

NEWSIES Character Breakdown

Jack Kelly (male)

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. An actor who can command the stage with ease, a strong solo singer, and can exude Jack's tough-guy exterior and his big heart. Jack needs to be able to dance.

Katherine Plumber (female)

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 solo singer with excellent diction and acting.

Crutchie (male)

Jack's best friend and a dedicated newsie with a "bum leg" from polio that causes pain, but helps sell more papes. Walking with the assistance of a crutch doesn't define the ever-positive newsie, an actor who can portray Casey's goofy-sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience. Loyal & comedic.. strong solo singer and actor

Davey (male)

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. A strong actor and solo singer. Dancing is required

Les (male or female)

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.. Strong actor and singer. Dancing is required

Medda Larkin (female)

Inspired by the African- American vaudeville performer, Aida Overton-Walker, A big-voiced solo singer and star of the Bowery. A proud supporter of the newsies, she offers her theater as a safe haven for their revolution. A performer who can portray this astute entertainer with great comic delivery, while standing firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice.

Spot Conlon (male or female)

Proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation and a singing solo in "Brooklyn's Here"

Newsies (male or female)

The hard-working kids of New York City who go on strike for a livable wage. Looking for talented tumblers and strong dancers both male and female.

Race, Albert, Muriel, Nancy, Specs, Pigtales, Hazel, Buttons, Tommy Boy, Romeo, Jo Jo, Scabs, Brooklyn Newsies, AND MORE

Joseph Pulitzer (male)

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. Non-singing role, a strong actor with a sharp and imposing presence.

Governor Teddy Roosevelt (male)

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

Bowery Brigade (female)

Includes the roles of the upbeat and charming **Ada, Olive, and Ethel**. A group of vaudeville performers in Medda's act. While only three performers have solos, the soloists need to be able to sing and dance.. There will be a dance group during Medda's song, so this will be a group of girls.

Wiesel (male or female)

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

Darcy (female)

A photographer who works with Katherine.

Dorothy (female)

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

Bill (male)

Katherine's upper class friend whose parents own the New York Journal and help the newsies print the Newsies Banner.

Seitz (male or female)

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

Bunsen (male or female)

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

Hannah (female)

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

Snyder (male)

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. An actor who can evoke an imposing and sinister presence.

Nuns (female ensemble)

Featured in "Carrying the Banner", strong singers.

Police Officers (male or female)

Includes the role of the Police Chief. They intimidate the newsies and arrest Crutchie.

Pat (male or female)

An efficient stage manager who introduces Medda's act.

Velda ~ woman (female)

A newspaper customer.

Working Children of NYC (male and female)

Featured in "Once and For All," they represent all of the other child laborers who receive the Newsies Banner and ultimately become a part of the children's crusade.