



CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Note: the "gender" listed below each description refers to the gender of the character, not the gender of the performer. All performers may try out for any role.

LEAD ROLES (7)

Jack Kelly

The charismatic leader of the Manhattan newsies, Jack 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. This actor should command the stage with ease, possess strong vocal abilities, and can exude Jack's big heart.

Gender: male

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Katherine Plumber

An ambitious young reporter, Katherine 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."

Gender: female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Joseph Pulitzer

A pompous businessman through and through, Pulitzer owns the World Newspaper and is concerned only with money. The antagonist of the show, Pulitzer doesn't sympathize with the strikers, but he does eventually – and grudgingly – respect Jack. (Will double as a Newsie)

Gender: male

Speaking role

Crutchie

Jack's best friend and a dedicated newsie with a "bum leg". Walking with the assistance of a crutch doesn't define the ever-positive newsie, so this actor should portray Crutchie's goofy-sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience.

Gender: any

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: A3

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, this should be a strong actor and singer who can lead "Seize the Day" while smartly portraying the brains of the resistance.

Gender: male

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Les

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

Gender: any

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: B3

Medda Larkin

Medda is the big-voiced singer and star of the Bowery. A proud supporter of the newsies, she offers her theater as a safe haven for their revolution. This performer should be a true entertainer with great comic delivery.

Gender: female

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: G3



SUPPORTING ROLES (11)

(Will all double as Newsies)

Wiesel

Wiesel is the disgruntled paper-pusher who runs distribution for the World Newspaper and has little patience or sympathy for the newsies.

Gender: any
Speaking role

Oscar & Morris Delancey

Oscar and Morris are the neighbourhood toughs who work as newsies, and are known to use their fists to make a point.

Gender: male
Speaking roles

Snyder

Snyder is the crooked warden of The Refuge (A filthy and horrible juvenile jail). He is concerned only with catching enough kids to keep the money coming. This actor should be able to evoke an imposing and sinister presence.

Gender: any
Speaking role

Pulitzer's Assistants (3)

Mr. Pulitzer's clever (and sometimes comical) assistants at the World Newspaper.

Gender: any
Speaking roles

Medda's Brigade (4)

A team of vaudeville performers that enthusiastically performs at Medda's Theatre

Gender: any
Vocal Range: Soprano



ENSEMBLE ROLES (Approx. 17)

Newsies

A team of determined dancing paper boys (and girls!)

Gender: any

Vocal Range: all

Solo & Speaking Roles include: **RACE, ALBERT, MURIEL, NANCY, SPECS, PIGTAILS, HAZEL, BUTTONS, TOMMY BOY, ROMEO, JO JO, SPOT**

Additional Roles:

Governor Teddy Roosevelt

Bill

Dorothy

(all small speaking roles)