

Disney

# NEWSIES

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

© Disney

Music by  
**ALAN MENKEN**

Lyrics by  
**JACK FELDMAN**

Book by  
**HARVEY FIERSTEIN**

Based on the Disney film written by **BOB TZUDIKER** and **NONI WHITE**

Originally produced on Broadway by  
**DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS**



## Audition Packet

Tuesday, November 19, 3:00pm &  
Thursday, November 21, 3:00pm  
(Callbacks on Friday, November 22, 2:30pm)

Sign up to audition at [CHSTheatreArts.org/Audition](https://www.chstheatrearts.org/Audition)

## How Auditions Work

The audition panel will see auditionees individually for a 5 minute block of time. During that time, the individual will perform 16 bars (typically 30 to 60 seconds) of a song from Newsies, as well as perform a short monologue (60 to 90 seconds), also from Newsies. Auditionees can select an audition song and monologue, which are available at [CHSTheatreArts.org/audition](http://CHSTheatreArts.org/audition). **Please keep in mind that the song and monologue you choose should show off your singing and acting abilities.** Additionally, there will be ONE group dance call each audition day. All individuals auditioning are **required to stay for the dance portion on the day of their audition**. The group will be taught a couple short dance combinations by the choreographer to be performed for the audition panel.

Please keep in mind that your song and monologue should be memorized. Additionally, when you are performing for the audition panel, don't just read off the page—put some emotion into the characters you will be reading for. If this is your first time auditioning, make sure you read the "Frequently Asked Questions" section.

## Important Dates

**Table-Read:** December 3, 3:30-6:00 PM

**Rehearsals:** Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Occasional Saturdays - Time TBD

**Tech Week:** March 1-5 (ATTENDANCE MANDATORY!)

**Performances:** March 6 & 7 - 7:00 PM, March 8 - 2:00 PM

**Strike (teardown):** March 8, after show (ATTENDANCE MANDATORY!)

## Rehearsal Attendance

Simply put, if you are scheduled to be at a rehearsal, IT IS MANDATORY that you attend. Not everyone is required to be at every rehearsal—it depends on how many scenes your character appears in. Even if you are called (scheduled) for rehearsal, you may not need to be there the entire time, depending on the scene/musical number being rehearsed.

When filling out the attached audition form, you MUST LIST ALL after-school/weekend conflicts from **December 3 - March 8**. This lets us build a rehearsal schedule that will fit around all cast conflicts. If a conflict isn't listed on the audition form, it is assumed that you are available to rehearse. Beyond the conflicts you list, cast members are only allowed three (3) unexcused absences before being removed from the cast. NO exceptions! Therefore, make sure you LIST ALL CONFLICTS on the audition form to avoid having them count as unexcused absences. This is your only chance to do it!

In addition to listing conflicts on the audition form, you must also fill out the attached commitment form. The commitment form acknowledges that you and your parent/guardian understand the above attendance policy. You will not be permitted to attend rehearsal until you (and your parent/guardian) sign and return the commitment form. Missing a rehearsal because you didn't return your commitment form will count as an unexcused absence.

## Parent/Guardian Involvement

It takes teamwork to make the dream work—literally! That is why we need parents/guardians to volunteer some of their time to help support the production. There are several ways to help throughout the production cycle, including (but not limited to) helping sell advertisements for our programs, working at our fundraising events, coordinating meals during tech week, selling tickets at the door, etc. Parents/guardians can sign up to help in one (or more) of these areas on a SignUpGenius form online. A link to the sign up form will be sent out within the first few weeks of rehearsals.

## Activity Fee

To help cover the cost of costuming, props, etc., there is a **\$35 fee** to participate in this production. The activity fee is **due at auditions** (fee will be returned if you decline your role). PLEASE DO NOT LET THE ACTIVITY FEE KEEP YOU FROM PARTICIPATING—we have anonymous sponsors who want to help! Please see a director if you would like a sponsor to assist you with the activity fee. Everything will be kept strictly confidential!

Out of fairness to everyone who volunteers their time, if a student/parent opts out of helping with the fundraising event (MonsterMash!) for this production, the activity fee for that student will be **doubled to \$70**. Students will not be able to continue rehearsing until this additional fee is paid (which will count as unexcused absences).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: How should I prepare for the audition?**

*A: For any dialogue you will be reading/performing, we recommend putting yourself in the characters' shoes. Is the character mad or upset? If so, how would that change how you say their lines? Would you shout what the character is saying? Or would you cry while you read their lines? These are the types of questions that can help you prepare to read in the audition room. If you are still unsure, search YouTube for some examples of how others played these characters.*

### **Q: How will I know when it is time to audition?**

*A: There is a schedule at [CHSTheatreArts.org/Audition](http://CHSTheatreArts.org/Audition) where you can sign up for a specific block of time. You will get an email reminding you of your audition time a day or two before auditions.*

### **Q: What do I do when I arrive at auditions?**

*A: When you arrive, there will be someone sitting at a table outside the choir/lecture room (they are called a monitor). They will check you in and take your forms (or give you blank ones if you don't have them). The monitor will also lead you into the audition room when it's your turn.*

**Q: What is it like in the audition room?**

*A: There will be three directors sitting at a table in the audition room. You will stand and perform your song and monologue alone. The directors will casually lead you through the entire process, so take a deep breath and relax.*

**Q: What are the directors looking for?**

*A: Ultimately, we are looking for students who can transform into the character they are reading for. We should forget who is reading in the audition, and feel as though the character on the page has come to life in front of us.*

**Q: Do I have to sing, even if I don't want a singing part?**

*A: Yes. Even if you don't want a singing part, there is a chance you may be cast as a member ensemble, where there can be some group singing involved. Don't stress about finding an audition song—singing a simple song like "Happy Birthday" will work just fine.*

**Q: I don't dance! Do I still need to participate in the dance audition?**

*A: Yes. The dance combinations taught will be very simple. We just want to see how well you can move around.*

**Q: Can I be in the musical and still participate in another activity or sport?**

*A: Yes! Many students have participated in one or two other activities while participating in our plays and musicals. Keep in mind, however, that the more conflicts you have, the smaller the part you will probably receive. It's all about how much time you are able to commit.*

## **Story of the Musical**

Based on the 1992 Disney motion picture and inspired by a true story, Newsies is set in turn-of-the-century New York City. It is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teenaged "newsies." When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what's right!

## **The Characters**

Below is a list of the available roles for this show. Each auditionee can indicate which role(s) they would like to be considered for on the audition form. Some characters in this show do not appear on the list, as they will be filled by teachers or students from other buildings. Please keep in mind that, due to the large size of this cast, several auditionees will likely be double-cast in multiple roles. Students that are cast in a lead role will be eligible for consideration to become a Jimmy Award nominee.

### **LEAD ROLES**

**Jack Kelly** – leader of the newsies (*singing role*)

**Davey** – new, bookish (intelligent) newsie (*singing role*)

**Katherine Plumber** – ambitious young reporter (*singing role*)

**Crutchie** – newsie with a bum leg (*singing role*)

**Medda Larkin** – vaudeville star and theater owner (*singing role*)

### **NEWSIES ENSEMBLE**

**Race, Albert, Specs, Henry, Finch, Romeo, Elmer, Mush, Buttons, Splasher, Tommy Boy, Jo Jo, Mike, Ike** (*singing roles*)

### **SUPPORTING ROLES**

**Spot Conlon** – leader of the Brooklyn newsies (*singing role*)

**Darcy** – upper-class son/daughter of a publisher

**Bill** – son of William Randolph Hearst

**Morris Delancey** – heavy at the *World's* (newspaper) distribution window

**Oscar Delancey** – Morris's equally tough brother

**Seitz** – Pulitzer's editor (*singing role*)

**Bunsen** – Pulitzer's bookkeeper (*singing role*)

**Hannah** – Pulitzer's secretary (*singing role*)

**Nunzio** – Pulitzer's barber

### **CAMEO ROLES**

**Guard**

**Policemen**

**Bowery Beauties** – showgirls at Medda's theater (*singing roles*)

**Nuns** (*singing roles*)

**Scabs** – replacement newsies during the strike

**Goons** – small army of "tough guys" that rough up the newsies

## **Audition Checklist**

To help you stay organized and make sure you are ready for auditions, here is an audition checklist. You do not have to submit this with your forms—this is only for your use.

- I filled out the Audition Form online ([CHSTheatreArts.org/Audition](http://CHSTheatreArts.org/Audition)).
  
- I signed up for an audition time slot on the audition form.
  
- I have selected and prepared a 16-bar audition song from Newsies.
  
- I have selected a monologue to perform from Newsies.
  
- I listed ALL of my scheduling conflicts from December 3 - March 8 on the Audition Form.
  
- My parent/guardian and I have read and signed all sections of the Commitment Form.
  
- I have my activity fee of \$35 ready to turn in at auditions.

# Commitment Form

Newsies

Please review all information in this packet with a parent/guardian, and upon agreement, complete and sign the following statements of acknowledgment to confirm your commitment to this production.

## Acknowledgment of Rehearsal Attendance Policy

I, \_\_\_\_\_, and my parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_,  
Student First & Last Name (please print) Parent/Guardian First & Last Name (please print)

have read and agree to the rehearsal attendance policy for this production. I have listed all of my scheduling conflicts that I am aware of on my audition form, and I understand that I will be excused from attending rehearsals only on those dates. I understand that beyond the conflicts I have listed, I will only be allowed three (3) unexcused absences before being removed from the cast, and that there are no exceptions to this rule. By signing, we agree to honor our commitment to this production and abide by the attendance policy.

---

Student Signature

Date

---

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

## Acknowledgment of Activity Fee

I, \_\_\_\_\_, and my parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_,  
Student First & Last Name (please print) Parent/Guardian First & Last Name (please print)

understand that participation in this production requires a **\$35 activity fee**, and that this fee must be paid prior to my audition, and will be returned if I decided not to participate. We also understand that sponsors are available to assist with this fee, and that I will contact a director if I would like assistance.

---

Student Signature

Date

---

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

## Acknowledgment of Liability

I, \_\_\_\_\_, and my parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_,  
Student First & Last Name (please print) Parent/Guardian First & Last Name (please print)

understand that we will be held financially responsible for any damage to production tangibles, including, but not limited to wireless microphones, costumes, props, and scenic elements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING IF YOU HAVE AUDITIONED BEFORE**

## Parent/Guardian Contact Information

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone Number (for Remind text messages)

**Which social media channels do you use?**   Facebook   Twitter   Instagram   Snapchat

## Additional Parent/Guardian Contact Information

(Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone Number (for Remind text messages)

**Which social media channels do you use?**   Facebook   Twitter   Instagram   Snapchat