

DISNEY'S "NEWSIES"

AUDITION INFORMATION

NOW IS THE TIME TO "SEIZE THE DAY"!

Welcome to the Wild Horse family! We're so glad that you're interested in being in Wild Horse Children's Theater's production of Disney's "Newsies". This is not a "Junior" production...it is the full musical. For that reason, we can go beyond the 18-year-old age limit and will extend our audition ages from 10-21. If you are 8 or 9 years old, with dance training, you may audition for "Newsies", **but you may not be cast as we are not taking everyone who auditions for this show.** Young actors must be mature, independent, self-sufficient and be able to endure the rigor of a demanding rehearsal schedule for a production with adult content. If you are not in this cast, we look forward to having you in our next production of Disney's "Frozen, Jr" in the fall!

NOTE: *Although our usual policy is to find a role for everyone who auditions, we are not taking everyone who auditions for this show.*

AUDITIONS: Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2.

CALLBACKS: Saturday, March 2 (after auditions)

SHOW DATES: June 28, 29, 30, July 5, 6, 7 at the Carson City Community Center

1. You **MUST CALL** to schedule an audition time! Pat Josten – 775-440-1170 or pat@wildhorsetheater.com
2. Select one of the songs from the song list
3. Get a "leg" up on the dance auditions by watching the WHCT Newsies Audition Dance Video on the Wild Horse Children's Theater Facebook page. We will also be teaching the audition number at auditions.

DESCRIPTION: Disney's Newsies, based on the 1992 motion picture, features a score by eight-time Academy Award® winner Alan Menken (Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Sister Act) and Jack Feldman and a book by four-time Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein (La Cage aux Folles, Torch Song Trilogy). While on Broadway, Newsies received 23 major theatrical nominations – including eight Tony Award nods – and won Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Score and Choreography.

Set in New York City at the turn of the century, Newsies is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a ragged band of teenaged "newsies" who dreams only of a better life far from the hardship of the streets. But when publishing titans Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack finds a cause to fight for and rallies newsies from across the city to strike for what's right. Newsies is inspired by the real-life "Newsboy Strike of 1899," when newsboy Kid Blink led a band of orphan and runaway newsies on a two-week-long action against Pulitzer, Hearst and other powerful newspaper publishers.

Timely and fresh, the fictionalized adaptation of Newsies addresses age-old themes of social injustice, exploitative labor practices and David-versus-Goliath struggles as the young learn to harness their power against a corrupt establishment.

Some of you may already be familiar with the audition process. Some of you might be experiencing your first audition. Either way, we're here to help you prepare.

On the following pages, you'll find everything that you need to know about auditioning for this great show, such as:

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VOCAL AUDITION TIPS

- 1) A musical theater vocal audition is NOT "American Idol". This is an audition, not a "sing-off". It's all about storytelling. The directors aren't so much listening to voices as looking for who can tell a story with their voice, face, and body.
- 2) The directors have a problem. They need to put together a big puzzle and find just the right pieces to put it together best. They are not there to "judge" you – they are really hoping that you'll be the right fit for one of the puzzle pieces. Your job is to help the directors solve their problem. So, there's no need for you to be nervous!
- 3) If you're nervous anyway, "hide" behind the character. Remember that it's not "you" up there; it's your character. Tell your character's story the entire time when you audition. Get involved in telling the story and don't spend time thinking about how your voice sounds when you sing. Make a strong, active choice for your character, and play it fully. We can't tell anything about your character if you don't show us an active personality.
- 4) Try to be aware of what your face and body are doing when you sing. Regardless of how your song sounds, if your face doesn't tell the story of the song, the audience isn't going to understand the story. Our brains process pictures before they process words, so if your hands are busy doing something unrelated to the song (for instance: tugging at the bottom of your shirt) the audience is going to think your song is about something else (a shirt), no matter what words you're singing!
- 5) Use clear diction. We need to understand every word that you sing. Stand in the center of the stage and sing loudly enough to be heard from way across the room, but don't scream.
- 7) When you are singing, you shouldn't look at anyone in the room -- especially not the director. You should look past the director at a spot on the wall that is at your eye level. Pretend that spot is a close friend to whom you are telling your story.
- 8) The directors may give you advice about how to read a certain line, or how to read the whole scene. If that happens, try to incorporate the suggestions into your performance, even if it seems odd or wrong. Everyone will notice how well you take direction, and that has a huge impact on whether

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

With the exception of a few female characters, “Newsies” has always been a male heavy show. To create more opportunities for female actors, we will be using gender flexible casting in some of the lead roles and ensemble. In fact, historically, many girls fought the good fight in the Strike of 1899! **Note: Ages noted are “suggested” for the character.**

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.

Gender: Male

Age: 16 to 20

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.

Gender: Both

Age: 13 to 17

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.

Gender: Male

Age: 15 to 20

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 sales boy and a pint-sized charmer. He should present as younger than the other newsies.

Gender: Male

Age: 10 to 15

Newsies

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

Gender: Both

Age: 13 to 20

Scabs

Three newsies who are hesitant to join the strike.

Gender: Both

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.”

Gender: Both

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.

Gender: Female

Age: 17 to 20

Darcy

The upper-class kid of a publisher who sides with the newsies. Can double as a newsie.

Gender: Both

Age: 15 to 20

Bill

The son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the newsies' cause. Can double as a newsie.

Gender: Male

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.

Gender: Both
Age: 35 to 50

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.

Gender: Both
Age: 15 to 20

Goons

Assist the Delancey’s in roughing up the newsies at the end of Act One.

Gender: Male
Age: 15 to 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.

Gender: Male
Age: 35 to 50

Seitz

Editor, advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids’ newspaper.

Gender: Both

Bunsen

Pulitzer’s bookkeeper, comes up with the ideas to raise the newsies’ price per paper.

Gender: Both
Age: 35 to 50

Hannah

Pulitzer’s practical and insightful secretary.

Gender: Female
Age: 20 to 40

Nunzio

Pulitzer's barber.

Gender: Male

Age: 30 to 50

Guard

The Guard removes the newsies from Pulitzer's building.

Gender: Both

Age: 20 to 60

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.

Gender: Both

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.

Gender: Female

Age: 25 to 45

The Bowery Beauties

Female performers at Medda's Theater.

Gender: Female

Age: 18 to 30

Stage Manager

Introduces Medda's act.

Gender: Both

Age: 25 to 55

Nuns

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

Gender: Female

Age: 20 to 60

Photographer

Takes the triumphant photo of the newsies at the end of “Seize the Day.”

Gender: Both

Age: 15 to 25

Woman

A newspaper customer.

Gender: Both

Age: 15 to 45

Mr. Jacobi

Allows the newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike – when he doesn’t have any paying customers, that is.

Gender: Both

Age: 35 to 55

Policemen

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

Gender: Male

Age: 20 to 60

Mayor

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

Gender: Male

Age: 45 to 60

Governor Teddy Roosevelt

A well-respected lifelong public servant inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

Gender: Male

Age: 50 to 65

Ensemble

In the original Broadway production, the adult (non-newsie) ensemble comprised eight actors who doubled and understudied as indicated below. All other featured roles and understudies were cast from the ensemble of newsies. Feel free to follow these tracks or expand as your resources allow.

FEMALE ENSEMBLE 1 - Nun / Hannah / Bowery Beauty / Katherine understudy

FEMALE ENSEMBLE 2 - Nun / Woman / Bowery Beauty / Medda understudy

FEMALE ENSEMBLE 3 - Nun / Medda Larkin

MALE ENSEMBLE 1 - Wiesel / Stage Manager / Mr. Jacobi / Mayor / Pulitzer understudy

MALE ENSEMBLE 2 - Seitz / Roosevelt understudy

MALE ENSEMBLE 3 - Bunsen / Male Ensemble 1 understudy

MALE ENSEMBLE 4 - Nunzio / Guard / Policeman / Roosevelt

MALE ENSEMBLE 5 - Snyder / Pulitzer understudy

Gender: Both

SONG LYRICS

You should prepare one of the following songs for the audition. You will sing individually (a solo). If you are auditioning for a specific character, choose the song indicated with character below. Character is noted next to title. You can sing ANY SONG LISTED BELOW if you are uncertain as to what character you want to audition for.

We've posted these song cuts on drop box. Each cut has two versions: Vocal and Instrumental. The vocal versions are there for learning purposes, but you will be singing along to the instrumental version, so MAKE SURE THAT YOU PRACTICE WITH THE INSTRUMENTAL VERSION. Pay attention to tempo (how fast/slow the song goes) and "entrances" (knowing when in the music you should begin singing).

Don't try to imitate the vocal quality of the person singing on the vocal version!! Sing the way you think the character would express him/herself!

NOTE: Below are lyrics for the entire song. You will only sing a one minute cut but may be asked to sing more so prepare the entire song.

Jack – “Santa Fe”

(Vocal Track Start at 1:55 – Instrumental Track Start at 1:26)

Sante Fe!
My old friend I can't spend my whole life dreamin',
Though I know that's all I seem inclined to do.
I ain't gettin' any younger,
and I wanna start brand new.
I need space, and fresh air-
let 'em laugh in my face,
I don't care-
Save my place,
I'll be there...

Just be real is all I'm askin',
not some painting in my head,
'Cause I'm dead if I can't count on you today.
I got nothin' if I ain't got Sante Fe!

Crutchie or Newsies– “King of New York”

(Vocal Track Start at :01 – Instrumental Track Start at :01)

You don't need money when you're famous
They gives you whatever you want, gratis

Such as

A pair of new shoes with matchin' laces
A permanent box at Sheepshead races

Pastrami on rye with a sour pickle
A personal puss on a wooden nickel

Look at me
I'm the king of New York
Suddenly
I'm respectable
Starin' right at 'cha
Lousy with stature

Nobbin' with all the muckety-mucks
I'm blowin' my dough and goin' deluxe

And there I be
Ain't I pretty?
It's my city
I'm the king of New York

Let'em ditch ya, snap one pit'cha
Your the king of New
History, front page story
Guts and glory, I'm the king of New York

Katherine – “Watch What Happens”

(Vocal Track Start at 2:11 – Instrumental Track Start at 3:24)

Give those kids and me the brand new century and watch what happens
It's David and Goliath, do or die
The fight is on and I can't watch what happens

But all I know is nothing happens if you just give in
It can't be any worse than how it's been
And it just so happens that we just might win
So whatever happens! Let's begin!

Newsies and other Roles – “Seize the Day”

(Vocal Track Start at 4:43 – Instrumental Track Start at 4:50)

Now is the time to seize the day
They're gonna see it's time to pay
Nothing can break us
No one can make us quit before we're done
One for all and all for
One for all and all for
One for all and all for one!

DANCE AUDITION TIPS

Get a “leg” up on the dance auditions by watching the [WHCT Newsies Audition Dance Video](#) on the Wild Horse Children’s Theater Facebook page. We will also be teaching the audition number at auditions

The choreographer will teach you a small routine that you will learn in groups.

Do your best with the dance steps, but ultimately choreographers are most interested in who looks energized and exciting while moving in time with music.

Don't panic if you mess up the steps, put your feet in the wrong place, or forget what to do with your hands. Even very polished dancers mess up sometimes. No one expects you to be perfect. However, when you miss something, it is important that you keep smiling and keep going (again -- staying in character is vital in an audition)! A big smile and an air of confidence can hide a multitude of mistakes with your feet. Even if you do the steps perfectly, if you are not expressive, or if you look like you're really concentrating hard instead of portraying the mood of the character, the role might go to someone with slightly less dancing ability, who dances as a believable character.

As a general note, make sure that you are standing in a place where you can see when the choreographer is teaching the steps. Frequently, people uncomfortable with dance try to hide in the back. It doesn't work. The point is not to hide, but to show what you can do!

CASTING

Disney’s “Newsies includes many characters and large ENSEMBLE numbers! There are solos and speaking parts that we will cast from the ENSEMBLE as we enter the rehearsal process.

Casting a show is like assembling a large jigsaw puzzle. If you are not cast in the part that you wanted in this show, that DOES NOT mean that your audition performance was not of a good quality. It simply means that that character wasn't a good fit for you in this particular show. The "fit" decision usually has little to do with anything under your control. You may be too tall, too short, too old, too young, too high voice, too low voice, etc. etc. -- you get the picture!

Similarly, if you auditioned hoping to be given a certain role and you are cast with a different role, that means that the directors needed you most in the role in which you were cast. Again, remember that the ENSEMBLE is considered a role. Being in a show is being on a team. Every single player on the team is vital to the success of the whole piece. NO ONE ACTOR is more important than any other actor onstage. “There are no small parts...only small actors!”

NOW IS THE TIME TO SEIZE THE DAY!!!