



The Bay City Players
Production of
Disney's
NEWSIES
A Musical based on the Disney Film
AUDITION INFORMATION PACKET

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for Newsies! **Please read this audition packet in its entirety** to understand expectations, the audition process including how to prepare and what to bring, the show synopsis and character descriptions.

Contents

Notes from the Director:	2
Core Production Team:	3
Audition Dates:	3
How to prepare/What to bring:.....	3
How auditions will run:	3
Post Auditions:	4
Show synopsis:.....	4
Rehearsal Calendar:	4
Performances:.....	4
Character Descriptions:	5

Notes from the Director:

Hello! I am SO EXCITED you are reading this audition packet and that Bay City Players has decided to bring back Newsies after it was unfortunately cancelled halfway through our rehearsal process in 2020 due to COVID. Newsies is one of my FAVORITE all time Broadway shows! One of the first I watched back as I was just starting community theater.

Newsies has a perception that is a “kids” show made up of mostly boys and everyone has to dance. I want auditioners to know is that this is not the cast and not MY vision. The show requires several adult roles. We had difficulty filling certain roles last time because of these misconceptions. Yes, Newsies is a dance intensive show for those cast as Newsies. Other roles, have no dancing apart from a group number at the end, so please do not let this deter your decision to audition if you are an adult who isn't a strong dancer. For the Newsies themselves, I envision a span of ages from kids to young adults of gender flexible/fluid rough-around-the-edges Newsies, so it does not have to be a specific gender. Please note, Disney does not permit gender flexible casting for certain roles. Please read the character descriptions for more information.

What is it like to work with me? I am a high-energy, fun, silly and positive reinforcement director. I have been involved in over +40 shows acting, directing, producing and playwrighting and even own my own small theater company, so I have a lot of experience to draw upon. It is my ultimate goal to put up a successful show and once I commit to a project, I am highly dedicated. As a result, I expect no less from my cast. My 2nd goal is to create a fun and positive experience. I want the cast to feel like family – loved and supported in a psychologically safe environment. I will explain in more detail at auditions of what my expectations are. If you have not worked with me before, most have indicated they enjoy the way I direct and my approach working with casts.

What do I look for in cast members? My number one factor casting is based upon soft skills before I take into account a talent and skills assessment. Soft skill things I consider: Are you easy to work with? Are you supportive of your fellow castmates? I.e. no off stage drama. Are you reliable? Do you show up on time and prepared? Do you frequently drop other shows? Do you communicate well or are you consistently giving us last minute conflicts right before rehearsal? I will always pick the person who is easy to work with and reliable, but may need more coaching more over talent if they are causing a negative environment or I cannot rely on them. Casting will reflect individuals who support my goals mentioned earlier.

Please be aware, I have invited the prior 2020 Newsies cast members to come back to re-audition. Their prior opportunity was stolen from them by a global pandemic. Any prior cast member who re-auditions will have a guaranteed spot, but it may not be the same role. Many prior cast members have moved away or had voice changes and we have to take this into consideration when casting the 2023 show.

I am so excited to get started! See you at auditions!

-Natalie Slawnyk

Core Production Team:

- Director: Natalie Slawnyk
- Producer: Greg Burke
- Assistant Director: Heather Koch
- Choreographer: Gloria Heye
- Music Director: Jim Hohmeyer

Audition Dates:

- **Tuesday, April 11th, 2023** – 6:30-9:30 pm: Auditions 16+
- **Wednesday, April 12th, 2023** – 6:30-9:30 pm: Auditions 16+
- **Saturday, April 15th, 2023** – 9:30 am-12:30 pm: Auditions <15

How to prepare/What to bring:

- Please fill out an audition form in advance and read the below:
<https://forms.gle/sEGGT03ZhUCbvo1a9>
 - It is your responsibility to check your personal calendar and submit all conflicts when submitting your audition form.
 - I will not cast anyone who has not given me a clear picture of what conflicts they have.
 - You may be replaced if I find anyone has grossly misrepresented their conflicts submitted during auditions.
- Vocal auditions: Memorize and bring up to 16 bars/measures of sheet music of any song that showcases your voice the best. *Note - The pianist will only play up to 16 measures.* Music does not need to be in the style of the show.
- Please wear comfortable clothes, appropriate footwear (if you are auditioning for a dance related role), water and a snack if needed.

How auditions will run: Upon arrival, you will be asked to signing in and be given an audition number. Then, a production team member will take your photo. Next, we will have auditionees wait in the theater until everyone has signed in. If you did not fill out an audition form in advance, you will be asked to do this, so please allow some extra time and plan accordingly. After everyone has signed in, I will kick things off with a welcome and explain how auditions will run and my expectations as a director if you are cast. We will then break up auditionees into smaller groups. Some will be asked to go into the other room to learn the dance auditions. Others will remain in the theater until they are called for their vocal audition. After these groups complete their dance and vocal audition, the smaller groups will swap. After all dance and vocal auditions are complete, everyone will be called back into the theater to do line readings. I will dismiss all auditionees after line readings are complete.

If someone is interested in being in the show, but is unable to come to the in person audition dates, it is up to the director's discretion to accept or not-accept other forms of auditions. This is not a guarantee we will accept other forms of auditions outside the normal process. Last time we had a need to accept a

very small number of virtual auditions. However, the most consideration will be given to those who attend in person auditions.

Post Auditions:

How will I be notified of casting? If cast, one of the production team will call individuals to offer roles. Until we get a hold of everyone for their acceptance, we cannot notify others of casting decisions. Auditionees not cast, will be notified via email. Please be patient. I know how it feels, so trust me, I want to notify everyone as soon as possible. If you are not cast, please know it does not mean I don't think you're talented or a reflection of your skillset. Casting is based upon perceptions. Maybe my perception as a director does not place you in this particular show, but you could be the very person I need for a different show, so please audition for me again.

Show synopsis: EXTRA! EXTRA! Stop the presses! The time is 1899 in the grungy heart of New York City. It is an exciting time to be alive with the hustle and bustle of an expanding city. People are hungry for information and the best way to get it was by reading the newspaper. The newspaper publishers relied on the Newsies or newsboys, a rag-tag group, that would purchase the "paps" from the publishers and sell and distribute them on the NYC city streets. In order to make a decent living, the Newsies would have to sell almost all of them, so life was pretty tough. However, life gets tougher once newspaper giant, Joseph Pulitzer, decides to raise the cost of papers he charges the Newsies. Do they take it lying down? No way! Not with Jack Kelly as their leader. An exhilarating show with catchy tunes that will dance its way right into your heart! Family-friendly.

Rehearsal Calendar:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/18mqRGoHPb5J_HaXyNONKJrs7UzjdGHo/edit?usp=share_link&oid=117025665568039990929&rtpof=true&sd=true

The schedule may be updated for changes based upon the director's discretion. Please note due to space conflicts that some rehearsals will occur off-site from BCP and depending on available space, the location might be in Midland.

Performances:

- Friday, July 21st, 2023, evening
- Saturday, July 22nd, 2023, evening
- Sunday, July 23rd, 2023, afternoon
- Thursday, July 27th, 2023, evening
- Friday, July 28th, 2023, evening
- Saturday, July 29th, 2023, evening
- Sunday, July 30th, 2023, afternoon

Character Descriptions:

Some roles might be doubled; *Roles where Disney allows gender flexible/fluid casting.

Newsies KIDS to YOUNG ADULTS (Ages 8-30s)

JACK KELLY – Charismatic leader of the Manhattan newsies. An orphaned dreamer and artist yearning to get out of the crowded streets of New York to make a better life for himself. Very protective to his best friend, Crutchie. Loyal and not afraid to speak his mind to get better conditions for the working kids of New York City. Jack has a softer side showing his big heart and vulnerability, especially for Katherine Plumber. Pop tenor voice and command a strong stage presence/physicality. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

CRUTCHIE* – A dedicated newsie with a bum leg, which happens to help him sell more papers. Crutchie represents a very important time in history of representing a disabled child, but he does not let this define him. The crutch he uses to get around is simply a tool to help him see the world. Crutchie is Jack's best friend and has a goofy sense of humor and optimistic resilience. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

DAVEY – New, bookish newsie. Les's straight-laced, bright big brother starts selling newspapers to help his family earn a living, but becomes swept up in the strike. Davey is a leader in his own right and learning how to use his voice to uplift others. Davey is the brains of the resistance. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

LES – Davey's fearless, cheeky younger brother. He's inspired by the freedom of the newsies and loves their independent lifestyle. Les is natural salesboy and pint-sized charmer. He is younger than the other newsies. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

Other Newsies: **RACE***, **ALBERT***, **SPECS***, **HENRY***, **FINCH***, **ROMEO***, **ELMER***, **MUSH***, **BUTTONS***, **SPLASHER***, **TOMMY BOY***, **JO JO***, **MIKE***, **IKE*** – rough-around-the-edges, full of New York personality and mischievous at times, but hard-workers who go on strike for a living wage.

SCABS* (3) – Newsies who are hesitant to join the strike. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters. Cast from above other Newsies roles.

SPOT CONLON* – Proud leader for the Brooklyn newsies and boasts of an intimidating reputation. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

KATHERINE PLUMBER – An ambitious young reporter trying to make a name for herself as a legitimate journalist (women were not taken as seriously during this time). Quick, funny, scatterbrained, resourceful, brilliant and embraces and captures a new generation rising by covering the newsies strike. She doesn't make time for streetwise, cocky men, but has a soft spot for Jack Kelly. Contemporary pop voice with a high belt.

DARCY* – Is an upper-class son of a publisher who sides with the newsies. Can double as a newsie.

BILL – Son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the newsies cause. Can double as a newsie.

PHOTOGRAPHER* – Takes the triumphant photo of the newsies at the end of Seize the Day. Can double as a newsie.

NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTORS & HEAVIES

WIESEL (WEASEL) – runs the World's distribution window and knows most the newies by name. Assisted by the intimidating Delancey brothers, who keep order by any means necessary. Wiesel is Pulitzer's disgruntled paper pusher.

MORRIS & OSCAR DELANCEY – Tough guys who work at the World's distribution window and take the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point.

GOONS – Assist Delancey's in roughing up the newsies. Can double as a newsies.

PULITZER & HIS STAFF

JOSEPH PULITZER – A serious businessman and publisher of the World. He is focused on profits and the bottom line with whatever it takes to get there. Katherine's no-nonsense father does not sympathize with the stikers, but does eventually and grudgingly – respects Jack in the end.

SEITZ* – Pulitzer's editor and adviser, but ultimately admires the kid's newspaper.

BUNSEN* – Pulitzer's bookkeeper comes up with the idea to raise the newsies' price per paper.

HANNAH – Pulitzer's practical and insightful secretary.

NUNZIO – Pulitzer's barber.

GUARD – Removes the newsies from Pulitzer's building.

MEDDA & THEATER EMPLOYEES

MEDDA LARKIN (Any age over 30) – A true madame and buxom beauty theater owner. Medda sparkles and shines through her personality. Inspired by Aida Overton Walker, a big, voiced salon singer and vaudeville star of the Bowery. She offers a safe haven for the newsies. An astute entertainer with great comic delivery. She is a good friend to Jack and stands firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice. Seeking an actress full of personality and can command the stage.

BOWERY BEAUTIES – Female showgirls at Medda's theater. Can double as a newsies.

STAGE MANAGER*

OTHER ROLES – below roles may be combined/doubled with other roles.

NUNS (3) – Offer breakfast to hungry newsies.

WOMAN – Newspaper customer

MR. JACOBI* – owner of Jacobi’s deli and allows newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike – when he doesn’t have any paying customers.

SNYDER* – Crooked and sinister warden of The Refuge, a filthy and horrible orphanage only concerned with catching kids to keep his government checks coming.

POLICEMAN – Assists Snyder and turn against the newsies.

MAYOR – NYC Mayor rebuffs Pulitzer’s attempts to shut down the newsies’ strike.

GOVERNOR TEDDY ROOSEVELT – Well respected lifelong public servant and inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

Tickets available at www.baycityplayers.org or by calling the box office (M, W, F 10:00 AM-2:00PM) at 989-893-5555. “Newsies” is presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

Required Paperwork

If cast or participating as part of the production team, you or a parent/guardian will be required to complete the following during the first read:

- [Code of Conduct for Volunteers and Paid Staff Working with Children](#)
 - [Performance Agreement](#)
 - [Sex Harassment Policy](#)
 - DEI Acknowledgement (Listed Below)
 - Participants over 18 years of age:
 - [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Central Registry Clearance for Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
 - [Sex Offender Registry clearance](#)
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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vision Statement

The theatre has long been a haven for self-expression and restoration of the spirit. However, we recognize there is great inequity in our world. We embrace the opportunity to learn from the worldwide call for allyship with respect to the voices of all marginalized people. We understand that impactful and long-lasting change takes time and a shared commitment. Bay City Players is dedicated to authentic Diversity, Inclusion and Equity across all spectrums and will continue to seek innovative ways to achieve this.

Makeup Policy

Bay City Players has implemented a new Makeup Policy for the safety of cast members. Each cast member is asked to purchase their own Ben Nye makeup kit to keep with intent to reduce the spread of germs resulting from sharing makeup. Cast members do not have to purchase a kit if they have a Ben Nye kit from a previous show. The kit cost approximately \$17-24 per kit. Kits last approximately two years if taken care of properly and Ben Nye has colors for EVERY skin tone. Should you not be able to cover the cost of your kit, scholarships are available and kept.

COVID-19

Face coverings are currently optional but may become required if there is an uptick of cases. We hope to continue to resume normal production activities, but we cannot guarantee that a show will be fully produced. If the CDC or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services posts new advisories or recommendations, we will follow them and continue to act on the side of health and safety for our volunteers and staff. If changes or adjustments are made along the way, you can trust that you will be notified immediately.