard-Knock Life," "Easy Street," "N.Y.C." and the ever-optimistic "Tomorrow," *Annie* is a delightful theatrical experience for the entire family.

HCT invites young performers age 8 – 21, boys and girls, to join *Annie*, which will provide an unforgettable theatrical experience. The program's top priority is to explore the creative artistry of the cast and crew, and through the rehearsal process create a powerful piece "standing for innate decency, courage and optimism in the face of hard times, pessimism and despair" (Librettist Thomas Meehan). "We strive to enrich the life of each student and, therefore, give each and every child the opportunity to shine," says HCT President and *Annie* producer Debra Blachowiak.

The program tuition is \$325 for elementary and middle school students and scholarships are available for any participant who qualifies. Auditions will be from within the registered students. High school students will not be charged tuition, but will be required to sell specific numbers of tickets and ads.

"Annie" is a spunky Depression-era orphan, living a "hard-knock life," who is determined to find her parents. Her parents abandoned her 10 years ago on the doorstep of the New York City Municipal Orphanage, which is run by the embittered and tyrannical Miss Hannigan. Things may seem very bad, especially at Christmas, but feisty Annie carries a song in her heart and hope in her locket

and a note – the only things that she has from her parents. Annie escapes the orphanage and during her adventure, she foils Miss Hannigan's machinations, befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and finds a new family and home in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell and a lovable mutt named Sandy – with plenty of mischief and music in between!

*Annie* is a sure-fire crowd-pleaser, as its record-breaking Broadway run, two star-studded motion picture versions, hit 20th anniversary Broadway revival, the current national tour, and countless productions around the world each year attest. With its upbeat ending, a bright tuneful score (which has become a part of our nation's musical heritage), a colorful and bigger than life cast of characters and a classic villainess audiences love to hate, it's no wonder this heartwarming show has become an international sensation.

*Annie* rehearsals begin Tuesday, August 15, 2006 and run Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and Saturday mornings through the opening of November 10, 2006. *Annie* will run for three weeks and close on November 26, 2006. The show is approximately two hours long and will be enjoyed by the entire family. Please go to [www.hawaiichildrenstheatre.com](http://www.hawaiichildrenstheatre.com) or call (808) 246-8985 for more information, to request a registration form, to request a scholarship form or to purchase tickets.

Mahalo!

Hawaii Children's Theatre

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More information on Annie:

The original production, inspired by Harold Gray's "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip (which premiered on August 5, 1924 in the New York Daily News), began at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut, before moving to the Kennedy Center in Washington and opening on Broadway to immense success. The Broadway production ran for an astonishing 2,377 performances, making it the third-longest running musical of the '70s. It spawned four separate national companies (one traveled for three and a half years) and dozens of international productions. Audience demand for *Annie* sparked the creation of two regional sequels before the authors perfected their final version, *Annie Warbucks*, and brought it to New York City in 1993. Stars associated with *Annie* at one time or another include: Dorothy Loudon, Carol Burnett, Alice

Ghostly, Betty Hutton, June Havoc, Kathy Bates (Miss Hannigan), Bernadette Peters, Rita Rudner, Kristin Chenoweth (Lily), Ann Reinking, Mary Bracken Phillips, Audra McDonald (Grace), Reid Shelton, Harve Presnell, Albert Finney, Victor Garber (Daddy Warbucks), Danielle Brisebois (Molly), Molly Ringwald (Kate), Sarah Jessica Parker, Alyssa Milano, Allison Smith, Andrea McArdle, Alicia Morton (Annie). The 1997 Broadway Revival directed by Martin Charnin starred Conrad John Schuck (Warbucks) and Nell Carter (Miss Hannigan)."

"An intensely likable musical...It has a rare kind of gutsy charm."

- The New York Times

"Spectacular on every count...a sudden reversion to the concept of fun."

- Newsweek

"At the heart of musical comedy; big warm-hearted, funny and overflowing!"

- New York Post

Book by: [Thomas Meehan](#)

Lyrics by: [Martin Charnin](#)

Music by: [Charles Strouse](#)

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin

Produced by Irwin Meyer, Alvin Nederlander Associates, Stephen R. Freidman, The John

F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lewis Allen, Icarus Productions

Based on the Tribune Media Service Comic Strip, :Little Orphan Annie

**Highlights of Major Awards Won:**

1997 Tony® Award winner

**Best Original Score -- Music by Charles Strouse; Lyrics by Martin Charnin**

1997 Tony® Award nominee

**Best Revival of a Musical -- *Annie***

1977 NY Drama Critics Circle Award Winner

**Best Musical -- *Annie***

1977 Tony® Award winner

**Best Musical -- *Annie***

1977 Tony® Award winner

**Best Book of a Musical -- Thomas Meehan**

1977 Tony® Award winner

**Best Actress in a Musical -- Dorothy Loudon**

1977 Tony® Award nominee

**Best Actress in a Musical -- Andrea McArdle**

1977 Tony® Award winner

**Best Scenic Design -- David Mitchell**

1977 Tony® Award winner

**Best Costume Design -- Theoni V. Aldredge**

1977 Tony® Award winner

**Best Choreography -- Peter Gennaro**

1977 Tony® Award nominee

**Best Direction of a Musical -- Martin Charnin**

1977 Theatre World Award winner

**Best Debut Performance -- Andrea McArdle**

1977 Tony® Award nominee

**Best Actor in a Musical -- Reid Shelton**

1977 Drama Desk Award nominee

**Outstanding Actor in a Musical -- Reid Shelton**

1977 Drama Desk Award winner

**Outstanding Book of a Musical -- Thomas Meehan**

1977 Drama Desk Award winner

**Outstanding Direction of a Musical -- Martin Charnin**

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**Outstanding Choreography -- Peter Gennaro**

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**Outstanding Costume Design -- Theoni V. Aldredge**

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**Outstanding Direction of a Musical -- Martin Charnin**

1977 Drama Desk Award winner  
**Outstanding Musical -- *Annie***

1977 Drama Desk Award winner  
**Outstanding Lyrics -- Martin Charnin**

1977 Drama Desk Award nominee  
**Outstanding Music -- Charles Strouse**

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1977 Drama Desk Award winner  
**Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical -- Dorothy Loudon**

1977 Grammy Award winner  
**Outstanding Cast Show Album -- *Annie***

1977 Outer Critics Circle Award winner  
**Best Actress in a Musical -- Dorothy Loudon**