

# INFORMATION PACKET

We are so happy that you are interested in this year's **GJHP Musical: Newsies**, directed and choreographed by Samara Harand. In this packet you will find information about the program, including important dates, information about auditions, attendance policies, and more about the show itself (including a character list and synopsis).

**The GJHP Musical is a NO-CUT program and is open to all Glencoe students in 6th-8th Grade!** This is one of the largest productions in the area with a professional team, large set, awesome lights & sound, and live band! Students must register before auditions (Deadline: December 8).

The **\$700 registration fee** includes participation in all rehearsals and performances PLUS:

- cast welcome party
- costumes (except basic items)
- ticket to *Brigadoon* at New Trier HS
- dinner at dress rehearsals
- official show t-shirt
- another show/event TBA!

Scholarships are available for eligible students. To request a scholarship email [contact@gjhp.org](mailto:contact@gjhp.org).

A **Free Informational Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, November 20 at 7pm in Misner Auditorium. This meeting is intended for those new to the program or who have questions. Registration (and payment) for *Newsies* is not required to attend the meeting, but please **sign-up** in advance so we can get a headcount for copies and seating.

If you have additional questions, your student wants to do the show and Basketball or Volleyball, is interested in being a featured dancer/tumbler with limited rehearsal availability, or there is anything else you would like addressed before, during, or after the meeting, please email Samara at [samara@gjhp.org](mailto:samara@gjhp.org). To register for the program, visit [gjhp.org/newsies](http://gjhp.org/newsies).

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*GJHP's production of Newsies will be presented through arrangement with Music Theatre International..*

# IMPORTANT DATES

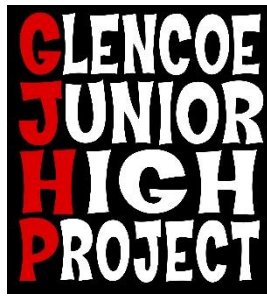
Cast Registration is open at [gjhp.org/newsies](http://gjhp.org/newsies)! Students must register by December 8 at 5pm.

- Info Meeting:** Wednesday, November 20, 7-8pm in Misner Auditorium (Optional – [Sign Up](#))
- Audition Sign-Up:** Begins Thursday, November 21 at 5pm  
Registered students will be sent an email to access materials & pick their audition time.
- Workshop:** Wednesday, December 4, 3:30pm-5:45pm (Recommended)  
We will teach everything for auditions. Attendance is not mandatory, but highly recommended!
- Auditions:** Monday, December 9, 3:30pm-5pm OR 4:30pm-6pm OR  
Tuesday, December 10, 3:30pm-5pm OR 4:30pm-6pm  
You will sign up for ONE of the 4 audition day/times only.
- Callbacks:** Thursday, December 12 & Friday, December 13, 3:30pm-7pm  
We may add another callback day on Monday, December 16 (TBD).  
Not everyone will receive a callback or need to attend all days or stay the entire time.
- Casting:** The Cast List will be posted online on Friday, December 20 at 5pm
- First Rehearsal & Welcome Party:** Monday, January 6, 3:30pm-7pm (Ending Time TBD)
- Parent Meeting:** Wednesday, January 8, 7pm-8pm  
We will go through the rehearsal calendar, parent responsibilities and answer questions.
- Rehearsals:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm-5:45pm  
You may not be called every day or for the entire time. Follow the calendar distributed in January.
- Set Carry-Up\*:** Thursday, March 20, 6pm-8pm

**The Mandatory Final Rehearsal Period Starts on April 5, 2025! The Tech/Dress Schedule is very complicated this year due to the Passover & Easter holidays, please be flexible and keep Saturday, April 19 and Monday, April 21 open for Mandatory Tech/Dress Rehearsals!**

- Extended Rehearsals:** Monday, March 31, 3:30pm-6:15pm  
Wednesday, April 2, 3:30pm-6:15pm  
Thursday, April 3, 3:30pm-6:15pm
- Costume Parade:** Saturday, April 5, 10am-2pm
- Final Run Thrus:** Monday, April 7, 3:30pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday, April 9, 3:30pm-6:30pm  
Thursday, April 10, 3:30pm-6:30pm  
Monday, April 14, 3:30pm-6:30pm  
Tuesday, April 15 OR Wednesday, April 16, 3:30pm-6:30pm (Date TBD)
- Tech/Dress Rehearsals:** Thursday, April 17, 3:30pm-6:30pm (Time TBD)  
Saturday, April 19, 10am-5pm (Time TBD)  
Monday, April 21, 10am-8pm (Time TBD) Food Will Be Provided)  
Tuesday, April 22, 3:30pm-8pm (Food Will Be Provided)  
Wednesday, April 23, 3:30pm-8pm (Food Will Be Provided)
- Performances:** Thursday, April 24 at 7pm (Cast Call at 5pm)  
Friday, April 25 at 7pm (Cast Call at 5pm)  
Saturday, April 26 at 3pm (Cast Call at 1pm)  
Sunday, April 27 at 1pm (Cast Call at 11am)
- Strike, Set Carry-Down\*:** Monday, April 28, 3:30pm-6pm (Time TBD)
- Costumes & Clean-Up\*:** Tuesday, April 29, 3:30pm-8pm (Time TBD)

*\*IMPORTANT: ALL Cast & Crew Members AND Family Volunteers will be required to assist with at least one of the following: Carry-Up, Strike, Carry-Down or Costume Clean-Up. Stay tuned for details and to sign-up!*



## **AUDITION & CASTING INFORMATION**

The GJHP Musical is a **NO-CUT** program for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. All who audition will be cast in the show!

You must **REGISTER (and pay)** in order to receive the audition packet, private webpage access, and choose your **Audition timeslot**. If you would like to request a scholarship, email [contact@gjhp.org](mailto:contact@gjhp.org).

An email with instructions for how to access the **AUDITION MATERIALS AND TIMESLOT SIGN-UP** will be sent to registered families on **Thursday, November 21 at 5pm** – so all registered students have the same amount of time with the materials and chance to get their preferred audition timeslot. Those who register after that date/time will receive access instructions in an autoreply.

An **AUDITION WORKSHOP** will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 3:30pm-5:45pm in Misner Auditorium. The workshop is optional but highly recommended as we will be reviewing all materials and teaching the songs and the dance combination for the audition!

**AUDITIONS** will be held on Monday, December 9 and Tuesday, December 10, 3:30pm-5pm and 4:30pm-6pm in Misner Auditorium. Don't forget to sign-up for an audition time (starting Nov 21 at 5pm).

Auditions will consist of the following:

- **TWO Monologues** from the audition packet. Monologues **DO NOT** need to be memorized.
- **TWO Songs** – All song options will be taught at the Audition Workshop. Students should pick the songs that best showcase their voice and the type of role they may be interested in.
- **Dance Combination performed in small groups**  
This will be taught at the Audition Workshop. A video will also be posted online after.
- **EVERYONE** must act, sing & dance at auditions – even if they want a non-speaking/singing role.

All participants must turn in the following hardcopy forms at their audition (from the audition packet):

- **Audition Form** (with information about the performer used for casting)
- **Conflict Sheet** (detailing the student's conflicts for January 6-April 29, 2025)
- **Cast Contract** (signed by the student and a parent/guardian acknowledging expectations)
- **Contact & Costume Sheet** (listing important contacts as well as sizing for costumes)
- It is very important to be thorough & honest when completing all forms! They are used to create the schedule and could impact casting. Students must arrive on time with all paperwork ready!

**CALLBACKS** will be held on **Thursday, December 12 and Friday, December 13, 3:30pm-7pm. We may add an additional day on Monday, December 16 if needed.** The Callback List will be posted online by Wednesday, December 11 at Noon. Not everyone will receive a callback or will need to attend all callback days or stay the entire time. Students should be prepared to sing, act and dance again and be ready to submit a video if necessary or requested.

**IMPORTANT:** Do not worry if the student does not get a callback. Everyone will be in the show, we just already know where to place them. Students may be cast in a lead role without a callback!

**The CAST LIST will be posted online Friday, December 20 at 5pm.** Some roles will be double cast with specific dates & counterparts to be determined later! Everyone will appear in all four shows!

**REFUND TERMS:** If you decline your role and drop out of the show before January 1, you will receive a full refund but be charged a \$25 cancellation fee. If you drop after January 1, your refund will be prorated and you will be charged a \$25 cancellation fee. There will be no refunds after March 1.

# **\*\*Audition Form EXAMPLE\*\***

## **(From Legally Blonde Packet)**

**YOU MUST REGISTER TO GET THE NEWSIES AUDITION MATERIALS  
SO EVERYONE WHO ENROLLS HAS THE SAME TIME WITH SONGS ETC.!**

**GJHP WILL  
ATTACH  
PHOTO HERE**

*(if you would also like  
to include a resume  
and/or headshot  
please attach  
separately)*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER/PRONOUNS: \_\_\_\_\_ AUD #: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Leave blank!*

### **MONOLOGUE SELECTIONS (CIRCLE ANY 2):**

ELLE	PAULETTE	VIVIENNE	BROOKE	DELTA NU
EMMETT	WARNER	CALLAHAN	KYLE	HARVARD STUDENT

### **SONG SELECTIONS (CHOOSE ANY 2):**

_____ BLOOD IN THE WATER (CALLAHAN)	_____ CHIP ON MY SHOULDER (EMMETT)
_____ IRELAND REPRISE (PAULETTE)	_____ LEGALLY BLONDE REMIX (VIVIENNE)
_____ OMIGOD YOU GUYS (DELTA NU)	_____ SERIOUS (WARNER)
_____ SO MUCH BETTER (ELLE)	_____ WHIPPED INTO SHAPE (BROOKE)

**TOP 3 ROLES OF INTEREST AND WHY** (This is for our reference only and may not impact our casting decisions. You may list specific characters, songs or type of role - comedic, dramatic, with/without a solo, ensemble role, etc.)

#1: \_\_\_\_\_

#2: \_\_\_\_\_

#3: \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU COMFORTABLE PORTRAYING A ROLE OF ANY GENDER?** (Be specific about what type of role & your comfort level. Example: Ensemble, Comedic vs. Dramatic vs. Romantic etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ANY OTHER ROLES OR SONGS YOU WOULD NOT BE COMFORTABLE PERFORMING (explain)?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RATE YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE BELOW AREAS (MARK WITH "X" & ELABORATE IF YOU WANT!):**

	NOT CONFIDENT	SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT	CONFIDENT	VERY CONFIDENT
SINGING				
DANCING				
ACTING				
JUMP ROPE				

**VOCAL PART & RANGE (IF KNOWN):** \_\_\_\_\_

**PERFORMING, VOCAL/CHORUS OR DANCE EXPERIENCE (please include any relevant experience reading music, singing harmony, learning lines, choreography etc.):**

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**PAST PERFORMANCE CREDITS (OPTIONAL – YOU MAY ALSO ATTACH A RESUME):**

SHOW	ROLE	THEATER/PROGRAM	DATE

**HOW ARE YOUR JUMP ROPE SKILLS? ANY SPECIAL TRICKS?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**OTHER RELEVANT OR FUN SPECIAL SKILLS (tumbling, cheer/jumps, rap, instruments, etc.):**

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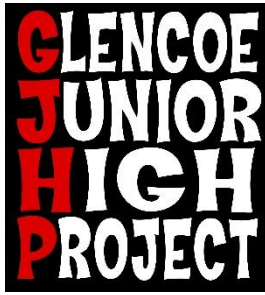
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**ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR DIRECTORS TO KNOW?:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION & CONFLICT SHEET (PRELIMINARY!)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsals are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30pm to 5:45pm. Rehearsals will go later in April (until 6:15pm or 6:30pm), with additional days and times for Tech & Dress Rehearsals. A full schedule covering the duration of the program will be distributed the first week of rehearsals. A preliminary calendar is on the back of this sheet with space to input your conflicts.

The final rehearsal schedule will include dates and times when specific characters, scenes, songs or dances are called and will be based off your conflict sheets and the needs of the show. You may not be called every day or for the entire time! The schedule will vary from week to week depending on what is being worked on. Some weeks you may be called for fewer days than others, with all being called for more rehearsals in the weeks leading up to performances.

**Please list all conflicts for January 6 – April 29, 2025 on the back of this sheet.** In addition to recurring conflicts that occur every week, please include one-time conflicts such as vacations, doctor appointments, etc. that cannot be changed. All conflicts must be recorded on this form prior to auditioning to be considered excused. So please check your calendars!

We will do our best to work around one pre-approved, once-a-week, standing conflict. **This is more difficult for lead roles and your availability may be taken under consideration when casting.** Due to our tight rehearsal schedule, we cannot cast students who have more than once-a-week conflicts. NOTE: We can work around the Basketball schedule (since it only overlaps in January) and Boys Volleyball for some roles. We can also accommodate Featured Dancers/Tumblers with limited rehearsal availability! Please note all those commitments on the next page! You MUST notify Samara AND include on the conflict sheet if the student plans to try out for the Volleyball team!

**The Mandatory Final Rehearsal Period Starts on April 5, 2025! The Tech/Dress Schedule is very complicated this year due to the Passover & Easter Holidays, please be flexible and keep Saturday, April 19 and Monday, April 21 open for Mandatory Tech/Dress Rehearsals!**

Absences beyond what is noted on this form will be considered unexcused. **Three unexcused absences may result in the loss or reduction of a role.** Illness & emergencies will be excused, If the student must miss an additional rehearsal email [samara@gjhp.org](mailto:samara@gjhp.org) and [bjaffe911@yahoo.com](mailto:bjaffe911@yahoo.com) asap.

**Academic & School Attendance Policy:** Per Central School policy, to be eligible to participate in Newsies (attend auditions, rehearsals, performances, or other program activities) students must be passing all classes with a C or better, attend a full day of school and participate in all classes. Special cases subject to review. (Example: An exception due to an appointment approved by the school.)

### **PLEASE LIST ALL CONFLICTS ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET!**

**We use this during casting and to create the rehearsal schedule. Be thorough!**

**Review the preliminary calendar (on reverse). Some rehearsals are required.**

**Due to the accelerated schedule and holidays, NO CONFLICTS allowed after April 7, 2025!**

**\*Note that rehearsals go later in April and we will be adding some Weekends and Tuesdays.**

**Contact [samara@gjhp.org](mailto:samara@gjhp.org) with questions!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**JANUARY 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	FIRST REHEARSAL AND PARTY 3:30-7pm		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45 PARENT MEETING 7-8pm	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	MLK DAY NO REHEARSAL		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		
26	27	28	29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1
	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		

**FEBRUARY 2025**

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	NO SCHOOL	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		
23	24	25	26	27	Feb 28	Mar 1
	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		

**MARCH 2025**

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	GROUP TRIP TO BRIGADOON AT NEW TRIER	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45		REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45	REHEARSAL 3:30-5:45 CARRY-UP 6-8		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	SPRING BREAK NO REHEARSAL	SPRING BREAK NO REHEARSAL	SPRING BREAK NO REHEARSAL	SPRING BREAK NO REHEARSAL	SPRING BREAK NO REHEARSAL	

**APRIL 2025**

THE HOME STRETCH! FINAL RUN THRU, TECH AND DRESS REHEARSALS						
PLEASE NOTE: The Mandatory Final Rehearsal Period Starts on April 5, 2025!						
The Tech/Dress Schedule is very complicated this year due to the Passover & Easter holidays, please be flexible and keep Saturday, April 19 and Monday, April 21 open for Mandatory Tech!						
Mar 30	31-Mar	1	2	3	4	5
	REHEARSAL OFF BOOK 3:30-6:15		REHEARSAL OFF BOOK 3:30-6:15	REHEARSAL OFF BOOK 3:30-6:15		COSTUME PARADE & REHEARSAL 10am-2pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	RUN-THRU 3:30-6:30		RUN-THRU 3:30-6:30	RUN-THRU 3:30-6:30		FIRST NIGHT PASSOVER
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
SECOND NIGHT PASSOVER	RUN-THRU 3:30-6:30	RUN-THRU or TECH LOAD-IN TBD	RUN-THRU or TECH LOAD-IN TBD	POSSIBLE TECH REHEARSAL TIME TBA	GOOD FRIDAY NO SCHOOL	POSSIBLE TECH REHEARSAL TIME TBA
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
EASTER SUNDAY NO SCHOOL	DRESS / TECH REHEARSAL TIME TBA	DRESS / TECH REHEARSAL 3:30pm-8pm	DRESS / TECH REHEARSAL 3:30pm-8pm	PERFORMANCE 5pm: Cast Call 7pm: Show	PERFORMANCE 5pm: Cast Call 7pm: Show	PERFORMANCE 1pm: Cast Call 3pm: Show
27	28	29	29			
PERFORMANCE 11am: Cast Call 1pm: Show	STRIKE & CARRY DOWN 3:30PM - 6PM	COSTUME CLEAN-UP 3:30PM - 8PM		CAST & CREW PARTY DATE TBA		

**CONFLICTS**

**RECURRING CONFLICTS**

sports, clubs, standing appointments, etc.)

Include times so we may know if it's possible to call you for a partial rehearsal. Example: Tennis at 5pm but can rehearse until 4:40pm

**Mondays:**

**Wednesdays:**

**Thursdays:**

**ONE-TIME CONFLICTS**

(vacations / appointments):

**Is the student involved in other time-intensive programs?**

(Basketball, Volleyball, Dance, Broadway Bound etc.)

## NEWSIES CAST CONTRACT (PRELIMINARY)

This Contract details expectations and must be read by the student and at least one parent or guardian! Please initial each statement and sign at the bottom to confirm. This form must be turned in at auditions.

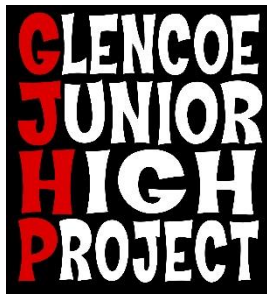
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student will have a positive attitude and be respectful of all students and adults participating in *Newsies*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student will demonstrate appropriate rehearsal behavior which includes no cell phones out during rehearsals and arriving on time with all materials and proper footwear.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsals are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 3:30pm-5:45pm with additional days/times for tech and dress rehearsals leading up to performances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsals in April may run later with make-up days as necessary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled tech & dress rehearsals and performances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A full rehearsal schedule will be distributed on January 6. You may not be needed every day or for the entire time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ In order to be eligible to participate in *Newsies* (attend auditions, rehearsals, performances, or other program-related activities), the student must be passing all my classes with a C or better, attend a complete day of school (8:20am-3:24pm) and participate in all classes. (Special cases are subject to individual review. Example: An exception may be made due to an appointment previously approved by the school.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Students are allowed one recurring weekly conflict, however, recurring AND one-time conflicts must be listed on the conflict form in order to be excused. These include one-time dates (Examples: Dr. appt, trip) in addition to conflicts that occur every week.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conflicts should be avoided during the final month of the program (after Spring Break) and will not be allowed during Tech or Dress Rehearsals or Performances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student will not attend rehearsals if ill and will notify the Director as soon as possible.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Three unexcused absences could result in the loss or reduction of role, regardless of size. Excused absences include those listed on the conflict sheet, illness, or family emergencies. Unexcused absences include missing rehearsal, arriving late or leaving early.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student will follow all health protocols put in place by District 35 and GJHP and understands that if they continue to intentionally break these protocols, they may be asked to leave the program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If the student has been exposed to COVID-19, or is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms, they must mask at rehearsal and/or stay home until they are verified negative.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parent and student acknowledges the rehearsal time and commitment required for this production and will consistently read emails and review important materials.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parent understands that they (or members of their family) will serve as a participating member of a volunteer committee. We understand that the success of this production depends on the participation from cast members and adult volunteers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Most importantly, this is an ensemble of like-minded performers, tech and production staff. We work together as a family. Student understands that all conflicts will be resolved without the use of degrading language, violence, or hurtful behavior.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from show.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_





## **ABOUT NEWSIES**

**Stop the presses! Don't miss your chance to make headlines in the biggest show of the year!**

Inspired by the real-life Newsboys' Strike of 1899 in New York City, NEWSIES tells the rousing story of the newsboys (and newsgirls!) who stand up against powerful publishers to demand fair treatment. The charismatic but rebellious Jack Kelly rallies young people from across the city to strike against unfair working conditions and demand change "Once and For All." Filled with catchy songs and exciting dances, NEWSIES explores themes of friendship, solidarity and the power of the press, in a relatable tale of the underdog standing up for what is right.

Based on the 1992 movie starring Christian Bale, NEWSIES features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken (*Little Shop of Horrors*, *Sister Act*) and Jack Feldman, and a book by Tony winner Harvey Fierstein (*Kinky Boots*). Featuring the now classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "Santa Fe," NEWSIES is packed with non-stop thrills and a timeless message perfect for the whole family!

NEWSIES features a huge cast with a lot of featured roles for actors, singers, dancers, tappers, tumblers and new performers! All Glencoe 6th-8th graders are encouraged to audition!

Want to see more? A professionally filmed production of NEWSIES - featuring some of the original Broadway cast - is now streaming on Disney+ (and is also available to buy or rent on Amazon Prime and YouTube). Also check out the original 1992 movie starring Christian Bale!

## **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

*This isn't a full or final list of who will be in each number.*

- Santa Fe (Prologue) – Jack, Crutchie**
- Carrying the Banner – Jack, Newsies, Various Ensemble**
- The Bottom Line – Pulitzer, Hannah, Seitz, Bunsen**
- Carrying the Banner (Reprise) – Newsies**
- That's Rich – Medda Larkin, Bowery Beauties**
- I Never Planned on You / Don't Come a-Knocking – Jack, Bowery Beauties**
- The World Will Know – Jack, Davey, Newsies**
- The World Will Know (Reprise) – Newsies**
- Watch What Happens – Katherine**
- Seize the Day – Davey, Jack, Newsies**
- Santa Fe – Jack**
- King of New York – Katherine, Newsies**
- Letter from The Refuge – Crutchie**
- Watch What Happens (Reprise) – Davey, Jack, Katherine, Les**
- The Bottom Line (Reprise) – Pulitzer, Hannah, Seitz, Bunsen**
- Brooklyn's Here – Spot Conlon, Newsies**
- Something to Believe In – Katherine, Jack**
- Seize the Day (Reprise) – Newsies**
- Once and for All – Jack, Davey, Katherine, Newsies**
- Seize the Day (Reprise 2) – Newsies**
- Finale Ultimo – Company**



## CHARACTER LIST

*Some roles will be double-cast or combined. Gender listed is for the character not the performer! We are open to gender-blind and re-gendered casting (for some roles) and have a lot of flexibility. We welcome all levels of experience and there are parts for all different skills – including for those that want to focus only on dancing.*

### THE NEWSIES

**JACK KELLY** (Male) 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, Jack isn't afraid to use his voice to attain better conditions for the working kids of NYC. 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. Jack needs a great pop tenor voice and sense of physicality. Sings solo, many lines, some dancing, stage combat. Must be comfortable in a “romantic” role. Vocal Range: A4 – Bb2

**CRUTCHIE** (Any Gender) A dedicated newsie with a bum leg that's painful but helps sell more papers. Though s/he walks with the assistance of a crutch, Crutchie doesn't let it define him/her; when in a jam, Jack's best friend relies on a goofy sense of humor and optimistic resilience. Crutchie is the heart of the resistance. The performer in this role must be able to dance enthusiastically in character while still physically portraying Crutchie's “bum” leg. Sings solo, many lines, some dancing, stage combat. Vocal Range: A4-C3

**DAVEY** (Male or Any TBD) 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. A thinker, raised in a home as opposed to the other Newsies, Davey is the book-smart counterpoint to the other kids. Must have a great contemporary tenor/alto voice. Sings solo, many lines, some dancing. Vocal range: A4-D3

**LES** (Any Gender) Davey's cheeky younger sibling, 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. Should present as younger than the other newsies. Solos, lines, dancing. Vocal Range: Bb3-Db3

**FEATURED NEWSIES, including ALBERT, BUTTONS, ELMER, FINCH, HENRY, IKE, JO JO, MIKE, MUSH, RACE, ROMEO, SPECS, SPLASHER, and TOMMY BOY,** are hard-working kids of New York City who go on strike for a livable wage. This core group of newsies works the same neighborhoods as Jack, Crutchie, Dave and Les and function as a family that cares for and helps one another. All of these roles are gender flexible and have multiple lines and solos and/or dance features and stage combat. Performers in these roles must create unique and specific characters with physical and vocal details that distinguish them from the other newsies. We may combine certain characters or add more, depending on the needs of the show and this cast.

**SPOT CONLON** (Any Gender) The proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation and a singing solo in “Brooklyn's Here.” Must have a strong presence. Likely will combine with other roles/ensembles.

### ALLIES & ANTAGONISTS (The Friends & Foes of the Newsies)

**KATHERINE PLUMBER** (Female) 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 strike. While she usually has no time for cocky young men, she makes an exception for Jack. Katherine should have a great contemporary pop voice with a high belt – diction is key. Dance solo in “King of New York.” “Romantic” role. Vocal Range: F5-A3

**JOSEPH PULITZER** (Male) A pompous businessman, 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. Sings “The Bottom Line” and has many lines. Vocal Range: F4- C3

**MEDDA LARKIN** (Female) 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. Sings solo, some dance. Comedic actress required. Vocal range: E5-F3

**HANNAH** (Female) Pulitzer's practical and insightful secretary. Some solos in "The Bottom Line."

**BUNSEN** (Any Gender) Pulitzer's bookkeeper, comes up with the ideas to raise the newsies' price per paper. Some solos in "The Bottom Line."

**SEITZ** (Any Gender) Editor, advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the newsies. Some solos in "The Bottom Line."

**WIESEL** (Any Gender) 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. Requires an exaggerated, cartoonish vocal and physical performance.

**OSCAR and MORRIS DELANCEY** (Male) 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. These roles require two performers who work together well with good comic timing but can also be physically intimidating. Although they do not dance, these roles still require a strong physical performance with excellent self-control for stage combat sequences. Several lines, stage combat.

**SNYDER** (Any Gender) 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. Though he doesn't work for Pulitzer, he's happy to team up with him to take down the newsies and get his hands on Jack. This role requires a strong physical and vocal character performance.

## **OTHER ROLES (Will double with other roles/ensembles)**

**GOVERNOR TEDDY ROOSEVELT** (Male / Possible Cameo) A well-respected lifelong public servant, inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

**MAYOR** (Male) The Mayor of New York City rebuffs Pulitzer's attempts to shut down the newsies' strike.

**JACOBI** (Any Gender) Allows the newsies to congregate in his/her restaurant to plan their strike – when s/he doesn't have any paying customers, that is.

**NUNZIO** (Any Gender) Pulitzer's barber.

**BILL & DARCY** (Any Gender) The upper-class kids of a publisher and William Randolph Hearst who join the newsies' cause. They help Katherine break in to use the basement printing press to print the newsies' paper.

**GOONS** (Any Gender) Assist the Delanceys in roughing up the newsies at the end of Act One.

**SCABS** (Any Gender) Three newsies who are hesitant to join the strike. Gender: both Character Age: 10 to 20

**GUARD** (Any Gender) The Guard removes the newsies from Pulitzer's building. Gender: both

**THE BOWERY BEAUTIES** Female performers at Medda's Theater. Sing and dance in Medda's numbers.

**STAGE MANAGER** (Any Gender) Introduces Medda's act

**NUNS** (Female) The nuns offer breakfast to the hungry newsies. Sing in "Carrying the Banner."

**PHOTOGRAPHER** (Any Gender) Takes the triumphant photo of the newsies at the end of "Seize the Day."

**WOMAN** (Female) A newspaper customer.

**POLICEMEN** (Any Gender) Assist Snyder and turn against the newsies in the fight that concludes Act One.

# FULL (SPOILERY) SYNOPSIS

## ACT ONE

As Jack Kelly is savoring the last few moments of quiet before the sun rises, he shares with his best friend Crutchie his rooftop view of the city and his dream for a better life out West ("Santa Fe - Prologue"). At dawn, the newsies sing about their life and their work ("Carrying the Banner"), introducing this ramshackle group of young friends. They make their way to the distribution window for the World, where they pick up their daily stacks of papers to sell from Wiesel, who runs the window, and Morris and Oscar Delancey, goons who work for the World. Davey and Les, brothers trying to earn money for their family, meet the newsies and try to learn the ropes. Jack agrees to partner with the boys since Les's young age will help him sell more papers, although Davey is skeptical.



Meanwhile, Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the World Newspaper (joined by his loyal staff Hannah, Bunsen and Seitz) expresses displeasure at the declining sales of his newspaper and vows to increase profits ("The Bottom Line"), even if it is at the expense of the hardworking newsies.

At the end of the day, it's clear that Les is a natural newsie. Before Jack and the brothers can part ways, a man appears and chases Jack. Davey and Les follow Jack's lead, running through the alleys of New York City and finding safety in Medda's Theater.

Jack introduces them to Medda Larkin, one of the Bowery's most famous performers. Jack explains that the man chasing them is named Snyder; he runs The Refuge, an orphanage that he keeps in squalid conditions and embezzles from. He's had it out for Jack ever since he escaped. Medda offers her theater as a safe haven, and they stay to watch her perform ("That's Rich").



During Medda's performance, Jack notices Katherine Plumber, a bright young reporter he saw earlier that day. A smitten Jack makes several attempts to flirt with her, but Katherine, quick-witted and ever-professional, cleverly rebuffs him. While the Bowery Beauties perform their routine, Jack resorts to sketching a portrait of Katherine ("I Never Planned on You / Don't Come a-Knockin'"), and leaves it for her to find.

The next day, as the newsies gather at the distribution window, the boys are outraged to learn that Pulitzer has increased their price for newspapers - they can barely afford to eat as it is! Prompted by Davey, the newsies decide to form a union and strike ("The World Will Know"). After a successful first day of striking, newly elected union leader Jack Kelly assigns some kids to spread the word to newsies in other boroughs.

Katherine arrives, hoping that the newsies will give her an exclusive for the Sun. Jack tells her to be at the distribution window the next morning; not only will the newsies prevent others from selling papers, but they plan to stop the delivery carts as well. He tells her that they all have a lot riding on her reporting skills, and Katherine gets to work writing her breakout article ("Watch What Happens").

The next day, Jack arrives to find that only a few kids have assembled to strike. He urges Davey to convince the small group not to back down. When scabs arrive to take the newsies' place, Jack asks them to stand in solidarity with all the city's exploited working children. The scabs throw down their papers, just in time for Katherine and her photographer to snap a victorious photo ("Seize the Day").



But soon the newsies engage in a fierce fight with the Delanceys, Wiesel, and the police. Snyder scares Jack away, but not before he watches the Delanceys take down Crutchie and carry him off to The Refuge. Reaching the temporary safety of his rooftop, Jack paces, feeling guilty about leading the kids into danger. He looks out over the city and longs to escape ("Santa Fe").

To be continued....

## ACT TWO

Battered and bruised, the newsies lament the previous day's events at Jacobi's Deli. Amid rumors that Jack was captured, several newsies wonder where he is. Katherine arrives with a copy of the story she published in the Sun, complete with a front-page picture of the newsies. Ecstatically, they thank her and celebrate their - and Katherine's - fame ("King of New York"). Meanwhile, Crutchie writes a letter to Jack from The Refuge expressing that he feels no ill will toward Jack and urging the newsies to stick together ("Letter from The Refuge").



Davey, Les, and Katherine find Jack back at Medda's Theater and try to convince him to come back to the fight. Jack refuses, saying that they can't win against a man as powerful as Pulitzer. The three convince Jack that theirs is a fight worth fighting ("Watch What Happens - Reprise"); Jack finally agrees, and the kids plan a rally.

Discovering Katherine's story, Pulitzer furiously resolves to take down Jack. Just then, a cocky Jack arrives to announce the newsies' rally. Pulitzer assures Jack that no paper will cover it - and if it's not in the press, it never happened. He then reveals Katherine, exposing her as his daughter, and Snyder, who emerges from the shadows. Pulitzer offers Jack a choice: get sent to The Refuge or renounce the strike and leave New York with pockets full of cash. The Delanceys escort Jack to the cellar, where an old printing press rests, to ponder his decision ("The Bottom Line - Reprise").



That evening, Brooklyn newsies cross the bridge with Spot Conlon, their leader, to join newsies from every borough at Medda's theater for the rally ("Brooklyn's Here"). Davey gives an inspiring speech, riling up the newsies about their progress. However, Jack appears and tells them to go back to work because they are no match for Pulitzer. Jack accepts his payoff money at the door and exits quickly.

On his rooftop, Jack finds Katherine looking through his drawings of The Refuge's bleak conditions. He snatches them from her and they argue fiercely.

Katherine shares her plan to have the newsies distribute an article which quotes Jack on the exploitation of working kids and calls for a citywide strike. Before heading to the old printing press Jack recently discovered, they share their hope in each other ("Something to Believe In").

With the help of Katherine and her well-connected friends, Darcy and Bill, the newsies sneak into Pulitzer's cellar to print their paper ("Once and for All"). The kids distribute the pamphlet all over the city. Pulitzer's office is flooded with angry calls from every corner of New York. Having read the Newsies Banner, Pulitzer is furious at the kids' attempt to thwart him. Jack, Davey, and Spot show up ("Seize the Day - Reprise") to personally deliver the news and say that the kids are willing to make a compromise. Pulitzer refuses to back down until Governor Roosevelt appears with Katherine and Jack's drawings of The Refuge. Alone, Jack and Pulitzer come to an agreement they can both live with - the price increase is reduced by half, and publishers will buy back any unsold papers. The strike is over!



Outside, Jack announces the end of the strike. Crutchie appears amid the jubilation, followed by a handcuffed Snyder. Despite his dreams for Santa Fe, Jack realizes that the newsies are his family and Katherine gives him something to believe in - so he's staying put for now ("Finale Ultimo").

