

*To Engage, Educate,  
and Inspire*

## Audition Packet



## Performance Dates

November 3 - 5, 2022 at [Wheaton Academy, Fine Arts Center](#)

## Auditions

**\*\*Participants must be 18 years of age and younger\*\***

VIDEO AUDITIONS WINDOW: July 21 - August 21, 2022 by 5pm

IN-PERSON CALLBACKS: August 27, 2022 from 10am-2pm at [West Chicago Bible Church](#)

The cast list will be posted and emailed by August 28, 2022.

Cast/Parent Kickoff Meeting: August 29, 2022 from 7:00-8:00pm at [West Chicago Bible Church](#)

Rehearsals start August 30, 2022 (M/T/Th/Sat, as called)

## ENCLOSED IN THIS PACKET:

- 1) Audition Guidelines and Audition Form
- 2) Audition Lyrics
- 3) About the Show
- 4) Preliminary Schedule (for planning purposes only)
- 5) Production Guidelines
- 6) Waiver and Release

## Audition Guidelines and Audition Form

### **Q/A Zoom Meeting**

Monday, August 8, 6:30-7:00pm

A BRIEF Zoom will be held to answer questions you may have about the audition process!

<https://zoom.us/j/4073511367?pwd=VW9vNXZ6SHIxVUY4T1BjRkNhMHdFZz09>

Meeting ID: 407 351 1367

Passcode: WeGo2021

**\*\*ONLY PARTICIPANTS WITH RECOGNIZABLE NAMES WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE ZOOM!\*\***

### **BEFORE RECORDING, make sure you have the following completed:**

The audition consists of singing two (2) songs. Everyone needs to sing "Carrying the Banner." Then choose a second song from the remaining four that is applicable to your voice range and/or character preference. Unlike past auditions, only these songs will be permitted. This is true even if you will be working with a voice coach.

- Choose your two songs
  - Melanie has prepared [THESE SONGS](#) for you to use for your audition
    - The link includes a teaching recording and an audition recording for each song
  - ALL who audition must sing with accompaniment
  - ALL who audition must sing alone
- PRACTICE your songs!!
- Memorize your songs.

### **WHEN YOU'RE READY TO RECORD:**

- Make sure you are recording in a space where you have room to move and where the camera can see your whole body.
- Make sure you go to record in a quiet space where you will be uninterrupted. Remember that recording your song outside could have wind that changes your sound.
- Think about your lighting: think about facing a window in the daylight for proper lighting.
- When recording, you need to be on the same "level" as your camera. So we do not see you from a weird angle.
- Use one device (laptop, tablet, phone, etc.) to record your video. Use a second device (preferably a smartphone) at **¾ volume** to play your accompaniment along with your vocal audition. Make sure to project when singing!
- Start your video by introducing yourself: "Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_, and I am \_\_\_\_ years old."
  - Adults - you do not need to tell us your age :)
- Be sure to listen and watch your video before submitting it to make sure the sound levels are okay.

### **WHEN YOUR RECORDING IS FINISHED:**

- Upload your video(s) to YouTube and label it as "first name last name, Audition Video" and make it "unlisted."
- Fill out the [Audition Form](https://forms.gle/d9KeBhStSndefip86) (<https://forms.gle/d9KeBhStSndefip86>). You will need to sign into a Google account for access.

### **Recordings are due on August 21st by 5:00pm**

**\*\*Everyone who auditions will be cast. All cast members will be featured in some way (speaking lines, solo singing, or featured dancing.) Roles will be divided as necessary to ensure that every child has a featured part!\*\***

## Audition Lyrics

*Everyone needs to sing "Carrying the Banner."*

### **"Carrying the Banner"**

We'll all be out there, carrying the banner, man to man.  
We're always out there, soakin' ev'ry sucker that we can.  
Here's the headline: "Newsies on a mission!"  
Kill the competition! Sell the next edition!  
We'll out there, carrying the banner  
See us out there, carrying the banner  
Always out there, carrying the banner!  
Go!

*Then choose a second song from the remaining four that is applicable to your voice range and/or character preference.*

### **"Just a Pretty Face"**

*Sung by MEDDA LARKIN*

I'm gonna take my turn at bat.  
There's lots of ways to skin a rat.  
George Washington found glory from the armies he led,  
But look what Betsy Ross did with a needle and thread!  
So don't be fooled by the powder and lace  
I'm more than just a pretty face.

### **"Santa Fe"**

*Sung by JACK*

Plantin' crops, splittin' rails,  
swappin' tales around the fire  
'Cept for Sunday, when you lie around all day.  
Soon your friends are more like family  
And they's begging you to stay  
Ain't that neat? Livin's sweet in Santa Fe.

### **"Letter From the Refuge"**

*Sung by CRUTCHIE*

I'll be fine, good as new.  
But there's one thing I need you to do:  
In the alley you said that a family looks out for each other  
So you tell all the fellas for me to protect one another.  
The end. Your friend... your best friend...  
Go get 'em... Crutchie.

### **"Watch What Happens"**

*Sung by KATHERINE*

These kids will live and breathe right on the page  
And once they're center stage you watch what happens!  
And who's there with her camera and her pen  
As boys turn into men? They'll storm the gates and then  
Just watch what happens when they do!

## 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.

Newsies JR. features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein. 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.

Disney's Newsies JR. is a 90-minute version of the 2012 Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film. Participants must be 18 years of age and younger.

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*All ethnicities, genders, types, sizes, and ages are welcome.*

### **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 Kelly's ever-optimistic best friend; named Casey, but known to most as Crutchie

### **KATHERINE**

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

### **DARCY**

Katherine's trustworthy photographer

### **MORRIS and OSCAR DELANCEY**

toughs who work for the New York World; known to use their fists to make a point

### **WIESEL**

a disgruntled manager of distribution for the World, often called "Weasel" by the newsies

### **LES**

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

### **DAVEY**

Les's straight-laced, bright older brother who acts as the brains behind 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

### **BUNSEN**

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

### **SEITZ**

an editor who advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper

### **HANNAH**

Pulitzer's secretary who quietly looks out for the newsies

### **SNYDER**

the crooked and sinister warden of The Refuge

### **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

### **SPOT CONLON**

the proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies with an intimidating reputation

### **DOROTHY and BILL**

Katherine's friends whose parents own the New York Tribune and New York Journal, respectively; they help the newsies print the Newsies Banner

### **GOVERNOR TEDDY ROOSEVELT**

a well-respected, lifelong public servant whom Jack admires

### **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

## Preliminary Schedule

*(for general planning purposes only)*

The rehearsal schedule will be finalized AFTER the cast list is posted so we can work around any conflicts indicated on the audition forms. It will be based around the following preliminary dates, used for planning purposes only:

### **West Chicago Bible Church (209 S Oakwood Ave, West Chicago)**

Monday, August 29, 7-8p – Cast Kick-off Meeting  
Tuesday, August 30, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Thursday, September 1, 6-9pm – Rehearsal

*Off for Labor Day Weekend*

Tuesday, September 6, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Thursday, September 8, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Saturday, September 10, 9am-3pm – Rehearsal

Monday, September 12, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Tuesday, September 13, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Thursday, September 15, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Saturday, September 17, 9am-3pm – Rehearsal

Monday, September 19, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Tuesday, September 20, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Thursday, September 22, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Saturday, September 24, 9am-3pm – Rehearsal

Monday, September 26, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Tuesday, September 27, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Thursday, September 29, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Saturday, October 1, 9am-3pm – Rehearsal

Monday, October 3, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Tuesday, October 4, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Thursday, October 6, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Saturday, October 8, 9am-3pm – Rehearsal

Monday, October 10, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Tuesday, October 11, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Thursday, October 13, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Saturday, October 15, 9am-3pm – Rehearsal

Monday, October 17, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Tuesday, October 18, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Thursday, October 20, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Saturday, October 22, 9am-3pm – Rehearsal

Monday, October 24, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Tuesday, October 25, 6-9pm – Rehearsal  
Thursday, October 27, 6-9pm – Rehearsal

### **Wheaton Academy, Fine Arts Center (900 Prince Crossing Road, West Chicago)**

Saturday, October 29, 9am-5pm – Tech (REQUIRED)

Monday, October 31 - *Off for Halloween*

Tuesday, November 1, 5-10pm – Dress Rehearsal (REQUIRED)

Wednesday, November 2, 5-10pm – Dress Rehearsal (REQUIRED)

Thursday, November 3, 5-10pm – Performance (REQUIRED)

Friday, November 4, 5-10pm – Performance (REQUIRED)

Saturday, November 5, 10am-5pm – Performance/Strike (REQUIRED)

**Because there will be limited rehearsals for each song/scene, not everyone will need to attend every rehearsal.**

**Attendance at tech, dress rehearsals and performances is required.**

Until we start running full acts/show, weeknight rehearsals typically start with the larger songs/scenes and those that include our youngest participants so they can be released for the night, usually between 7 - 7:30 pm. We then focus on our older students between 7 - 8:30 pm and end the night with adults. There is flexibility here though since we try to accommodate families that include multiple age groups. Saturday rehearsals are scheduled for longer stretches so we can focus on choreography. Similarly, though, participants are called for a block of time based on their age group and availability. The schedule will be planned in the best interest of those called for the rehearsal.

## Production Guidelines

### SPECIAL STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19 MITIGATION STRATEGIES:

**\*\*\*At this time, masks are optional in K-12 public school settings. As such, at our rehearsals and performances, masks will be optional for all participants and patrons regardless of vaccination status. This will remain the case unless new guidance is recommended.\*\*\***

In the unlikely event that tighter mitigation strategies are needed, we will follow the COVID 19 mitigation strategies (masking, social distancing, etc.) for K-12 public schools as defined by the CDC and IDPH. No medical or religious exemptions will be accepted. If your family is not able or willing to adhere to these guidelines, we invite you to sit this one out and join us in a future production.

**\*\*MY COMPLETED AUDITION FORM SERVES AS MY UNDERSTANDING OF THESE COVID-19 MITIGATION STRATEGIES AS WELL AS MY AGREEMENT TO FOLLOW THOSE MITIGATION STRATEGIES\*\***

**Casting:** Congratulations! WeGo Community Theatre will be casting everyone who auditions. Many talented people audition for our shows, but much more goes into casting than just that. We look at things like age, gender, height, and conflicts when we cast our shows. If you aren't offered the part you wanted, please do not take it personally. We cast you in the perfect role for YOU, and we still want you in our show!

**Roles:** If you don't like the part we offer, you don't have to accept it. We won't be mad at you! If you are wondering why you didn't get a certain part, you may contact the Production Staff. They will answer you honestly. If you do accept your part, we expect you to honor your commitment. If you quit in the middle of the rehearsal process (unless there is an emergency), it causes problems for everyone involved in the show. We will remember the next time we cast a show. (Getting a part in a different show is NOT an emergency.)

**Scheduling:** Tell us ALL of your rehearsal schedule conflicts. We use conflicts to determine the rehearsal schedule. **Be honest.** Rehearsals are the most productive when everyone attends. Frequent absences not listed as conflicts on your audition form will cause your part(s) to be re-cast.

**Fees:** \$80 per person - **DUE 10/01/2022.** Payments can be made in cash or via Zelle. Checks and credit/debit cards will not be accepted for registration fees. Information will be available at the Cast Kickoff Meeting.

**Behavior:** We will not tolerate bullying or harassment in any form. Bullying and harassment will result in immediate removal from the production.

**Rehearsals:** WeGo Community Theatre has closed rehearsals. To ensure the safety of all our participants, only production staff members and actors called to that rehearsal are allowed into the rehearsal room.

**Rehearsal Expectations:** We will do our best to keep you busy during rehearsals, but there is some waiting around in the rehearsal space. Please bring something quiet to do to every rehearsal. Memorizing lines, working on homework, reading a book are all fabulous choices!! Please remember that WeGo Community Theatre cannot be held responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items. Bring electronic devices (with headphones) at your own risk. \*\*see cell phone note\*\*

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**Cell Phones:** For children under 18, cell phones may be brought to rehearsal for parent contact purposes only. It is not appropriate to make phone calls, text, take photos/videos, or check social media during rehearsals. If cell phone use becomes a problem, you won't be allowed to have it at rehearsals at all.

**Trial:** The acceptable age range for our production is five (5) to adult. We will consider children younger than five on a "trial" basis. That means we will put the child in a few numbers, and let them "try it out"! Children participating in the show on a trial basis will only be in as many numbers as they can handle – it may be different for each child. Trial participants will have a lighter rehearsal schedule. If the trial isn't working out, we will have to recast your part and have you come back for a future show when you are a little older. Full or partial refunds may be given for trial participants if the production team feels it isn't working.

**Refunds:** Folks who drop out of the show or who are removed from the show for any reason after October 1st, 2022 will not be refunded any portion of the fees. ("Trial" participants should refer to the section marked "trial" for information specific to them.)

**Volunteers:** All families are required to help out in some way. More information will be provided at the Cast Kickoff Meeting.

**Waiver Forms:** All participants must have the waiver forms signed prior to the first rehearsal.

**Rehearsal Monitors:** Families with children under thirteen (13) may be asked to supervise some rehearsals. Once the show is cast, rehearsal monitor duties will be divided among parents. Details will be given at the first rehearsal.

**Rehearsals:** Rehearsals will begin and end promptly at the stated time (except for tech week when rehearsals may run late). Please be prompt when dropping off or picking up your child(ren). Frequent tardiness will result in your part being recast. The last few minutes of every rehearsal will be spent cleaning up the rehearsal space. Everyone is responsible for disposing of their own garbage, picking up their own mess, and properly putting away all materials.

**\*\*MY COMPLETED AUDITION FORM SERVES AS MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN THIS AUDITION PACKET, AS WELL AS MY AGREEMENT TO FOLLOW STATED PROCEDURES\*\***



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## Program Waiver and Release

*Printed copies of this form will be available to sign at the first cast meeting*

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE READ

WeGo Community Theatre is committed to conducting its recreation programs and activities in a safe manner and holds the safety of participants in high regard. WeGo Community Theatre continually strives to reduce such risks and insists that all participants follow safety rules and instructions that are designed to protect the participants' safety. However, participants and parents/guardians of minors registering for this program/activity must recognize that there is an inherent risk of injury when choosing to participate in recreational activities/programs.

**You are solely responsible for determining if you or your minor child/ward are physically fit and/or adequately skilled for the activities contemplated by this agreement. It is always advisable, especially if the participant is pregnant, disabled in any way, or has recently suffered an illness, injury, or impairment, to consult a physician before undertaking any physical activity.**

### WARNING OF RISK

Recreational activities are intended to challenge and engage the physical, mental, and emotional resources of each participant. Despite careful and proper preparation, instruction, medical advice, conditioning, and equipment, there is still a risk of serious injury when participating in any recreational activity. All hazards and dangers cannot be foreseen. Depending on the particular activity, certain risks, dangers and injuries may exist due to inclement weather, slips and falls, poor skill level or conditioning, carelessness, horseplay, unsportsmanlike conduct, premises defects, inadequate or defective equipment, inadequate supervision, instruction, or officiating, and other risks inherent to the particular activity. In this regard, it is impossible for WeGo Community Theatre to guarantee absolute safety.

### WAIVER AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in signing up and participating in this program/activity, you will be expressly assuming the risk and legal liability and waiving and releasing all claims for injuries, damages or loss which you or your minor child/ward might sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with and associated with this program/activity (including transportation services and vehicle operations, when provided).

I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury to participants in this program/activity, and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of any and all injuries, damages, or loss, regardless of severity, that my minor child/ward or I may sustain as a result of said participation. I further agree to waive and relinquish all claims I or my minor child/ward may have (or accrue to me or my child/ward) as a result of participating in this program/activity against WeGo Community Theatre, including its officials, agents, volunteers, and employees.

I have read and fully understand the above important information, warning of risk, assumption of risk, and waiver and release of all claims. If registering online or via fax, my online or facsimile signature shall substitute for and have the same legal effect as an original form signature.

### PLEASE PRINT

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(18 years or older or Parent/Guardian)

**PARTICIPATION WILL BE DENIED  
If the signature of an adult participant or parent/guardian and date are not on this waiver.**



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## Media Release Form

*Printed copies of this form will be available at the first cast meeting*

I hereby grant and authorize WeGo Community Theatre the right to take, edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, distribute, and make use of any and all pictures or videos taken of me by WeGo Community Theatre to be used in and/or for legally promotional materials including but not limited to newsletters, flyers, posters, brochures, advertisements, fundraising letters, annual reports, press kits, and submissions to journalists, websites, social networking sites, and other print and digital communications, without payment or any other consideration. This authorization extends to all languages, media, formats, and markets now known or hereafter devised. This authorization shall continue indefinitely unless I otherwise revoke said authorization in writing.

I understand and agree that these materials shall become the property of WeGo Community Theatre and will not be returned.

I hereby irrevocably authorize the {Name of Organization} to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, or distribute these photos for any lawful purpose. In addition, I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photo.

I hereby hold harmless, release, and forever discharge the {Name of Organization} from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

**I have read and fully understand the above important information.**

**PLEASE PRINT**

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(18 years or older or Parent/Guardian)

**PARTICIPATION WILL BE DENIED**  
**If the signature of an adult participant or parent/guardian and date are not on this waiver.**