

A fashion photograph featuring two women standing side-by-side against a blue background with abstract patterns. The woman on the left has voluminous, dark, curly hair and is wearing a gold sequined ensemble consisting of a high-necked, jewel-encrusted halter top, a matching sequined mini skirt, and a matching sequined bolero jacket. She is smiling broadly and wearing large gold hoop earrings. The woman on the right has voluminous, blonde, wavy hair and is wearing a gold sequined long-sleeved crop top and a dark blue, ruffled taffeta skirt. She is also smiling and wearing large, ornate gold earrings. The overall aesthetic is characteristic of 1980s disco or party fashion.

Sarah's gold sequined mini skirt, \$850; jewel encrusted halter top, \$1,350; and bolero jacket, \$3,050, all by Andre Van Pier; watch by Maximal Art for Fragments; earrings by Deanna Hamro for Fragments. Allison in Steven Amaral's blue taffeta skirt, \$82; and Andre Van Pier's gold encrusted crop top \$1,400; headband by Whittal and Shon, \$40, earrings, \$70, by Philip Cantrell for Fragments; bracelet by Debra Fine Yohai.



YOU'RE NEVER FULLY DRESSED WITHOUT A SMILE



Mini madness! Sarah Jessica Parker's polka dot and star jacket by Joan Roth Coll, \$900; black and white striped skirt by Joan Roth Coll, \$80; gloves by Lascrasia; earrings by Debra Fine Yohai.

Over ten years ago in New York's Alvin Theater, a comic book legend was brought to life every night and twice on Wednesday. It met with predictably mixed reviews from the city's top critics. Martin Gottfried of the *New York Post* condemned it for its "greasepaint sentimentality," "mawkishness," "cheap, nostalgia" and "unabashed corniness," but finally had to admit "the damn thing works." *Annie* was an instant hit. The show made 13-year-old Andrea McArdle a celebrity and inspired little girls everywhere to belt-out their own saccharin versions of "Tomorrow." Although she will be permanently identified with the role, McArdle (now appearing on Broadway in *Starlight Express*) only stayed with the show for one year of its 2,377-performance run.

Several other young girls had the opportunity to play the ever-popular role on stage and in a later film version—among them Sarah

Though Tattered Clothes Launched Their Careers, These Orphan Annie's Are Now Sporting Glad Rags

Jessica Parker and Allison Smith.

With her curly brown locks pinned under a straw panama hat and a "Hard Rock Cafe" T-shirt covered by an oversized man's jacket, 21-year-old Sarah exits the front door of a New York City apartment. She's borrowing it from actor/friend Fisher Stevens (*The Flamingo Kid*) while he's working near her California home. Sarah's in town working on an off-Broadway play called *April Snow* which musters just as much enthusiasm in her as the many film roles or the critically acclaimed TV series, *A Year in the Life*, that she'll star in next season.

"It's important for me to do the best work I can," she explains of her decision to take the not-so-lucrative stage part. "It will mean more to me if when I die, people

say, 'Well she wasn't famous, but boy did she do interesting work.' Fame isn't that important to me."

Another actress who portrayed the red-haired role is Allison Smith. Having had a rough day on the set of "Kate and Allie," 17-year-old Allison looks down at her pink legs peeking out beyond her long white shorts. The day before she went to the beach with friends from her suburban home in New Jersey and her sensitive skin is paying the price. Allison, who plays Jane Curtin's daughter on the family sit-com, is tended to by her real-life mother, Joanne.

"I usually don't come into the city with Allison when she's working," her mother says, "but since she wasn't feeling well. . ." Despite the fact she's been a working actress since the age of

by
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ten, Allison is amazingly unconcerned about her celebrity status. "The only close friends I have in the business are Ari Meyers [who plays Susan St. James's daughter on the show] and Brian Bloom [her boyfriend and *As the World Turns* co-star]. Otherwise," she adds while soothing her skin with some lotion, "most of the people I hang out with are not in the business."

When Allison and Sarah see each other before posing in a photo session for *Celebrity Focus*, hugs are exchanged. They immediately update the other on what has been happening in their lives. Allison took the "Annie" reins over from Sarah and continued the role for 1,065 performances.

Although both girls admit "Annie" changed the course of their lives, they claim their own values did not change as a result of being cast into the limelight. "It was fun," Sarah recalls. "I mean it was great to be able to go to a Jets game when I wanted to or be able to meet people I admired because of the job I was doing, but I also didn't realize all of that until I was



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Sarah Jessica Parker



Allison Smith

Allison Smith wears a faux cheetah fitted blazer, \$500, by Michael Schoeler; and Steven Amaral's black velvet mini-skirt with zipper, \$70; russet and black suede bag, by Yien & America; feathered pheasant hat by Whittal and Shon; star bracelet by Debra Fine Yohai; watch by Maximal Art for Fragments; tan lizard hair clip by Whittal and Shon; earrings by Marla Buck. Sarah Jessica Parker wears a fawn colored man-tailored suede shirt, \$450; and ivory suede micro-mini, \$250, both by Andre Van Pier; suede belt with black leather buckle; russet suede bag by Yien & America; wood square cuff bracelets and matching earrings by J. Michael Goodwin for Fragments; brown felt bowler hat by Tia Mazza Keaton. (Above) Allison and (top) Sarah as "Annie."

done. In retrospect, I think I could have taken advantage of certain things, but at the time I thought of it as something fun to do."

Allison is the youngest of six children and the only member of her family involved in show biz. Her mother is a decidedly atypical stage mother. She has allowed Allison to make most of her career decisions. Now enrolled at NYU, Allison is studying anthropology, philosophy and literature. "I have nothing against studying acting," she points out, "but I've been able to learn by doing. Besides, I think it's good to learn something else."

Sarah, on the other hand, decided long ago she wanted to be an actress, but says she never felt she was being "groomed" for this by her family. "Although most of my family ended up in show business, it has never been the center of our lives," she says. "Too much of an obsessive lifestyle is not wise in anything you do. You have to have the ability to find importance in other things. For example, I'm very political and involved in a lot of social causes. I wouldn't feel good about myself if all I thought about was my career."

For all its rewards, the girls say growing up in the entertainment industry isn't always wonderful. Allison says she missed not being able to spend as much time with friends as she would have liked. "I think people would be lying if they said they didn't miss out on anything by growing up in this industry," Sarah says. "You miss things when you are thrust into an adult lifestyle. It's a choice I've made. I tried to adjust the best I could. My mom always made sure there were times I was at home riding my bike. On the other hand, I did get to travel, meet a lot of interesting people and sing with a full orchestra every night."

Is it a direction in life they would advise their own children to take? "I don't know," Allison ponders. "I mean, if they really wanted to do it I wouldn't stop them, but I would try and see if there was a real future in it for them. I've seen what Mom has gone through. I'm not sure I could be that unselfish." ★

