

MEDIA RELEASE

SEACT SELECTS CAST FOR BELOVED MUSICAL ‘ANNIE’

Community Shows Up in a Big Way for Auditions

January 12, 2026 — Dothan, AL — Southeast Alabama Community Theatre (SEACT) is thrilled to announce the cast of *Annie*, following an overwhelming community turnout for auditions that filled the Cultural Arts Center auditorium with talent and excitement. The response signals not only enthusiasm for the iconic, family-friendly musical, but also the strong support of the local community.

Directors **Mary Helen Richards** and **Danny Richards** both expressed gratitude for the enthusiastic response.

“It was clear from the turnout that people have been waiting for this show. The response from the community was incredible,” the Richards shared.

Both directors have deep personal connections to *Annie*. Mary Helen Richards’ great aunt, Jane Greenwood, is an award-winning Broadway costume designer and friend of actor Sarah Jessica Parker, who played Annie in 1979 — the same production that introduced Mary Helen to her first Broadway experience. Danny Richards brings his own history full circle, having played Rooster in SEACT’s 1985 production of *Annie* and later directing the show in 2000.

True to the spirit of *Annie*, the cast reflects a strong sense of family and togetherness. Several families will be sharing the stage together, making the production especially meaningful. One such pair is local jewelry designer Mary Kathryn Kendig, who will be performing alongside her 9-year-old daughter, Julia.

“Performing in *Annie* with my daughter is truly special,” says Kendig. “Stepping back into singing and dancing has been nostalgic but sharing it with Julia makes it even more meaningful.”

Beloved across generations, *Annie* is known for its unforgettable music and heartwarming story, including iconic songs such as “Tomorrow” and “Hard Knock Life.” With a cast spanning ages and backgrounds, SEACT’s production promises to be both heartfelt and deeply rooted in community, and celebrates a return to the Dothan Opera House performance space.

Annie will take the Opera House stage **March 10–14, 2026**, with performances Tuesday through Saturday at **7:00 p.m.**, and a **2:00 p.m. Saturday matinee**. Tickets go on sale **February 23**. To view the full cast list and learn more, visit [seact.com](#).

This production is made possible through the support of SEACT’s community partners, including the **Alabama State Council on the Arts**, **Coleman Worldwide Moving**, **APEC**, and **MH Yoga Health Studio**.

About SEACT

Founded in 1974, Southeast Alabama Community Theatre (SEACT) provides Dothan and the Wiregrass area with opportunities to participate in and experience live theatre. SEACT’s mission is to connect community members of all ages with the transformative power of the arts through productions, classes, and educational programs. The SEACT season is made possible by generous support from members, sponsors, and personal and corporate contributions. To learn more about SEACT, visit [seact.com](#).