



## World's Favourite Family Musical On Stage This Fall at the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge

Monday, September 23, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The sun will come out this fall as the world's favourite family musical comes to Cambridge! *Annie* will be on stage for four weeks only from **October 2** through **October 27** at the **Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge**. With the production over 70% sold out already, audiences are encouraged to get tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Earlier this year, Drayton Entertainment launched a province-wide search for a young actress to portray everyone's favourite plucky orphan. Young hopefuls from across Ontario submitted videos of themselves singing "Tomorrow", and after a number of auditions, Kilworth native **Riley DeLuca** was selected to portray the beloved red-head. DeLuca is a grade seven student at Parkview Public School in Komoka.

DeLuca will share the stage with a stellar professional cast including **Thom Marriott** as billionaire businessman Oliver Warbucks. In addition to appearing in *The Rainmaker* and *Death of a Salesman* for Drayton Entertainment, Marriot has worked with many theatre companies across Canada including London's Grand Theatre, the Shaw Festival, and the Stratford Festival. He is also an accomplished screen actor, appearing in *Star Trek* and *Suits*, among other TV shows and movies.

**Glynis Ranney** is the wily and wicked Miss Hannigan, who runs the orphanage where Annie lives. Audiences may remember Ranney from her roles in *Out of Order*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Anne of Green Gables* for Drayton Entertainment. A veteran actress, Ranney performed for 8 seasons with the Shaw Festival, and has been on many other stages across the country.

**Cynthia Smithers** makes her Drayton Entertainment debut as Grace Farrell, Mr. Warbucks' sweet and smart secretary, who takes a liking to Annie right away. Among her many credits, Smithers appeared as Diana in *A Chorus Line* and Martha in *Guys and Dolls* at the Stratford Festival in 2016.

**Justin Bott** is Rooster Hannigan, Miss Hannigan's charming, but corrupt brother. Bott has appeared in many Drayton Entertainment productions including *Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto*, *Rocky: The Musical*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *The Last Resort*, among others. **Jacquelyn French** will join Bott as Rooster's ditzzy and devious girlfriend, Lily St. Regis.

In addition to appearing in *Shear Madness* and *Rocky: The Musical* for Drayton Entertainment, French has appeared on major TV shows such as *Schitt's Creek* and *The Handmaid's Tale*.

**Jeremy Carver-James, Vanessa Cobham, Michael Cox, Kalie Hunter, Jacob James, Dani Jazzar, Susan JohnstonCollins, Sandrine Lessard-Blais, Dan Payne and Robin Warwick** round out the professional company.

The orphans will include **Ashley Aarts** as Pepper, **Grace Aarts** as Molly, **Brooke Bauer** as July, and **Rachel McClymont** as Duffy. **Bella de Zoeten, Emma Douglas, Rebecca Faerman, Chloé Francis, Kate Gayman, Julia Green, Emma Hawley, Isabelle Hiltz, Amelia Jordan, Tevya Kurczak, Talia Lowell, Elliette Merucci, Mya Oliu, Daniella Perez Vega-Hickey, Emme Roe, Yesol Seo, Kyla Wallbank, Alli Wilkinson, Lilly Wright, and Molly Wright** will portray the children's chorus of orphans.

Adorable cockapoo **Charlie** and loveable labrador retriever **Rosco** will share the role of Annie's faithful furry sidekick, Sandy.

*Annie* is directed and choreographed by **David Connolly**. Connolly has helmed several other hits for Drayton Entertainment including Disney's *Newsies*, *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Hairspray*, *Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto*, and many others. Connolly is joined by Music Director **Michael Lerner**, Set Designer **Jean Claude Olivier**, Costume Designer **Rachel Berchtold**, Lighting Designer **Wendy Lundgren**, Stage Manager **Laurel Oneil**, Assistant Stage Manager **Sadie Wannamaker**, Apprentice Stage Manager **Stephanie Bignell** and Assistant Choreographer **Megan Alfano**.

The hit musical is based on Harold Gray's "Little Orphan Annie"® comic strip from the 1920s by permission of Tribune Content Agency, LLC. With music by **Charles Strouse**, lyrics by **Martin Charnin** and a book by **Thomas Meehan**, *Annie* made its debut on Broadway in 1977. It won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Book (Thomas Meehan) and Best Score (Charles Strouse), the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, seven Drama Desk Awards including Best Musical, and the Grammy Award for Best Cast Show Album. The original production is one of the longest running shows in Broadway history and is credited with launching the career of several stage and screen stars including Sarah Jessica Parker, who took over the title role in 1979. *Annie* continues to be produced by theatres around the world and is considered to be one of the most successful musicals of all time.

In 1982, *Annie* became a popular movie starring Aileen Quinn, Carol Burnett and Albert Finney. Other film adaptations followed including a Disney Television movie starring Kathy Bates in 1999, and a contemporary reimagining of the story starring Quvenzhané Wallis, Cameron Diaz, and Jamie Foxx in 2014.

*Annie* is proudly sponsored by **Commercial Print Craft** and **Stantec**. Media Sponsors are **Jewel 92** and **The Hamilton Spectator**. Design Sponsors are **Schiedel Construction** and **Martin Simmons Architects**. The Orchestra Sponsor is **Tri-City Pianos**. The Youth Pizza Sponsor is **Domino's Pizza Cambridge**. The 2019 Season Media Sponsor is **CTV**. The Youth Theatre Education Sponsor is **TD Canada Trust**. The Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge is proudly sponsored by **John and Terry Hamilton**. **Mattamy Homes** is the auditorium naming sponsor.

Regular performance tickets are \$48 for adults; \$29 for youth under 20 years of age. Tickets for select Discount Dates and groups of 20 or more are \$39. HST is applicable to all ticket prices.

*Amie* is on stage at the **Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge** from **October 2** through **October 27**. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.draytonentertainment.com](http://www.draytonentertainment.com), in person at any Drayton Entertainment Box Office, or by calling toll free **1-855-372-9866**.

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