



The Plaza Theatre

A 501(C)3 Non-Profit Corporation

P.O. Box 1067

Wharton, Texas 77488

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whartonplazatheatre.org

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS: NEWSIES JR.

Auditions: May 4th & 6th, 2025 at 6PM, The Plaza Theatre

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 very loyal, Jack isn't afraid to use his voice to attain better conditions for the working kids of New York City. Looking for an actor who can command the stage with ease, possesses strong vocal abilities, and can exude Jack's tough-guy exterior and his big heart.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: B3

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. Looking for a strong actor and singer who can lead "Seize the Day" while smartly portraying the brains of the resistance.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Les

Davey's cheeky younger sibling, is excited by the newsies' freedom and loves their independent lifestyle. This pint-sized charmer should present as younger than the other newsies

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: B3

Crutchie

Jack's best friend and a dedicated newsie with a "bum leg" from polio that causes pain, but helps sell more papers. Walking with the assistance of a crutch doesn't define the ever-positive newsie, so we need an actor who can portray Casey's goofy-sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience. Crutchie is accustomed to modifying daily activities for their disability.

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Katherine Plumber

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, Katherine should be a strong singer with excellent diction for her showstopping number, "Watch What Happens." She and Jack have romantic chemistry throughout the show.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Medda Larkin

A proud supporter of the newsies, she offers her theater as a safe haven for their revolution. We need a performer who can portray this astute entertainer with great comic delivery, while standing firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice. Medda has her own song in the show.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Wiesel

Aka “Weasel”. A disgruntled paper-pusher who uses the Delancey brothers as his muscle, runs distribution for the World and has little patience or sympathy for the newsies.

Gender: Male

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

Bunsen

Pulitzer’s bookkeeper who helps Pulitzer come up with the idea to raise the newsies’ price per paper.

Hannah

Pulitzer’s secretary who is a clever advocate for the newsies.

Gender: Female

Pat

An efficient stage manager who introduces Medda’s act.

Governor Teddy Roosevelt

A well-respected lifelong public servant who inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer. Looking for an actor with the ability to portray the maturity and stature of this well- respected leader.

Gender: Male

Snyder

The crooked warden of The Refuge. A filthy and horrible juvenile reformatory, is concerned only with catching enough kids to keep their government checks coming.

Seitz

The editor of the World who advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids’ newspaper.

Bill

Katherine’s upperclass friend whose parents own the New York Journal and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner.

Dorothy

Katherine's upperclass friend whose parents own the New York Tribune and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner.

Darcy

A photographer who works with Katherine.

Oscar & Morris Delancey

Toughs who work distribution for the World, take the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point. With a few smart and quick costuming changes, these two actors can also join the newsies ensemble if needed.

Ensemble

includes NEWSIES of New York, RACE, ALBERT, MURIEL, NANCY, SPECS, PIGTAILS, HAZEL, BUTTONS, TOMMY BOY, ROMEO, JO JO, SCABS (1-3) and others; the newsies' CUSTOMERS; citizens of New York of all stripes, including a WOMAN; the BOWERY BRIGADE, vaudeville performers, including ADA, OLIVE, and ETHEL; and corrupt POLICE OFFICERS, including the POLICE CHIEF; WORKING CHILDREN of New York City