

Playbill
July 7, 2011

***Annie*, With David and Joan Hess, Gets a Rocky Mountain High in Aspen, July 7-Aug. 20**

By *Kenneth Jones*
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Theatre Aspen, the Colorado summer Equity company, launches its largest production yet — the musical *Annie* — on July 7. Wife and husband Joan Hess and David Hess play Grace Farrell and Daddy Warbucks, respectively.

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Performances play to Aug. 20, in rep with Steven Dietz's *Becky's New Car* (to July 23) starring Sandy Duncan and the dance-music theatre piece *Vices* (starting July 28), at the new Hurst Theatre in Rio Grande Park in Aspen, CO.

Annie, the Tony Award-winning tale of a little orphan, the billionaire who seeks to adopt her and the orphan matron who gets in the way, is by Thomas Meehan (book), Charles Strouse (music) and Martin Charnin (lyrics).

David Hess appeared in Broadway's *Sweeney Todd*, *Ragtime* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. Joan Hess has appeared on TV's "Flight of the Conchords," and in Broadway's *Mamma Mia!*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

Local favorite Nina Gabianelli is Miss Hannigan; Julia Foran is Annie; Melinda Cowan is Lily; and Dennis Kyle is Rooster. Thadd Krueger, Franz Alderfer (*Marie Christine*), Tess Ferrell, Chelsie Nectow and Jeffrey B. Duncan are also featured. The orphans are played by Sophie Schlosser, Karlie Nelson, Kaia Vresilovic, Talitha Jones, Danielle Erickson and Tatum Shane.

Marjorie Mae Treger directs and choreographs. "Sandy" is played by Aspen Mountain Rescue Dog Zoot Alors Benson. The design team includes set designer Tom Ward, costume designer Kevin Brainerd and lighting designer Loren Wilder. The season's sound design is by David Thomas, with additional designs by Acme Sound Partners.

For tickets and more information, visit www.theatraspen.org.

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Paige Price is artistic director of Theatre Aspen.