

# NEW YORK POST

## New beginning for youngsters

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**KIDS.** What's the matter with kids today?

Absolutely nothing, if you go by entertainment trends.

Not since the days when Shirley Temple reigned as Movie Queen have children played such prominent roles. In films and on TV, they've claimed center stage.

And speaking of stage, what about Broadway? — i.e., *Annie*, *Peter Pan*, *Evita*. The upcoming production of *Lolita* drew over 500 nubile nymphets (so far) who auditioned and hammed it up for the attendant media hubub.

With such a fascination for child stars, it's only natural that *Beginnings*, New York's first professional showcase for children, was conceived.

Housed in Something Different, a desert night club, located at 1488 First Av., this program offers gifted kids age 7 to 17 a chance to polish up their musical talents under the tutelage of two voice coaches, a choreographer, and director Peter Sklar, who hand-picks appropriate material for each child.

It's all for free — to professionals and talented amateurs. For audition appointments call 249-1480.

*Beginnings* not only gets the kids' act together, it gets the show on the road. So far, the response has been staggering.

You can catch these young upstarts Sunday from 5-6 p.m. at the club, which charges a \$3 minimum. For future showtimes call 570-6666.

Here's a glimpse of the talent *The Post* has previewed:

● Stacey Lynn Brass — This pert, pony-tailed showstopper can belt out *Lovely Weather for a Duck* like no one you've ever heard — even if you've heard it before.

"I want to be an actress

right now, but who knows what the future will bring. I might be a washout when I get older," fretted the 12-year-old, who plays Duffy in *Annie*.

"This gives me a chance to get more exposure. It could lead to anything — movies, TV, commercials, maybe even a new Broadway show.

"Let's face it," the smart kid added, "If it wasn't for *Annie* and *Beginnings*, you wouldn't even interview me."

● Gina Nichols — This Sassooned — albeit adorable — 8-year-old got the show biz bug when she saw *Annie*.

"I jumped up and down in my seat all through the show. That's when I knew this was the life for me," she said.

Chock-full of determination, Gina did a dynamite rendition of *My Buddy* and chatted about the good things to come.

● Christopher Farr — He outgrew his role in *Peter Pan* as "slightly soiled" a year ago, but this 14-year-old is just sprouting his wings.

A singer, dancer and actor, he said he misses his Broadway days. "Being on the stage gives me a great rush of energy," he said. "It starts my adrenalin flowing."

● Johnny Morgul — He plays a lost boy in *Peter Pan*, but he sure knows his way around a song. This impish tow-head's interpretation of *Smile, Darn Ya' Smile* put a grin on everyone's face.

He's already been in the Jones Beach production of *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Really Rosie* at the Kennedy Center and several commercials.

"Being an actor for now is OK," said the nine-year-old veteran. "But I think I'll play pro-football when I get older."

These are just a few of over 80 youngsters you'll be seeing — and probably be hearing more about in the future.

Fall Preview

## KIDS



The kids of *Beginnings* are all set up and ready to let-go.