

Blue Light Players Audition Packet



Disney's Newsies, based on the 1992 motion picture, features a score by eight-time Academy Award® winner Alan Menken (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Sister Act*) and Jack Feldman and a book by four-time Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein (*La Cage aux Folles*, *Torch Song Trilogy*). While on Broadway, Newsies received 23 major theatrical nominations – including eight Tony Award nods – and won Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Score and Choreography.

Set in New York City at the turn of the century, Newsies is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a ragged band of teenaged “newsies” who dreams only of a better life far from the hardship of the streets. But when publishing titans Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst raise distribution prices at the newsboys’ expense, Jack finds a cause to fight for and rallies newsies from across the city to strike for what’s right.

Newsies is inspired by the real-life “Newsboy Strike of 1899,” when newsboy Kid Blink led a band of orphan and runaway newsies on a two-week-long action against Pulitzer, Hearst and other powerful newspaper publishers.

Timely and fresh, the fictionalized adaptation of Newsies addresses age-old themes of social injustice, exploitative labor practices and David-versus-Goliath struggles as the young learn to harness their power against a corrupt establishment.

ADULT AUDITION DATES (Ages 14 +)

August 19th and August 20th

6:00pm-7:00pm	Dance audition. Come prepared to dance, bring tap shoes, in addition to jazz shoes if you have them.
7:00pm-9:00pm	Vocal and reading auditions (requirements for each role are listed in packet)

Please plan to arrive at 6pm, and stay until dismissed.

YOUTH AUDITION DATE (Ages 8-13)

August 19th Only

3:00pm-5:00pm	Vocal/Dance audition. Come prepared to dance, bring tap shoes, in addition to jazz shoes if you have them.
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Please plan to arrive at 3pm, and stay until dismissed.

Audition Location: 4538 Elizabeth Rd, Lansing, MI 48917

NOTES ABOUT CASTING

- The role of Katherine have been precast.
- This is an Adult cast production. We will be casting a small ensemble of youth aged Newsies who will appear in a limited number of scenes.
- There is one role (Les) for a 10 year old boy. This role will be double-cast, and we will consider casting a female in the role. Youth auditioning for this role should attend the Youth Auditions. Any youth selected as a candidate for the role of Les will be asked to attend the Adult Auditions as well.
- We will be casting a core group of technical dancers. Anyone who wishes to audition strictly as a dancer may let us know at the auditions.
- There are many adult roles (non-Newsies) which do NOT require singing. We welcome non-singers to audition for these roles.

PREPARING FOR AUDITIONS AND WHAT TO EXPECT AT AUDITIONS

Audition Form: Download the audition form and bring a completed copy to the audition. If you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign your completed audition form. Make sure you answer all questions.

Release Form: Download and bring completed copy to the audition. If you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign your completed Release Form.

Photo: If you have a recent photo or headshot, please attach it to your audition form. Professional photos are not required. If you do not have a photo, we will take a photo when you check-in for the auditions.

Conflicts: Please circle all conflicts on the attached rehearsal schedule. We are able to plan around some conflicts. However, depending on the number of conflicts and when they occur, those conflicts may prevent casting in some roles, and possibly the production. We CANNOT plan around conflicts which are NOT listed at the time of auditions.

Music: Practice the music selection associated with the role(s) for which you are auditioning. An accompanist will be provided. No acapella singing will be allowed.

Sides: Read the posted sides and be prepared to read with other actors.

Dance: Please bring the following shoes, if you own them: jazz or ballet shoes, and tap shoes. If you do not own dance shoes, please wear a pair of athletic shoes. We do NOT allow bare feet, slip-on shoes or sock feet in the dance room at any time.

Audition Rooms: The audition rooms are closed to spectators. Only people auditioning for the show will be allowed in the audition rooms.

Vocal and Reading Auditions: Will take place in front of a panel who will be seated at a table. The panel will consist of various members of the production team, including: director, music director, and choreographer.

Things to Remember While You are Auditioning:

- We want you to succeed, so relax and have fun.
- You are “auditioning” from the moment you walk into the building, until the minute you leave.
- If you make a mistake, don’t worry. Everyone makes mistakes. What’s more important, is how you handle the mistake.

CAST MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

Rehearsal Schedule: We expect cast members to be on time for all of their scheduled rehearsal times. Being on time means being in the rehearsal room, ready to go, at the start time. It does not mean walking into the building at the start time.

Late Arrivals/Missed Rehearsals: Will be grounds for dismissal from the cast. We need everyone in attendance in order for the show to stay on schedule and be a success. We understand that emergencies may arise, and we will work with cast members on an individual basis when these situations occur. However, cast members are expected to honor their commitment to the rehearsal schedule once cast in the production.

Dance Shoes: All cast members will be required to wear dance shoes in the production. The style of shoe will be determined by the role in which you are cast. You will be expected to purchase the required shoes to wear in rehearsals, and during the performance.

CAST MEMBER EXPECTATIONS *(continued)*

Costuming: Cast members will be expected to provide some minimal costuming pieces which are more personalized in nature, such as: tights, socks, undergarments, etc. However, the majority of the costuming will be provided by the production.

Undergarments: Dance belts are required for all males dancing in the production. A supportive bra/sports bra is required of all females in the production. Youth cast members will be expected to wear a nude colored camisole, and bike shorts under their costumes.

Rehearsal Attire: Cast members will be expected to wear dance style attire to all rehearsals. Males may wear athletic pants, and t-shirts or tank tops. Females may wear yoga pants, jazz pants, t-shirts/tank tops, leotards, tights, bike shorts, etc. We need to be able to see your body, and you need to be able to move freely. Dance shoes must be worn at all times in the dance room. Bare feet, sock feet, and slip-on/flip-flop style street shoes are not allowed at any time.

Script/Score: Cast members will be provided with an electronic copy of the both the script and score. Cast members will be expected to print the entire script and bring it in a binder to each rehearsal. Cast members do not need to print the entire score. They may print only the songs in which they perform. All cast members need printed copies of the materials.

Volunteer Hours: Cast members, and parents of youth cast members, are required to volunteer 6 hours of their time in working on production related tasks, such as: costuming, set construction, props, etc. We need everyone's help to make this production a success.

Parents: In addition to volunteer hours, we will need a Parent Monitor present at every rehearsal attended by youth cast members. The Parent Monitor's role is to sit in the hallway and be available to any youth cast member who may need to step out of the rehearsal room. The Parent Monitor will be responsible for any youth who are not in the rehearsal room.

Snack/Water Donation: Each cast members is required to donate a box of 24 fruit snacks, and a box of 18 granola bars at the first rehearsal. These fruit snacks and granola bars will be used to provide snacks at each rehearsal. After January 1st, each cast member is required to donate 1 case of 24 water bottles for cast member us backstage at the theater, and for the concession stand.

ROLES AVAILABLE IN NEWSIES

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 strongly loyal, Jack isn't 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.

Gender: Male

Age: 18-25 (may be older, and look this age)

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Audition Songs: “Santa Fe”

Scene Readings: pp. 1 – 3, pp. 29 – 31, pp. 33 - 40 (Group Reading with Newsies)

Crutchie: A dedicated newsie with a bum leg that's painful, but helps sell more papers. Though he walks with the assistance of a crutch, Crutchie doesn't 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.

Gender: Male

Age: 18-25 (may be older, and look this age)

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: C3

Audition Songs: “Letter from the Refuge”

Scene Readings: pp. 1 - 3

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, Davey is the brains of the resistance.

Gender: Male

Age: 16-20

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: D3

Audition Songs: “Seize the Day”

Scene Readings: pp. 33 – 40

Les: 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.

We will be casting 2 actors in this role. Each actor will appear in 3 of the performances.

Gender: Male (may cast a female, but play role as male)

Age: 8-12

Vocal range top: Bb3

Vocal range bottom: Db3

Audition Songs: “Carrying the Banner”

Scene Reading: pp. 15 – 17

ROLES AVAILABLE IN NEWSIES *(continued)*

Newsies: 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.

Gender: Both

Newsies Age: 14 to 25 (must look this age)

Audition Songs: “Seize the Day”

Scene Readings: pp. 33 - 40

Junior Newsies: A group of younger Newsies who dance and sing alongside the older Newsies as a Junior Newsie ensemble. We will be casting a small ensemble of Junior Newsies who will be split into 2 performance groups, with each group appearing in 3 performances. It is possible a Junior Newsie may be asked to appear in all 6 performances depending upon level of dance skill.

Gender: Both

Age: 8-13

Audition Songs: “Seize the Day”

Scene Readings: pp. 33 - 40

Spot Conlon: The proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation and a short singing solo in “Brooklyn’s Here.”

Gender: Both

Age: 16-25

Audition Songs: “Brooklyn’s Here”

Scene Reading: pp. 102 - 106

Katherine Plumber (*This role has been precast*): 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.

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.

Gender: Male

Age: 40-55

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: C3

Audition Songs: “Bottom Line”

Scene Readings: pp. 102-106

Medda Larkin: 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.

Gender: Female

Age: 35-55

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: F3

Audition Songs: “That’s Rich”

Scene Readings: pp. 25 – 27

ROLES AVAILABLE IN NEWSIES *(continued)*

OTHER Adult roles:

Wiesel - 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. May double as Newsie.

Gender: Male

Oscar and Morris Delancey: 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. May double as Newsies.

Gender: Male

Goons: Assist the Delanceys in roughing up the newsies at the end of Act One. May double as Newsies

Gender: Male

Bunsen: Pulitzer’s bookkeeper, comes up with the ideas to raise the newsies’ price per paper.

Gender: Both

Hannah: Pulitzer’s practical and insightful secretary.

Gender: Female

Nunzio: Pulitzer’s barber.

Gender: Male

Snyder: 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.

Gender: Both

The Bowery Beauties: Female performers at Medda’s Theater. Singers and Dancers.

Gender: Female

Nuns: The three nuns offer breakfast to the hungry newsies. Feel free to cast additional nuns.

Gender: Female

Mr. Jacobi: Allows the newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike – when he doesn’t have any paying customers, that is.

Gender: Both

Mayor: The Mayor of New York City rebuffs Pulitzer’s attempts to shut down the newsies’ strike.

Gender: Male

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

Gender: Male

Darcy: The upper-class kid of a publisher who sides with the newsies. Can double as a newsie.

Gender: Both

Bill: The son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the newsies’ cause. Can double as a newsie.

Gender: Male

Other Roles

Woman, Photographer, Stage Manager, Guard, Bunsen, Policeman, etc.

Audition Song for All Other Roles: “Seize the Day”

Scene Readings: p. 102-106, p. 33-40

NEWSIES - GENERAL REHEARSAL SCHEDULE/CONFLICT SHEET

The following are the dates/times for Newsies rehearsals. A more detailed schedule will be provided in the first weeks of rehearsals. Cast members may not be called for the entire rehearsal time each Sunday.

Please **CIRCLE** any date you will NOT be available for a rehearsal. Also, if you will be late or leave early on any rehearsal date, please note that information as well.

We make an effort to accommodate schedule conflicts which are noted at auditions. However, we cannot work around conflicts which are not specified at the time of auditions. Please understand, that too many conflicts and/or conflicts on consecutive weeks may prevent casting in certain roles.

GENERAL REHEARSAL DATES: 4-9pm, Delta Enrichment Center

September	23 rd 30 th
October	7 th 14 th 21 st 28 th
November	4 th 11 th 18 th 25 th
December	2 nd 9 th 16 th 30 th
January	6 th 13 th *20 th *27 th
February	*3 rd *10 th *17 th
* MANDATORY DATES, no conflicts allowed	

SPECIAL REHEARSALS: Additional rehearsal times may be scheduled mid-week or on Saturdays, as needed, for Newsies dance rehearsals.

TECH/DRESS REHEARSAL DATES/TIMES: Hannah Center Auditorium, East Lansing Tech week begins on February 18th, with rehearsals occurring on weeknights and weekends, as needed. A specific schedule will be provided at a later date. Cast members are expected to keep their calendars clear for rehearsals between February 18th and the performances. There will also be a mid-week touch up rehearsal between the 2 weekends of performances.

PERFORMANCE DATES: 4-9pm, Hannah Community Center

March 1-2	5pm call time for cast members, 7pm performance
March 3	2pm call time for cast members, 4pm performance
March 8-9	5pm call time for cast members, 7pm performance
March 10	2pm call time for cast members, 4pm performance

NOTE FOR PARENTS: Please understand that rehearsals during Tech/Dress and Performance Weeks will run until a late hour on school nights. We do not run past 10pm. However, child cast members may NOT be excused early from these rehearsals.

Audition Date: _____

ACTOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____ Age Range: _____

Vocal Range

Soprano Mezzo Alto Tenor Baritone Bass

Can you read music? Yes No

Are you willing to cut or color your hair? Yes No

AUDITION INFORMATION

Roles auditioning for: _____

Will you accept a different role, including ensemble? Yes No

PAST PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

(attach resume, if available)

Show	Role	Location/Group	Year

DANCE TRAINING

(please list styles)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

PARENT SIGNATURE

(if under age 18)
