

## For Immediate Release

DATE: April 2018

CONTACT: Kori Radloff, [korir@rosetheater.org](mailto:korir@rosetheater.org), 402-502-4641

## The Rose Theater announces the cast of *Disney's Newsies*

(OMAHA, Nebr.) The Rose Theater announces the cast of its summer musical production, ***Disney's Newsies***. The show will run June 1-17, 2018 on The Rose mainstage.

Based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899, ***Newsies*** is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic and rebellious newsboy who dreams of a life as an artist away from the big city. Andrew Wright, a student at Wesleyan University, will make his Rose debut in the role. Jack shares his dream of leaving New York one day with his best friend and fellow newsie, Crutchie, played by Jake Parker. They are joined by newsie newcomer Davey and his little brother, Les. Marcel Daly, who was last seen on The Rose stage as Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*, will play Davey with Winston Schneider (formerly seen in *Prancer* and *Peter Pan*) playing Les.

When publishing giant Joseph Pulitzer (played by Patrick Wolfe) raises newspaper prices at the newsboys' expense, Kelly and his fellow newsies take action. Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike for what is right.

"Timely and fresh, the fictionalized adaptation of ***Newsies*** addresses age-old themes of social injustice, exploitative labor practices and David-versus-Goliath struggles as the young learn to harness their power against a corrupt establishment," says licensor Music Theatre International about the show.

With help from the intrepid reporter Katherine Plumber, all of New York City soon recognizes the power of young people. Katherine will be played by Torisa Walker, who last delighted Rose audiences as Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*.

= MORE =

The Rose Theater  
2001 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

t (402) 345-4849  
f (402) 344-7255  
[www.rosetheater.org](http://www.rosetheater.org)



**The Rose Theater announces cast of  
*Disney's Newsies*  
Page 2 of 5  
Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641**

Based on the 1992 motion picture, ***Newsies*** features a score by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken and Jack Feldman, with a book by four-time Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein. While on Broadway, ***Newsies*** received 23 major theatrical nominations - including eight Tony Award nominations -- and won Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critic Circle Awards for Score and Choreography.

Audiences can expect high energy music and non-stop thrills, including eight brand-new songs by the original team of Menken and Feldman, while keeping many of the beloved songs from the film, including "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," "King of New York," and "Santa Fe." The show will be choreographed by Rose resident choreographer Sue Gillespie Booton, who plans spectacular dance numbers to rival Broadway caliber shows.

The show will be directed by guest director Jerry Jay Cranford. A professional actor, singer and dancer, Cranford has performed on Broadway in *Les Miserables*, international and national tours (*Les Miserables*, *Evita* European Company as featured dancer, *Singing in the Rain* as Don, *Anything Goes* as Billy), regional stages, television and spent 3 years as the Genie in Disneyland's stage musical *Aladdin*. While at Disney, he served as a clinician teaching workshops in music history, music theory and improvisation. He has also performed as a principal with the acclaimed Kansas City Lyric Opera in their production of *Turandot*. In 2013, the MUNY Theatre of St. Louis hired Jay as dance captain to aid in staging their production of *Les Miserables* and perform in *Shrek the Musical* working with Broadway stars John Tartaglia, Julia Murney, Norm Lewis, Hugh Panaro and the producer Mike Isaacson, 2015 Tony Award Winner for the musical *FunHome*. He has served as director/choreographer for the world premiere of *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* and *A Year with Frog and Toad* at the Coterie Theatre, the regional premiere of *Everyday Rapture* working with original star Sherie Renee Scott and librettist Dick Scanlan, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Les Miserables* for the Merry Go Round Theater in New York, and *Peter Cottontail III* for Kansas City Starlight Theatre at the Kauffman Performing Art Center and received an Ovation Nomination in Vancouver, BC for his production of *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. Most recently, he performed as the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* for Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, Gomez in *The Addams Family* for The NewTheatre and John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins* for Spinning Tree. He has been a proud member of Actors Equity for 25 years.

***Disney's Newsies*** runs June 1-17, 2018, with performances on Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. The 2 pm show on Saturday, June 9 will be interpreted for people who are deaf or hard of hearing; this show will also include audio description services for audience members who are blind. Contact The Rose Box Office at (402) 345-4849 for more information.

**= MORE =**

## The Rose Theater announces cast of

### *Disney's Newsies*

Page 3 of 5

Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641

Tickets for *Disney's Newsies* are \$27 for main floor and \$22 for balcony. Discount ticket vouchers are available at all area Hy-Vee stores for \$22. Members of The Rose receive discounted tickets to the production. Tickets are available at The Rose Box Office at 2001 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE, by phone at (402) 345-4849 or online at [www.rosetheater.org](http://www.rosetheater.org).

*Disney's Newsies* is sponsored by Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Hy-Vee, Mutual of Omaha, Whitmore Charitable Trust, the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Special opening night activities are sponsored by Kiewit Companies.

The complete cast of *Disney's Newsies* includes:

Jack Kelly .....	Andrew Wright
Katherine Plumber .....	Torisa Walker
Crutchie.....	Jake Parker
Davey .....	Marcel Daly
Romeo/Dance Captain .....	Fran Adrianto
Joseph Pulitzer .....	Patrick Wolfe
Medda Larkin/Nun .....	Zhomontee Watson
Bowery Beauty/Nun/Newsie.....	Samantha Zarders
Hannah/Bowery Beauty/Nun.....	Rachel Busse
Teddy Roosevelt/Newsie .....	Jonathan Algeroy
Seitz/Bunsen/Snyder/Wiesel/Jacobi .....	Manny Oñate
Nunzio/Stage Manager/Mayor/Darcy .....	Jordan Smith
Henry/Finch/Spot Conlon .....	Garrett Griffin
Oscar Delancey/Newsie .....	Ben Adams*
Morris Delancey/Newsie.....	Wayne Hudson*
Race .....	Cody Drap*
Les .....	Winston Schneider*
Albert.....	Liam Brenzel
Specs/Bill .....	Payton Johnson*
Elmer. ....	Dina Saltzman*
Mush .....	Camryn Jordan*
Tommy Boy .....	Natalie Hanson*
Jo Jo .....	Nora Coffey*
Brooklyn Newsies .....	Olivia Bryant*, Drew Cota*, Cooper Nielson*, Austin Lempke*, Danny Denenberg, Jayven Brandt, Sophie Williams*

\*Former or current BROADWAY or DRAMA at The Rose student

= MORE =

## The Rose Theater announces cast of

### *Disney's Newsies*

Page 4 of 5

Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641

The production and design team for *Disney's Newsies* include:

Director .....	Jerry Jay Cranford
Assistant Director .....	Geran Ramet
Choreographer .....	Sue Gillespie Booton
Music Director.....	Jerry Brabec
Production Stage Manager.....	Lisa Krabbenhoft
Scenic Designer.....	Tim McMath
Projection Designer.....	Brittany Merenda
Lighting & Sound Designer .....	Craig S. Moxon
Costume Designer .....	Sherri Geerdes
Hair & Makeup Designer .....	Erin Bragg
Director of Production.....	Erin Solemsaas
Technical Director .....	Greg Rishoi
Props Master .....	Devon Denn-Young
Scenic Charge .....	Lauren Crabtree
Master Carpenter.....	Jackson Curtright
Lighting Apprentice.....	Matthew Benes
Scenic Apprentice.....	Saylor Novonglosky
Production Apprentice.....	Christy Hernandez
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Meghan Boucher
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Molly Fryda
Run Crew .....	Jesse Groff, Donavon Perrone
Spot Operators .....	Avi Littky, Amanda Harris
Stichers.....	Sherri Geerdes, Erin Bragg, Audio Helkiuk, Jill Maenner

### **About The Rose**

The Rose Theater is one of the largest and most accomplished children's theaters in the nation, with a reputation for enriching the lives of children and families through top-quality professional productions and arts education. In 2016, *American Theatre* magazine named The Rose one of the 20 top children's theaters in the United States. The Rose is committed to making the arts accessible to all children, providing opportunities for thousands of children throughout the community to attend shows and participate in classes each year. Over the course of a year, approximately 70,000 people attend the public performances held at the theater, and nearly 30,000 students attend field trip shows annually. The theater strives to introduce young people to a mix of both traditional favorites and ground-breaking original productions. A number of plays and musicals have made their world premiere on The Rose stage, including the stage adaptation of *Prancer*, *Pete the Cat: The Musical*, *Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular*, *Zen Ties*, *Buffalo Bill's Cowboy Band*, and *The Grocer's Goblin & The Little Mermaid*. We take pride knowing that The Rose is the place where children of all ages experience theater for the first time, and we are dedicated to helping them appreciate theater for a lifetime.



# The Cast of *Disney's Newsies*



**Torisa Walker**  
Katherine Plumber



**Andrew Wright**  
Jack Kelly



**Jake Parker**  
Crutchie



**Marcel Davy**  
Davey



**Winston Schneider**  
Les



**Jonathan Algeroy**  
Teddy Roosevelt/  
Newsie



**Rachel Busse**  
Hannah/Nun/Newsie/Ensemble



**Zhomontee Watson**  
Medda Larkin



**Samantha Zarders**  
Bowery Beauty/Nun



**Ben Adams**  
Oscar Delancey/  
Newsie



**Fran Adrianto**  
Romeo



**Jayven Brandt**  
Brooklyn Newsie



**Liam Brenzel**  
Albert



**Olivia Bryant**  
Brooklyn Newsie



**Nora Coffey**  
Newsie



**Drew Cota**  
Brooklyn Newsie



**Danny Denenberg**  
Brooklyn Newsie



**Cody Drap**  
Race



**Garrett Griffin**  
Henry/Finch



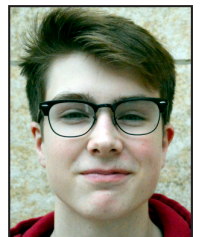
**Natalie Hanson**  
Newsie



**Nicholas Harmon**  
Darcy/Newsie



**Wayne Hudson**  
Morris Delancey/  
Newsie



**Payton Johnson**  
Specs/Bill



**Camyrn Jordan**  
Mush



**Austin Lempke**  
Brooklyn Newsie



**Cooper Nielson**  
Brooklyn Newsie



**Manny Onate**  
Seitz/Bunsen/Snyder/  
Wiesel/Jacobi



**Jordan Smith**  
Nunzio/Stage  
Manager/ Mayor



**Dina Saltzman**  
Elmer



**Sophie Williams**  
Brooklyn Newsie