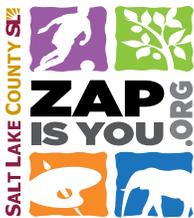


Spotlight on Learning

a Pioneer Theatre Company
Classroom Companion

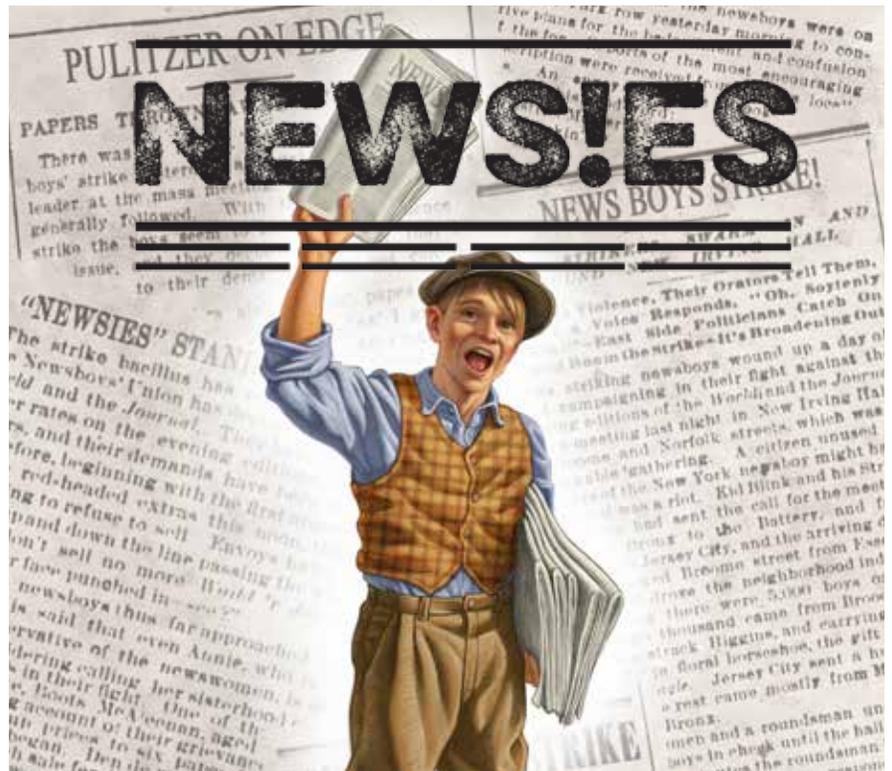


Pioneer Theatre Company's *Student Matinee Program* is made possible through the support of Salt Lake County's Zoo, Arts and Parks Program, Salt Lake City Arts Council/ Arts Learning Program, The Simmons Family Foundation, The Meldrum Foundation Endowment Fund and R. Harold Burton Foundation.

Spotlight on Learning is provided to students through a grant provided by the **George Q. Morris Foundation**

Approx. running time: 2 hours and 15 minutes, which includes one fifteen-minute intermission.

Student Talk-Back: There will be a Student Talk-Back directly after the performance.



Directed by Karen Azenberg
December 1 - 20, 2017

Music by Alan Menken. Lyrics by Jack Feldman.
Book by Harvey Fierstein

Director's Notes

By Karen Azenberg, Director/Choreographer of *Newsies*

It's no secret I love dance musicals.

I like dancing!

I like dancers.

I am—or, more accurately, was—a dancer. So the chance to work on this century's most challenging new dance musical was, for me, irresistible.

Certainly, there were other reasons I wanted to work on this show: its heartwarming story and its message about workers' rights (I am, after all, a former Union President). But, at the end of the day, it was the dance and the dancers.

Making up choreography is hard. It's a slow process and when creating a big show like *Newsies*, it takes a lot of time to make up the steps, put together the patterns, and get the counts right—all the while making sure that no one is crashing into one another or the scenery! So it really is about the dancers. Please take an extra moment to check them out. They're hard to miss because they're extraordinary: they fly, and float, and turn, and glide, they defy gravity and physics; they make my heart stop from time to time. Maybe they make me a little jealous too. If I could still float, and fly, and spin like that... They are very special young men. Some of them might become stars, but all of them will make audience members stare in awe at their skill. They don't get thanked enough in this world, where I fear their immeasurable talent is often taken for granted.

So to Davis, Jordan, Tade, Joe, Myles, Lance, Matt, Scott, John, Izzy, Tomas, Ross, Patrick, and Jesse, thank you.

And thanks to all of you for being here and have a very Happy Holiday Season. ♦

It Started with Some Kids...

NEWSIES is based on the real-life Newsboys' Strike of 1899. Children who sold newspapers on the streets were called newsies. The New York newsies went up against two newspaper publishers, Joseph Pulitzer of *The World* and William Randolph Hearst of *The Journal*, to fight for a fair price for newspapers. The Spanish-American War made New Yorkers hungry for headlines, and circulation boomed as a result. Once the war ended, people were less inclined to buy newspapers—war was bad for the world, but great for the newspaper business. The strike was the result of the newspaper publishers refusing to lower the price-per-paper that the newsies had to pay back down to the pre-war prices. The newsies were not willing to pay more for their papers to make up for a lack of headlines, so they decided to strike—their goal was to make the newspaper tycoons treat them as legitimate members of the business. The strike lasted two weeks, from July 19 to August 2, 1899. During that time, the newsboys drew support from newsies all over the Northeast, as well as

other young workers like messenger boys, bootblacks and factory workers. The kids banded together to support one another, and at times things became violent—scabs were attacked on the streets, their papers ripped from them and destroyed to prevent their sale. Some boys lost their nerve and went back to the publishers, settling for the higher price. The newsies eventually came to a compromise with the publishers: they would purchase their papers at the higher price, but the publishers would buy back any papers that the newsies couldn't sell—this was more valuable to the newsies than a lower price would have been, as it allowed them to buy papers without the risk of losing money for any that went unsold. The Newsboys' Strike of 1899 is a significant moment in history; it is one of the first strikes that was carried out by children and it ended in compromise. The kids won!

The cast of Newsies.



Then It Was a Movie...

In 1992, Walt Disney Studios released a live action musical based on the real-life events of the Newsboys' Strike of 1899. With a screenplay by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White, and a score written by Oscar®-winning composer Alan Menken and lyricist Jack Feldman, the film was meant to be a revival of the live-action musical genre. Though it was not a hit in theatres, its memorable score and athletic dance numbers made it a fan favorite, and it quickly gained a cult following.

A stage adaptation of NEWSIES was in great demand, so Disney Theatrical Group began working on developing a stage play. Alan Menken and Jack Feldman were called back to work on the score, and Tony Award®-winning book writer Harvey Fierstein

And Now It's on Broadway!

signed on to adapt the screenplay for the stage. With this dream team of theatre makers on board, Disney Theatrical Group began a several year process of making NEWSIES as beloved onstage as it was onscreen. Together with the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey, Disney mounted a four-week engagement of NEWSIES to test the material. When that production received rave reviews and international interest in the show, the producers changed course and announced a limited Broadway run. NEWSIES opened at the Nederlander Theatre on March 29, 2012. The Broadway engagement was so successful that the show became an open-ended run. Over 110 years in the making, the story of the New York newsboys and their struggle for justice finally made it to the *Great White Way!

**Broadway*

1899...

NEWSIES is set in 1899—the end of the 19th century and a time of great change around the world. Advances in technology, like the invention of the film camera, the commercial automobile, and successful prototypes of the airplane meant people were more mobile and informed than ever before.

Around the world, colonized nations fought to gain their independence and workers went on strike to improve their working conditions.

Farmers in South Africa fought for their independence against their British colonizers in battles later known as the Boer Wars. The Spanish colonies of Cuba and the Philippines also wished to govern their own countries and the struggle led to an international conflict.

In New York City, Mayor Robert Van Wyck presided over a newly incorporated metropolis. The boroughs of Manhattan, The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond (later known as Staten Island) were brought together on January 1, 1898, making New York City the second largest city in the world. The city was speeding forward into the new century with several new improvements.

Construction for a public library at 42nd Street and 5th Avenue in Manhattan began in the spring of 1899. The Bronx Zoo also opened in 1899 with 843 animals in 22 exhibits. With the expansion of the boroughs, the city had to make it possible for people to get around town. In addition to the already completed Brooklyn Bridge, the city began laying tracks for a subway that would connect Manhattan and Brooklyn. The subway would open to passengers five years later, in 1904.

At Ellis Island, immigrants from all over the world continued to surge into the city. An estimated 330,000 people came through New York harbor that year, primarily from Italy and Russia. Many of these new Americans settled on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, making the cramped neighborhoods even tighter.

Famous people born in 1899:

- **Duke Ellington**
- **Fred Astaire**
- **E.B. White**
- **Ernest Hemmingway**
- **Alfred Hitchcock**

Characters

Jack Kelly – The leader of the Manhattan newsboys is a surly, independent dreamer who yearns to get out of the crowded streets of New York and make a better life for himself out West.

Crutchie – Jack Kelly’s best friend is a newsie with a bum leg that causes him pain, but helps him sell more papers.

Davey – Les’s older brother starts selling papers to help his family earn a living but becomes swept up in the fervor of the strike. A leader in his own right.

Les – Davey’s younger brother is inspired by the freedom of the newsies and loves their independent lifestyle.

Wiesel – “Weasel” runs the distribution window for *The World* and knows most of the newsboys by name. He has the help of the intimidating Delancey brothers, who keep order by any means necessary.

Oscar and Morris Delancey– These thugs work at the distribution window for *The World*. They take the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point.

Snyder – This crook runs *The Refuge*, a ramshackle orphanage for homeless boys. He is concerned only with catching enough boys to keep his government checks coming.

Miss Medda Larkin – The bigvoiced saloon singer and star of the Bowery offers her theatre as a safe haven for Jack and the newsies. She stands behind them in their fight for justice.

Katherine Plummer – This young reporter wants to make a name for herself as a legitimate journalist in a time when women aren’t taken seriously. She is inspired by the potential of the brand new century.

Joseph Pulitzer – A businessman through and through, he owns *The World* and is concerned only with the bottom line.

Mr. Jacobi – The deli owner lets the newsies congregate in his

restaurant to escape the hard streets of New York – when he doesn’t have any paying customers, that is.

Spot Conlon – The reputation of this leader of the Brooklyn newsies precedes him.



L-R: Nadia Vynn (*Katherine*) and Jonathan Shew (*Jack Kelly*).

Activity

Although the newsboys featured in *NEWSIES* aren’t actual people from history, they are a compilation of the real kids who rallied in 1899. Our play’s hero, Jack Kelly, is based on a newsie known as Kid Blink, who was blind in one eye.

- What informs a person’s character?
- What can images tell us about character?
- How does an author create historically based characters?

TO DO:

Create an original, historically based character.

MONOLOGUES:

The theatrical term monologue refers to a speech made by a character in a play. Now that you have created a historically based character, write a one- to three-paragraph monologue.

Monologues should be written in the first person (in the character’s voice), and should address one or more of the items you established when you created a character.

Volunteer to perform your monologues for the class!

Child Labor at the Turn of the Century

In America, the idea that a kid's job is to go to school and prepare for her future is a relatively new one. While many kids today are expected to do chores, set the table or help with dishes or laundry, this is not what is meant by "child labor." Throughout most of American history it was normal for children to work long hours at difficult and dangerous jobs. Child labor in America is as old as the country itself.

In the early 1600s, it was believed that crime and poverty were a result of idleness, not a lack of education. As a result, poor children were shipped by the thousands from England to the American colonies to become apprentices. This arrangement helped England manage its most helpless citizens and also provided a cheap solution to the labor shortage in the colonies. Colonists' children were also apprentices or did grueling work on family farms.

During the Industrial Revolution, as the number of factories increased, so did the number of jobs. Factory owners needed more workers, and turned to children to help do everything from operating dangerous machinery to mining coal. It was expected that children as young as 10 years old work 12 or more hours per day for six days a week.

According to the U.S. Census of 1880, one in six American children was employed. This number does not account for the number of children under 10 years old working illegally in sweatshops or on the streets.

In 1881, only seven states had education laws requiring kids to attend school, but even in these states, many people found ways to get around the law.

By the turn of the twentieth century, at the time when *Newsies* is set, the child workforce hit its peak with almost two million legal and countless undocumented working children. During this period, reformers began to take action and created child labor laws, fought to end the abuse of kids in the workplace, and worked to make sure that all children had the opportunity to better themselves through education

"Newsie" is a term for a child who sold newspapers on the streets at the turn of the century. The newsies of New York City were popularly admired as "little merchants," for, unlike children working for a

company in factories, the newsboys were seen as business people. Even though they were their own bosses, the newspaper owners controlled the prices and the newsies sometimes had to choose between food and a bed to sleep in for the night. It was not until 1938 that Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act, a law that prohibited the employment of kids younger than 16, and placed limits on the employment of kids between 16 and 18 years old. Many people argued that child labor helped children by teaching them a trade. In reality, their jobs as children kept them from going to school and improving their futures.

Top to Bottom: Jonathan Shew (Jack Kelly), Stephen Michael Langton (Davey), Brandon Smith (Les).



Our Equity Cast



Austin Archer

KAREN AZENBERG (Director/Choreographer) is in her sixth season as PTC Artistic Director. Azenberg is pleased to usher in the holiday season with this talented, athletic cast.

AUSTIN ARCHER (Crutchie) New York: *Cheeseburger Deluxe* (The Playground Theater); *The Michigan Assassin* (Ridley Creek Productions). Regional: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The 25th Annual...Spelling Bee*, *A Few Good Men*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Rocky Horror Show* (Pioneer Theatre Company). Other credits including *Saturday's Voyeur* (Salt Lake Acting Company). Film/TV: "Mindhunter" (Netflix), "Blood and Oil" (ABC).

MATT BAUMAN (Race/Ensemble) Off-Broadway: *The New Yorkers* and *Pipe Dream* (Encores!); *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (Peccadillo); *Saturday Night* (York). Regional: Shakespeare Theatre Company, Goodspeed Opera House (dir. Julie Andrews), Barrington Stage Company, Bucks County Playhouse, Berkshire Theatre Group, North Shore Music Theatre, The Mundy and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (with Joan Rivers).

JORDAN BEALL (Finch/Ensemble) makes his Pioneer Theatre Company debut. Regional performance credits: The Mundy: *Newsies* (Henry/Darcy), *The Little Mermaid* (Windward). Riverside Theatre: *Chicago*, *Mame*. Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma: *Oklahoma!* (Tom), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Robert), *Big Fish* (Zacky Price), *Billy Elliot: The Musical* (Older Billy), *The Wizard of Oz*: (Tin Man). TV: "Medium" and "Ghost Whisperer."

JOE BEAUREGARD (Jo Jo/Spot Conlon/Ensemble) makes his PTC debut. Previous work includes the *Kinky Boots* 1st National Tour (Angel), *Tarzan* on Disney Cruise Line and dance roles at Universal, on TV and in music videos. Movies: *Rebel Wilson's* upcoming romantic comedy *Isn't It Romantic*.



Matt Bauman

TADE BIESINGER (Specs/Ensemble) is a senior at Bountiful High School and is enrolled in the ballet program at the University of Utah. He makes his PTC debut. His credits include starring as "Billy" in *Billy Elliot: The Musical* on New York City's Broadway, London's West End and regionally in St. Louis at The Mundy. He has danced with Ballet West in *The Nutcracker* and *Madame Butterfly* and has performed with The Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

RICHIE CALL (Teddy Roosevelt/Ensemble) returns to Pioneer Theatre Company! Previous PTC credits include: *Hamlet* (Osric), *The Philadelphia Story* (Mac), *Something's Afoot* (Dr. Grayburn) and *The Last Ship* (Freddy Newlands). Assistant professor of acting at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. Co-artistic director of the Lyric Repertory Company, where he has performed and directed for 17 seasons. Other professional credits: Utah Shakespeare Festival, Salt Lake Acting Company, Gorilla Rep., Mile Square Theatre and American Globe Theatre.



Jordan Beall

LENNY DANIEL (Associate Director/ Choreographer/Wiesel/Ensemble) returns to PTC. Performing credits include: Broadway: *Cats* – final original company, *The Wizard of Oz*. NYC: *Sinatra* (Radio City), *Wonderful Town* (NYC Opera). Tours: *Spamalot*, *Chicago*, *South Pacific*, *Camelot*, *Jekyll & Hyde*. Regional: *Chess*, *Oliver!*, *The Last Ship*, *Sweet Charity*, *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* (PTC), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Baltimore CenterStage), *Mary Poppins*, *Peter Pan* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *GiGi* and *Evita* (Papermill). Cast album *The Wizard of Oz*.

CICILY DANIELS (Medda Larkin/Nun) Broadway: *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Ursula u/s, Alana), *All Shook Up* (Sylvia u/s), *Rent* (Joanne u/s). National Tour: *A Night with Janis Joplin* (Odetta, Bessie Smith); *The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess* (Mariah u/s); *Caroline, or Change* (The Washing Machine); *Rent* (Seasons of Love Soloist, Joanne u/s). TV & Film: "House of Cards" (Woman Who Sings), "Mozart in the Jungle" (Payroll Clerk), "Boardwalk Empire" (Jazz Dancer), "Ugly Betty" (Zelda), *Across the Universe*; *American Gangster*.



Joe Beauregard

STEPHEN MICHAEL LANGTON (Davey) makes his PTC debut. He is thrilled to be reprising the role of Davey after performing around the country with the 1st National Tour of *Newsies*.

WILLIAM PARRY (Joseph Pulitzer) returns to PTC, having played Senator Higgins in the premiere of *Alabama Story*. He has created roles in 11 original Broadway productions, most recently as Jensen in *Groundhog Day*, as well as Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Passion*, both filmed for PBS; *Agamemnon* at Lincoln Center; *Gypsy* with Bernadette Peters; *Camelot* (understudy to Richard Burton and Richard Harris); and the original *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Numerous TV and film credits. Radio: Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion."



Tade Biesinger

KILTY REIDY (Bunsen/Stage Manager/Ensemble) returns to PTC, where he was in *The Last Ship* and *The Music Man*. Broadway: *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *In My Life*. Other credits: *Billy Elliot: The Musical* (National Tour); *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* (Original Cast); *The Producers* at KC Starlight/Music Theatre Wichita; *A Christmas Story* at Capital Repertory; *Crazy For You* at PaperMill/PBS; *A Man of No Importance* for B-Side Productions. TV/Film: "The Blacklist," Kelly Reichardt's *Certain Women*.



Richie Call

JONATHAN SHEW (Jack Kelly) PTC debut! Broadway: *Bandstand* (Donny u.s., Andre Baruch). National Tour: *Wicked* (Fiyero u.s.). New York: Radio City's *Spring Spectacular* (Jack u.s.), *Voca People* (Off-Broadway).

NADIA VYNN (Katherine) returns to PTC. She was previously seen as Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*. National/Int'l tours: *Bring It On* (Campbell), *Legally Blonde* (Serena), *Catch Me If You Can* (Brenda u.s.) and *Shrek*.



Lenny Daniel

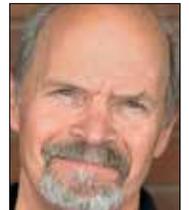
DAVIS WAYNE (Romeo/Ensemble) makes his PTC debut. Favorite credits include: Pittsburgh CLO, North Shore Music Theatre, Theatre by the Sea, the World Premiere of *Chasing Rainbows the Musical* and Pittsburgh Musical Theatre.



Cicily Daniels



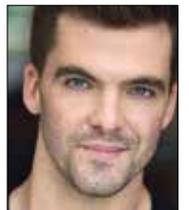
Stephen Michael Langton



William Parry



Kilty Reidy



Jonathan Shew



Nadia Vynn



Davis Wayne

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