

CENTER STAGE: Tomorrow

Detailed Synopsis

ACT ONE

In 1933, 11-year-old Annie is in the Municipal Girls Orphanage with Molly, Kate, Tessie, July, Pepper and Duffy. Molly, the youngest, awakes from a bad dream and looks to Annie for comfort. Molly asks Annie to read her the note Annie's parents gave her when she was left on the doorstep of the orphanage in 1922. The note says that her parents will come pick her up, so Annie has always been hopeful that they will still come for her (**Maybe**).



Annie decides to escape to find her parents but is caught by Miss Hannigan, the orphanage supervisor. Angry at Annie's attempted escape, Miss Hannigan forces all the girls to clean the orphanage (**It's a Hard Knock Life**). Mr. Bundles, the laundry man, comes in to pick up the sheets, and while Miss Hannigan is flirting with him, Annie climbs into the laundry basket. The orphans cover her up with blankets, and she gets away. Once Miss Hannigan realizes Annie is gone she gets angry at the other orphans, and the girls express their frustration at being stuck (**It's the Hard Knock Life Reprise**).

After escaping, Annie runs into a stray dog. She tells the dog of the better days that await her (**Tomorrow**). The dog catcher is after the dog, so Annie pretends she is his owner and calls him Sandy. Although it takes a minute for the dog to respond, the dog catcher is satisfied, and Annie continues to Hooverville, a community created by people made homeless by the Great Depression (**We'd Like to Thank You, Herbert Hoover**). Annie's visit is cut short when a police officer sent by Miss Hannigan catches her and brings her back

to the orphanage.

Grace Farrell, assistant to the billionaire Oliver Warbucks, comes to the orphanage asking for an orphan to come to Warbucks' house for Christmas. Grace sees Annie in Miss Hannigan's office and asks for her. After some arguing, Miss Hannigan agrees. Following the argument, she gets very angry about being stuck with the kids in the orphanage (**Little Girls**).

At the Warbucks Mansion, the servants and staff welcome Annie (**I Think I'm Gonna Like it Here**), but when Oliver Warbucks comes home, he is moody and unsure of what to do with a child. Annie persuades him to go to a movie with Grace and her. Annie and Warbucks begin to like each other, and the threesome enjoys a night in New York City (**NYC**).

At the orphanage, Miss Hannigan's brother, Rooster, and his girlfriend, Lily St. Regis, visit Miss Hannigan. She tells them Annie is staying at Warbucks' house, and Rooster and Lily immediately want to use the situation to get rich (**Easy Street**).

After seeing the broken locket Annie wears around her neck, Warbucks buys her a new one from Tiffany & Co. Annie refuses his gift and gets very upset because it was the only thing left to her by her parents. Grace, Warbucks and his staff, promise to find Annie's parents no matter what it takes (**You Won't be an Orphan For Long**).



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Photo courtesy of TUTS

ACT TWO

Annie sings her song (**Maybe**) on Bert Healy's radio show where Warbucks announces he is offering a reward of \$50,000 to the couple who prove to be Annie's parents. Then Healy and the Boylan sisters sing a song for everyone (**You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile**). Back in the orphanage, the girls are listening to the same Bert Healy show and have fun with their own rendition of the song (**Fully Dressed Children**). Miss Hannigan hears their singing and demands to know what's going on. Molly tells her about Annie and the \$50,000 reward for her parents. Right after, a couple named Ralph and Shirley Mudge come to the orphanage for the little girl they claim to have left eleven years ago. After shocking Miss Hannigan the Mudges reveal themselves to be Rooster and Lily, disguised as Annie's parents so they can get the reward money. Miss Hannigan gives them information about Annie, including the details about her locket and the note, in exchange for one third of the money, and the three develop their plan (**Easy Street Reprise**).

Hundreds of couples show up at Warbucks' mansion claiming to be Annie's parents, but Grace confirms they are all fake since they don't know about the locket. Annie goes to Washington D.C. with Warbucks, and she meets president F. D. R. She starts to sing *Tomorrow*, but Roosevelt's cabinet quiets her. Roosevelt, however, believes in optimism during tough times and soon has his whole cabinet sing (**Tomorrow Reprise**).

Warbucks and Annie return to his mansion, where he tells her how much he loves her (**Something Was Missing**).

Since Annie's parents have not been found, Warbucks tells Annie he is going to adopt her (**I Don't Need Anything But You**). They decide to throw a Christmas party to celebrate and invite Miss Hannigan and the orphans. Warbucks' staff is happy Annie is going to join them and tell her how she has changed their lives (**Annie**).

The Judge Louis Brandeis comes to the mansion to begin the adoption proceedings but is interrupted by Rooster and Lily pretending to be the Mudges coming for Annie. Grace and Warbucks are surprised the Mudges know about the note and the locket, but Warbucks still doesn't believe them. He requests that Annie be allowed to stay another night for the Christmas party before being taken away to their home in New Jersey.

The morning of the party, Annie wishes she could have been adopted by Warbucks and that her parents hadn't come (**Maybe Reprise**).

However, F. D. R. shows up at the mansion and reveals that Annie's parents died when she was a baby. They figure out that the Mudges are really Rooster and Lily, and the couple along with Miss Hannigan, are arrested. Everyone is pleased the bad guys are in jail and with F. D. R.'s New Deal for the economy (**New Deal for Christmas**). Warbucks' adopts Annie, and the other orphans enjoy the Christmas party.



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