



## ***Disney's Newsies Jr. Audition Packet***

Auditions: Sunday, February 1st at 12:30 PM

Dear Performers & Families,

Welcome to Playmakers Youth Theatre's production of *Disney's Newsies Jr!* Whether this is your millionth Playmakers show or your very first, we are so happy to have you here with us and can't wait to embark on this special experience together.

In this packet, you will find audition details, rehearsal & show information, an audition form to fill out, and a guide to The Playmakers Philosophy.

**This production is open to 5th-9th graders. Auditions will be held at the Mandel JCC on Sunday, February 1st and do not require appointment or registration. The audition begins at 12:30pm and will be over by 4:30pm at the latest.**

**PLEASE NOTE: We will teach a song from the score at the beginning auditions, so no need to come with a song prepared. Please plan for your child to arrive at 12:30 for the start of auditions so they can learn the selected song.** Then, they will each have an opportunity to audition privately and can leave on a rolling basis as they finish their audition. We will try to see Cast A and A-B *Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.* performers first to maximize their time off before their February 1st performance.

**The audition form, which can be found in this packet, can be printed ahead and brought to auditions to save time.** We will also have hard copies available.

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We can't wait to bring this show — a beloved classic filled with dance, excellent storytelling, and excellent storytelling, and great opportunities for student performers — to life. As always, there are lots of surprises awaiting the cast and there will be so much for each performer to explore. Feel free to be in touch at [emiller@mandeljcc.org](mailto:emiller@mandeljcc.org) or (216) 831-0700 x1494 with questions. We can't wait to see you soon

Emma Miller, Playmakers Youth Theatre Director  
Annie Perusek, *Newsies Jr.* Director  
Allison Ritley, *Newsies Jr.* Music Director  
Liza Kammer, *Newsies Jr.* Associate Director



## **Disney's Newsies Jr.**

Music and Lyrics by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Jack Feldman

Book by Harvey Fierstein

Based on the Disney Film Written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White

Directed by Annie Perusek

***Disney's Newsies Jr.*** is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

### **Audition Process & Casting Information**

Please complete the attached audition form and bring it with you on February 1st.

When the cast list is posted, you must email to accept or decline your role *and* register your child, including full payment of the participation fee.

### **Audition Song**

Auditions will begin at 12:30 PM and all auditioners should arrive then to learn the audition songs together from our Music Director. Then, we will see auditioners one at a time and they will be dismissed on a rolling basis as they finish. We will be teaching a cut of "Seize the Day" and a cut of "Carrying The Banner." No preparation is required, but the sheet music and cuts of each are attached for students who would like to prepare or learn in advance.

### **Participation Fees**

There is no fee to audition. **Participation fees are \$325 for Mandel JCC members and \$375 for non-members. All participation fees must be paid in full prior to the first rehearsal and are due when you accept your child's role.**

### **Schedule**

**PLEASE NOTE:** This production will have two different casts, each performing on their own weekend. Please be sure to list all conflicts (choir concerts, school commitments, other performances, after-school activities, family vacations, etc) on your audition form.

This is a very quick rehearsal process, which means it will be important for performers to prioritize rehearsal attendance. Please be sure to look carefully at the rehearsal schedule, tech dates, and performance calendar to make sure you are available. If you can only participate in one cast (because you have a conflict with the other cast's tech or performance dates), please be sure to note that on your form.



### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals will be held on Monday evenings (6:30-8:30 PM), Thursday evenings (6:30-8:30 PM), and Sunday afternoons (2:00-5:00 PM). Not all cast members will be called to all rehearsals. When we begin, you will receive a detailed schedule including call times for specific roles. All rehearsals are held at the Mandel JCC.

### **Tech Week**

- Tech Week rehearsals are mandatory, with no late arrivals/early dismissals or absences permitted.
  - For Cast A:
    - Sunday, May 3rd — 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
    - Monday, May 4th — 4:30 PM-9:00 PM
    - Wednesday, May 6th — 4:30 PM-9:00 PM
    - *Note: there is no Tech for Cast A on Tuesday, May 5th*
  - For Cast B:
    - Sunday, May 3rd — 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
    - Tuesday, May 12th — 4:30 PM-9:00 PM
    - Wednesday, May 13th — 4:30 PM-9:00 PM
    - *Note: there is no Tech for Cast B on Monday, May 11th*

### **Performances**

- Performance dates & times are:
  - For Cast A:
    - Thursday, May 7th at 7:00pm
    - Sunday, May 10th at 7:00pm
  - For Cast B:
    - Thursday, May 14th at 7:00pm
    - Sunday, May 17th at 2:00pm



## Playmakers Youth Theatre Audition Form

Participant Name:

Participant School:  Grade:  Age:  Sweatshirt Size:

**If new to Playmakers or if information has changed:**

Parent/Guardian 1 Name:

Cell Phone Number:  Email Address:

Parent/Guardian 2 Name:

Cell Phone Number:  Email Address:

Are you Mandel JCC Members? ☐ YES ☐ NO

**For all auditioning:** (use the back for more space if needed)

**Please list theater, music & dance experience, roles played/in what production, classes & special skills.**

**Rehearsals are held on Mondays (6:30–8:30 PM), Thursdays (6:30–8:30 PM), and Sundays (2:00–5:00 PM). Not all cast members are called to all rehearsals. Please list any rehearsal conflicts, including after school classes, sports, trips, Hebrew School, etc.,**

**This show will have two separate casts, each with their own tech week & performance weekend. Please look carefully at your calendar and review tech & performance dates. Tech rehearsals are mandatory. If you have a conflict with one cast's tech or performances, please be sure to share that so we can cast accordingly.**

**Cast A**

**Tech:** 5/3, 5/4, 5/6

**Shows:** 5/7 at 7pm and 5/10 at 7pm

**Cast B**

**Tech:** 5/3, 5/12, 5/13

**Shows:** 5/14 at 7pm and 5/17 at 2pm

- ☐ **My child is fully available for both A & B dates and can be in either Cast.**
- ☐ **My child is ONLY available for Cast A (please list details below).**
- ☐ **My child is ONLY available for Cast B (please list details below).**

**If you have a conflict with one set of tech/show dates, please describe in detail below which will assist us with our casting decisions.**

How did you hear about Playmakers?

*I am aware that there is a participation fee (\$325 for Mandel JCC members; \$375 for non-members) due before rehearsal. I carefully read the dates & confirm that my child is able to participate.*

Parent Signature:

# Seize the Day

Gentle hymn, ca. ♩ = 92

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The right hand features a gentle melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

DAVEY:

(sung somewhat freely)

5

Now is the time to seize the day. Stare down the odds and seize the day.

Vocal melody for measures 5-8. The piano accompaniment continues with the same gentle harmonic support.

9

Min-ute by min - ute, that's how you win it. We will find a way. But

Vocal melody for measures 9-12. The piano accompaniment continues with the same gentle harmonic support.

13

let us seize the day.

Vocal melody for measures 13-16. The piano accompaniment continues with the same gentle harmonic support.

# Carrying the Banner

NEWSIES:

Ain't it a fine life,— car - ry - ing the ban - ner through it all!

The first system of the musical score for 'Carrying the Banner' features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 4/4 time, starting with a whole rest followed by a quarter note, then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with chords and a left hand with a steady eighth-note bass line. A forte (f) dynamic marking is present at the beginning of the piano part.

A might-y fine life,— car - ry - ing the ban - ner tough and tall.

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line follows a similar pattern to the first system. The piano accompaniment maintains the same rhythmic structure, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a steady eighth-note bass line.

When that bell rings, we — goes where we wish - es. We's—

The third system concludes the musical score. The vocal line ends with a half note. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern, ending with a final chord in the right hand and a half note in the left hand.

12

— as free as fish - es. Sure— beats wash - ing dish - es. What a fine life,— car -

15

- ry - ing the ban - ner home free all!



## **The 4 Ps of Playmakers: Pitch in & Promote the Playmakers Philosophy**

Dear Families and Participants,

I grew up at Playmakers and Performing Arts Camp, as a performer, student, and camper, before becoming a counselor, assistant director, camp supervisor, and now, Playmakers Youth Theatre Director. That means that I know first hand the magic of this experience. I am also a professional director and producer, so I know that lots of feelings can come up during an audition process.

At Playmakers, performers of all experience-levels and ages bring a show to life alongside a supportive community. At Playmakers, children and teens build life-long friendships, find their voices, use their imaginations, challenge themselves, take risks, build confidence, work as a team, and explore their creativity. At Playmakers, we are proud of our performances but even prouder of our process, and know that, as our children and teens rehearse a show, learn choreography, and memorize lines, they are also building lasting memories and learning skills that help them grow.

As a director, I know how hard it is to audition and how stressful it can be to wait for the cast list to be posted. There is the desire to get a certain role, the complicated feeling of getting a part your friend might have wanted, and trying to understand why someone else was cast as a certain character.

Here's where the 4 P's come in. Unfortunately, we know we cannot shield kids and teens from disappointment, but we can be there for support and to help see the big picture. Two hundred sets of parents all have ideas of which one role would be perfect for their own child. I hope that we can all be prepared to promote the idea that a certain role isn't everything. We're here because we love the rehearsal process, working together as a team, and creating something wonderful that gives us each a sense of purpose and pride. Playmakers is a program built on understanding the importance of the process and building one another up, supporting one another, and having a blast along the way.

What I promise you is that we will approach this casting process fairly, honestly, and to the best of our ability. What I hope you and I can promise is that we will help our kids accept both excitement and disappointment gracefully and respectfully. We will support them, encourage them, and help them to make this show the fantastic experience we all know it will be, here at Playmakers where each of your children, no matter their role, truly shines.

Emma Miller  
Playmakers Youth Theatre Director