

NEWSIES

Newsies Audition Packet

It's time to carry the banner on our stage with *Disney's Newsies!* Set in turn-of-the century New York City, *Newsies* is the tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teenaged "newsies." When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions & fight for what's right!

Based on the 1992 motion picture and inspired by a true story, *Newsies* features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken (*Little Shop of Horrors*) and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein (*Kinky Boots*). Featuring the now classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "Santa Fe," *Newsies* is packed with non-stop thrills and a timeless message, perfect for the whole family and every audience.

The Directorial Staff is looking for a cast of 35 - 40 people ranging from the age of 13 and up. In addition to the *Newsies*, there are several larger adult roles in addition to supporting characters.

See below for information regarding the audition process.

PRE-AUDITION WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 15 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Actors Guild Rehearsal Hall - Please enter through the Market Street Entrance and proceed up the stairs. This will focus primarily on dance that is needed for the show and may include tap, tricks, acrobatics, and special skills. Additionally, the audition piece for auditions will be taught. Those planning to audition are not required to attend, but this will help save time at auditions. Please wear appropriate footwear for dancing - including tap shoes if you have them. These are not required. You must have shoes on in order to participate.

AUDITIONS

Sunday, April 30 - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Newsie Ensemble & Katherine Candidates. This includes the lead Newsies as well as the Newsie ensemble.

Monday, May 1 - 6:30 p.m. All Principal Rolls and Adult "Ensemble".

Tuesday, May 2 - 6:30 p.m. - Callbacks for principal roles, Newsie ensemble, and new auditionees.

**All auditions will be held in the Rehearsal Hall at the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. Please follow the signs and enter through the Market Street Door and proceed upstairs.

Auditions will consist of Choreography, Singing, and Readings.

Choreography - The audition choreography selection will be “King of New York”. During this section of auditions, we want to see that you can do the following: learn a routine, keep a beat, show characterization, show off your special skills, and PERFORM. Choreography is a vital part of this production. Please note - you must wear footwear to perform the audition dance. If you have tap shoes you are welcome to wear them but this is not required. Please wear shoes that will not fall off your feet.

Music - Selections for auditions are included in the audition packet. Those auditioning for principal roles will choose one character song from the pre-selected pieces for auditions. If the directors feel they need to hear additional selections we will discuss with individuals at auditions.

AUDITION SONGS

Choose ONE song below that best fits the role(s) you wish to audition for. Also consider your own vocal range and style when choosing a song. Sheet music for each song can be found in this packet. You can find examples of these songs on YouTube or Spotify.

JACK KELLY - Santa Fe

DAVEY – Seize The Day

CRUTCHIE – Letter From The Refuge

KATHERINE PLUMBER – Watch What Happens

JOSEPH PULITZER – The Bottom Line

MEDDA LARKIN – That’s Rich

LES – King of New York

NEWSIES – Brooklyn’s Here

ENSEMBLE/OTHER CHARACTERS – Vocal range (SATB) Finale – King of New York

You can download a pdf of the music here:

[Newsies Audition Songs.pdf](#)

AUDITION SCENES

Dialogue - Scene selections have been chosen from the script to highlight principal characters and some supporting roles. We plan to give those wishing to audition for these roles an opportunity to read for their primary character. Like the music auditions, if we need to see you read for an additional character, we will talk with you at auditions. The directors may add additional scenes as deemed necessary. **New York Accents for Jack, Crutchie, and Newsies are welcome!

Scene Selections:

- #1 Jack, Crutchie
- #2 Finch, Specs, Elmer, Race, Morris, Crutchie, Oscar, Albert, Jack, Wiesel, Les, Davey
- #3 Pulitzer, Seitz, Bunsen, Hannah, Nunzio
- #4 Jack, Davey, Medda, Les, *Stage Manager
- #5 Katherine, Jack, Crutchie, Romeo, Davey, Mr. Jacobi
- #6 Katherine, Jack
- #7 Mayor, Pulitzer, Bunson, Snyder, Hannah, Jack
- #8 Jack, Katherine
- #9 Mayor, Pulitzer, Roosevelt, Jack

Audition Scene Links:

- [Newsies Audition Scenes Set 1.pdf](#)
- [Newsies Auditions Scenes Set 2.pdf](#)

Production Dates:

- Friday, August 4 @ 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 5 @ 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 6 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 11 @ 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 12 @ 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 13 @ 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 18 @ 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 20 @ 2:30 p.m.

Character Breakdown

Character age does not represent an actors age...depending on auditions, we may have older/adult cast members portraying the leading roles!

Jack Kelly The charismatic leader of the Manhattan newsies, is an orphaned dreamer and artist who yearns to get out of the crowded streets of New York and make a better life for himself out West. Fiercely protective of his best friend, Crutchie, and strongly loyal, Jack isn't afraid to use his voice to attain better conditions for the working kids of New York City. Though living on the streets has given him a tough-guy exterior, Jack has a big heart and can demonstrate a sweet vulnerability – especially when it comes to bantering with a certain female reporter. Must have a great pop tenor voice and sense of physicality. Character Age: 16 to 20 Vocal range: A4 – Bb2

Crutchie A dedicated newsie with a bum leg that's painful, but helps sell more papers. Though he walks with the assistance of a crutch, Crutchie doesn't let it define him; when in a jam, Jack Kelly's best friend relies on a goofy- sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience. Crutchie is the heart of the resistance. Though his movement will suggest his bum leg, Crutchie should still be included in the dance numbers. Character Age: 13 to 17 Vocal range: A4-C3

Davey Les's straight-laced, bright big brother starts selling newspapers to help his family earn a living, but becomes swept up in the fervor of the strike. A leader in his own right who is learning to use his voice to uplift others, Davey is the brains of the resistance. Character Age: 15 to 20 Vocal range: A4-D3

Les Davey's cheeky younger brother, is inspired by the freedom of the newsies and loves their independent lifestyle. A precocious and natural newsie, Les is an intuitive salesboy and a pint-sized charmer. He should present as younger than the other newsies. Character Age: 10 to 15 Vocal range: Bb3-Db3

Newsies

Including Albert, Buttons, Elmer, Finch, Henry, Ike, Jo Jo, Mike, Mush, Race, Romeo, Specs, Splasher, and Tommy Boy, etc., are some of the hard-working kids of New York City that go on strike for a livable wage.

Gender: both Character Age: 13 to 20

Scabs Three newsies who are hesitant to join the strike. Character Age: 10 to 20

Spot Conlon The proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation and a short singing solo in "Brooklyn's Here." Character Age: 17 to 20

Katherine Plumber An ambitious young reporter, works hard to make a name for herself as a legitimate journalist in a time when women aren't taken seriously. Quick, funny, and resourceful, she boldly captures the voice of a new generation rising in her coverage of the newsies' strike. While she generally has no time for cocky, streetwise young men, she makes an exception for Jack Kelly. Though she only has a brief dance solo in "King of New York," Katherine should have a great contemporary pop voice with a high belt – diction is key. Character Age: 16+ Vocal range: F5-A3

Darcy The upper-class kid of a publisher who sides with the Newsies. Character Age: 15 to 20

Bill The son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the Newsies' cause. Character Age: 15 to 25

Wiesel Or "Weasel," runs the distribution window for the World and knows most of the newsies by name. Assisted by the intimidating Delancey brothers, who keep order by any means necessary, Wiesel is Pulitzer's disgruntled paper-pusher. Character Age: 35 to 5

Oscar and Morris Delancey Tough brothers who work at the distribution window for the World, take the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point. Character Age: 15 to 20

Goons Assist the Delanceys in roughing up the newsies at the end of Act One. Character Age: 15-20

Joseph Pulitzer A pompous businessman through and through, owns the World and is concerned solely with the bottom line. Katherine's no-nonsense father, Pulitzer doesn't sympathize with the strikers, but he does eventually – and grudgingly – respect Jack. Character Age: 35 to 50 Vocal range: F4- C3

Snyder The crooked and sinister warden of The Refuge, a filthy and horrible orphanage, is concerned only with catching enough kids to keep his government checks coming. Character Age: 45 to 65

Medda Larkin Inspired by vaudeville performer Aida Overton Walker, this big-voiced saloon singer and star of the Bowery offers her theater as a safe haven for the newsies. An astute entertainer with great comic delivery, she's a good friend to Jack and stands firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice. Character Age: 25 - 45
Vocal range: E5-F3

Mr. Jacobi Allows the newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike – when he doesn't have any paying customers, that is. Character Age: 35 to 55

Seitz Editor, advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper.

Bunsen Pulitzer's bookkeeper, comes up with the ideas to raise the newsies' price per paper. Character Age: 35+

Hannah Pulitzer's practical and insightful secretary. Character Age: 20 to 40

Nunzio Pulitzer's barber. Character Age: 30 to 50

Guard The Guard removes the newsies from Pulitzer's building. Character Age: 20 to 60

The Bowery Beauties Female performers at Medda's Theater. Character Age: 18 to 30

Stage Manager Introduces Medda's act. Character Age: 25 to 55

Nuns The three nuns offer breakfast to the hungry newsies. Feel free to cast additional nuns.

Photographer Takes the triumphant photo of the newsies at the end of "Seize the Day."

Woman A newspaper customer.

Policemen Assist Snyder and turn against the newsies in the fight that concludes Act One.

Mayor The Mayor of New York City rebuffs Pulitzer's attempts to shut down the newsies' strike.

Governor Teddy Roosevelt A well-respected lifelong public servant, inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

Ensemble

For questions or more information, please contact Robin White, director at robin1365@gmail.com or (740) 440-0112 (text preferred).

Additional Staff Members include:

Pete Sour - Music Director

Natalie Bradley & Hannah White - Assistant Directors

Morgan Parsons - Choreographer

Lydia White - Production Assistant

Trish Swaney - Costumer

Nathan Arnold - Technical Director