




TryLight
THEATRE CO.

Annie



A musical by
Thomas Meehan

Music: Charles Strouse | Lyrics: Martin Charnin

Produced by special arrangement with
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 4, 2021

TryLight Theatre Co.
510 Second St. S., Kenora
Lower auditorium



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TryLight Theatre Co. is dependent on the generosity of many people, businesses and organizations who support community theatre. We would happily accept your donation made payable to TryLight Theatre Co. and mailed to 510 Second St. S., Kenora, ON P9N 1G8. Trylight Theatre Co. is a registered charity and will issue income tax receipts for donations.

We are also happy to welcome volunteers to assist with upcoming shows. Please give us a call at 468-3379 or e-mail trylighttheatre@gmail.com.

GREEN AND SAFE!

TryLight Theatre has gone GREEN and SAFE!
We have chosen not to print copies of the *Annie* program in order to limit the amount of paper we are using and to better meet COVID-19 protocols.

Did you know...

...it costs about \$15,000 for us to put on a musical and up to \$10,000 for a play? TryLight Theatre Co. is dependent on ticket sales and donations to cover costs. ***Thank you for your on-going support.***

Director's Note



Gord Day-Janz

Creativity is a process. On the rare occasion, something comes together quickly and unexpectedly but mostly it is a process. Performing arts tend to be a community undertaking. The process is very often collaborative, giving space for performers and staff to work together to create something from that sense of community.

Eighteen months ago, the broad creative process for *Annie* had been completed and we were doing detail work. Making sure the lights were set properly; that cues were in place; putting final touches on costumes and make-up; making sure that everyone knew exactly where they should be onstage and off. Ticket sales had been brisk, and we were awaiting a sold-out show. We were almost there.

Then came COVID-19 and it all came to a heartrending end. We told ourselves that we would be back soon, although the fear was that this wasn't going to be a short-lived intermission. We wanted to believe with Annie that "the sun'll come out tomorrow."

We are excited that it seems "tomorrow" is almost here. We told ourselves that coming back would be easy, since most of the hard work was already done. The set was still in place; the lights were still hanging; blocking was pretty much done. Most of the cast was able to return and while the orphans were almost two years older (and taller), we could easily adapt their costumes.

Thankfully it has almost worked out that way. We have had to adapt some of our movements to protect our cast and audience from coming in close contact, so things look a bit different than they did, but the heart, the passion, the sense of fun and the joy of finally being together again is still in place.

I think the Annie of the cartoon would be pleased with our progress.

The cast and crew of this *Annie* reboot have been wonderful. The protocols we have put in place to keep everyone safe have not always been fun or comfortable, but everyone has been willing to do what is necessary to make sure the show goes on. So, for this Director's Note, just a big thank you to everyone involved. And now #PleaseReturnToYourSeats.

Gord Day-Janz
Director, *Annie*

TryLight Theatre Co.



**Cheryl Kinney
Matheson**

In the first weeks of Covid lockdown, I felt excited when various theatre companies announced on-line viewing of their past seasons. It seemed like the theatre world had landed in my living room. I viewed some Stratford productions, some Andrew Lloyd Weber musicals, and a few other professional performances, but then noted that my enthusiasm for all this had waned. Something was missing

and that something was what I'll call 'the magic' I have experienced when attending live theatre. As TryLight returns to the stage, I have been wondering about this magic. What is it? What creates it? Perhaps you know.

For me, the magic begins as I feel the pre-show energy. Words of anticipation and excitement are exchanged with ushers and with those whose feet I step over as I find my seat. 'Enjoy the show' we say to each other, knowing that we are in store for something special. TryLight is a community theatre company and it's always great to be community seated together. There is a buzz of conversation as we visit pre-show. Then, when the lights dim, we become silent together. Maybe it's just me, but at times my eyes moisten when this happens. This may seem silly but the emotion of it all just gets to me, especially when, as Board Chair, I know all the work that has led up to this moment and can envision the community who are cast and crew, in their places, ready to go. As part of a live audience, I react with everyone around me. We laugh, gasp, cry and appreciate...together. It must be something about togetherness that makes live theatre so magical. Actors, musicians and audience become one. All of us attending to a story. All of us reacting to a character. All of us responding to one another, audience to cast and cast to audience. We, the audience, respond to people from our community who now stand before us on stage. We take in the story while also feeling admiration and pride as 'that quiet man who works in a store downtown' sings from centre stage and 'that young child' puts forth at a level beyond their years. Live theatre has many things happening all at the same time. It is an experience that is alive with energy and with response. We play off each other, interact with each other, and give our hearts to each other.

I've missed live theatre and am so happy to once again experience the magic with all of you.

Cheryl Kinney Matheson
Chair, TryLight Theatre Co. Board

List of Crew

Director	Gord Day-Janz
Musical Director	Pauline Martin
Stage Manager	Riley Sleeman
Accompanist	Ruth Girard, Bev Penner
Double Bassist	Len Mark
Production Manager	Jennifer Findlay
Asst. Production Mgr./Best Boy	Brent Lundy
Publicity/Advertising	Lynn Halley, Daniela Tsentouros
Set Design	Gord Day-Janz
Set Construction	Ken Carlson, Alex Faulds, Peter Johnson, Rick Shodin, Eric Matheson, Harry Favreau, Moe Girard, Bob Pochailo, Randy Heida
Set Painting	Irene McCuaig, Alice Fenelon, Stephanie Kennedy, Eric Matheson, Harry Favreau, Kathy Valentini
Dog Trainer	Tammy Hanstead
Props	Laurine Goerzen
Costumes	Carrie Hall, Leslie Legros, Emily Kaldeway, Shannon Stack-Lucas, Rossana Tomashowski
Sound & Light	Finn Lundy, Matt Schottroff
Makeup	D'Arcy Jutila, Charlotte Caron, Cathy Nelson, Natalie Edwards, Laura Williams, Kerri Favreau
Hair	Keric Funk, Joyce Murray, Janine Alcock, Robin Olson, Michelle Richardson-Wilkie
Front of House Managers	Chris Brown, Amie Mathews, Jane Matthews, Trish Bisset, Jan Richardson, Ann McDonald, Alison Farough, Lee Smith, Jen Cano, Cindy Nabb, Sherri Herr, Finn Lundy, Cheryl Kinney-Matheson, Shauna Degagne, Henri Degagne, Lynn Halley, Wes Hoesing, Samantha Murray, Braden Murray, James Todd, Dalton Yeomans
Back of House Managers	Brent Lundy, Axel Lundy, Finn Lundy, Brock and Leanne Chisholm
Photographer	Christopher Brown
Graphic Design	Patty Nelson
Video & Streaming	Vicky Donath
Box Office	Ruth Girard, Doris Mengelberg, Dorothy Strain, Ken Carlson
Elevator Operator	Moe Girard
Cast Snacks	Alexandra MacFarlane

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Mark R. McDonald*

Advisor

Tel: 807-548-9904

mark.mcdonald@sunlife.com

advisor.sunlife.ca/mark.mcdonald



Nadine McDonald*

Associate Advisor

Tel: 807-548-9904

nadine.mcdonald@sunlife.com



Angèle McDonald

Advisor Assistant

Tel: 807-548-9904

angele.mcdonald@sunlife.com

Mark R. McDonald Financial Services Inc.

143 McDonald Road

Kenora, ON P9N 0C2



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The Cast



Darren Benson (aka Benson) – *Cordell Hull, Jimmy Johnson, Chorus*

TRYLIGHT - *A Man for All Seasons* (The Duke of Norfolk), *A Christmas Story* (grown up Ralph), *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* (Centaur)

OTHER - Directing musicals at St. Louis School

JOB - Teacher

THANKS - TryLight for taking a chance casting me in a musical.



Marlee Boucha – *Pepper*

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - For St. Thomas Aquinas HS: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Choir)

SCHOOL Grade 8 at Beaver Brae Secondary School

THANKS - To TryLight for casting me in this show and to my family and friends.



Alana Day-Janz – *Cecille, Chorus*

TRYLIGHT - Selected: *Helium* (stage manager), *Irena's Vow* (Ida), *Little Women* (Beth)

JOB - Physiotherapy assistant at Pinecrest

THANKS - Dad and Riley for getting me in my first musical, Mom, and of course Morley man.



Claire Edwards – *Margaret*

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

SCHOOL - Grade 5 at Valleyview

THANKS - To my mom and dad for letting me try out. And thank you to Kirsten Favreau for helping me to learn about acting.



Doug Farough – *Oliver Warbucks*

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - *Celebrate Life* (Sturgeon Creek United Church); for John Taylor Collegiate: *Guys and Dolls* (various roles), *My Fair Lady* (various roles); director: *Clowns, A Halloween Musical, Pinocchio, The Wizard of Oz, Alice and the Looking Glass, Annie, The Lion King*

JOB - Retired teacher and new grandfather!

THANKS - My wife Alison, for encouraging me to take risks and 'make dreams come true'.

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Derek Favreau – Drake, Chorus

TRYLIGHT - *A Man for All Seasons* (Thomas Cromwell), *Iolanthe* (Lord Tolloller), *Hello Dolly!* (Stanley)

OTHER - *HMS Parliament* (TrypTych)

JOB - City of Kenora

THANKS - My family for being so supportive and my daughter Monika and father Harry for letting me enjoy this experience with them.



Harry Favreau – Morgenthau, Chorus

TRYLIGHT - *Iolanthe* (Lord Hardlip-Wigham)

OTHER - G-Clef and Music Men, Fifth Avenue Singers

THANKS - Gord for asking, and my family for their support.



Monika Favreau – Annie

TRYLIGHT - *And a Child Shall Lead* (Eva)

OTHER - For St. Louis: *A Galaxy Far, Far Away* (Captain), *Aladdin* (Jafar), *Hansel and Gretel* (OWAM), flute and dance

SCHOOL - Grade 9 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School

THANKS - Tammy and Zip, Gord and Riley, and my family.



Stacy Francis – Connie Boylan, Chorus

TRYLIGHT - *Hello Dolly!* (Chorus)

OTHER - Selected for Beaver Brae: *Grease* (Beauty School Dropout), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Skip Snip), *West Side Story* (stage manager)

THANKS - TryLight for providing this opportunity to our community. It is an amazing experience for all who participate.



Bruce Graham – Bert Healy, Chorus

TRYLIGHT - Selected: *Iolanthe* (Lord Chancellor), *Not for Then* (Michael), *Hello Dolly!* (Rudy), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Basilio), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Mr. Beaver)

OTHER - *HMS Parliament* (TrypTych), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (St. Thomas Aquinas High School)

JOB - Risk management for the City of Kenora

THANKS - Charlotte for allowing me to do this over and over.



Lisa Habermehl – Agatha Hannigan

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - For Preston Players: *The Music Man* (Winthrop), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Snoopy), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), *Tachycardia* (producer/host – UWO Medical School)

(cont'd on next page)

JOB - Family doctor

THANKS - With gratitude to my husband, three kids, and extended family for all the love and support in revisiting my love of theatre.



Kaelix Houghton - *July*

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

SCHOOL - Grade 5 at King George School

THANKS - My family



Satu Jutila - *Molly*

TRYLIGHT - Selected as makeup assistant and 'understudy':

Godspell (in utero), *Little Women*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Iolanthe*

OTHER - Kenora District Festival of the Arts Hi-Lites

SCHOOL - Grade 4 at Evergreen School

THANKS - My mom (and maybe my dad) for fostering my love of the arts.



Wayne Jutila - *Dog Catcher, Fred McCracken, Chorus*

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - Company of Fur Trade Dramatists (Thunder Bay)

JOB - Teacher

THANKS - TryLight for the opportunity, my wife and daughter for reminding me it's alright to be young even if you're not.



Ryanna Kejick - *Duffy*

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - Singing & piano for Kenora District Festival of the Arts

SCHOOL - Grade 7 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School

THANKS - I'd like to thank my parents, my grandparents, and Miss Olivia.



Ted Kejick - *Appleseller, Louis Howe, Chorus*

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

JOB - Kenora Association for Community Living

THANKS - My wife and daughter for encouraging me to audition and my two younger children for their continued support, without which I would never have undertaken this endeavor.



Lindsay Koch – Lily St. Regis

TRYLIGHT - *Iolanthe* (Phyllis), *Hello Dolly!* (Chorus)

OTHER - Les Filles D'esprit.

JOB - Governance at Northwestern Health Unit

THANKS - Pauline for asking me to join the cast!



Jessica Malone-Daniher – Annette, Ronnie Boylan, Usherette, Chorus

TRYLIGHT - *Helium* (front of house manager), *And a Child Shall Lead* (front of house)

JOB - District planner, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

THANKS - My daughter for inspiring me to leap outside my comfort zone. I love you Mattea!



Jason McDonald – President Roosevelt

TRYLIGHT - *The Sound of Music* (Hans), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Mendel), *Charley's Aunt* (Jack Chesney.)

OTHER - For Slightly North of Broadway: a hedge, and other roles; played tuba in 1978, Santa Claus in Grade 6

JOB - Learning technologies administrator with Keewatin-Patricia District School Board

THANKS - Mr. Dressup, my wife Ann, my parents.



Jennifer McIntosh – Star to Be, Bonnie Boylan, Chorus

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - For Lakewood: *Wonderland* (Troubadour), *Aladdin Jr.* (Narrator 5/Harem girl); for Valleyview: *Annie Jr.* (Sandy); self-taught artist

JOB - Wiigwas elder and senior care (Birchwood Terrace)

THANKS - My family



Doris Mengelberg – Frances Perkins, Chorus

TRYLIGHT - *It's A Wonderful Life* (Chorus)

OTHER - Enchanté, Guys & Gals, Harmony Connections

JOB - Retired school librarian

THANKS - My husband, who encouraged my involvement



Arlie Olson – Tessie

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - Singing at Christmas concerts, school plays, piano recitals

SCHOOL - Grade 7 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School

THANKS - My mom and dad for getting me to practice.



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**Brooklyn Peters – Kate**

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - For St. Louis: *The Lion King Jr.* (Young Nala), *A Play in a Manger* (Taylor), *Aladdin* (Jasmine)

SCHOOL - Grade 10 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School

THANKS - The other kids in the musical, my mom and dad.

**Marc Raymond – Bundles, Chorus**

TRYLIGHT - Too many to mention (28 and counting!)

OTHER - Singing *O Canada* for the Shrine Circus

JOB - Retired house painter

THANKS - Everybody

**Fred Richardson – Eddie, Harold Ickes, Chorus**

TRYLIGHT - *Iolanthe* (Peer), *Irena's Vow* (Schultz), *Not for Then* (Papa), *Hello Dolly!* (Chorus)

OTHER - Knox choir, Guys and Gals

JOB - Retired, full-time volunteer

THANKS - Unsung behind-the-scenes people that make us look so good. Fellow actors and actresses for their encouragement, enthusiasm and support. Gord, Riley, Pauline and Bev for your tireless time-consuming dedication and support at every practice. Audience patrons.

**Kerry-Dell Robertson – Sophie, Mrs. Greer, Chorus**

TRYLIGHT - Selected: *Helium* (Mrs. Kingsley), various other older women in *Iolanthe*, *Not for Then*, *The Fashion Plate Bandit*, *Frozen Dreams*; as stage manager: *A Christmas Story*, *It's a Wonderful Life Radio Show*

OTHER - Guys and Gals, Sunset Country Handbell Ringers

JOB - Retired teacher

THANKS - The 'TryLight Family' – it's been fun!

**Vince Schatkowsky – Lt. Ward, Sound Man, Chorus**

TRYLIGHT - *A Man for All Seasons* (Common Man), *Irena's Vow* (Rokita), *Not for Then* (David), *Iolanthe* (front of house manager), *A Christmas Story* (front of house manager).

JOB - Co-owner Debbie's Greenhouse, trained journeyman electrician

THANKS - My family for allowing me the time to do this, and TryLight.

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**Dylan Shumka-White - Rooster Hannigan**

TRYLIGHT - *Iolanthe* (Lord Mountarat), *The Music Man* (Olin Britt), *The Sound of Music* (Fredrich)

OTHER - Casual drag queen (Oliva Life), York University (BA Theatre)

JOB - Clinical information clerk for COVID-19 assessment centre

THANKS - This whole team for an amazing time creating magic!

**Brook Sweeney - Jane**

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - *Cinderella* (class play), *101 Dalmatians* (Valleyview)

SCHOOL - Grade 6 at Valleyview School

THANKS - Gord, Riley and Dylan for helping with actions, Carrie and Erika for costumes and my mom for helping me get to practice.

**Louise Tresoor - Mrs. Pugh, Chorus**

TRYLIGHT - *Iolanthe* (Chorus), *The Music Man* (Chorus), as props assistant: *A Man for All Seasons*, *A Christmas Story*

OTHER - 25 plus years St. Alban's Church choir

JOB - Bookkeeper, BDO Canada LLP

THANKS - I've always said that, for me, time spent cooking is time wasted, and now, much to the amusement of my family and friends, I have been cast as the cook! Thanks TryLight!

**Sara Van Walleghem - Grace Farrell**

TRYLIGHT - Selected: *Iolanthe* (Celia), *Hello Dolly!* (Irene Molloy), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Cherubino)

OTHER - Pianist and chorist at Notre Dame Church; Harmony Connection; Manitoba Honour Choir; for Beaver Brae SS: *Grease* (Frenchie), *Tales of Trickery* (narrator)

JOB - Teacher at Ecole Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys, mother of two

THANKS - Thank you to the TryLight family for working together to keep us all safe, and to Jim and TryLight's biggest fans, Sam and Jack, for their love and support.

**Zip A Dee Doo Dah (aka Zip) - Sandy**

TRYLIGHT - First appearance

OTHER - Performer at the Kenora Agricultural Fair, Pinecrest shows, freestyle at disc trials, Dog Trick Club at St. Louis

JOB - Agility Trial Champion of Canada, CDDA Disc Dog Champion, Trick Dog Grand Champion

THANKS - TryLight Theatre for this amazing opportunity and Monika for her patience, gentle way, hard work, and delicious treats.

Crew



Gord Day-Janz – Director, Judge Brandeis

TRYLIGHT - Selected as director: *And a Child Shall Lead* (TryLight Theatre for Young People), *A Man for All Seasons*, *Not for Them* (playwright), *Iolanthe* (Peer), *Irena's Vow* (Major Rugemer)

OTHER - Facilitator of Let's Pretend adult class. Used to sing and play guitar in a children's band called ROGOJAMA

JOB - Pastor at First Baptist Church

THANKS - All the talented people who say 'yes' when we ask. They make it possible for us to keep on doing what we do.



Ruth Girard – Accompanist

TRYLIGHT - *The Music Man* (Mrs. Shinn); as accompanist, selected: *Iolanthe*, *Figaro*, *Jasper Station*, *Godspell*, *South Pacific*

OTHER - Sunset Country Handbell Ringers, Kenora Strings, Winds of the Woods flute ensemble, church music, G-Clef Choir

JOB - Retired piano teacher

THANKS - I would like to thank the other members of the music team, Pauline and Len, and also Riley for her kind support.



Len Mark – Double Bassist

TRYLIGHT - Musician, selected: *Iolanthe*, *Hello Dolly!*, *You're a Good Man*, *Charlie Brown*, *A Christmas Carol*

OTHER - President of Lake of the Woods Concert Group and Kenora District Festival of the Arts

THANKS - To the community for the opportunity to be part of the arts.



Pauline Martin – Music Director

TRYLIGHT - *Iolanthe* (Fairy Queen), *Hello Dolly!* (Dolly), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Marcellina); as music director: *You're a Good Man*, *Charlie Brown*, *Godspell*, *The Music Man*, *Sound of Music*, *Fiddler on the Roof*

OTHER - Les Filles D'esprit, Ladies of the Lake, production manager for various Beaver Brae productions

JOB - Math teacher at Beaver Brae Secondary School

THANKS - Ruth and Len, who make a great orchestra.



Riley Sleeman – Stage Manager

TRYLIGHT - Selected as stage manager: *And a Child Shall Lead* (TryLight Theatre for Young People), *A Man for All Seasons*, *Hello Dolly!*, *The Music Man*, *The Sound of Music*

JOB - Medical radiation technologist at Lake of the Woods District Hospital

THANKS - The TryLight board and the *Annie* cast and crew who forged ahead to make *Annie 2.0* a reality.

Thanks to Ruth Girard



Ruth Girard

TryLight Theatre Co. has long benefitted from the work and attention of the Girards.

A couple of years ago, Moe retired from the Board but he has kept on working with our set construction crew (the Set Elves.)

Ruth has been a big part of TryLight as production manager, publicist, accompanist, and actor. COVID-19 has prevented us from publicly expressing our gratitude to Ruth, who for many years was also our treasurer. She resigned her position at the end of 2020.

Anyone who worked with TryLight during the years Ruth kept the books will agree that she was always on top of the finances – balancing the accounts, making sure that cheques were issued quickly, writing thank you notes and income tax receipts, keeping up with reports to the Board, and submitting reports to the government required due to our charitable status, as well as all the other duties of a treasurer that most people don't know about. Accomplished efficiently and in a timely fashion, even while dealing with yet another update to the software required for the job.

Ruth has served our theatre well, and we wish her all the best as she continues all the delightful work she does in the community. Like Moe, Ruth continues to volunteer for TryLight, managing the box office, and those who come to see *Annie* will find her in a familiar position behind the piano.

For all of this and more, Ruth, on behalf of the TryLight organization, as well as our patrons, we say a big THANK YOU!

Gord Day-Janz
TryLight Theatre Co., Artistic Director

Special Thanks

Special thanks to those cast members who, for various reasons, were unable to return to Annie this fall. They all worked very hard at rehearsals in the winter of 2020 but, when the show was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, didn't get to experience the joy of performing the show for an audience.

Ren Amell
Avery Bond
Kirsten Favreau
Emma McDonald

Todd Penner
Erika Rasmussen
Bev Penner, accompanist

Special thanks are extended to:

The MUSE
Bruce Graham
Kerri Favreau/St. Louis School
Jessy Malone-Daniher
Derek Favreau
Sharlene Davis
Moe and Ruth Girard

Serena Ilott
Terry and Paul Sirman
Karine Perrin
Tamara Attanasio
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Heather Newman
Tammy Hanstead

TryLight Theatre Co. Board

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Artistic Director	Gord Day-Janz
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