

REIF THEATER ARTS PRESENTS

Disney

NEWSIES JR.

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Tuition and registration due before auditions. Space is limited!

Disney's *Newsies JR.* is a 60-minute version of the 2012 Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film. Inspired by the rousing true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City, *Newsies JR.* features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein.

When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys' expense, the charismatic Jack Kelly rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions. Together, the newsies learn that they are stronger united and create a movement to fight for what's right.

Including the now-classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "Santa Fe," *Newsies JR.* is a timeless story full of spirit and heart.

Disney's *Newsies Jr.* is presented through special arrangement with and all materials are provided by Music Theatre International.

1st Class/
Auditions
Saturday, Jan. 4
Performances
March 21-23

Theater Arts build confidence and character. Come make friendships and memories that will last a lifetime!

AUDITION SCHEDULE

3rd-6th Grade Saturday, January 4, 12:00-2:30pm

7th-12th Grade Saturday, January 4, 3:00-6:00pm

(Please plan to stay for your entire audition time.)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

JR. ENSEMBLE* (Likely younger cast)

Tuesday & Thurs 3:30-5:00, Some Fridays 3:30-6:30

SR. ENSEMBLE (Likely older cast)

Monday, Wed, Friday 3:30-6:30

PRINCIPALS (MAIN CHARACTERS)

Mon, Wed, Fri 3:30-6:30, Tues & Thurs 3:30-5:30

Not all Cast members will be required for the entirety of every rehearsal. Detailed weekly schedules will depend on casting.

REHEARSALS BEGIN MONDAY, January 5th, 2025

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES. INCLUDE ANY POTENTIAL CONFLICTS WITH YOUR REGISTRATION.

We have a full month less of rehearsal time for this production compared to past shows. Attendance at rehearsals is crucial to our success. In addition to the regular schedule these additional rehearsals will take place.

Friday, January 17, Monday, January 20 &

Monday, February 17 (NO SCHOOL)

We will still have rehearsal these days either at the regular rehearsal time or as daytime rehearsal Times TBD

March 16-20 TECH WEEK

MANDATORY rehearsals-Times TBD

We can work with you on some conflicts but Tech week is mandatory. Please make sure these dates are available.

*Which group you are placed in depends on casting. Every role is important. Students who are cast in larger roles will

have to attend more rehearsals. If you do not wish to be considered for a main role, please let the director know.

AUDITIONS FOR Newsies JR. SATURDAY, January 4th @ THE REIF

Grades 3-6 12:00-2:30pm | Grades 7-12 3:00-6:00pm

All participants get a part. Auditions just help me place you where you fit best. Please plan to stay for the entire session of auditions for your age group. Students must be registered and paid before auditions.

How to prepare for auditions:

- ◆ **Listen to the soundtrack.** All songs are available on the Reif Website. Get to know the music and practice singing with the performance tracks. Everyone will sing individually during auditions.
- ◆ **Prepare something to recite at auditions.** This can be anything you have memorized. I want to see how you handle language that you are really comfortable with. It can be a poem, a speech or your favorite commercial. (Returning performers, I challenge you to choose something new each time you audition!) Once you have recited, I may ask you to do it again as though you are stuck in quicksand or as though you smell rotten eggs. This allows me to see how well you take direction and how you handle different feelings or emotions. (Parents, please help your kids understand ahead of time that getting direction does not mean they have done anything wrong. Sometimes kids shut down when they feel like they are being criticized. Taking direction is part of theatre. Sometimes we try things several different ways before we find the “right” one.)
- ◆ **Come ready to dance!** Everyone in the show will dance, some more than others. During auditions, students will learn a bit of choreography and I will be watching for their performance quality and willingness to try new things. Above all, look like you are having fun and the “audience” might not see little mistakes! Come ready to show any “tricks” you may have in your repertoire. This is a DANCE show!
- ◆ **Read the audition sides** that are available on the website. Get to know the characters and try experimenting with saying the parts out loud. (This may not happen until callbacks but it is good to familiarize yourself with the story and characters.

Check out the Reif website www.reifcenter.org for the following resources...

- Links to all of the audio tracks. There will be a version of the music with words to help you learn the song. There will also be a version of the music without words for them to practice with once they are comfortable. Sheet music is also available on the website for selected audition cuts.
- Audition sides to get familiar with some of the language used in the show. Audition sides are short scene selections from the script that may be used as part of the audition process. These sides will help you understand the characters and how they interact with each other.

You can choose which audition cut you would like to audition with. This does not mean that you will only be considered for that one role. You may be asked to read for multiple parts. Just remember that every moment counts in auditions. Give it your all even if you are not reading for the part you want. Directors are always looking to see how versatile you can be and how well you take direction.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE...

Students will be required to supply their own footwear for the performance. In addition to shoes, certain items may be required for their costumes as well. Instructions regarding these items will go out after casting and the design process is complete. We do our best to provide costumes but as the cast sizes keep growing, it has become impossible for us to purchase and store everything we need for a musical of this size.

Parents should anticipate volunteering to help. We need help monitoring children during performances, sewing costumes, gathering props, etc. Please let me know how you can help!

REHEARSALS BEGIN MONDAY, January 5, 2024

PERFORMANCES March 21-23, 2025

Please see page 1 for other important dates.

Register at www.reifcenter.org Questions: Call The Box Office (218)327-5780 or email Katie ksmith@reifcenter.org



Cast of Characters

Please note that many of these roles are written for male characters. We would definitely be open to casting girls in male roles as long as they are willing to play them as boys.

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 very loyal, Jack isn't afraid to use his voice to attain better conditions for the working kids of New York City. Looking for an actor who can command the stage with ease, possesses strong vocal abilities, and can exude Jack's tough-guy exterior and his big heart. Vocal Range top F5 bottom B3

Les Davey's cheeky younger sibling, is excited by the newsies' freedom and loves their independent lifestyle. This pint-sized charmer should present as younger than the other newsies. Vocal Range top F4 bottom B3

Crutchie Jack's best friend and a dedicated newsie with a "bum leg" from polio that causes pain, but helps sell more papers. Walking with the assistance of a crutch doesn't define the ever-positive newsie. Looking for an actor who can portray a goofy-sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience. Vocal Range top F5 bottom A3

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. Looking for a strong actor and singer who can lead "Seize the Day" while smartly portraying the brains of the resistance. Vocal Range top D5 bottom B3

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, Katherine should be a strong singer with excellent diction for her showstopping number, "Watch What Happens." Vocal Range top D5 bottom A3

Medda Larkin A big-voiced singer and star of the Bowery. A proud supporter of the newsies, she offers her theater as a safe haven for their revolution. Looking for a performer who can portray this astute entertainer with great comic delivery, while standing firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice. Vocal Range top D5 bottom G3

Wiesel Aka "Weasel". A disgruntled paper-pusher who uses the Delancey brothers as his muscle, runs distribution for the World and has little patience or sympathy for the newsies. (Non-singing role)

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. Looking for a strong actor with a sharp and imposing presence. (Non-singing role)

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

Hannah Pulitzer's secretary who is a clever advocate for the newsies. (Non-singing role)

Pat An efficient stage manager who introduces Medda's act. (Non-singing role)

Gov. Teddy Roosevelt A well-respected lifelong public servant who inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer. Looking for an actor with the ability to portray the maturity and stature of this well-respected leader. (Non-singing role)

Snyder The crooked warden of The Refuge. A filthy and horrible juvenile reformatory, is concerned only with catching enough kids to keep their government checks coming. (Non-singing role)

Seitz The editor of the *World* who advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper. (Non-singing role)

Bill Katherine's upperclass friend whose parents own the *New York Journal* and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner. (Non-singing role)



Cast of Characters Continued

Please note that many of these roles are written for male characters. We would definitely be open to casting girls in male roles as long as they are willing to play them as boys.

Dorothy Katherine's upperclass friend whose parents own the *New York Tribune* and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner. (Non-singing role)

Darcy A photographer who works with Katherine. (Non-singing role)

Oscar & Morris Delancy Toughs who work distribution for the World, take the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point.

NEWSIES of New York, RACE, ALBERT, MURIEL, NANCY, SPECS, PIGTAILS, HAZEL, BUTTONS, TOMMY BOY, ROMEO, JO JO, Spot Conlon, SCABS (1-3) and others

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