

Cotuit News

Newsies Audition Packet



Book by Harvey Fierstein
Lyrics by Jack Feldman
Music by Alan Menken

Directed and choreographed
by Michele Colley

Musical direction
by Katie Koglin



COTUIT
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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Auditions

Adult roles

Tuesday 24 June 6:00 - 9:00 PM -
Main Stage CCftA

Wednesday 25 June 6 - 9 PM - Art
Studio CCftA

Newsies (anyone auditioning for a role as a Newsie)

Saturday 28 June 12:00-2:00

Saturday 28 June 2:30-4:30

[Freedom Hall Cotuit](#)

Sunday 29 June 1:30-3:30

[Freedom Hall Cotuit](#)

Show Dates

Nov 25-Dec 21

Opening Night - Tuesday - 7:30

No show - Thanksgiving

Thursdays & Fridays - 7:30

Saturdays - 5:00

Sundays - 2:00



Audition Sign-ups

- Auditions will take place for the full duration of the scheduled time. Please arrive early and be prepared to stay until the end. [Sign up for an audition slot here.](#)
- Contact Michele Colley if you cannot make the allotted audition times, but would like to audition.
 - 1.maccolley@gmail.com

*****Please include "Newsies AUDITIONS" in the subject line to ensure your email is easily identifiable.**

Rehearsals

When working with school-age actors, I schedule more weekend rehearsals to allow time for schoolwork and adequate rest. This summer, there will be up to 5 NEWSIES rehearsals. The youth actors should try to attend each one, unless prior arrangements have been made with the directing team.

As opening night approaches, performers should anticipate rehearsing up to five days a week.

~Michele Colley

Dance Requirements

Standard → advanced dance.
All levels are welcome.

Cast

Cast Size

Large (22+ performers)
Adult Female Ensemble - 3 to 5
Adult Male Ensemble - 3 to 5
Youth Ensemble 8 to 12

Cast Type

Children and Adults



Character Breakdown

Jack Kelly

Age 16-20, 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 him/herself out West. Fiercely protective of her/his best friend, Crutchie, and strongly loyal, Jack isn't afraid to use his/her voice to attain better conditions for the working kids of New York City. Though living on the streets has given her/him a tough exterior, Jack has a big heart and can demonstrate a sweet vulnerability, especially when bantering with a certain female reporter. Must have a great pop tenor voice and sense of physicality.

(Vocal Range Bb2-A4)

Crutchie

Age 13-17, A dedicated newsie with a bum leg that's painful, but helps sell more papes. Though s/he walks with the assistance of a crutch, Crutchie doesn't let it define him/her; 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 her/his movement will suggest his/her bum leg, Crutchie should still be included in the dance numbers.

(Vocal Range C3-A4)

Davey

Age 15-20, Les's straight-laced, bright big brother/sister 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 D3-A4) Les Male, Age 10-15, 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 Db3-Bb3)

Newsies

Age 10-20, 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 who go on strike for a livable wage. **May be cast male or female.**

Spot Conlon

Age 17-20, the proud leader of the Brooklyn Newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation and a short singing solo in "Brooklyn's Here."

Nuns

The three nuns offer breakfast to the hungry Newsies. Feel free to cast additional nuns.

Photographer

Takes the triumphant photo of the Newsies at the end of "Seize the Day."

Woman

A newspaper customer.

Katherine Plumber

Female, Age 17-20, 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 A3-F5)

Darcy

Male or Female, Age 15-20, the upper-class kid of a publisher who sides with the Newsies. Can double as a newsie.

Bill

Age 15-25, the son/daughter of William Randolph Hearst, who joins the Newsies' cause.

Wiesel

Age 35-50, 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 and Morris Delancey

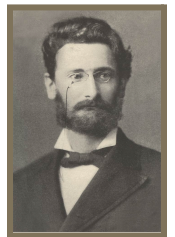
Age 15-20, Tough brothers/sisters who work at the distribution window for the World, take the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point.

Goons

15 to 20 Assist the Delanceys in roughing up the Newsies at the end of Act One.

Joseph Pulitzer

Male, 35-50, 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 F4-C3)

**Pulitzer's Staff****Seitz**

Male or Female, Editor, advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper;

Bunsen

Male or Female, Age 35-50, Pulitzer's bookkeeper, comes up with the ideas to raise the Newsies' price per paper;

Hannah

Female, Age 20-40, Pulitzer's practical and insightful secretary;

Nunzio

Male, Age 30-50, Pulitzer's barber.

Snyder

Male or Female, Age 45-65, 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.

Guard

The Guard removes the Newsies from Pulitzer's building.

Policemen

Assist Snyder and turn against the Newsies in the fight that concludes Act One.

Mayor

The Mayor of New York City rebuffs Pulitzer's attempts to shut down the Newsies' strike.

Medda Larkin

Female, Age 25-45, Inspired by vaudeville performer Aida Overton Walker, this big-voiced saloon singer and star of the Bowery offers her theater as a 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 F3-E5)

The Bowery Beauties

Female performers at Medda's Theater.

Gender Female

Stage Manager

Introduces Medda's act.

Mr. Jacobi

Male or Female, Age 35-55, allows the Newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike – when he doesn't have any paying customers, that is.

Governor Teddy Roosevelt

Male, Age 50-65, A well-respected lifelong public servant, inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

Female Ensemble

Newsies, Nuns, The Bowery Beauties, Scabs, Stage Manager, Photographer, Customers, Katherine Understudy, Medda Understudy

Male Ensemble

Newsies, Guards, Policemen, Mayor, Goons, Scabs

Call backs
Cape Cod Academy
Tuesday 8 July 2025
By appt only

Monologues

Jack Kelly

Try it with a New York accent if you want, but be prepared to be asked to drop it.

Jack Kelly 1:

(Jack is speaking to the 'scabs'—other newsboys who have been paid extra by the newspaper to cross the strike lines and keep working.)

It ain't just about us. All across this city there are boys and girls who ought to be out playin' or going to school. Instead they're slavin' to support themselves and their folks. Ain't no crime to bein' poor, and not a one of us complains if the work we do is hard. All we ask is a square deal. Fellas ... for the sake of all the kids in every sweatshop, factory, and slaughter house in this town, I beg you ... throw down your papers and join the strike.

Jack Kelly 2:

(Jack is talking to Davy, Les, and Medda. He is frustrated, injured, exhausted, and feeling extremely guilty about his friends' injuries)

Want to see a place I seen? How about this?" *(he displays a large political cartoon he has drawn of the Newsies being crushed by Pulitzer in Newsie Square)* "Newsie Square, thanks to my big mouth, filled to overflowing with failure. Kids hurt, others arrested - Is that what you're aiming for? Go on and call me a quitter, call me a coward. No way I'm puttin' them kids back in danger.

Katherine Plumber

Katherine Plumber

Katherine is responding to Jack's attempt to give up. He claims that nothing they can do will make a difference and her ideas won't help.

Really, Jack? Really? Only you can have a good idea? Or is it because I'm a girl? This would be a good time to shut up. Being boss doesn't mean you have all the answers. Just the brains to recognize the right one when you hear it. The strike was your idea. The rally was Davey's. And now *my* plan will take us to the finish line. Think, Jack, if we publish this - my words with one of your drawings - and if every worker under twenty-one read it and stayed home from work ... or better yet, came to Newsie Square - a general city-wide strike! Even my father couldn't ignore that.

Newsies

Davey

Davey is trying to convince Jack that it's worth continuing the strike despite a shaky start

They got us this time. I'll grant you that. But we took round one. And with press like this, our fight is far from over. Every newsie who could walk showed up this morning to sell papes like the strike never happened.-- And I was there with them. If I don't sell papes, my folks don't eat. But then -I saw this look on Weasel's face; he was actually nervous. And I realized this isn't over. We got them worried. Really worried. And I walked away. Lots of other kids did, too. And that is what you call a beginning.

Les

Les is around 8 years old, and during this monologue is trying to impress his older brother and friends.

What's the hold up? I need to let my girl know. We've got a date. Yeah, you heard me. Fame is one intoxicatin' potion. And this here girl, Sally, she's a plum. So can we table the palaver* and get back to business? Will Medda let us have the theater or not?

Crutchie

Crutchie is talking to Jack, one of the few Newsies he trusts to treat him as an equal despite his disability.

"I wanna beat the other fellas to the street. I don't want anyone should see; I ain't been walkin' so good. Someone gets the idea I can't make it on my own, they'll lock me up in The Refuge for good. Be a pal, Jack. Help me down. Let's get our papers and hit the streets while we still can."

Race

You won't be shooing us off when we get our mugs in the papes! Lemme see. Lookit! Would you lookit? Dat's me! For jumping Jack's sake. Can you stow the seriousness long enough to drink in the moment? I'm famous! Are you stupid or what? You're famous, the world is your erster. Your erster! Your fancy clam with a pearl inside. You don't need money when you're famous. They gives you whatever you want- gratis!



Adults

Pulitzer

Pulitzer is used to getting what he wants and is frustrated with Jack for causing a disruption.

Mark my words, boy. Defy me, and I will have you and every one of your friends locked up in The Refuge. I know you're Mr. Tough Guy, but it's not right to condemn that little crippled boy to conditions like that. And what about your pal Davey and his baby brother, ripped from their loving family and tossed to the rats? Will they ever be able to thank you enough?

Medda Larkin

Medda feels motherly and protective towards Jack, who is about 10 years younger than she.

Here's everything I owe you for the first backdrop, plus this one, and even a little something extra just account'a because I'm gonna miss you so. Just tell me that you're going somewhere and not running away. When you go somewhere and it turns out not to be the right place, you can always go somewhere else. But if you're running away, nowhere's ever the right place."



Callbacks

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Cape Cod Academy
Tuesday, 8 July 2025
By appt only

Musical Sides by Character

Character Sides

MP3 Music Samples