



Disney

NEWSIES
JR.

© Disney

AUDITION PACK

Jingeri,

At Beenleigh Theatre Group we believe we all play a role in creating stories that reflect the diversity of the world in which we live, work and perform. We expect all of our members and employees to share this view.

To this end, we are committed to diverse, inclusive casting, and aim to include and engage with diverse thinking in all aspects of the casting process.

Therefore, we invite auditionees to submit for any role they choose, regardless of race, age, national origin, ethnic origin, gender identity or lived experience of disability. All auditionees will be considered for all roles, irrespective of traditional casting, except where such casting may contradict the meaning of the text.

Furthermore:

- Where a character is explicitly identified in the script as BIPOC, only BIPOC artists will be considered. The practice of white-washing reinforces the extremely harmful notion of white superiority, and is subsequently a practice that we emphatically reject.
- Where a character is explicitly identified in the script as LGBTQIA+, we will first seek to cast LGBTQIA+ artists.
- Where a character is explicitly identified as living with a disability, we will first seek to cast artists with similar lived experience.

In addition, Beenleigh Theatre Group seeks to empower First Nations voices in all areas of our theatre community. First Nations artists, therefore, are strongly encouraged to apply to all roles and positions advertised.

Applicants are expected to, at all times, be inclusive and supportive of diversity in language and action. Words or behaviour that may be considered offensive, insensitive, or otherwise oppressive are not tolerated from members of the theatre at any level.

Of course, there is always more to learn and more to do. Beenleigh Theatre Group prioritises our continuous education, reflection, and action.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you.
- The BTG Management Committee

BOOK YOUR AUDITION - <https://beenleightheatregroup.com/get-involved/audition/>

Production Details

Performances	30 September - 2 October, 2022
Director	Michael Ware
Musical Director	Matt Pearson
Choreographer	Holly Leeson

The BTG production is open to all performers aged 18 and under. Performers will work with a creative team of industry professionals, supported by BTG management, to bring Newsies Jr. to the stage.

All cast members will be involved in an intensive, two-week rehearsal process over the September school holidays. These rehearsals will be 9am - 5pm.

The intensive rehearsal process will culminate in 4 public performances of the show.

To alleviate the pressure of the limited rehearsal time, cast members will be given access to scripts, music and dance routines ahead of time, so that you can show up to the intensive already knowing a lot of important stuff!

There will be a show cost of \$250 for all performers. Some scholarships may be available to families facing financial hardships.

About the Show

Disney's Newsies Jr. is a 60-minute version of the 2012 Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film. Inspired by the rousing true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City, Newsies Jr. features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein.

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.

Key Dates

Auditions	6 and 7 August
Rehearsal Fundamentals	13 and 14 August
Intensive Rehearsal Week 1	19 – 23 September
Intensive Rehearsal Week 2	26 – 30 September
Performances	30 September – 2 October

BOOK YOUR AUDITION - <https://beenleightheatregroup.com/get-involved/audition/>

Creative Team

Michael Ware, director

Michael holds a double degree in Education and Creative Industries (Drama) from QUT, and a Performer's Certificate from Trinity College of London.

Michael has worked professionally as an actor and director in Australia and the UK, and has been a Drama teacher in high schools for over ten years. He has taught acting to students in community groups from ages 10-18 and is renowned for his work in musical theatre and Shakespeare. Michael has earned a reputation for delivering high outcomes and quality experiences for his students, helping to give them every chance of success as professionals in the industry.

In addition to his extensive experience as a performer, his experience as a director includes: The Importance of Being Earnest for Iona College, West Side Story for Townsville Grammar School, Mary Poppins (Associate Director), Hairspray (Director), and Cosi (Assistant Director) for Brolga Theatre and Convention Centre; A Midsummer Night's Dream and God of Carnage for Zephyr Street Performing Arts Community Theatre (Director); Oliver! for Macabre Theatre (Music Director and Associate Director).

Matt Pearson, musical director

Multi-award winning vocal and music director (2012: Best Vocal Director – Hairspray: The Musical; 2014: Best Vocal Director – Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street; 2021: Best Music Director – Jersey Boys), Matt is a highly accomplished Conductor, Music Director and Woodwind specialist.

He has taught at a number of local primary and secondary schools, and served as a music specialist, teacher and Head of Youth Theatre for The Spotlight Theatrical Company from 2013 – 2021, where many of his former students have gone on to tertiary level study.

In 2022, Matt founded SONYQ EDGE PERFORMING ARTS to cater to the growing need for quality, and extensive training in all areas of the performing arts. Currently, his students are working towards SONYQ'S inaugural production – Rock of Ages: High School Edition.

Holly Leeson, choreographer

Holly has had a varied career as a performer, choreographer and teacher.

2019 saw Holly graduate from QUT with a Bachelor Degree in Creative Industries, majoring in Drama and Dance, and a Bachelor Degree of Human Services, specialising in youth work.

Holly has dedicated the majority of her career to artistic and creative methods of community upskilling and re-engagement for at-risk and disengaged young people (primarily living in residential and foster care), and children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Holly is quite familiar to Beenleigh Theatre Group, having first started performing with the company when she was 16. Since then she has continued to perform, dance captain and choreograph for companies all across Logan, Brisbane and Gold Coast regions. Most recently she has choreographed shows such as Rock Of Ages (BTG 2021), Seussical Kids and Addams Family Young@Part (Phoenix Ensemble 2020). Holly is looking forward to bringing Disney's Newsies Jr to life!

Lauren McNamara, production manager

Lauren is a young arts manager and educator from Brisbane who is very excited to be bringing one of her favourite musicals to the stage! Lauren moved to Sydney to undertake a Bachelor of Arts (Music) at the University of Sydney and Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Whilst there, she had the pleasure of directing, music directing and producing a number of productions including EDGES: a Song Cycle, The Drowsy Chaperone, and First Date: the Musical. Upon graduation, Lauren moved to the USA where she worked in the entertainment team at Walt Disney World. Since returning to Australia in 2020, Lauren has completed a Master of Arts and Cultural Management through the University of Melbourne, and now works as a musical theatre teacher, dance studio manager and events assistant with Creative Generation - State Schools Onstage. Lauren is incredibly passionate about finding new and exciting ways for young people to get involved with the arts.

BOOK YOUR AUDITION - <https://beenleightheatregroup.com/get-involved/audition/>

How to Audition

There are two days for auditions. Saturday, 6 August and Sunday, 7 August. You will only need to attend one day, and you will have the option to select your preference.

Callbacks will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, 7 August. Please note: we will not necessarily require callbacks for all roles. Please don't feel disheartened if you are not required for a callback.

You will need to fill out an audition form. This gives us all the information we need prior to your audition. A parent or guardian **MUST** consent to you auditioning for Newsies Jr.

Your audition will take approximately 1 hour. You will be allocated to a small group with other auditionees, and audition for the Director, Musical Director, Choreographer and Production Manager. Remember, all of these people are there to celebrate and support your talents in the best way they can – they won't be disappointed if you make a mistake.

The hour will be divided into 3 components: acting, singing and dancing.

ACTING

For the acting component, you should prepare the relevant audition side (a "side" is a small script used to show off your acting skills – you can find these in the pack). You don't need to memorise the side, but you should practise it a few times before your audition. If you know what character you want to audition for, choose the side mentioned next to that character's name in the "character" section of this pack. If you don't have a preference, prepare the JACK/CRUTCHIE side (side 1)

SINGING

For the singing component, you will need to sing 90 seconds of a Disney song of your choice. There are a lot of Disney songs to choose from, so it is important that you choose something that you are comfortable with and that suits your voice. The audition panel may not need to hear the full 90 seconds. You will need to supply backing music. You can play this through a phone (we will have an aux cable and Apple dongle – you'll need to supply any other attachment needed) or bring the music on a USB.

DANCE

For the dance component, you will be taught a short routine on the day. You may wish to stretch beforehand. You should wear comfortable clothes that you can move in, and bring a drink bottle with you.

Character Roles

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 very loyal, Jack isn't afraid to use his voice to attain better conditions for the working kids of New York City.

Jack presents as male. Vocal range B3 - F5.

To audition for Jack, please prepare the following audition sides: 1 and 2.

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 with excellent diction for her showstopping number, "Watch What Happens."

Katherine presents as female. Vocal range: A3 - D5.

To audition for Katherine, please prepare the following audition sides: 2 and 4.

Crutchie

Jack's best friend and a dedicated newsie with a "bum leg" from polio that causes pain, but helps sell more papers. Walking with the assistance of a crutch doesn't define the ever-positive newsie.

Crutchie can be any gender. Vocal range A3 - F5.

To audition for Crutchie, please prepare the following audition sides: 1.

Davey

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; the brains of the resistance.

Davey presents as male. Vocal range: B3 - D5.

To audition for Davey, please prepare the following audition sides: 3

Les

Davey's cheeky younger sibling, is excited by the newsies' freedom and loves their independent lifestyle. This pint-sized charmer is younger than the other newsies.

Les can be any gender. Vocal range: B3 - F4.

To audition for Davey, please prepare the following audition sides: 3

Medda Larkin

Inspired by the African-American vaudeville performer, Aida Overton-Walker, 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.

Medda presents as female.

To audition for Medda, please prepare the following audition sides: 3

BOOK YOUR AUDITION - <https://beenleightheatregroup.com/get-involved/audition/>

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.

Pulitzer presents as male. This is a non-singing role.

To audition for Pulitzer, please prepare the following audition sides: 5

Wiesel

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

Wiesel presents as male. This is a non-singing role.

The Delancey Brothers

Oscar and Morris. They are the muscle for the World. Dumb but strong, they use their fists to make a point.

The Delancey Brothers present as male.

Newsies

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

These include the following roles: Race, Albert, Muriel, Nancy, Specs, Pigtails, Hazel, Buttons, Tommy Boy, Romeo, Jo Jo, Scabs, Brooklyn Newsies, Spot Conlon.

The newsies may double as other characters. The newsies can be any gender.

To audition for the newsies, please prepare the following audition sides: 4

Other roles

There are over 30 speaking roles in Newsies, as well as featured singers and dancers. These include roles such as: Snyder, the sinister warden of the refuge; Governor Teddy Roosevelt, a real life figure who went on to become president; Seitz, Bunsen and Hannah, Pulitzer's team who all have different reactions to his evil deeds; and so on!