



### **About The Show:**

*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.*

*We encourage all of our performers to familiarize themselves with the spirit of this (more or less) true historical story by watching the below video or taking a look at the brief historical summary included in this packet.*



## **Characters:**

### **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.

### **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.

### **Crutchie/Casey**

Jack's best friend and a dedicated newsie with a "bum leg" from polio that causes pain, but helps sell more papes. Walking with the assistance of a crutch doesn't define the ever-positive newsie. Goofy with a sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience.

### **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.

### **Les**

Davey's cheeky younger sibling, is excited by the newsies' freedom and loves their independent lifestyle. This pint-sized charmer is younger than the other newsies

### **Medda Larkin**

Inspired by the African- American vaudeville performer, Aida Overton-Walker, A big-voiced singer and star of the Bowery (see the "Dramaturgy" document in Downloadable Resources). A proud supporter of the newsies, she offers her theater as a safe haven for their revolution. An astute entertainer with great comic delivery, while standing firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice.

### **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.

### **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.

**Newsies**

The hard-working kids of New York City who go on strike for a livable wage. These include the following roles: Race, Albert, Muriel, Nancy, Specs, Pigtails, Hazel, Buttons, Tommy Boy, Romeo, Jo Jo, Scabs, Brooklyn Newsies, Spot Conlon.

**Darcy**

A photographer who works with Katherine.

**Dorothy**

Katherine's upperclass friend whose parents own the *New York Tribune* and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner.

**Bill**

Katherine's upperclass friend whose parents own the *New York Journal* and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner.

**Working Children**

Featured in "Once and For All," they represent all of the other child laborers who receive the Newsies Banner and ultimately become a part of the children's crusade.

**Seitz**

The editor of the *World* who advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper.

**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.

**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.

**Governor Teddy Roosevelt**

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

**Bowery Brigade**

Includes the roles of the upbeat and charming Ada, Olive, and Ethel. A group of vaudeville performers in Medda's act.

**Police Officers**

Includes the role of the Police Chief. They intimidate the newsies and arrest Crutchie.

**Pat**

An efficient stage manager who introduces Medda's act.

**Woman**

A newspaper customer.

**REHEARSAL SCHEDULE & WALKING DETAILS****Cast Schedule:**

Wednesday, 8/30 - Auditions @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 9/6 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 9/13 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 9/20 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 9/27 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 10/4 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 10/11 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 10/18 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 10/25 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 11/1 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 11/8 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 11/15 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 11/29 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 12/6 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Tuesday, 12/12 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm (Show Week)  
Wednesday, 12/13 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm (Show Week)  
Thursday, 12/14 - Rehearsal @ Performance Venue, 4pm-6:30pm (Show Week)  
Friday, 12/15 - Dress Rehearsal @ Performance Venue, 4pm-7:30pm (Show Week)  
Saturday, 12/16 - Show Day @ Performance Venue - 10am Cast Call Time  
Performances at 1pm & 5pm

**Crew Schedule:**

Meets in-person every other week until we get closer to show day. Individual crew members may be called on additional days, or be assigned projects to work on at home.

Wednesday, 9/6 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 9/20 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, 10/4 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm

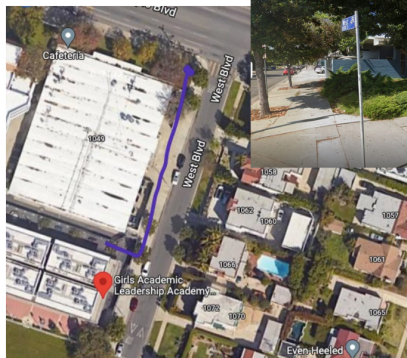
Wednesday, 10/18 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
 Wednesday, 11/1 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
 Wednesday, 11/15 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
 Wednesday, 11/29 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
 Wednesday, 12/6 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm  
 Tuesday, 12/12 - Rehearsal @ Catch One, 4pm-6:30pm (Show Week)  
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Final performances on Saturday, December 16th at 1pm & 5pm. Venue TBD.

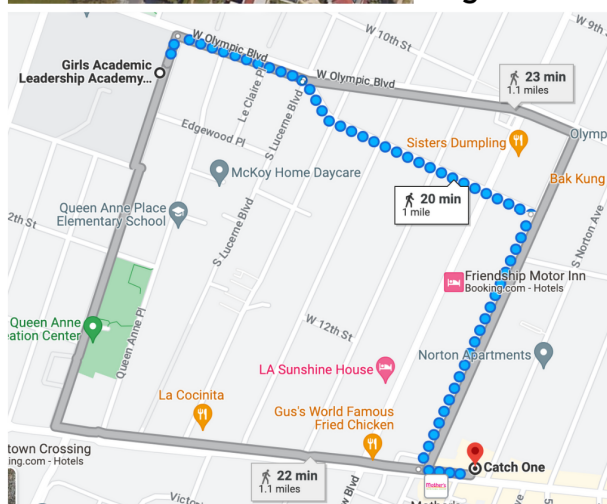
## GALA - CATCH ONE

### Meeting Spot & Walking Directions

Meet our ON! Team MEMBER @  
 Corner of West & Olympic by  
 3:40pm. wait in grassy area away  
 from the curb.



Our walking group will walk east  
 down olympic, and take a slight  
 right onto Lucerne to avoid the  
 main roads. We'll then take a  
 slight left onto Country Club, and



continue east for a  
 half mile until  
 hitting Bronson.  
 We'll take a right  
 onto Bronson, a left  
 onto Pico, and  
 we've arrived at  
**CATCH ONE!**

**4067 W Pico Blvd**

## WHAT TO BRING EACH WEEK

- Water
- Extra snacks
- Closed-toe-shoes
- Your script (once you receive it) & pen/pencil, highlighter
- *Please note that the use of cell phones and any other devices are not permitted during rehearsal time (with the exception of breaks).*

## WHAT TO BRING BY SEPTEMBER 27TH

### SHOES

Here are the recommendations for shoes for this year's production of Newsies Jr.

Please order ASAP as we would like the cast to bring them for rehearsal days beginning September 19th. It will be incredibly helpful for the students to start rehearsing and practicing the choreography in the shoes.

Other than a few exceptions (listed at the bottom), we would like the majority of the cast to wear **black jazz boots**.



Here are links to some options on Amazon just as reference (you do not need to get these exact ones).

### [EXAMPLE 1](#)

### [EXAMPLE 2](#)

If you cannot find jazz boots in the correct size....an alternative would be Black jazz shoes like [THESE](#).

### CHARACTER EXCEPTIONS:

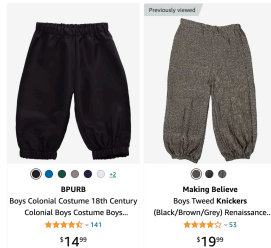
Pulitzer – *black dress shoes and black socks*

Katherine – *black character shoes (or black/brown low-heeled boots) and nude tights*

Medda – *black character shoes and nude tights*

## **KNICKERS**

Knickers OR a similar pant style are required for all *Newsies* with the exception of JACK and DAVEY. Example:



Earth-tone colors are best (brown, grey, olive green, dark khaki). Ideally no black. Solid color, plaid or simple striped pants in earth tones (nothing too bright or modern).

Please note that khaki or corduroy pants may also be accepted.

Most knickers that you can buy are pretty voluminous (better for colonial costumes). It's easiest to find pants and cut them below the knee at the desired length and add a quick hem. For girls - possibly finding capri pants and then adding some elastic around the bottom cuff to make them knickers could work too.



## **SOCKS**

Long white, brown, or Argyle socks for all *Newsies*.

## **AUDITION MATERIALS**

Auditions for all participants will be held on our first program day. Performers will have time on the first day to review and practice the materials before auditioning.

Please prepare (ONE) of the included monologues OR scenes AND (ONE) of the included song excerpts. All materials are included in this packet. Audition songs should be sung acapella (without music). Memorization is *not* required, but encouraged. Being off-book frees up your hands to express yourself, and frees up your face and eyes so we can connect to you emotionally (instead of you looking at a paper). Performers should be prepared to perform their songs and scenes with confidence and personality.

We want this process to be as fun and stress free as possible. Every single role matters. If you know you don't want a big singing part, or aren't quite comfortable being in the spotlight, just let us know! Do what works best for *you*.

Our first program day will also consist of a cast team-building activity and choreography workshop, both of which will factor into our casting decisions.

Please complete the cast contract and tell us a bit about yourself prior to auditioning at [openingnighttheater.com/castcontract](https://openingnighttheater.com/castcontract).

NEWSIES is a dance-heavy production, so if dance is a strength of yours - tap, ballet, jazz, etc - please let us know!

***Did You Know?*** The full, filmed Broadway production of NEWSIES is available on Disney Plus! Check it out!

### **SONG SELECTIONS**

"Carrying The Banner"

"Just a Pretty Face"

"King of New York"

"Letter From The Refuge"

"Santa Fe"

"Seize The Day"

"Watch What Happens"

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE AUDITION MUSIC TRACKS.](#)**

*THESE TRACKS ARE FOR PRACTICING ONLY. AUDITIONS SHOULD BE SUNG  
ACAPELLA (WITHOUT MUSIC).*