

NEWSIES AUDITION SIDES

Character Descriptions – Newsies

JACK KELLY – a fiercely loyal and charismatic orphan, who dreams of a life out west and boldly leads the Manhattan newsies

CRUTCHIE – a dedicated newsie and Jack’s ever-optimistic best friend; named Casey, but known to most as Crutchie

DAVEY – Les’s straight-laced, bright, older brother who acts as the brains behind the newsies’ strike

LES – Davey’s cheeky younger sibling who is inspired by the freedom of the newsies and loves their independent lifestyle

NEWSIES FEATURE (newsie boy and girls some speaking roles and solos) – Newsies! Use the lines to help you create a personality!

MEDDA LARKIN – a big-voiced saloon singer and star of the Bowery who offers her theater as a safe haven for the newsies

PAT – the stage manager of Medda’s theater

KATHERINE – an ambitious young reporter who works hard to make a name for herself; courageously uses her voice to cover the newsies’ strike

JOSEPH PULITZER – a pompous businessman and Katherine’s no-nonsense father; does not sympathize with the strikers, but comes to respect Jack

SEITZ – an editor who advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids’ newspaper **HANNAH** – Pulitzer’s secretary who quietly looks out for the newsies

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

WIESEL – a disgruntled manager of distribution for the World, often called “Weasel” by the newsies

SNYDER – the crooked and sinister warden of The Refuge.

JOSEPH PULITZER, BUNSON, SEITZ

This is a business, not a charity. Those children need to learn the value of hard work, just like I did when I was their age. I started out with nothing and look at me now! This is a real-life lesson in economics. They’ll thank me for this someday!

DAVEY, LES

But it’s not just a dream, not after tonight’s rally – a citywide meeting where every newsie gets a say and a vote. And we do it after working hours so no one loses a day’s pay. Smart? ...Jack, you said it yourself: My family wouldn’t be in this mess if my father had a union. This is a fight we have to win. See you tonight?

JACK KELLY

Here’s the deal: If we don’t sell papes, then no one sells papes. Nobody gets to that wagon till they put the price back were it belongs. We shut this place down like them workers shut down

the trolleys! Cops ain't gonna care about a bunch of kids. Right, Davey? We stick together, we can do anything.

MEDDA

Well Hi-Dee-ho everybody. Welcome to my theater. Yessiree, it's a brand new century with a brand new set of rules for women, and the Brigade and I are gonna tell you all about them. Maestro, if you please!

KATHERINE PLUMBER, HANNAH

Look, I know a great story when I see one: "A couple of ragtag Davids take on local Goliath." Wake up to the new century, Mr Kelly. It's 1899, the game's changing. How about an exclusive interview? I'm trying to do what's never been done before, just like you and your strike.... You see somebody else giving you the time of day?

WIESEL

Papes for the newises! Line up. The name;s Wise-el. A hundred papes for the wise guy. Fifty papes for the Crutchie. Twenty for the newbie, let's see the dime. Cash up front. Cough up the cash or blow.

CRUTCHIE

I wanna get there before everybody. Ever since I got the polio, it takes me extra time to warm up my leg. If Snyder gets the idea I can't make it on my own for real, they'll lock me up in The Refuge for good.

NEWSIES FEATURE

You got us in the pape!?! Hey fellas, look who just made the front page of the New York Sun! "Newsies Stop the World "- Now there's a headline even Albert could sell. Wait till my old man gets a load of dis! I won't be last in line for the tub tonight.

SNYDER

Hello, Jack. I got your old bunk waiting for you.