

# Master Class Performing Arts

## *Disney's Newsies Audition Notice*

Auditions for actors and actresses age 12 and up are scheduled for Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00am at QUEST, 826 State Street, Schenectady, NY. Applicants should come prepared to perform 32 measures of any Broadway song, and complete a dance audition. An accompanist will be available. NO ACAPELLA OR CD AUDITIONS will be permitted. We will be accepting students between the ages of 8 and 11 for the character of Les. Please see attached character descriptions as well as vocal and gender breakdown. Doubling may be used.

Please bring appropriate dance wear for a dance call. ALL students are required to participate in the dance call in order to be cast in the production. We are very excited to be hosting guest choreographer Nicholas Masson from *Disney's Newsies*.

Please keep in mind that we provide several forms that must be completed prior to the audition. If you are under the age of 18 a parent must accompany you to the audition in order to fill out the forms and sign the paperwork.

### *DISNEY'S NEWSIES*

#### **Production Team:**

Andrew Higgs, Director;  
Peter Darling, Musical Director;  
Nicholas Masson, Choreographer;  
Kelly Jaeger, Producer;  
Michelle McGinty-Miller, Stage Manager.

**Performance Dates:** October 25 – 28, 2018

#### **Rehearsal Dates:**

Dance Workshops TBA (August/September);  
Thursday & Saturday (September);  
Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday (October).

**Performance and Rehearsal Location:** QUEST (826 State Street, Schenectady)

#### **Tuition Payment:**

For students participating in our production (18 & under) tuition will be \$250.00.

For adults participating in our production (above age 18) we ask for a costuming fee of \$50.00.

At the time of audition, we will be collecting a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit that will be deducted from tuition.

**If you are auditioning for the following roles please prepare the songs listed below (in addition to your normal audition song):**

Jack Kelly – “Santa Fe”  
Katherine Plumber – “Watch What Happens”  
Crutchie – “Letter from The Refuge”  
Davey – “Seize the Day”  
Joseph Pulitzer – “The Bottom Line”  
Medda Larkin – “That’s Rich”

*Music for each of these numbers will be provided at auditions. If you would like a copy of the music prior to the audition please email us at [masterclassperformingarts@gmail.com](mailto:masterclassperformingarts@gmail.com).*



# Character Breakdown:

**Jack Kelly (Male; 14 – 20)** – 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 is not 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. Vocal range top: A4; Vocal range bottom: Bb2.

**Katherine Plumber (Female; 14 – 20)** – 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. Vocal range top: F5; Vocal range bottom: A3.

**Crutchie (Male; 13 – 16)** – A dedicated newsie with a bum leg that's painful, but helps sell more papes. Though he walks with the assistance of a crutch, Crutchie does not 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. Vocal range top: A4; Vocal range bottom: C3.

**Davey (Male; 14 – 20)** – 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. Vocal range top: A4; Vocal range bottom: D3.

**Les (Male; 8 – 11)** – 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. Vocal range top: Bb3; Vocal range bottom: Db3.

**Newsies (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – 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.

**Joseph Pulitzer (Male; 30 – 50)** – 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. Vocal range top: F4; Vocal range bottom: C3.

**Medda Larkin (Female; 30 – 50)** – 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. Vocal range top: E5; Vocal range bottom: F3.

**Spot Conlon (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – The proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation and a short singing solo in "Brooklyn's Here."

**Seitz (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – Editor, advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper.

**Bunsen (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – Pulitzer's bookkeeper, comes up with the ideas to raise the newsies' price per paper.

**Hannah (Female; 13 – 20)** – Pulitzer’s practical and insightful secretary.

**Wiesel (Male; 13 – 20)** – 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.

**Oscar Delancey (Male; 13 – 20)** – 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.

**Morris Delancey (Male; 13 – 20)** – 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.

**Snyder (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – 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.

**Mayor (Male; 30 – 50)** – The Mayor of New York City rebuffs Pulitzer’s attempts to shut down the newsies’ strike.

**Governor Teddy Roosevelt (Male; 30 – 50)** – A well-respected lifelong public servant, inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

**Nunzio (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – Pulitzer’s barber.

**Guard (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – The Guard removes the newsies from Pulitzer’s building.

**Scabs (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – Three newsies who are hesitant to join the strike.

**Goons (Male; 13 – 20)** – Assist the Delanceys in roughing up the newsies at the end of Act One.

**Stage Manager (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – Introduces Medda's act.

**Nuns (Female; 13 – 50)** – The nuns offer breakfast to the hungry newsies. Feel free to cast additional nuns.

**Woman (Female; 13 – 20)** – A newspaper customer.

**Mr. Jacobi (Male; 13 – 20)** – Allows the newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike – when he doesn’t have any paying customers, that is.

**Policemen (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – Assist Snyder and turn against the newsies in the fight that concludes Act One.

**Photographer (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – Takes the triumphant photo of the newsies at the end of “Seize the Day.”

**Darcy (Male/Female; 13 – 20)** – The upper-class kid of a publisher who sides with the newsies. Can double as a newsie.

**Bill (Male; 13 – 20)** – The son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the newsies' cause. Can double as a newsie.

**Bowery Beauties (Female; 13 – 20)** – Female performers at Medda’s Theater.