

David Patrick Columbia's

## NEW·YORK·SOCIAL·DIARY

Last night in New York, much a-doin' as the season winds down and the summer is a-coming in.

Over at the Paley Center for Media, the Producers Circle held another one of their fabulous evenings with great composers, with "Applause, Applause" -- a Salute to Charles Strouse.

Charles Strouse, a native New Yorker had formal musical training at the Eastman School of Music and studied under David Diamond, Aaron Copland and the legendary Nadia Boulanger. His first Broadway musical was a hit: "Bye Bye Birdie" which he wrote with Lee Adams who would become a longtime collaborator. Mr. Strouse won a Tony for "Birdie" which was a precursor to the rock musical, a send-up of the Elvis phenomenon. Dick van Dyke starred and sang a song that was almost dropped from the show but was revived last minute and became a hit tune: "Put On a Happy Face."



Charles Strouse

There were many happy hits after that including "All American" starring Ray Bolger and with book by Mel Brooks. Another hit song came from that show, "Once Upon a Time." Then there was "Golden Boy" based on the Clifford Odets play and starring Sammy Davis Jr.; "It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman ...." And "Applause" which starred Lauren Bacall and won another Tony. He also composed for the movies and one particularly famous theme song "Those Were the Days" for the show "All In the Family." And then there was "Annie," also based on a comic strip ("Little Orphan Annie"). Today, a new double CD of the show, entitled "Annie: the 30th Anniversary Cast Recording" will go on sale at the Virgin Megastore in Times Square. And the day after tomorrow, Wednesday, Mr. Strouse will be there after 4 pm to sign albums.

All those Broadway Babies over at the Paley Media Center had a ball last night. The program included a performance by Andrea McArdle, as well as a piano performance by the composer as well as some rarely seen television footage and a panel discussion. "Put On a Happy Face" is also the title of Mr. Strouse memoir which is coming out in July In the meantime, on Saturday he celebrates his 80th birthday.

