

Annie

Huntington
FEATURED PERFORMANCE



Playhouse Square

Yesterday, Today and **TOMORROW**

A Brief History of *Annie*

©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

A story of girlhood that has resonated with generations, *Little Orphan Annie* has found her way from newsstands to stages all over the world. Share this guide with your group to learn about the cultural significance of *Annie*.
Adapted from the Annie Study Guide by Bond Theatrical • Photos by Richard Bowditch unless otherwise denoted.

TIMELINE

1924

Little Orphan Annie debuts as a comic strip

1930

Little Orphan Annie hits the radio waves

1932

Little Orphan Annie graces the silver screen

1977

Annie becomes a Broadway Musical

About *Annie*

In August of 1924, the *Little Orphan Annie* comic strip and its red-headed leading lady stole hearts all across the nation. Harold Gray created *Annie* to comment on the state of the country, including major historical events like the stock market crash, the great depression and WWII.

Featuring the big city adventures of a young girl without any family to call her own, *Annie* connected to the American public at a time when people needed hope and an independent spirit. Her story of courage during times of uncertainty continues to inspire girls all over the world.



Photo: Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade

1930s Economics and *Annie*

The people of *Annie*'s New York are in the midst of the Great Depression, a period of worldwide economic crisis during the 1930s. During the 1920s, the country experienced an era of prosperity, with many investing in the stock market and stock prices soaring to a record high. In 1929, the stock market suddenly crashed and fell between \$8 billion and \$9 billion in value. Consumers lost buying power, countless banks and businesses failed, millions lost their jobs, and industry severely suffered. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president in 1933, he implemented "A New Deal," a series of economic programs that focused on relief, recovery and reform.

Girl Scouts, Roosevelts and *Annie*

FDR makes a special appearance in *Annie*, but do you know about the special connection between the Roosevelts and the Girl Scouts?

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt served as the honorary president of Girl Scouts of the USA from 1933-1945. Serving her term during the Great Depression and World War II, Eleanor symbolically led the Girl Scouts in their relief efforts.

Photo: Norris E. Mode, archives.girlscouts.org, Eleanor Roosevelt with an Intermediate Scout





Playhouse Square

Yesterday, Today and **TOMORROW**

A Brief History of *Annie*

©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Comic Strips and Communication

ANNIE was adapted to a stage musical from the Little Orphan Annie comic strip by Harold Gray. Learn about comic strips below then use the easy grid to make your own masterpiece.

About comic strips:

Comic strips became a popular art form around the 1890s, when they were introduced to increase readership of American newspapers. Consisting of several drawn frames that would go across the page, these short pieces of storytelling included funny or suspenseful stories that followed recurring characters.

While there was some text delivered through thought balloons or around the frame, much of the storytelling was told through drawn image and perspective. Comic Books, which were longer versions of the classic news-paper comic strip, became popular in the mid-1930s.

Follow the steps to create your own comic strip:

1

**Create your
characters.**

2

**Devise
your plot.**

3

**Draw your
comic strip.**

Title:

--

--

--

--