



SHOW INFORMATION PACK

AGES 8 - 16*

BUZZ Theatre, Woking 19 - 22 February 2025

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

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe www.mtishows.co.uk

****All children must be no younger than 8 years old at the time of the production and under the statutory school leaving age (year 11).***

AUDITION NOTICE

Hatton Musical Theatre are thrilled to be producing *Disney's Newsies JR.* at the BUZZ Theatre, Woking during February half term. .

Please read this document to find out how your child can be a part of the show. If your child is cast in the show, please keep a copy of this document to refer back to during the rehearsal process.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Hatton Musical Theatre has an exciting performance opportunity for young performers to take part in a production where the children play all the roles. *Disney's Newsies JR.* is a 60-minute version of the 2012 Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film. The musical premiered in the UK at London's Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre in 2022.

Newsies JR. is inspired by the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899 and features a Tony Award®-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman, and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein.

The nature of this show requires a diverse cast of children who have a passion for singing and acting. All involved will require a basic level of movement ability, but do not have to have any formal dance training to take part.

Parents will receive an email once casting has been finalised. Decisions made by the production team are final. Should you disagree with any casting decision or require any feedback please email info@hattonmusicaltheatre.co.uk

Due to limited numbers allowed in the theatre, we may not be able to cast every child who auditions.

ABOUT THE SHOW

When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys' expense, the charismatic Jack Kelly rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions. Together, the newsies learn that they are stronger united and create a movement to fight for what's right.

Including the now-classic songs *Carrying the Banner*, *Seize the Day*, and *Santa Fe*, *Newsies JR.* is a timeless story full of spirit and heart.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Jack Griffin

Choreographer: Lucy Keyser

PERFORMANCE VENUE

This production takes place at BUZZ Theatre, Woking which can be found on the top floor of the Victoria Place shopping centre.

SHOW WEEK DATES - SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY- SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

As the show falls during February half term, the children will be required for rehearsals on some afternoons during the show week. Details of these can be found in the full list of dates below.

It is vital that cast members must attend all these dates. Timings can be found further down this information pack.

SHOW TIMES

Newsies JR will be performed over four days:

Wednesday 19 February: 7.30pm

Thursday 20 February: 7.30pm

Friday 21 February: 7.30pm

Saturday 22 February: 2.30pm & 7.30pm.

Please note, show times may vary slightly depending on running time once cast.

REHEARSAL AVAILABILITY

If you are aware that your child is unable to make certain dates, please acknowledge this on their audition form. We will do our best to work around planned absences as much as possible.

REHEARSAL DATES/TIMES

Weekly rehearsals take place every Wednesday from 6.30pm-8.00pm - excluding the Christmas break. Unless told otherwise, all rehearsals take place at Greenfield School in Woking. The full cast are required for each rehearsal.

There will also be a handful of Sunday rehearsals as detailed below. As we get closer to the show it is vital that we have the full cast at rehearsals. With this in mind, all dates in **bold** are compulsory for the full cast.

REHEARSAL VENUE ADDRESS

Greenfield School
Old Woking Road
Woking
Surrey
GU22 8HY

REHEARSAL & SHOW WEEK DATES

Date	Time	What
Sunday 10 November	12.00pm-2.30pm	Auditions
Wednesday 13 November	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Wednesday 20 November	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Wednesday 27 November	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Wednesday 4 December	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Wednesday 11 December	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Wednesday 18 December	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Christmas break		
Wednesday 8 January	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Wednesday 15 January	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Sunday 19 January	11.00am-4.00pm	Sunday rehearsal
Wednesday 22 January	12.00pm-3.00pm	Rehearsal
Sunday 26 January	11.00am-4.00pm	Sunday rehearsal
Wednesday 29 January	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Sunday 2 February	11.00am-4.00pm	Sunday rehearsal
Wednesday 5 February	12.00pm-3.00pm	Rehearsal
Sunday 9 February	11.00am-4.00pm	Sunday rehearsal
Wednesday 12 February	6.30pm-8.00pm	Rehearsal
Sunday 16 February	3.00pm-7.00pm	Rehearsal at BUZZ
Monday 17 February	3.00pm-7.00pm	Tech rehearsal at BUZZ
Tuesday 18 February	3.00pm-7.00pm	Dress rehearsal at BUZZ
Wednesday 19 February	3.00pm-end of show	Show 1 at BUZZ
Thursday 20 February	6.15pm-end of show	Show 2 at BUZZ
Friday 21 February	6.15pm-end of show	Show 3 at BUZZ
Saturday 22 February	1.00pm-end of shows	Shows 4 & 5 at BUZZ

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Children may not enter the rehearsal venue until the set start time. To ensure their safety, please do not allow them to wait on their own outside the doors.

We respectfully ask that you pick up on time from rehearsals.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Promotional material will be posted on social media throughout the rehearsal process. Photos and videos will be taken during rehearsals or at pre-arranged photo shoots and then shared to promote the show. Please also discuss this with your child. Names of the children will not be shared.

If you do not consent for your child to be featured in these photographs, please notify us of this when submitting your child's audition form.

SHOW FEES

All children cast in the show will be required to pay a show fee to take part. The total cost of this is £150 per child and is to be paid no later than 13 December 2024.

Payment can either be made in full or in two monthly instalments of £75 by 13 November 2024 and 13 December 2024.

If you will have difficulty making these payments please email our Secretary via info@hattonmusicaltheatre.co.uk. We would like to make this production as inclusive as possible. All correspondence regarding fees will be kept confidential.

TICKET SALES

All cast members are required, and expected, to sell as many tickets for the show as possible. With very high production costs the tickets that each individual sells will go towards the cost of your child performing onstage. In order to remain affordable, individual fees do not fully cover this cost.

Tickets will go on sale before Christmas. The link will be sent nearer the time.

COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

Whilst Hatton Musical Theatre will source elements of your child's costumes, it may be that you will be asked to provide basic items yourselves. This may include shoes, shirts, trousers/skirts, socks etc.

Once the show is cast, full requirements will be shared.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP AUDITIONS - SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER.

Our children's audition workshop will take place on Sunday 10 November at **Greenfield School** from 12.00pm - 2.30pm.

Parents are not able to attend the workshop, but you will be able to ask questions to members of the team at drop off/pick up. We are also happy to answer any questions you have via email.

For the workshop all children will need to:

- Wear clothes/footwear suitable for moving.
- Bring a refillable water bottle
- Bring some snacks (cereal bar, fruit etc). Please ensure snacks do not contain nuts.

A sign up form can be found on our website and a form must be completed for every child auditioning. **The deadline for audition forms is midday on Wednesday 6 November.**

The production team has provided casting breakdowns for a number of characters below for your information. Playing ages are there as a guide and some roles may be cast gender blind. Please read these with your child and discuss the characters prior to the audition workshop.

AUDITION MATERIAL

[Click here to access the audition material.](#)

The material that we will be working through at the workshop can be accessed via the link above. All scenes/songs are marked up with character names.

All children should be familiar with the songs marked 'all'.

It is important to us that the children have an enjoyable afternoon, full of fun. We are not expecting the children to be word perfect for the workshop. We just ask that they come with a knowledge and understanding of the songs/scenes, and let their personalities shine through!

To help your child prepare, please [click here](#) to listen to the Newsies JR versions of the songs on YouTube. Please note, there are differences between the original Broadway cast recording and Newsies JR.

CASTING REQUIREMENTS

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 Katherine. Must have a great pop tenor voice and sense of physicality.

Playing age: 14 to 16

Vocal range: F5 - B3

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 and actor with excellent diction.

Age: 14 to 16

Vocal range: F5 - A3

Medda Larkin

A big-voiced singer and star of the Bowery. A proud supporter of the newsies, she offers her theatre as a safe haven for their revolution. Strong vocal performer, with great comic delivery. Stands firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice.

Age: 12 to 16

Vocal range: D5 - G3

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 humour and optimistic resilience. Crutchie is the heart of the resistance.

Age: 12 to 16

Vocal range: F5 - A3

Davey

Jack Kelly's friend Davey starts selling newspapers to help his family earn a living, but becomes swept up in the fervour 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. Featured solo singing.

Age: 12 to 16

Vocal range: D5 - B3

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.

Age: 10 to 15

Vocal range: F4 - G3

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 sympathise with the strikers, but he does eventually – and grudgingly – respect Jack. For this non-singing role, a strong actor with a sharp and imposing presence is needed.

Age: 12 to 16

No solo singing

Newsies

The hard-working kids of New York City who go on strike for a livable wage.

Lots of opportunity for acrobats / dancers within this group, as well as the following named roles: Wiesel, Race, Albert, Muriel, Nancy, Specs, Pigtails, Hazel, Buttons, Tommy Boy, Romeo, Jo Jo, Scabs, Brooklyn Newsies, Spot Conlon.

Additional ensemble roles include: Darcy, Dorothy, Bill, Seitz, Bunsen, Hannah, Snyder, Governor Teddy Roosevelt, Bowery Brigade, Police Officers and Pat.

AUDITION FORM

[Click here to access the audition form.](#)

An audition form is required for each child auditioning. The deadline for signing up to audition is midday on Friday 8 November.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the production, please email info@hattonmusicaltheatre.co.uk