

# GRAND THEATRE

HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT PRODUCTION OF

Disney

## NEWSIES

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

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**



Keirah Buckley, Trent Robichaud, Paxton Nair  
Costume Design by Lisa Wright. Photo by Maitilson.

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# AUDIENCE ENRICHMENT GUIDE DRAFT

## *DISNEY'S NEWSIES*

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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Set the stage for a powerful and entertaining live theatre experience! The Grand Theatre's 2025-26 Season Audience Enrichment Guides are designed to enrich and provide context for educators and students to engage more deeply with the production, both before and after visiting the Grand Theatre.

Each guide contains a range of material such as:

- Background information on the play and artists involved
- Plot synopsis, character lists, themes, curriculum connections
- Exciting insights specific to each production
- Classroom activities and reflection questions to guide discussions

## THE ROLE OF THE AUDIENCE

Live theatre requires an audience, so everyone has an important role to play! As we welcome you to the Grand Theatre, here are some **theatre etiquette tips** to remember:

- Before the performance:
  - Please **arrive early**, enabling enough time to find your school's assigned seats.
  - We are a **scent-free environment** that **values respectful behaviour**.
  - **Avoid bringing backpacks/large bulky items** as they will need to remain in the lobby and can not come with you to your seat (due to emergency exit regulations).
  - While there is no dress code, we respectfully ask that **hats are removed**.
  - *Have an open mind and let the performance surprise you!*
- During the performance:
  - Please **turn off your cell phone**/electronic devices. Vibrations, sounds, and screen light during the performance is very distracting for the performers and other audience members.
  - Please remember that **only bottled water** is allowed in the theatre; **no food** during the show.
  - **Using cameras or recording devices during a performance is never permitted.**
  - When the lights dim, that's your cue to stop talking and turn your attention to the stage to enjoy the show.
  - If you **must leave your seat**, wait for an **appropriate break** in the show and quietly head towards the closest exit. An usher will help you.
  - Clap, cheer, laugh, and **feel!** **Make sure your reactions are respectful to those on stage and around you in the audience.** Theatre is LIVE, so remember *you can be seen and heard!*
- After the performance:
  - **Remain in your seats** until your teacher/chaperone instructs you to leave. Exit the theatre in an orderly fashion. Please **take all belongings and any garbage with you.**
  - Take a moment to reflect: What new ideas or perspectives are you leaving with?
  - Theatre is meant to be shared! Tell someone about your experience!

## ***DISNEY'S NEWSIES***

Step into turn-of-the-century New York City, a time of skyscrapers and money makers, with *Disney's Newsies*. This year's Grand Theatre High School Project production tells the story of charismatic Jack Kelly and his gritty band of newsies, united in the fight against greedy newspaper giants.

But when greedy publishing giants decide to raise distribution prices at the newsies' expense, it's up to Jack and his pals to be stronger together and fight for what's right!

Famed for its imaginative and iconic dance sequences, this vibrant musical spectacular is based on the 1992 Disney motion picture, inspired by a true story, and features a Tony Award-winning score that includes songs such as "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "King of New York".

**Running Time:** 2h 25m, including one intermission.

**Age Recommendation:** 8+

### **Content Advisory**

This play contains romantic elements like flirting and kissing; mild violence and language including words/variants of: "bastard", "hell", "damn", "ass". There are depictions of drinking, smoking, and gambling, including some scenes that may imply underage use of tobacco (an unlit cigar). Production elements include high pitched whistle sounds, theatrical haze, and flashing lights.

### **Themes**

- Community and Belonging
- Identity and Self-Discovery
- Love and Romance
- Loneliness and Isolation
- Social Justice
- Loss of Innocence

### **Curriculum Connections**

#### **The Arts**

- Dance, Grade 1-8
  - A2, A3
- Dance, Grade 9 (ATC1O)  
Dance, Grade 10 (ATC2O)  
Dance, Grade 11 (ATC3M/ACT3O)  
Dance, Grade 12 (ATC4M/ATC4E)
  - B1, B2, B3, C2
- Drama, Grade 1-8
  - B2, B3

- Drama, Grade 9 (ADA1O)  
Drama, Grade 10 (ADA2O)  
Drama, Grade 11 (ADA3M/ADA3O)  
Drama, Grade 12 (ADA4M/ADA4E)
  - o B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, C3
- Exploring and Creating in the Arts, Grade 11 (AEA3O)  
Exploring and Creating in the Arts, Grade 12 (AEA4O)
  - o A1, A2, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3
- Music, Grade 1-8
  - o C2, C3
- Music, Grade 9 (AMU1O)  
Music, Grade 10 (AMU2O)  
Music, Grade 11 (AMU3M/AMU3O)  
Music, Grade 12 (AMU4M/AMU4E)
  - o B1, B2, B3, B4, C2, C3
- Visual Arts, Grade 1-8
  - o D2, D3
- Visual Arts, Grade 9 (AVI1O)  
Visual Arts, Grade 10 (AVI2O)  
Visual Arts, Grade 11 (AVI3M/AVI3O)  
Visual Arts, Grade 12 (AVI4M/AVI4E)
  - o B1, B2, B3, C2, C3

### **Canadian and World Studies**

- History - American History, Grade 11 (CHA3U)
  - o A1, D1, D2
- History - World History since the Fifteenth Century, Grade 12 (CHY4U/CHY4C)
  - o A1, D1, D2, D3
- History - Adventures in World History, Grade 12 (CHM4E)
  - o A1, C2, C3
- Law - Canadian and International Law, Grade 12 (CLN4U)
  - o B3, C1, C2, C3
- Politics - Politics in Action: Making Change, Grade 11 (CPC3O)
  - o B1, C1
- Geography - Regional Geography, Grade 11 (CGD3M)
  - o E1, E2, E3

## English

- English, Grade 9 (ENL1W)
  - A1, A3, B1, C1, C2, C3, D1, D2)
- English, Grade 10 (ENG2D/ENG2P)
- English, Grade 11 (ENG3U/ENG3C/ENG3E)
- English, Grade 12 (ENG4U/ENG4C/ENG4E)
  - A1 Listening to Understand: A1.1-9; A2 Speaking to Communicate: A2.4-7; A3 Reflecting on Skills and Strategies: A3.2; B1 Reading for Meaning: B1.2, B1.5-8; B2 Understanding Form and Style: B2.2-3; B3 Reading with Fluency: B3.2-3; B4 Reflecting on Skills and Strategies: B4.2; C1 Developing and Organizing Content: C1.3; C2 Using Knowledge of Form and Style: C2.1-3; D1 Understanding Media Texts: D1.1-6; D2 Understanding Media Forms, Conventions, and Techniques: D2.1-2
- Presentation and Speaking Skills, Grade 11 (EPS3O)
  - A1 Identifying Elements of Effective Presentations: A1.1-5; A2 Assessing Presentations: A2.1-5
- The Writer's Craft, Grade 12 (EWC4U/EWC4C)
  - A1 Writing, Writers, and the Writing Life: A1.1-6; B1 Exploring Ideas, Forms and Styles: B1.1

## English As a Second Language and English Literacy Development

- English as a Second Language, ESL Level 1 (ESLAO)
- English as a Second Language, ESL Level 2, (ESLBO)
- English as a Second Language, ESL Level 3, (ESLCO)
- English as a Second Language, ESL Level 4, (ESLDO)
  - A1 Developing Listening Comprehension: A1.1-2; Socio-cultural Competence and Media Literacy; D4 Developing Media Knowledge and Skills: D4.1-2

## Social Sciences and Humanities

- Equity Studies - Gender Studies, Grade 11 (HSG3M)
  - A1, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2
- Equity Studies - Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice, Grade 11 (HSE3E)
  - A1, B2, B3, C3, D2
- Equity Studies - Equity and Social Justice: From Theory to Practice, Grade 12 (HSE4M)
  - A1, B1, B2, B3, C2
- Family Studies - Dynamics of Human Relationships, Grade 11 (HHD3O)
  - D1, D2



## THE GRAND THEATRE HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

The 2025 Grand Theatre High School Project, *Disney's Newsies*, showcases the talents of 61 high school students who have been offered an exceptional opportunity to receive education and training in the working environment of a professional theatre.

For 27 years, high school students from the London area have been mentored by professional artists and coaches in all departments (performance, stage management, props, wardrobe, scenic art, orchestra, sound, lighting, marketing, and more), culminating in a production staged in the Grand's 839-seat theatre: the Spriet Stage. The initiative provides leadership, creative skills, and communication aptitude that serve these students on and off stage - in every area of their lives.

The three main goals of the High School Project are:

1. To celebrate the talent of London and area's secondary school students, and the drama, music & art teachers who have helped develop that talent
2. To create an opportunity for these students from various schools to meet, connect and work with one another
3. To enable the students to develop their talents through experience working with theatre professionals

To learn more about the High School Project, visit our website at [www.grandtheatre.com](http://www.grandtheatre.com)



## CHARACTER OVERVIEW

**Jack Kelly:** The charismatic, loyal leader of the Manhattan newsies who yearns to get out of the streets of New York and make a better life for himself out West. Living on the streets as an orphan has given him a tough-guy exterior, but his big heart swells in romantic pursuit of Katherine.

**Crutchie:** A dedicated newsie who walks with the assistance of a crutch, but does not let it define him. Crutchie is Jack's optimistic best friend, and the heart of the resistance.

**Davey:** A straight-laced, new newsie who starts selling newspapers to help his family earn a living, but becomes swept up in the fervor of the strike.

**Les:** Davey's cheeky and fearless younger sibling. Les is a natural at selling and is inspired by the freedom of the newsies.

**Newsies:** Hard-working kids of New York City, selling papers to the public. They go on strike when the publishers raise their price. Named newsies include: **Race, Albert, Specs, Henry, Finch, Romeo, Elmer, Mush, Buttons, Splasher, Tommy Boy, Jo Jo, Extra Extra!, Watson, Sherlock, Mike, and Ike.**

**Spot Conlon:** The proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies.

**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. Katherine is witty and resourceful, especially as she spars with Jack Kelly and eventually gives him her heart.

**Darcy:** The upper-class child of a publisher who sides with the newsies.

**Bill:** The son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the newsies' cause.

**Wiesel:** The World's disgruntled paper distributor, 'Weasel' runs the distribution window assisted by the Delancey brothers.

**Oscar and Morris Delancey:** Tough and intimidating brothers who are known to use their fists to make a point. They side with the publishers in the newsies' strike.

**Joseph Pulitzer:** The pompous and uncompassionate publisher of the World. As Katherine's no-nonsense father, Pulitzer prioritizes his business over the newsies' demands.

**Seitz:** Pulitzer's editor who advises him but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper.

**Bunsen:** Pulitzer's bookkeeper who brainstorms ideas to raise the newsies' price per paper.

**Hannah:** Pulitzer's practical and insightful secretary.

**Nunzio:** Pulitzer's insistent barber.



**Snyder:** The crooked and sinister warden of The Refuge, a filthy and horrible orphanage.

**Medda Larkin:** A big-voiced saloon singer with great comic delivery, Medda offers her theatre as a safe haven for the newsies. This star of the Bowery stands firmly behind her friend, Jack, and the newsies in their fight for justice.

**Mr. Jacobi:** Owner of Jacobi's Deli, he allows the broke newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike.

**Governor Teddy Roosevelt:** A well-respected lifelong public servant, inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

**Bowery Beauties:** The showgirls at Medda's theatre.

**Stage Manager:** Employed at the Bowery, they try to keep the show on time.

**Scabs:** Opportunistic workers who take over the newsies' job of delivering papers during their strike.

**Goons:** Pulitzer's hired intimidating thugs intended to break up the strike.

**Nuns:** Kindhearted women who offer charity and support to the newsies.

**Policemen:** Officers who break up protests and back the publishers.

**Mayor:** Political figure caught between the demands of the protestors and press.

### From the Streets to the Stage

Did you know that some *Newsies*' characters are inspired by real-life figures from the 1890s? Jack Kelly draws from Louis "Kid Blink" Baletti, a charismatic strike leader, while Davey reflects David Simmons, the union's president.

Katherine is also based on several historical women - see page X to learn more!



Newsies in Newark, New Jersey, 1909.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### *Act One*

*Santa Fe*

*Carrying the Banner*

*The Bottom Line*

*That's Rich*

*I Never Planned on You/ Don't Come a-Knocking*

*The World Will Know*

*Watch What Happens*

*Seize The Day*

### *Act Two*

*King of New York*

*Letter from The Refuge*

*Watch What Happens*

*The Bottom Line*

*Brooklyn's Here*

*Something to Believe In*

*Once and for All*

*Finale Ultimo*

## PLOT SYNOPSIS

### ACT 1

#### **Prologue: Rooftop, Dawn**

In 1899 New York City, ambitious Jack Kelly and his best friend Crutchie embrace the quiet of the Manhattan cityscape rooftop before chaos sets in while Jack shares his hopes and dreams of a bigger life ('Santa Fe'). They then retreat to join the other newsies.

#### **Scene 1: Newsboy' Lodging House and Newsie Square**

The newsies gather in Newsies Square to sell newspapers ('Carrying the Banner'). Threatened by the Delancey brothers as they receive their morning bundles, the newsies are joined by Les and Davey – a sibling duo, hoping to earn money to support their family. Jack offers to take them under his wings, and together the Newsies hit the streets and head out into New York City.

#### **Scene 2: Pulitzer's Office**

Joseph Pulitzer – current publisher of the New York World newspaper – has his hair cut as he explains a desire to increase the cost of newspaper bundles for more profit ('The Bottom Line'). This decision is welcomed by his staff, and Pulitzer neglects the negative impact this might have on the Newsies ('Carrying the Banner – Reprise').

#### **Scene 3: A Street Corner**

Davey is unimpressed by Jack's manipulative techniques to sell newspapers while Les mimics his mastery. Just before parting ways, the three are chased by the refuge house warden, Snyder, and successfully escape.

#### **Scene 4: Medda's Theater**

Attempting to find a place of temporary refuge following their elusion, Jack, Les and Davey retreat to Medda's theater and watch her perform ('That's Rich'). While in the theater, Jack is drawn to Katherine and tries to engage her in conversation ('I Never Planned on You/ Don't Come a-Knocking').

#### **Scene 5: Newsie Square**

The next morning, as the Newsies convene routinely in Newsie Square, outside the distribution of the New York World newspaper, they find out about Pulitzer's ten-cent cost increase and become outraged. Jack then manages to convince the Newsies to strike, explaining that this is their best shot at having their demands heard ('The World Will Know').

#### **Scene 6: Jacobi's Deli & Street**

While settled in Jacobi's Deli, the newsies strategize on how to spread the word of the strike ('The World Will Know - Reprise') as Jack flirts with Katherine.

### **Scene 7: Katherine's Office**

Katherine begins writing her article on the newsies' strike, feeling the pressure of their hopes resting on her to deliver a compelling piece ('Watch What Happens').

### **Scene 8: Newsie Square**

A small group of newsies assemble in Newsies Square and unite to begin their strike. Embracing his role as union leader, Jack Kelly along with Davey encourage the group, successfully recruiting new members initially motivated to break up the strike ('Seize The Day'). Unfortunately, Snyder and the police break up the strike and get a hold of Crutchie.

### **Scene 9: Rooftop**

Disheartened by the failed protest, Jack Kelly clings to his dream for a new life in Santa Fe ('Santa Fe').

## **ACT 2**

### **Scene One: Jacobi's Deli**

The newsies are together at their favorite hangout spot, overjoyed to discover that Katherine's article on the strike successfully made headlines in the paper ('King of New York').

### **Scene Two: The Refuge**

From the New York House of Refuge, Crutchie writes to Jack capturing his harsh treatment at the facility as he daydreams of being back on the rooftop and shares his desire for the newsies to remain united ('Letter From The Refuge').

### **Scene Three: Medda's Theater**

At Medda's Theater, Jack embraces his artistry, painting a backdrop of the Taos Mountains in Santa Fe. Shortly after, Davey arrives with the news of Katherine's successful newspaper article; however, Jack is still discouraged by the failed strike. He then reveals his painting to Davey, Les and Katherine ('Jack's Painting'), who help restore his faith in the protest ('Watch What Happens – Reprise').

### **Scene 4: Pulitzer's Office & Cellar**

Pulitzer and Snyder partner together in a heated discussion, trying to convince the Mayor of Jack's unlawful character. Later, Jack arrives and finds himself trapped by Pulitzer who unveils Katherine as his daughter and rejoices after finally successfully capturing his convict ('The Bottom Line - Reprise'). While spending the night in Pulitzer's cellar, Jack is forced to sleep on an old printing press.

### **Scene 5: Brooklyn Bridge and Medda's Theatre**

A cavalry of Brooklyn Newsies fearlessly makes their way to the rally ('Brooklyn's Here') and arrive at Medda's Theatre ready to rally. In Jack's absence, Davey steps up to lead the newly formed Newsboys' Union. Jack unexpectedly returns but faces resistance when he proposes a deal with Pulitzer.

### Scene 6: Rooftop

That night on the rooftop, Katherine discovers Jack's hidden drawings of the Refuge. Tension rises, but an argument gives way to a kiss. Katherine then shares a plan for a strike regroup and proposes combining words with Jack's drawings for a powerful newspaper publication. They confess their feelings for each other and share another kiss ('Something to Believe In').

### Scene 7: Pulitzer's Cellar

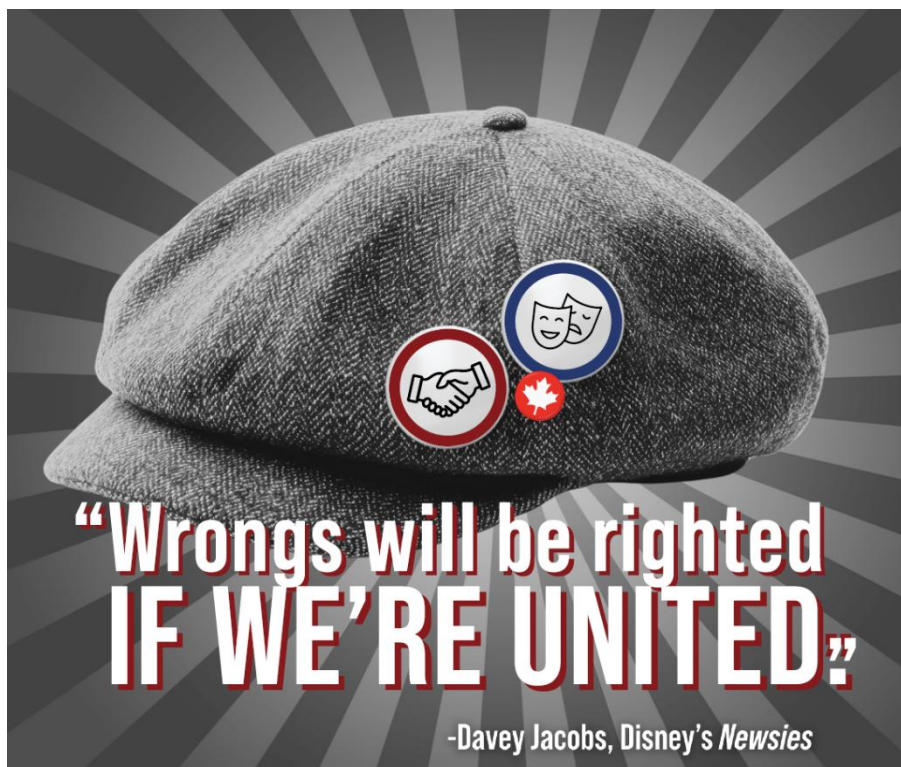
The Newsies re-unite and sneak into Pulitzer's Cellar to print a new publication ('Seize The Day - Reprise'). Enthusiastic and motivated, they devise a plan to print the papers and lead a revolution on behalf of the voiceless youths ('Once and For All').

### Scene 8: Pulitzer's Office

Chaos erupts at Pulitzer's office as his staff scrambles to answer a flood of phone calls. Amidst the panic, Jack and his friends barge in, enthusiastic to reveal their newspaper's success. Meanwhile, just outside the office, the Newsies unite ('Seize the Day – Reprise 2') and Pulitzer is surprised to find the Mayor and Governor Roosevelt are in support of the strike. With the Governor's support, Jack negotiates a compromise with Pulitzer that benefits the newsies.

### Scene 9: Newsie Square

The newsies' victory is celebrated ('Finale Ultimo – Part 1') as the police return Crutchie, shutting down the Refuge and arresting Snyder. With the promise of an exciting future, Jack decides to remain in New York – a decision Katherine, Davey, Les and the newsies are overjoyed by ('Finale Ultimo – Part 2')!



## THE EVOLUTION OF *DISNEY'S NEWSIES*

### Newsboys' Strike of 1899

*Newsies* was based on the events of the Newsboys' Strike of 1899 which were as follows:



### **The Role of Women in Journalism**

The news trade was largely dominated by boys as it was considered a physically demanding and morally 'rough' job - hence inappropriate - for girls. Families often viewed the streets as too dangerous for young women and believed it was safer to send out boys instead. As a result, the presence of girls and women in the world of newspaper selling was minimal, and often disregarded.



*News girl in 1910*



However, the character of Katherine in *Newsies* highlights the overlooked, yet essential, role of women in journalism and activism. While fictional, she appears to be a composite of several real-life figures:

- **Katherine Ethel Pulitzer:** The daughter of Joseph Pulitzer who tragically died of pneumonia at the age of 2.
- **Annie Kelly:** One of the only three women to attend the strikers' rally at Irving Hall (the other two were reporters). She is remembered for her encouraging words: *"All I can say, boys, is to stick together and we'll win. That's all I've got to say to you."*
- **Nellie Bly:** An American journalist at Pittsburgh Dispatch who wrote a series of investigative reports on female factory workers.

### Child Labour Laws

The New York Newsboys Strike of 1899 led to the recognition of the poor living conditions and lifestyles of young children in urban cities. By the 1900's, at least 18% of children were employed. 25% of the children working in the Southern cotton mills were below the age of fifteen, half of whom were even below the age of twelve years old. Up until the 20th century, child labor was an essential factor of the American economy and social life.

In 1902, Florence Kelley, a *founder of the social work profession*, and Lillian Wald, the founder of the Henry Street Settlement, persuaded the Association of Neighborhood Workers to take up the issue of child labour. This caused the creation of the group called the "Child Labor Committee" who were committed to addressing the exploitation of working children.

*Newsies* additionally draws attention to the "Children's Crusade," - a phrase famously associated with the 1903 **March of the Mill Children** - led by labour activist, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones. The march, which stretched from Philadelphia to President Theodore Roosevelt's Long Island summer home in Oyster Bay, New York, aimed to publicize the harsh conditions of child labor and demand a 55-hour work week. This historical moment is echoed in *Newsies* when Katherine writes,



1903 March of the Mill Children

*"For the sake of all the kids in every sweatshop, factory, and slaughter house in New York, I beg you... join us."*

### Consider This: Step Into the Shoes of a Newsie!

Imagine waking up before dawn to hustle through crowded streets, calling out headlines just to earn enough for a day's meal. Now imagine being told you'll have to pay more just to do your job. *Newsies* isn't just a musical - it's a glimpse into the grit, courage, and determination of young people fighting for fairness in a world stacked against them.

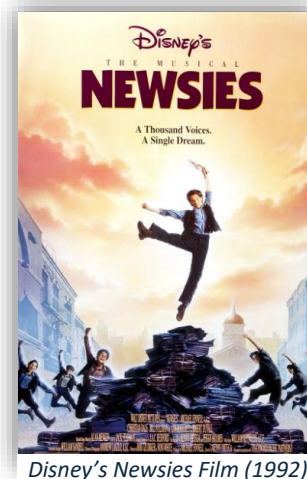
As you watch, consider what it means to speak out, to organize, and to take a stand - no matter your age or status.

*What would you do if your voice was the only tool you had?*

## Production History

### *Newsies* Film

The story of the newsies - from their ability to overcome personal struggles to mobilizing against injustice – is a defining moment in American history. With their courage, unity and youthful defiance, the newsies became unlikely heroes, prompting Walt Disney Pictures to immortalize their story in a 1992 film. This historical film was written by Bob Tzudiker and directed by choreographer, Kenny Ortega in his feature directorial debut. It included twelve original songs by Alan Menken, with lyrics by Jack Feldman, and an underscore by J.A.C. Redford.



### *Newsies* Musical

Building on the film's growing momentum, Harvey Fierstein adapted *Newsies* for the stage. In 2011, the musical adaptation of *Newsies* premiered at Paper Mill Playhouse and, shortly after garnering more traction than expected, debuted on Broadway in 2012. After 1000 performances on Broadway and a North American tour across 65 cities, *Newsies* had played to 2.5 million audience members. Later in 2017, a live-filmed version was digitally released on Netflix and later switched to Disney+. Jeremy Jordan, who starred as Jack Kelly, was nominated for both a Tony Award (for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical) and a Grammy Award (for Best Musical Theatre Album) as a soloist on the *Newsies* original cast album.

**GRANDTHEATRE**  
High School Project production of

Disney's  
**NEWSIES**  
THE MUSICAL

SPRIET STAGE, SEPTEMBER 17 TO 27, 2025

OPENING NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

## CREATIVE TEAM

Ray Hogg*	Director
Matthew Atkins	Musical Director
Krista Leis*	Choreographer
Joshua Quinlan+	Set Designer
Lisa Wright	Costume Designer
Echo Zhou †	Lighting Designer
Emily Porter †	Sound Designer
Kristi Hansen	Disability Consultant
Melissa Cameron*	Stage Manager
Kaitlyn Kaemingh	Apprentice Stage Manager

## CLASSROOM ENGAGEMENT

**Pre-Show** - Whether you have a few minutes or a whole class period, here are a few ways to thoughtfully engage with the themes, history and characters of *Newsies* before watching the production.

### *If You Have 15 Minutes: Think-Pair-Share*

**Prompt:** How can media - like newspapers or social media - be used to support or silence a movement? Who decides what story gets told?

- **Think:** Reflect and jot down your thoughts.
- **Pair:** Share with a partner. What do you agree on? What surprised you?
- **Share:** Share key takeaways with the class

### *If You Have 30 Minutes: Media Report*

- **Decide:** In small groups, select a topic that inspired the plot of *Newsies*: Newboys' Strike of 1899, Women in Journalism, or Child Labour Laws. Decide which format your media report will take (e.g., article, televised news, podcast).
- **Prepare:** Use the information provided in this study guide and your own research to gather interesting facts, quotes, and perspectives about your topic.
- **Create:** Outline the structure of your media report and create a first draft. (*The activity can finish here, or if students are passionate about their topics, take the next step to fully realize their media reports.*)

### *If You Have 1 Hour: Debate and Discussion*

- **Introduction:** Take a few moments to review the 'Newsboys' Strike of 1899' timeline on page 11, and if time permits, dive deeper into this event. Narrow in on the key conflict: newspaper publishers raising the cost of a newsboy's bundle of newspapers (100 papers increases from 50 to 60 cents).
- **Group Debate:** Split students into two groups: one representing the newsies (workers) and one representing the newspaper publishers (business owners). Each group prepares arguments defending their position, considering all possible perspectives. Once opening statements and three main arguments are prepared, have each group take turns presenting their information with opportunity for rebuttal and closing statements. Refer to [ESL Debates](#) for more detailed on instructions on various debate structures.
- **Reflection Session:** Discuss:
  - *What was fair or unfair in the conflict?*
  - *How does power affect who gets heard?*
  - *What can this story teach us about standing up for our rights?*

**Post-Show** - Having watched *Newsies*, use these questions and activities to deepen your understanding of the story's message and reflect on how the show made you feel:

***If You Have 15 Minutes: Think-Pair-Share***

**Question:** Reflect on moments of injustice in *Newsies* (Crutchie in The Refuge, Katherine as a journalist, Jack bribed by Pulitzer). How do their stories relate to real-life struggles for fairness and justice?

- **Think:** Reflect and jot down your thoughts.
- **Pair:** Share with a partner. What do you agree on? What surprised you?
- **Share:** Share key takeaways with the class

***If You Have 30 Minutes: Walk in a Newsie's Shoes***


- **Identify:** Select a character from the show (e.g., Jack, Davey, Katherine, Pulitzer, Snyder). Compile a list of their goals, motivations, challenges, and risks.
- **Write:** Write at least 3 sentences from your character's perspective, answering the points below:
  - "If I don't speak up or do something now..."
  - "I really want \_\_\_ because..."
  - "My legacy will be..."
- **Reflect:** Are there any commonalities between you and your selected character? Would you have done anything differently?

***If You Have 1 Hour: Collaborative Storytelling and Reflection***


- **Group Storyboarding:** In small groups, create a storyboard or comic strip that retells the story of the newsies. Be sure to capture key plot points including the beginning, middle, conflicts, and conclusion.
- **Presentation:** Groups present their storyboards to the class, highlighting favourite moments and emotions.
- **Reflection Session:** Discuss:
  - How did your understanding of the story deepen through this activity?
  - How might the story of *Newsies* inspire young people today?

You Are Very Welcome.

We are building a community that future generations can be proud of. A community where everyone is welcome. A community where you can be yourself.



**GRANDTHEATRE.COM/YOUTH-EDUCATION**



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## REFERENCES

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## CONTACT US

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If you have any questions about this Audience Enrichment Guide or Education at the Grand Theatre, please reach out to ...



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We look forward to seeing you!

