

The NEW YORK Sun

WILD HORSE CHILDREN'S THEATER

Disney

NEWSIES JR.

Music by Alan Menken Lyrics by Jack Feldman Book by Harvey Fierstein

Written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White

Originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions

A MUSICAL BASED ON THE DISNEY FILM

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

AUDITION PACKET





We are so glad you are interested in auditioning for Newsies Jr. at **Wild Horse Children's Theater**. We are astounded by the amount of interest in this musical and cannot wait to get started. This packet includes everything you need for a successful audition.

Hear ye, future newsies and bold headline-makers! Due to the physical demands, historical themes, and level of performance required in Newsies, Jr., only performers ages 12–19 (at the time of audition) are guaranteed a spot in the cast. Performers who are 10 or 11 (at the time of audition) **MAY** audition but are **NOT** guaranteed a role. Casting will be based on skill level, stamina, stage presence, maturity, and ultimately at the directors' discretion.

AGES: 10-19* (at time of audition)

*with permission from MTI

**AUDITIONS ARE STRICKLY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!
REGISTRATION WILL OPEN AUGUST 1ST.**

Due to limited space and scheduling constraints at the Brewery Arts Center, registrations for Newsies, Jr. will be capped at 100 auditioners. Once that limit is reached, additional auditioners will be placed on a waiting list, so be sure to register early to secure your audition spot! Performance dates are December 4-13.

- READ THE AUDITION PACKET CAREFULLY.
- REGISTER ONLINE TO AUDITION. **REGISTRATION WILL OPEN AUGUST 1ST.**
REGISTRATION LINK: <https://forms.gle/Yfp9wT7o8MnZBxRJA>
- PRACTICE THE AUDITION SONG YOU WANT TO SING!
- COME TO AUDITIONS WITH A PHOTO, WATER, AND A GOOD ATTITUDE!

AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD AT: Brewery Arts Center Performance Hall, 511 W. King Street, in Carson City.

1. Wednesday, August 26, 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm (4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 6:30 pm)
2. Thursday, August 27, 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm (4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 6:30 pm)
3. Callbacks will be held on Saturday, August 29, 9:00 am-12 Noon

Audition materials are below. Questions? Contact Producerwhct@gmail.com

IN THIS PACKET:

1. AUDITION REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND LINK TO REGISTRATION FORM
2. NEWSIES, JR. SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS
3. AUDITION SONGS
4. WHAT TO EXPECT AT AUDITIONS

AUDITION REGISTRATION FORM REGISTER HERE!

1. **Audition Application Form, fill out the online form:**

<https://forms.gle/Yfp9wT7o8MnZBxRIA>

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON AUGUST 1ST.

2. ***IMPORTANT! Our producer WILL CONTACT YOU to set up your audition date and time AFTER you submit your registration form.***

Our Policy for Actors Rehearsing Multiple Shows LET'S TALK COMMITMENT & COMMUNITY

At Wild Horse Children's Theater, we love seeing our actors grow, not just on our stage, but throughout the entire theater community. Working with different directors, choreographers, and musical directors is a great way to build skills, gain experience, and make lasting friendships. Theater should always be a positive and supportive experience, and we're proud to be part of a community that lifts each other up.

That said, Newsies, Jr. is a high-energy, ensemble driven production that requires strong commitment from every cast member. With demanding choreography, tight harmonies, and fast paced staging, we need actors who can be fully present, focused, and ready to give their all.

While we typically try to accommodate actors involved in multiple productions, this show requires full commitment. That means being at every rehearsal you are called for and attending all required tech rehearsals and performances.

Before auditioning, please take a careful look at your schedule and be sure you can dedicate the time and energy this production deserves. We're building something bold, exciting, and full of heart, and we want every actor to feel confident, prepared, and ready to seize the day!

DISNEY'S NEWSIES, JR. SYNOPSIS

Set in turn-of-the-century New York City, *Newsies, Jr.* tells the inspiring true story of a group of young newspaper sellers who take a stand against powerful publishers when their wages are cut. Led by the determined Jack Kelly, the newsies band together to fight for fairness, proving that even the smallest voices can spark big change. Filled with high-energy songs and dynamic choreography, this story celebrates courage, friendship, and the power of standing up for what's right.

[Link to Music Theater International for more information:](https://www.mtishows.com/disneys-newsies-jr)
<https://www.mtishows.com/disneys-newsies-jr>

One final tip as you begin your preparation. Do some research on the show and on the roles! This will help you get a better sense of what *Newsies, Jr.* is all about and who the various characters are.

Most roles? Open to any gender. Some roles? Specific to male and female genders. Our goal? To build a cast that reflects the wild, wacky, and diverse world we live in. So don't stress about whether you "fit" a role! If you bring the talent, the energy, and a little charm, you're in the running.

Unless you specifically tell us you're only interested in one part (which, hey, your call), we'll consider you for any and all roles, no matter who you read for at auditions. So, bring your best and let's make some casting magic!

DISNEY'S NEWSIES, JR. CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Jack Kelly - Fiercely loyal and charismatic leader of the Manhattan Newsies. Wants to make a better life for himself out west. Tough guy exterior with a big heart. *Jack is in most scenes in the show.*

Davey - Les's straight-laced, bright big brother who starts selling newspapers to help his family. A leader - is the "brains" behind the strike. *Strong singer.*

Crutchie - Jack's best friend and a dedicated newsies with a "bum leg" from polio. Goofy and optimistic. *Will be walking with and dancing with a crutch for the entire show.*

Katherine Plumber - An ambitious young reporter who works hard to make a name for herself as a legitimate journalist in a time when women aren't taken seriously. Quick, funny, and tough. *Strong singer.*

Les - Davey's cheeky younger sibling and is excited by the newsies' freedom and loves their independent lifestyle.

Spot Conlon - The proud leader of the Brooklyn Newsies with an intimidating reputation. *This role in the Jr. version is explicitly written for and will be portrayed as a female.*

Newsies of New York - Race, Albert, Muriel, Nancy, Specs, Pigtails, Hazel, Buttons, Tommy Boy, Romero, and Jojo. *These will serve as our featured dancers who will be in most numbers.*

Medda Larkin - A big-voiced saloon singer and star of the Bowery. Offers her theatre as a safe haven for the Newsies - is a mother figure to Jack Kelly.

Wiesel - A disgruntled manager of distribution for The World, often called "Weasel" by the newsies. *This will be a comedic role for a strong actor.*

Joseph Pulitzer - A pompous businessman through and through. Owns The World newspaper. Katherine's no-nonsense father. Newsies strike against him.

Bunsen - Pulitzer's bookkeeper who helps Pulitzer come up with the idea to raise the newsies' price per paper.

Hannah - Pulitzer's secretary who is a clever advocate for the Newsies.

Pat - An efficient stage manager who introduces Medda's act.

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

Snyder - The crooked warden of The Refuge. Concerned with only catching enough kids to keep the government checks coming.

Seitz - Editor of The World who advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper.

Bill - Katherine's upper-class friend whose parents own the New York Tribune and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner

Darcy - A photographer who works with Katherine

Oscar and Morris Delancey - Toughs who work distribution for The World. Known to use their fists to make a point.

Ensemble - Ensemble consists of newsies, newsies and more newsies, the bowery brigade (Medda's dancers), townspeople, police force, working children of New York City. Some of the above roles will double as ensemble.

AUDITION SONGS

Yes, you'll be singing solo! This is your moment to shine! We've uploaded your audition song cuts to Dropbox (link below). Each song has two versions:

- Vocal Version (with words) – to help you learn the melody and lyrics.
- Instrumental Version (without words) – this is what you'll be singing with at auditions.
- YouTube link to Newsies, Jr. Songs with lyrics:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGKcTOyxGDcg2oPEKgpJMACz5ITQH74M4>

Important: Make sure you rehearse with the instrumental version so you're ready to perform confidently without guide vocals.

Pay close attention to:

- 🎵 Tempo – how fast or slow the music goes.
- 🟠 Entrances – when you're supposed to come in and start singing.

And here's a golden tip:

Don't try to copy the singer on the vocal track! We want to hear your version! The way *you* think the character would express themselves. Add your personality. Bring the character to life in your voice.

DROPBOX LINK TO SONGS WITH AND WITHOUT VOCALS (There are 2 song versions each in this link. The one that says "With Words" is to learn the song. The other file that just has just the title of the song is the version without words that you should work with to sing at auditions.)
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4vkwokfxm05iusehym0e/ABaRH9bF9n6hJzT54BKXSwg?rlkey=69pruyufp27gxikitg7hzaiqe&st=aojdjaw2&dl=0>

If you're interested in a role that does not have a specific audition song listed or if you are not sure which role you want to be considered for, just choose any of the songs provided to audition with. It is completely up to you.

SANTA FE (Auditioning for Jack Kelly, Davey, or any male role)

Sing from :34 to end of track

*Close your eyes come with me,
where it's clean and green and pretty
and they went and made a city outta clay.
Why the minute that you get there, folks will walk right up and say
Welcome home son, welcome home to Santa Fe.
Land of crops, splitting rails, swapping tails around the fire,
Except for Sunday when you lie around all day.
Soon your friends are more like family,
and they's beggin you to stay
Ain't that neat!
Livin sweet, in Santa Fe.*

WATCH WHAT HAPPENS (Auditioning for Katherine, Medda, or any female part)

Sing from 1:40 to end of track

*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!*

SEIZE THE DAY (Auditioning for any part, male or female)

Sing from :46 to end of track

*Now is the time to seize the day
Stare down the odds and seize the day
Once we've begun If we stand as one
Someday becomes somehow
And a prayer becomes a vow
And the strike starts here and now!*

CARRYING THE BANNER (Auditioning for any part, male or female)

Sing from :13 to 1:04

*From Bottle Alley to the harbor
There's easy pickins guaranteed
Try any banker, bum, or barber
They almost all knows how to read
It's a crooked game we're playin'
One we'll never lose
Long as suckers don't mind payin'
Just to get bad news!
Ain't it a fine life
Carrying the banner through it all!
A mighty fine life
Carrying the banner tough and tall
When that bell rings
We goes where we wishes,
We's as free as fishes,
Sure beats washin' dishes
What a fine life
Carryin' the banner
home free all!*

KING OF NEW YORK (Auditioning for any part, Male or Female)

Sing from :06-:40

*A pair of new shoes
with matchin laces...*

*A permanent box at the
Sheepshead Races....*

Pastrami on rye with a sour pickle...

My 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 sta'cha.

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!

WHAT TO EXPECT AT AUDITIONS

#1 Rule: HAVE FUN! This is your time to shine—so enjoy every second of it!

AUDITION DAY: STEP-BY-STEP

- 1. Auditions are held in one-hour blocks with up to 25 performers per slot.**
- 2. When you arrive, head through the main entrance of the Performance Hall to check in and receive your nametag and audition number.**
- 3. Once checked in, auditioners will be seated in the theater.**
- 4. One by one, each performer will take the stage to sing their audition piece.**
- 5. After everyone has sung, we'll teach (review) a short dance combo—then you'll perform it in small groups. Since Newsies is a BIG dance show, we've included the dance audition link here so that you can feel more prepared to showcase your dance skills: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/mzgtz0sqshle8yp4ajpp0/AFeFWvVC-98hrCU62wzUjaQ?rlkey=zjdwcu5ev9uu1y36wru15ug7&st=82ve2u6q&dl=0>.**
- 6. When it's all done, you'll exit through the side door for parent pickup.**

INFO FOR PARENTS

- Got siblings auditioning? Schedule them in the same time slot so it's easy for everyone.**
- Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in and for your children to receive their nametags.**
- Parents can accompany their child at check-in and stay to watch auditions IF your performer wants you there. (Some kids like the support, others prefer to fly solo—respect their vibe!)**

- Callback slips will be handed out after each group finishes. **NO CALLBACK** doesn't mean **NO PART!** Our casting team is super skilled and we often cast roles during the initial audition!

AUDITION TIPS TO STAND OUT

- Be memorized! Nerves are real. The better you know your piece, the more confident you'll feel.
- Act your song! Step into character—how do they walk? Talk? What do they want from the audience?
- Make a **CHOICE**. A big, bold, fearless one! Don't try to guess what we want but show us who **YOU** are as a performer.
- Bring appropriate dance shoes if you have them. Got tap, acro, gymnastics, or any cool tricks? Let us know on your audition form because we love to see unique talents... especially for Newsies, Jr!

FOR MORE AUDITION TIPS, GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT
<https://www.wildhorsetheater.com/auditions>

*Remember: Leads aren't just the most talented people. The best voice doesn't equal the best role! At auditions we look for how you interact with others, follow instructions, show independence and resilience as well as talent and availability/commitment. Don't be discouraged if you don't think you're *perfect* for a role – it is possible for us to help a committed and diligent person grow throughout the rehearsal process – practice makes perfect!*

