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Player Profile: Annie Duke

By Kenneth Bateman

It has been said by some expert male poker players that Annie Duke is the best all-around woman

poker player in the world today. As the top money winner in the history of World Series of Poker, she was eight months pregnant with her third child when she won tenth place in the \$10,000 Main Event.

Born in Concord, New Hampshire, she is sister to Howard Lederer, the well-known and popular expert nicknamed "The Professor" because of his calm and stable approach at the poker tables. Howard taught Annie to play and she went on to become a legendary player in her own right.

As an example of her intellectual capabilities, she majored both in English and Psychology as a student at Columbia University and went on to the University of Pennsylvania where she pursued a doctoral degree in Psycholinguistics. On the verge of obtaining her PhD, she left the program and decided to concentrate on earning a living thru playing poker.

Two of Annie Duke's outstanding poker accomplishments:

· 2004 - First World Series of Poker bracelet in \$2,000 – Omaha High/Low Event · 2004 - ESPN WSOP Tournament of Champions - First Prize – \$2,000,000

After tutoring actor Ben Affleck, he went on to win the \$10,000 buy-in California State Poker Championship No Limit Hold'em Tournament which was held at the Commerce Casino. His prize was \$356,000.

Annie started a poker website

www.ultimatebet.com

along with a team of other experts including Phil

Helmuth, Antonio Esfandieri, Phil "Devilfish" Ulliott, Krazy Kanuck, Jack McClelland, John Vorhaus and Russ Hamilton. She offers her expert advice in a poker tutorial and has written a number of articles:

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· Learn Omaha: Underestimating the Value of Connecting High Cards · Learn Omaha: Overestimating the Value of Low Connecting Cards

· Learn Omaha: Overestimating the Value of A2 · Learn Omaha: Overestimating the Value of Baby Pairs · Learn Omaha: Playing Stranded Big Pairs · Learn Omaha From a Pro · Learn Omaha: Overestimating the Value of AA · Q & A · Movin' On Up · The 30 Bet Rule

Her website also has a section called Learn to Play where she offers the following information to players:

· Getting Started · Rules of Poker Games · Poker Strategy

Annie is considered one of the toughest poker players around and unlike her brother, is an emotional player. She is known to remove her shoes when at the table and sit with one leg folded under her.

Annie has four children which is unique in the world of poker. However, she has stated many times that as much as she loves the game, her children and their activities are first and foremost in her life.

She prefers not to play in games for women only and likes competing in the world of poker because she feels that "Poker is one of the only sports where a woman can compete on a totally equal footing with a man, so I don't understand why there's a ladies only tournament."

Kenneth Bateman writes numerous articles on the subject of poker and its players. To read more player profiles, visit

<http://www.xlpoker.com>

Annie Tickets – A True Broadway Classic Returns

By Jay Nault

Annie tickets have moved beyond the simple aspect of seeing a Broadway show. This famous musical has become a rite of passage for families everywhere, and Annie has inspired little girls all over the world to sing, dance and dream big. Annie is a hero, and the show is returning to Broadway for what is sure to be another successful run.

About the Story

Annie is a downtrodden little orphan girl whose life has been nothing but a run of hard luck. She is poor, hungry and appears to have no hope for the future as the play opens. However, she has a vibrant personality and a general spark that sets her apart from the typical orphan.

Annie is unhappy at this Depression Era orphanage, as Miss Hannigan, the owner of the orphanage, is extremely cruel. However, Annie's luck changes when local billionaire Oliver Warbucks decides to host

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a local orphan for Christmas. Annie is chosen as the guest, and she moves into the mansion for her stay.

At first, Warbucks is rather cold towards Annie, but the two strengthen their bond through several experiences. Eventually, Warbucks discovers Annie's broken locket, which she keeps as a promise from her parents to come for her someday. When Warbucks attempts to replace the locket, he is confused when Annie refuses to remove her keepsake, and she tells him why she keeps it.

Warbucks decides that he is going to use his influence to help Annie find her parents, and he takes many steps towards doing so, including appearing on a radio program with Annie. Meantime, the plot's conflict is revealed. It seems that Miss Hannigan and her conman brother have decided to try to fool Warbucks into thinking that they are Annie's parents.

If you'd like to see how this intricate plot concludes, you need to secure Annie tickets to see for yourself, as the story and the production has achieved legendary status for several reasons.

Adaptations

Annie has been such a success on stage that it has inspired several productions in other formats. A movie version of the story was produced and released in 1982, and it was such a success that a sequel was produced for television in 1995. Another made-for-television film was put together and aired in 1999, and as a result of this recent exposure, girls everywhere are clamoring for Annie much like past generations.

If you want to see a true classic of theater and see a show that the entire family can enjoy, Annie tickets are the perfect way to enrich your cultural memories.

Written by Jay Nault, sponsored by

<http://www.stubhub.com/>

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<http://www.stubhub.com/mlb-tickets/>

, sports tickets, concert tickets, theater tickets and more to just

about any event in the world.



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