

**J-CAT  
Steering Committee**

JoAnne Don  
*Co-Chair*

Denise Tamir  
*Co-Chair*

Adrienne Scheck  
*Habimah Society Chair*

**Committee Members**

Lee Ann Battat, Diana Berenson, Diana Ben-Arie, Joyce Herman, Roberta London, Alison Mars, Jennifer Olemberg, Ricky Rothstein, Lisa Sacks, Linda Drozdow, Eileen Ginzberg, Brian Goldberg, Caprice Patchen, and David Zabel

**J-CAT Staff**

Michael Andron  
*Artistic Director*

Lillian Andron  
*Educational Director*

Ana Marie Hernandez  
*Business Manager*



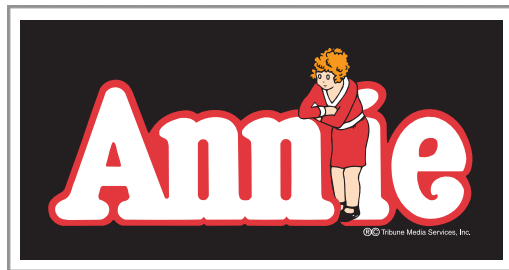
**Annie Breaks Records!**

Two J-CAT records have been broken with this season's production of *Annie*. Box office records have been set with every production sold out and over 1,700 tickets sold! This has also been the biggest, most diverse cast J-CAT has ever had with more than 45 kids representing 22 different local schools, including Ransom Everglades, Pinecrest Academy, Hillel Community Day School, Sinai Jacobson Academy, Krop Sr. High, and many more! With a cast of this size and diversity, Director Michael Andron said, "The challenges of working with kids are balanced by their high level of creative energy. Younger

kids and older ones, some with lots of experience and some who've never done a show before, all become part of a new 'family,' working together and helping each other make a fantastic production." Working

with 45 students from 22 different schools is also a new experience for Ilana Woldenberg, one of the

actors playing the lead role of Annie. "I feel super grateful to be able to make so many new friends who share the same interests as I do. I love meeting other students who come from so many different schools and enjoy doing the thing that we all love."



*Little Orphan Annie!*

*Look inside for an exclusive interview with the girls South Florida has fallen in love with.*



2 0 1 0 W I N T E R E D I T I O N

## *Habimah Event Success!*



On November 14, J-CAT's fundraising arm, the Habimah Society, had its first fundraiser of this season at the elegant home of Aksana and Boruch Freedman on Miami Beach. Originally built by notorious gangster, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, this perfectly restored 1930s mansion provided the perfect backdrop to sneak preview "Annie," the musical that takes place during the Depression era. Guests enjoyed an elegant outdoor Bar-B-Q while their children were treated to face painting and balloon art, providing a fun family event. After dinner, guests were escorted into the palatial living room where they got the first glimpse of J-CAT's new promotional video, created by Aaron Zippen. After some heartfelt comments about what J-CAT has meant to them by Adrienne Scheck, Denise Tamir, Jo-Ann Don, and Diana Berenson, the guests were treated to a sneak preview of selected scenes from *Annie*. J-CAT's Artistic Director, Dr. Michael Andron, presented the hosts, Aksana and Boruch Freedman, with a beautiful Tzedakah (Charity) box from Hazorfim, mounted on a cherry wood plaque. The gift was presented as a thank you for their support of the J-CAT theatre and for sponsoring the production of *Annie*. Without their generosity, the production of *Annie* would never have been possible. By far, the highlight of the evening was the sneak preview of selected scenes from *Annie*, by both full casts. The Annies, Jessica Schaen and Ilana Woldenberg, performed "Maybe" bringing the audience to tears. Then David Ben-Arie (Rooster), Melissa Bouganim (Miss Hannigan), and Nicole Odzer (Lilly) sang and danced the hilarious number, "Easy Street." Finally, the entire cast converged on the makeshift stage to sing "Tomorrow" in 5 part harmony as only Musical Director, Marlena Tuchinsky, can orchestrate. The children received their first standing ovation of the show's run. We thank the organizing committee: Adrienne Scheck, Alison Mars, Joyce Herman, Joanne Don, and Denise Tamir for their hard work in putting together an elegant, entertaining, and moving event.





**KIDS IN ACTION!  
The J-CAT Guild  
and THE CAST OF  
*Annie*  
GIVES BACK TO  
KIDS IN NEED!**

**So far, over  
\$1,500 worth of  
gift cards have  
been donated!**

The cast of *Annie* has pledged to donate at least one present each to a baby in need from the Children's Home Society, for the Holidays. This will provide over 40 presents for a number of babies who are very much in the position little orphan Annie finds herself in the production. In addition to the donated presents, the cast is selling \$10 Target and

Toys R Us gift cards at every performance of *Annie* to ensure that several of teens from the various Children's Home Society Group Homes also receive presents for the Holidays. This is quite an undertaking the cast has proudly taken upon itself, and it is a wonderful "mitzvah" for our kids reaching out to help others.

**A Word from Sponsor and Founder of the Children's Home Society Emissaries, Mrs. Ana Hernandez:**

**"I'm grateful that J-CAT has stepped up to help the Children's Home Society Emissaries during a time where many cuts continue to be made by the government to a most deserving organization. The funds and the toys gathered by J-CAT will go directly towards needy kids this holiday."**

## Our Exclusive Interview

THE STARS OF *ANNIE* JESSICA SCHLAEN AND ILANA WOLDENBERG



Ilana Woldenberg, on playing, Annie said, “For starters, is is my first lead role in any play that I have done. It is also the first character that really spoke to me and that I connected with. Annie’s overall message of optimism positively inspired me in my everyday life. When I think of all the kids around the globe who are in similar situations, I realize how inspiring the character Annie is. I am lucky and extremely grateful to be able to play her.” Ilana has decided to volunteer for JAFCO, which provides homes and therapy for Jewish orphans and abused children.



Jessica Schlaen was asked if she identified with Annie in any way and she answered, “I identify with Annie because we both are very perseverant, we know that if one day is rainy and sad, the next day will be better. The sun really does come out tomorrow.” Jessica has made her Bat-Mitzvah project singing to kids less fortunate than she.



# Winter Mini-Camp!!!



YOU CAN AT J-CAT...

Register NOW! call  
305-932-4200  
ext. 145/146

Open to  
MAR-JCC members and  
non members

Winter camp includes  
daily lunch, snack, and  
swimming!

Mini Camp Dates:  
December  
20- 31

**\*Register  
by the week  
or by the  
day!**



This year's mini camp is going to be an exciting medley of circus training, magic, juggling, pantomime, and theatre games your kids will love!

# Annie



**Bob Andron, Michael's brother and the architect of our future theater, thinks he makes a cute Annie. What do you think?**

## Picture of the Month...



**Melissa Bouganim, playing Miss Hannigan, is sick of little girls!!**

## IN ACTION...



### Stellar Supporting Performances:

Pictured Above: Darriel Johnakin charmed the audience as one of the spunky orphans; Anthony Herrera made audiences roar with laughter as President Roosevelt; Jacob Herman and Sara Battat were hilarious as the devious and diabolical duo, Rooster and Lily.

# J-CAT

## HABIMAH

The J's Cultural Arts Theatre

Your support of J-CAT through one of the following categories will help ensure that J-CAT will continue to positively impact upon the cultural life of North Miami-Dade and it's surrounding communities.

For more information, please contact Michael or Lillian Andron at 305-932-4200 ext. 130

**BECOME  
A MEMBER OF  
OUR HABIMAH  
SOCIETY  
TODAY!! CLICK  
HERE!**

**Producer:  
\$10,000+**

**Director:  
\$5,000+**

**Patron:  
\$1,000+**

**Performer:  
\$500+**

**Friend:  
up to \$500**

\*\*Special benefits are offered at the varying Habimah Society gift levels.  
Donations are tax deductible.