

# Entertainment

## Georgetown Globe Productions' Annie rates as one of their best

By **TED BROWN**, Staff Writer

There's few who aren't familiar with the story of Little Orphan Annie from the comic strips, but that doesn't make seeing Georgetown

Globe Production's Annie any less of an event. The musical, which opened at John Elliott Theatre Thursday night, is about the poor little orphan in 1930s New York City who captures the heart of billionaire Oliver Warbucks.

This performance is one of the best Globe has produced in recent times. From the opening scene at the seedy orphanage to a gaily decorated Christmas morning finale at Warbucks' mansion, the musical never ceases to entertain.

Jessica Frey is outstanding as Annie. Using her great singing voice, coupled with an impressive stage presence, she truly owns the show. Annie's part is a demanding one, with several solos, yet Frey handles it with ease.

Equally impressive is Nanci Llewellyn, who shines as the self-serving Miss Agatha Hannigan, director of the orphanage. Llewellyn gives her character a raw,

garish edge, which the audience loves to hate. She is also a great drunk, taking more than occasional pulls from her bottle of gin.

Genteel Grace Farrell is portrayed by Debbie Tilson. Her goodness emulates through her character as much as Hannigan's evil shines through hers. Tilson's character complements Warbucks, acting as a buffer for his insecurities.

Warbucks is played with great gusto by Mark Tiller. Tiller allows us to see a hard-nosed businessman, yet a compassionate man, when he lets down his guard. During scenes he plays opposite Tilson and Frey, they all meld together to give a seamless performance.

There are numerous characters in the huge cast, but the orphans are certainly the most notable. They play their parts as bickering little girls with lots of emotion, and give the audience lots to smile about.

One minor character does emerge from the chorus as Bill Crawford portrays U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt with perfection, complete with his jaunty air, and extended cigarette holder.

Chorus members and orphans are extremely well choreographed, as dozens of cast members are on stage together, yet never miss a step.

The opening night did suffer from a few miscues in lighting and stage entrances, but they are most likely the result of opening night jitters.

Accompaniment was a tad overpowering at times, as the band plays through some dialogue at the orphanage, making the little girls' voices somewhat inaudible.

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