



RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS  
apprentice program



## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

\*This is a dance heavy show, but all dance abilities are encouraged to audition! There are parts available for all! Some actors may play multiple roles.

\*Everyone must sing and dance at auditions!

\*Character age does not represent an actors age...

### 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 strongly loyal, Jack isn't afraid to use his voice to attain better conditions for the working kids of New York City. Though living on the streets has given him a tough-guy exterior, Jack has a big heart and can demonstrate a sweet vulnerability – especially when it comes to bantering with a certain female reporter. Must have a great pop tenor voice and sense of physicality.

*Gender: male Character Age: 16 to 20 Vocal range: A4 – Bb2*

### Crutchie

A dedicated newsie with a bum leg that's painful, but helps sell more papers. Though he walks with the assistance of a crutch, Crutchie doesn't let it define him; when in a jam, Jack Kelly's best friend relies on a goofy- sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience. Crutchie is the heart of the resistance. Though his movement will suggest his bum leg, Crutchie should still be included in the dance numbers.

*Gender: both Character Age: 13 to 17 Vocal range: A4-C3*

### 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, Davey is the brains of the resistance.

*Gender: male Character Age: 15 to 20 Vocal range: A4-D3*

### Les

Davey's cheeky younger brother, is inspired by the freedom of the newsies and loves their independent lifestyle. A precocious and natural newsie, Les is an intuitive salesboy and a pint-sized charmer. He should present as younger than the other newsies.

*Gender: male Character Age: 10 to 15 Vocal range: Bb3-Db3*

### Newsies

Including Albert, Buttons, Elmer, Finch, Henry, Ike, Jo Jo, Mike, Mush, Race, Romeo, Specs, Splasher, and Tommy Boy, etc., are some of the hard-working kids of New York City that go on strike for a livable wage.

*Gender: male/both Character Age: 13 to 20*

**Scabs**

Three newsies who are hesitant to join the strike.

*Gender: both Character Age: 10 to 20*

**Spot Conlon**

The proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation and a short singing solo in "Brooklyn's Here."

*Gender: both Character Age: 17 to 20*

**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, she boldly captures the voice of a new generation rising in her coverage of the newsies' strike. While she generally has no time for cocky, streetwise young men, she makes an exception for Jack Kelly. Though she only has a brief dance solo in "King of New York," Katherine should have a great contemporary pop voice with a high belt – diction is key.

*Gender: female Character Age: 17 to 20 Vocal range: F5-A3*

**Darcy**

The upper-class kid of a publisher who sides with the newsies. Gender: both Character Age: 15 to 20  
Bill The son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the newsies' cause.

*Gender: male Character Age: 15 to 25*

**Wiesel**

Or "Weasel," runs the distribution window for the World and knows most of the newsies by name. Assisted by the intimidating Delancey brothers, who keep order by any means necessary, Wiesel is Pulitzer's disgruntled paper- pusher.

*Gender: male Character Age: 35 to 50*

**Oscar and Morris Delancey**

Tough brothers who work at the distribution window for the World, take the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point.

*Gender: male Character Age: 15 to 20*

**Goons**

Assist the Delanceys in roughing up the newsies at the end of Act One.

*Gender: male Character Age: 15 to 20*

**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 sympathize with the strikers, but he does eventually – and grudgingly – respect Jack.

*Gender: male Character Age: 35 to 50 Vocal range: F4- C3*

**Snyder**

The crooked and sinister warden of The Refuge, a filthy and horrible orphanage, is concerned only with catching enough kids to keep his government checks coming. Gender: both

*Character Age: 45 to 65*

**Medda Larkin**

Inspired by vaudeville performer Aida Overton Walker, this big-voiced saloon singer and star of the Bowery offers her theater as a safe haven for the newsies. An astute entertainer with great comic delivery, she's a good friend to Jack and stands firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice.

*Gender: female Character Age: 25 to 45 Vocal range: E5-F3*

**Mr. Jacobi**

Allows the newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike – when he doesn't have any paying customers, that is.

*Gender: both Character Age: 35 to 55*

**Seitz**

Editor, advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper.

*Gender: both*

**Bunsen**

Pulitzer's bookkeeper, comes up with the ideas to raise the newsies' price per paper.

*Gender: both Character Age: 35 to 50*

**Hannah**

Pulitzer's practical and insightful secretary.

*Gender: female Character Age: 20 to 40*

**Nunzio**

Pulitzer's barber.

*Gender: male Character Age: 30 to 50*

**Guard**

The Guard removes the newsies from Pulitzer's building.

*Gender: both Character Age: 20 to 60*

**The Bowery Beauties**

Female performers at Medda's Theater.

*Gender: female Character Age: 18 to 30*

**Stage Manager**

Introduces Medda's act.

*Gender: both Character Age: 25 to 55*

**Nuns**

The three nuns offer breakfast to the hungry newsies. Feel free to cast additional nuns.

*Gender: female*

**Photographer**

Takes the triumphant photo of the newsies at the end of "Seize the Day."

*Gender: both*

**Woman**

A newspaper customer.

*Gender: both*

**Policemen**

Assist Snyder and turn against the newsies in the fight that concludes Act One.

*Gender: male*

**Mayor**

The Mayor of New York City rebuffs Pulitzer's attempts to shut down the newsies' strike.

*Gender: male*

**Governor Teddy Roosevelt**

A well-respected lifelong public servant, inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

*Gender: male*

**Ensemble**