



Jewish Community Center
of Greater Kansas City

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

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The Coterie and The White Theatre at The J
Together Present the Regional Premiere of *Disney's Newsies*

Co-production premiere runs July 7-29
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Kansas City, MO – The Coterie Theatre and The White Theatre at “The J,” the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, will “Seize the Day” with their co-production of **Disney's *Newsies***, which opens for a limited run on July 7 and continues through July 29. The show will mark The Coterie and The White Theatre's first collaboration, as well as the **Kansas City region's first production of *Newsies that is being locally produced***. This show features a cast of all-local professional and non-professional adult and youth actors, and will be performed live on stage at The White Theatre at The J, 5801 W. 115th Street, in Overland Park.

The show is directed and choreographed by Jerry Jay Cranford, who brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the project, with acting, dancing, choreography and directing credits from Kansas City to New York City. Musical direction is provided by Pam Williamson, a veteran of 10 musicals at The White Theatre.

Tickets are selling quickly for this limited engagement. Production dates are: Wednesdays July 11, 18* @ 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays July 12, 19 & 26 @ 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays July 7, 14* & 21 @ 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, July 8, 15*, 22 & 29 @ 2 p.m. (NOTE: *Performances with The J's Open Captioning are on July 14, 15 and 18.)

ABOUT THE MUSICAL

Set in New York City at the turn of the century, Disney's ***Newsies*** tells the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a ragged band of teenaged 'newsies,' who dreams only of a better life far from the hardship of the streets. But when publishing titans Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst raise

distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack finds a cause to fight for and rallies newsies from across the city to strike for what's right.

Newsies features music by eight-time Academy Award® winner Alan Menken (Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, Disney's *Aladdin*, *Sister Act*), lyrics by Jack Feldman, and a book by four-time Tony® Award winner Harvey Fierstein (*La Cage aux Folles*, *Torch Song Trilogy*). Originally written for the 1992 feature film musical, Menken's stirring score is often credited for the cult following **Newsies** has developed since its initial release. The multiple Tony® Award-winning stage production of **Newsies**, which ran on Broadway from 2012-2014, adapts many of Menken's memorable melodies, including "Carrying the Banner," "King of New York," "Santa Fe," and "Seize the Day," and expands the score with new songs that help tell the inspiring real-life story of the 'Newsboy Strike of 1899,' when newsboy Kid Blink led a band of orphan and runaway newsies on a two-week-long action against Pulitzer, Hearst and other powerful newspaper publishers.

The Coterie & The J's co-production of Disney's **Newsies** will run approximately 130 minutes with one 20-minute intermission and is perfect for families with children ages 7 and older (parent discretion is advised).

Tickets for Disney's **Newsies** are \$25 for the general public, \$18 for J Members and \$14 for students. Group discounts and season tickets are also available. You can purchase your tickets online at TheWhiteTheatre.org, contact The White Theatre Box Office at (913) 327-8054 or by email, boxoffice@thejkc.org, or visit the box office in person at 5801 W 115th St, Overland Park, KS, 66211 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and one and a half hours prior to all performances.

Disney's NEWSIES Cast

(Character, performer and city of residence)

Jack - Noah Lindquist, Topeka, KS

Katherine - Kelly Urschel, Overland Park, KS

Pulitzer - Ron Meyer, Kansas City, MO

Medda - Eboni Fondren, Kansas City, MO

Crutchie - Lucas Lowry, Lenexa, KS

Davey - Christoph Nevins, Lenexa, KS

Les - Ben Renfro, Warrensburg, MO; Valen Jurkowski, Warrensburg, MO

Snyder, Nunzio, Delance - Jason Coats, Overland Park, KS

Oscar Delancey, Roosevelt, Stage Mgr. - Matthew Henrickson, Kansas City, MO

Wiesel, Mr. Jacobi, Mayor - Eric Moore, Lenexa, KS

Seitz, Bunsen - Chase Kneuen, Leavenworth, KS

Bowery Beauty, Nun, Newsie - Maddie Roberts, Prairie Village, KS

Bowery Beauty, Nun, Hannah, Newsie - Ashton Botts, Kansas City, MO

Newsies:

Amanda Dulny, Shawnee, KS

James Fenoglio, Kansas City, MO

Ryan Jacobs, Stilwell, KS

Leah Landwehr, Warrensburg, MO

D'Andre McKenzie, Lee's Summit, MO

Maya Momon, Lee's Summit, MO

Fisher Stewart, Shawnee, KS

Weston Thomas, Kansas City, MO

Jackson Tomlin, Shawnee, KS

Sam Wise, Overland Park, KS

Brooklyn Chorus:

Tessa Brethowr, Olathe, KS

Bre Elman, Olathe, KS

Braden James, Kansas City, MO

Zach Kujath, Kansas City, MO

Joseph (Joe) Spor, Independence, MO

Taylor Jenea Stufflebean, Liberty, MO

Drake Taylor, Kansas City, MO

Margaret Veglahn, Prairie Village, KS

ABOUT THE COTERIE

Designated by *TIME* magazine in the top three theaters for young audiences in Nov. 2004 (“groundbreaking...one of the nation’s most respected”), The Coterie has been at the forefront of commissioning new works or adaptations that contribute to the field of theatre for young audiences. More than 50 world or American premieres for all ages have been produced by The Coterie over the last 25 years, during Artistic Director Jeff Church’s tenure, including hosting multiple major Broadway composers and lyricists to shape quality musicals for youth and families. The Coterie is interested in intergenerational conversation, and consistently includes teen programming in its season and outreach efforts. The Coterie’s community programming redefines traditional notions of work for young audiences with its unique dramatic writing programs, teen LGBTQ work, as well as its AIDS/STD education/prevention program, free of charge to 8,000 teens per year, overseen by Executive Director Joette Pelster and a dedicated staff. All these components serve an average of 80,000 per year through over 350 performances. The Coterie also offers acting classes year-round at multiple locations throughout greater Kansas City. Information available at TheCoterie.org.

ABOUT THE LEWIS & SHIRLEY WHITE THEATRE AT THE J

The non-profit Lewis & Shirley White Theatre at The J, built in 2005, is a 500-seat, state-of-the-art facility, featuring the latest amenities in terms of seating, sound and lighting technology, and regularly hosts a mix of top talent from the region and around the world. Called “the best kept secret” in Kansas City’s theatre scene, The White Theatre’s mission is to provide enriching, thought-provoking entertainment that builds on Jewish cultural values, enhancing wellness, meaning and joy for people of all cultural backgrounds.

ABOUT THE J

Established more than 100 years ago, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, "The J," provides a warm welcome to families of all backgrounds. “The J’s” all-in-one hub for health, learning, and well-being elevates the lives of the community and its Members with programs of excellence in fitness, sports, theatre, cultural arts, senior adult programming, and youth services including summer camps and child development. Everyone can “live up” at “The J,” located in Overland Park, Kansas, and at TheJKC.org.

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Newsies is based on the Disney film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White and was originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions. *Newsies* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 541-4684. Fax: (212) 397-4684. www.MTIShows.com

Due to the nature of live theatre, play selection, performance schedule and casting are subject to change.

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