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**TONY AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTION OF ANNIE COMES TO IU AUDITORIUM APRIL 5 & 6.
Annual “Kids Night on Broadway” lobby activities offered pre-show.**

WHAT: Annie

WHEN: Tuesday and Wednesday, April 5 and 6, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: IU Auditorium

TICKETS: \$21–\$44 for IU Bloomington students with a valid ID and children, and \$39–\$65 for general public, on sale now. Individual tickets may be purchased online at IUauditorium.com, in person at the IU Auditorium Box Office, as well as through Ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by phone at 800-745-3000. The IU Auditorium Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – The Tony Award-winning production of *Annie* is coming to life at IU Auditorium, April 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. This family-friendly show, with an early start time and special pricing for children, will include special “Kids Night on Broadway” activities in the lobby pre-show beginning at 6:30 p.m., free for all ticketholders.

Generations of readers, movie fans, and musical lovers have enjoyed the antics of this redheaded orphan, whose story remains fresh to audiences young and old. *Annie* is, at the center, a story about finding a family. The musical, set during the Great Depression, features plucky orphaned Annie who befriends wealthy Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks. She easily charms Daddy Warbucks, who tries to help Annie find her parents by offering a reward. In response, con artists Rooster, Lily, and the wicked Miss Hannigan devise a scheme in order to claim the reward for themselves.

Although the classic story is familiar to many, this production of *Annie* sparkles with life. *Annie* is directed by original lyricist and director Martin Charnin. This production of *Annie* is a brand-new physical incarnation of the iconic Tony Award-winning original, based on the book written by Thomas Meehan, music by Charles Strouse, and lyrics by Martin Charnin—all three of whom received 1977 Tony Awards

for their work. Choreography is by Indiana University professor Liza Gennaro, who has incorporated selections from her father Peter Gennaro's 1977 Tony Award-winning choreography.

The original production of *Annie* opened April 21, 1977 at the Alvin Theatre and went on to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, seven Drama Desk Awards including Best Musical, the Grammy for Best Cast Show Album and seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Book and Best Score. The show remains one of the biggest Broadway musical hits ever—running for 2,377 performances. Over the past 37 years, *Annie* has been performed in 28 languages and has never experienced a moment where a production was not underway somewhere around the world—fueled by the unforgettable songs “It’s the Hard Knock Life,” “Easy Street,” and the eternal anthem of optimism, “Tomorrow.”

In addition to the performances, IU Auditorium is once again partnering with B97 Radio and Hoosier Country to present Kids Night on Broadway. Starting at 6:30 p.m. prior to each show, the Auditorium’s lobby will be filled with family-friendly games and activities. Open exclusively *Annie* ticketholders, all activities are complimentary with show admission. These activities are also part of IU Auditorium’s support of this April’s Autism Awareness Month, and the Auditorium has been working alongside representatives from Stonebelt and Milestones to design activities inclusive of children with special needs.

Annie will also be part of IU Auditorium’s Give The Magic campaign, where funds collected through IU Auditorium’s Circle of Friends go towards providing event tickets to underserved children in our community. Visit www.iuauditorium.com/get-involved/give-the-magic to learn more.

“It is always a treat to present the classic musical *Annie*,” said IU Auditorium Director Doug Booher. “This show has been beloved by generations of theatregoers, and is the perfect way to introduce children or theatre newcomers to live Broadway musicals. It’s fun, funny, charming, and sure to be a great time for all audiences.”

For more information on *Annie* and the rest of the Auditorium’s 75th anniversary season, visit IUauditorium.com. The website features video clips and a selection of songs from this season’s performances, in addition to a direct link to the IU Auditorium Facebook and Twitter pages, whose members receive exclusive benefits throughout the year.

Annie at IU Auditorium is sponsored by Riley Physicians at IU Health, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, and WTIU. IU Auditorium’s 2015–2016 season is presented by Curry Auto Center, *The Herald-Times*, B97 Radio, and Cook Medical.

Annie At-a-Glance

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WHEN: Tuesday and Wednesday, April 5 and 6, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: IU Auditorium

TICKETS: On sale now at IUauditorium.com, the IU Auditorium Box Office, and Ticketmaster.

- IUB students and children \$21–\$44
- General public \$39–\$65

Annie Outreach Programming

- Free Kids Night on Broadway activities pre-show at 6:30 p.m. for ticketholders.
- The Auditorium has been collaborating with representatives from Stonebelt and Milestones to make the Kids Night activities inclusive for children of special needs.
- *Annie* choreographer Liza Gennaro will host a pre-show talk on Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wells-Metz theatre that is free and open to the public.
- Post-show on Tuesday, April 5, audience members can stay for a cast Q&A.
- *Annie* will be hosting members of several local children's organizations as part of our Give The Magic initiative—where IU Auditorium Circle of Friends donations go toward providing low or no-cost admission to underserved members of the Bloomington community.
- Did you know the dogs playing Sandy in *Annie* are rescue dogs? In honor of this, the Auditorium is partnering with the Bloomington Animal Shelter to collect donations, plus the shelter will be offering a promotion for *Annie* tickets to shelter visitors.

Annie Fun Facts

- The show is choreographed by an IU professor: Ms. Liza Gennaro.
- IU alum [Kelsey Shaw](#) is a member of the *Annie* cast!
- The dogs playing Sandy are trained rescue animals.
- *Annie* is the 13th longest running American musical in Broadway history.
- *Annie* has had three productions on Broadway—its original 1977 run, and the 1997 and 2012 Broadway revivals.
- *Annie* has been translated into 28 languages and has played in 34 different countries.

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