

PARISH CENTER STAGE

ASTRA



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DIRECTED BY
BREANNE SERRANO



ALL SAINTS THEATRICAL REPERTOIRE ASSOCIATION (ASTRA) ■ SUMMER 2025
A MINISTRY OF ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH ■ WWW.ALLSAINTSPARISH.COM



We honor those outstanding volunteers whose contributions to our ministry are the key to our success!

STACY GREGORY. In 2017, ASTRA was sent an angel to our family—Stacy Gregory, one of the parents of our cast. Stacy did not hesitate to jump in and get involved, leaving a lasting impression because of her compassion and kindness, making our world a better place.

Stacy embodies a true volunteer, one who is motivated merely to help others without expecting anything in return. Initially, Stacy quietly made herself available at any opportunity to assist in various departments. It wasn't long before Stacy took on a leadership role, obtaining her Food Worker Card, working in the kitchen overseeing the dining table set up, preparing and serving food, monitoring kitchen cleanup, and mentoring our young servers. Eventually, she advanced to Kitchen Manager. Stacy was eager to improve systems that enhanced kitchen operations and collaborated with others to reach that goal.

Recently, Stacy demonstrated her creative side with the house décor and the cast photo wall design; she never ceases to amaze us. Talented and creative, Stacy consistently demonstrates her amazing abilities, always prioritizing service for others, which is in alignment with our Christian values. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the energy and love Stacy devotes to others. Even outside of our production cycle, Stacy volunteered in the kitchen for All Saints Vacation Bible School.

Stacy has proven herself to live out the teachings of Jesus, always putting the needs of others first. She exemplifies the type of volunteer that ASTRA represents. If you look now, you will find Stacy in the kitchen overseeing the food service and servers and doing what she loves best, serving others. We are fortunate to have Stacy as part of our ASTRA family and production team and for her selfless dedication and devotion, we honor Stacy Gregory with ASTRA's A-Star Award. §



Remembering beloved ASTRA family members who have passed away since our last stage production.

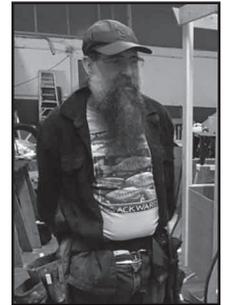


BOB BALTZELL

ASTRA Committee Member and resident photographer, Bob captured our productions faithfully over the years. He continues to live in our hearts today. Whenever ASTRA gathers to pose for a picture, we always remember to say, "Biscuit!" in Bob's honor. §

MIKE CARUSO

Fondly known as "Mr. Mike," ASTRA's set builder extraordinaire, Mike passed away just this year. Recognized by his iconic beard and ready wit, his legacy lives on as we work on this year's *Newsies* sets.



We were blessed to have Bob and Mike as part of our ASTRA family. We miss them both so much! May they rest in eternal peace.



Scan for more program details and our behind-the-scenes photo gallery!

If you are new to the Puyallup area, curious about the Catholic Church, or just want to find out more about our parish family, we welcome the opportunity to meet you.



www.stmartinoftoursfife.com
(253) 922-7882



www.allsaintsparish.com
(253) 845-7521



www.sacredhearttacoma.org
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A Ministry Of
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Puyallup, WA

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2024 – 2025 Season

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Deb Churchill

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Jeff Flynn

Priscilla Jarvis

Rod Nirschl

Nancy Morris

Steve Miller, Advisory

Paula Schmitz, Liaison

OUR MISSION

To nurture the Body of Christ
by sharing gifts of time, talent, and
fellowship through its support of
artists and thespians dedicated to
bringing theatre, in its many forms,
to All Saints Parish and the
surrounding community.

ASTRA

506 3rd St SW

Puyallup, WA 98371

(253) 579-6192

WWW.ASTRAMUSICAL.COM

SINCE OCTOBER 2003

ASTRA

All Saints Theatrical Repertoire Association

production of

NEWSIES THE MUSICAL

MUSIC BY
ALAN MENKEN

LYRICS BY
JACK FELDMAN

BOOK BY
HARVEY FIERSTEIN

Based on the Disney Film
written by **BOB TZUDIKER** and **NONI WHITE**

Originally produced on Broadway by
DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

Orchestrations by **Danny Troob**
Incidental Music & Vocal Arrangements by **Michael Kosarin**
Dance Arrangements by **Mark Hummel**

Directed & Choreographed by **Breanne Serrano**
Vocal Director **Lindsay Delmarter**
Musical Director **Mike Lewis**

All Saints Catholic Church
PARISH CENTER STAGE



*Any video and/or audio recording of this
production is strictly prohibited.*

*Please silence and store all electronic devices
prior to the show.*

NEWSIES is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

421 West 54th Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10019 | Phone: (212) 541-4684 Fax: (212) 397-4684 | www.mtishows.com



The Producer's Corner

Deb Churchill, Producer



In the words of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, *“Together, we can do great things.”* It’s been said, *“It takes a village,”* and I agree! Our “village” consists of many wonderful and dedicated volunteers: a fabulously talented cast, orchestra and crew members who devote countless hours to details large and small; an incredibly supportive parish staff; awesome parishioners; wonderful sponsors, and the best community audience we could ask for. If you played a role in this year’s production, whether on stage, behind the scenes, or attending one of our shows—we consider you part of our ASTRA family. On behalf of the entire cast, orchestra and production team, welcome to ASTRA’s 2025 summer musical, *Newsies!*

As a family, we gather together in Christ’s name to share and celebrate the joy of co-creating. Since 2004, ASTRA continues in its mission, *“to nurture the Body of Christ by sharing gifts of time, talent, and fellowship through its support of artists and thespians, in its many forms, to All Saints Parish and the surrounding community.”*

My role as producer is to coordinate the financial and managerial aspects of bringing an ASTRA production to life. Doing so requires extraordinary teamwork, a monumental task that rests on the broad shoulders of our production leads. My job is much easier thanks to these leads

and our very own inspirational director, Breanne Serrano, and musical director, Lindsay Delmarter. This season, we could not be more proud to bring *Newsies* to you on our humble stage. It is a remarkable true story filled with courage and hope.

As I write this article, our 2025 season is under way. The air is filled with excitement—all that we have worked so hard for is coming together at last! Throughout this process, we have been inspired by Crutchie who wisely stated, *“We gotta seize the day, ‘cause who knows what tomorrow brings!”* ASTRA has done just that! We “seized” the moment when we decided to perform once again for our beloved audience members.

However this show connects with you, ASTRA would like to invite you to join us as we present this true story from 1899 New York. We’re so glad you’re here! Now it’s time to sit back, relax and enjoy as we present *Newsies*, produced and performed by ASTRA.

Honored to serve as ASTRA’s 2025 Producer, I am proud to introduce our superb cast, crew, and orchestra. To them, I am delighted to say, *“Break a leg, Newsies!”* §

Blessings,

Deb Churchill
2025 ASTRA Producer
ASTRA Committee Chairperson

DEB CHURCHILL
(Producer/Costumer/Ticket Master/Kitchen Manager)

Deb joined ASTRA during the very first production of The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (2004). She has loved being involved every minute since! Deb is an active parishioner at All Saints and a retired teacher. Blessed by all the friends and family in her life, she looks forward to her next chapter, which definitely includes more traveling! "Grateful to the cast, orchestra, and crew of Newsies...thank you! Much love to Tim, Jillian and Mom."

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

WHAT:

Set in New York City at the turn of the 20th century, *Newsies* is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a ragged band of teenage "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 is right.

Newsies is inspired by the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899, when newsies leaders Kid Blink and David Simons led a band of working kids on a two-week long strike against newspaper publishers Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst.

WHERE & WHEN: NEW YORK CITY, 1899

WHO:

JACK KELLY. The charismatic leader of the Manhattan newsies, Jack is a 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 strongly loyal, Jack isn't afraid to use his voice to attain better conditions for the working kids of New York City. Though living on the streets has given him a tough-guy exterior, Jack has a big heart and can demonstrate a sweet vulnerability—especially when it comes to bantering with a certain female reporter.

KATHERINE PLUMBER. An ambitious young reporter who 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, she boldly captures the voice of a new generation rising in her coverage of the newsies' strike. While she generally has no time for cocky, streetwise young men, she makes an exception for Jack Kelly.

CRUTCHIE. A dedicated newsie with a bum leg that causes him pain, but helps him sell more papers. Though he walks with the assistance of a crutch, Crutchie doesn't let it define him; when in a jam, Jack Kelly's best friend relies on a goofy-sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience. Crutchie is the heart of the resistance.

DAVEY. Les' 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, Davey is the brains of the resistance.

LES. Davey's cheeky younger brother, is inspired by the freedom of the newsies and loves their independent lifestyle. A precocious and natural newsie, Les is an intuitive salesboy and a pint-sized charmer.

JOSEPH PULITZER. A pompous businessman through and through who thinks he owns the world and is concerned solely with the bottom line.

MEDDA LARKIN. A big-voiced saloon singer and star of the Bowery offers her theater as a safe haven for the newsies. An astute and funny entertainer, she is a good friend to Jack and stands firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice.



The Director's Corner

Breanne Serrano, Director



Welcome to ASTRA's 2025 show, *Newsies!* We are so glad you're here, and we know that you will enjoy the show as much as we have enjoyed creating it!

I grew up as a competitive dancer with a love for all things Disney. I later developed a passion for theatre, which allowed me to combine all my worlds.

Newsies is the true-life story of the newspaper boys' strike of 1899 in New York City. The strike started July 18, 1899 when newsboys of all ages formed a union to fight the newspaper industry's unjust wages and price increases. Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst (listen for their names in the show) were amongst the largest tycoons to create unlivable wages for the newsies. Within the first week of the strike, there were one hundred newsies; eventually they started to grow, taking over the Brooklyn Bridge in groups as large as five hundred. Newsies were ripping up copies of papers such as *The World* and *The Journal* and throwing the scraps off bridges, buildings, and from street lamps. In a span of two weeks, the volume of sales went from 360,000 "papes" (newspapers) to 125,000! On July 25, the newsies held a rally that had a crowd of over 5,000. The strike became so big that all the newspaper companies complied, returning to their original selling price and quantity. While this was a victory for the newsies, sadly it would be another twenty years before the United States would enact child labor protection laws.

A theme that appears quite often in our show is the biblical story of David and Goliath—the mighty vs. the underdog, the struggle between rich and poor. Modern society still experiences those who excel by stepping on "the little guy"

while unjust treatment of others happens every second of every day. My favorite lyric from *Newsies* is from the song *Seize the Day*. In it, Davey sings, "Tell those with power, safe in their tower, we will not obey..." Staying quiet, compliant, not standing up for others, not standing up for what is right or what our values and morals tell us is good vs. bad keeps us repeating not only patterns but history. Most of us would not be able to have the freedoms and privileges we do if it weren't for the brave "underdogs," like the newsies. They are the ones who create change, standing up for everyone. Our world can be a scary place, but if we do even the smallest part to help others, to seek justice, to spread kindness to everyone we meet, to speak up for what we truly believe in then maybe, just maybe, our world will start to fill up with more Davids and less Goliaths. §

Enjoy the show, and seize the day!

Breanne Serrano

ASTRA 2025 Director

BREANNE SERRANO. *Now in her 10th season, Breanne thinks of ASTRA as home! She loves the ministry's welcoming environment, where everyone feels safe to create art. Of the many shows she has worked on, Beauty and the Beast (2018) will always hold a special place for Breanne; it's where she made her solo directorial debut and also met her future step-son, Eli, who played Chip! Past credits: Director/choreographer (Guys & Dolls, 2015; Singin' In the Rain, 2019); the role of Truly Scrumptious (Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, 2016); co-creator (ASTRA's 2020 Gala); and director/creator (Music Through The Decades, 2024). Breanne sends a huge thank you to the ASTRA committee; Fr. Cal; All Saints staffer, Paula Schmitz; her amazing producer, Deb Churchill; dance captain/co-choreographer, Ellie Gregory; and the entire cast for making this show a dream come true. She also thanks her kiddos Eli, Andy, and Jack for allowing her to be their bonus mom; her fiancé and the love of her life, Mike, who supports her in everything she does; her family and friends; and her poodles Pippin, Chip, and Sully.*

CORNER

DIRECTOR'S



Cast of *Characters*



Jack Kelly	MAURO BOZZO
Katherine Plumber.....	BIG ANDERSON
Joseph Pulitzer.....	JOE BLOTNER
Medda Larkin	ANGEL LUNA
Davey Jacobs.....	MILES CANTRELL
Les Jacobs	STELLA SOPRANO
Crutchie.....	GRAYSON LOCKEY
Race (Newsie)	VICTORIA ROBSON
Hannah, Nun, Bowery Beauties Singer.....	KARINA HARTUNG
Finch (Newsie)	CALEB OSBORNE
Spot Conlon (Newsie), Oscar Delancey, Goon, Medda's Men.....	NOAH CARR
Specs (Newsie).....	CAVIN ALSUP
Albert (Newsie).....	ELLE TENA
Buttons (Newsie), Scab, Bowery Beauties Singer	HANNAH MICHALEK
Elmer (Newsie).....	EVERETT MANN
Romeo (Newsie)	ASHWIN RAMAN
Mush (Newsie)	OLIVIA KULAAS
Mike (Newsie), Bowery Beauties Singer.....	MADELIN LEMIEUX
Henry (Newsie), Scab, Bowery Beauties Singer	ELLIANA GREGORY
Ike/JoJo/Splasher (Newsies), Scab.....	GILLIAN MILSTEIN
Darcy, Morris Delancey, Mr. Jacobi, Goon, Medda's Men	JJ GREENWELL
Wiesel, Stage Manager, Goon	CALVIN BREANFIELD
Seitz, Snyder.....	ADAM GREGORY
Bunsen.....	CHRIS BOHNEN
Bill, Nunzio, Nun, Photographer, Goon.....	CARLY NIRSCHL
Nun, Mayor, Woman, Bowery Beauties Singer	MANDIE MILLER-SCHOSSOW
Teddy Roosevelt.....	ROD NIRSCHL

Musical Score

ACT 1 *New York City, 1899*

Overture	.....	Orchestra
ROOFTOP, DAWN		
<i>Santa Fe (Prologue)</i>	.....	Jack, Crutchie
<i>Prologue (Playoff)</i>		
Scene 1: NEWSBOYS' LODGING HOUSE & NEWSIE SQUARE		
<i>Carrying the Banner</i>	.....	Jack, Newsies, Nuns
<i>Carrying the Banner (Tag)</i>	.....	Newsies
Scene 2: PULITZER'S OFFICE, AFTERNOON		
<i>The Bottom Line</i>	.....	Pulitzer, Seitz, Bunsen, Hannah
<i>Carrying the Banner (Reprise)</i>	.....	Newsies
Scene 3: A STREET CORNER		
<i>Chase</i>		
Scene 4: MEDDA'S THEATRE		
<i>That's Rich</i>	.....	Medda
<i>I Never Planned On You/Don't Come A-Knocking</i>	.....	Jack, Bowery Beauties
<i>To the Distribution Window</i>		
Scene 5: NEWSIE SQUARE, NEXT MORNING		
<i>The World Will Know</i>	.....	Jack, Davey, Les, Crutchie, Newsies
Scene 6: JACOBI'S DELI & STREET, AFTERNOON		
<i>The World Will Know (Reprise)</i>	.....	Jack, Davey, Les, Newsies
<i>Watch What Happens</i>	.....	Katherine
Scene 7: KATHERINE'S OFFICE		
<i>Watch What Happens (cont'd)</i>	.....	Katherine
<i>Watch What Happens (Playoff)</i>		
Scene 8: NEWSIES SQUARE, NEXT MORNING		
<i>Seize the Day</i>	.....	Davey, Jack, Les, Newsies
<i>Seize the Day (Tag)</i>	.....	Newsies
<i>The Fight</i>		
Scene 9: ROOFTOP		
<i>Santa Fe</i>	.....	Jack



ACT 2

New York City, 1899

Scene 1: JACOBI'S DELI, NEXT MORNING

Entr'acte

King of New York Davey, Katherine, Les, Newsies

King of New York (Tag)

Scene 2: THE REFUGE

Letter From the Refuge Crutchie

Letter From the Refuge (Playoff)

Scene 3: MEDDA'S THEATRE

Jack's Painting

Watch What Happens (Reprise) Davey, Jack, Katherine, Les

Back to Pulitzer's Office

Scene 4: PULITZER'S OFFICE & CELLAR, AFTERNOON

The Bottom Line (Reprise) Pulitzer, Seitz, Bunsen

Brooklyn's Here Spot, Newsies

Scene 5: BROOKLYN BRIDGE & MEDDA'S THEATRE

Brooklyn's Here (cont'd) Spot, Newsies

Scene 6: ROOFTOP, NIGHT

To the Rooftop

Something to Believe In Katherine, Jack

Scene 7: PULITZER'S CELLAR

Seize the Day (Reprise) Newsies

Once and For All Jack, Davey, Katherine, Newsies

Once and For All (Playoff)

Scene 8: PULITZER'S OFFICE, NEXT MORNING

Seize the Day (Reprise 2) Newsies

Scene 9: NEWSIES SQUARE

Finale Ultimo (Part 1) Company

Finale Ultimo (Part 2) Company



Spotlight:

THE 1899

Newsboys Strike

The strike depicted in *Newsies* is one of ten newsies' strikes that took place in New York City between 1886 and 1948. However, the strike that occurred during the summer of 1899 was the most significant in terms of duration and outcome.

The Spanish-American War in 1898 set the scene for the strike. In February 1898, a battleship named the U.S.S. Maine was sunk off the coast of Cuba, killing 266 crewmen onboard. Although the cause of the explosion was still unclear, two New York newspapers claimed that the Spanish Empire sank the ship. Spain soon declared war on the U.S., and, although he wanted to avoid conflict, President William McKinley quickly followed suit by declaring war on Spain. Battles were fought in the Spanish colonies of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines. Over 2,000 Americans died in the war, many from infectious diseases. A ceasefire began in August 1898, but the war was not officially over until a treaty was signed and ratified in February 1899. Called the Treaty of Paris, this document gave control of almost all Spanish colonies to the U.S.

The Spanish-American War had sparked a boom in the newspaper business. Circulations exploded as customers snatched up papers as fast as they could,



Historical Photographs: "The Life of Newsies"

**Newsies
strike leads
to major
*outcome***

See STRIKE, page 19

Sharing Gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure



In grateful recognition of our community partners, whose generous support made this show possible!



ASTRA would like to thank Aaberg's once again for their generous loan of a scissor lift, used to install lighting and sound equipment as well as our house décor. The next time you have a rental need, please support this great business!

www.aabergsequipment.com
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Phone: (253) 272-1138 Fax: (253) 272-0869



Berg EQUIPMENT &
Scaffolding Co. Inc.

ASTRA is proud to have Berg Scaffolding sponsor our production again this year. Their kind donation of scaffolding accommodates our lighting and sound equipment while enhancing our set design. We hope you will contact our friends at Berg for your next rental needs.

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Seattle: (206) 938-5009 Tacoma: (253) 383-2035

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. -1 Pt 4:10

Supporters

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Vince & Karyn Panesko

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\$1-\$499

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Rocky Ross (*Photography*)
Safeway at Shaw Road (*Newspapers*)

Many thanks to those whose names were not available at time of publication.



*"You have never really lived until you've done something for someone who can never repay you.
Work for a cause, not the applause." -WW*

Production Crew

STAGE & CREW

Producer..... Deb Churchill
 Director Breanne Serrano
 Vocal Director..... Lindsay Delmarter
 Choreographer..... Breanne Serrano
 Tap Choreographer/Dance Captain Elliana Gregory
 Stage Manager Hailey Wharton
 Set Designer/Scenic Artist..... Nancy Morris
 Costumer Deb Churchill
 Prop Master Valerie Carr
 Construction Manager..... Rod Nirschl
 Lighting Designer..... Steve Miller
 Sound Manager Jeff Flynn
 Sound Technician..... Melika Mindemann

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Program Design/Graphic Artist Karyn Panesko
 Website Manager Rod Nirschl
 Ticketmaster Deb Churchill

KITCHEN & HOUSE MANAGEMENT

Kitchen Manager Deb Churchill
 Co-Kitchen Lead..... Stacey Gregory, Priscilla Jarvis
 Caterer Emily Henderson

Orchestra Ensemble

CONDUCTOR

Mike Lewis

STRINGS

Anthony Fok
 Amanda Hammock
 Kari Welch

WOODWINDS

Jacquelyn Hallinan

BRASS

Dauida Bourgeois
 Chris Earles

RHYTHM SECTION

Alex Brodwell
 Alyssa Kellar
 Carlos King
 Paula Schmitz

*"Courage does not erase our fears,
 courage is when we
 face our fears."*



- Davey



For a full list of generous volunteers who helped bring this show to life, please visit us online. Click the QR code on the inside front cover or go to www.astramusical.com. Many thanks to those additional volunteers whose names were not available at time of publication.

CHILD LABOR



In the U.S., the idea that kids should go to school to prepare for their future is relatively new. Throughout most of American history, it was normal for children to work long hours at difficult and dangerous jobs. Child labor in the U.S. 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, six days a week. According to the U.S. Census of 1880, one in six American children were employed, and this number does not account for the number of children under 10 years old working illegally in sweatshops or on the streets. Estimates indicated that those illegal workers included as many as one in six children between the ages of five and 10 who were employed in some sense. 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 20th 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.

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 kept them from going to school and improving their futures. §



Photographs: "The Life of Newsies"

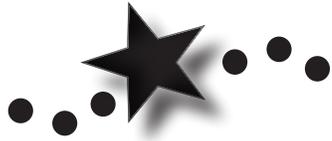


Mauro Bozzo

Big Anderson

Joe Blotner

Angel Luna



Meet our *Actors*

MAURO BOZZO | JACK KELLY

Mauro is thrilled to be joining this amazingly talented cast! Previous credits include William Shakespeare in *Something Rotten!* (Centerstage) Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, Wadsworth in *Clue* (TLT) Don Lockwood in *Singin' in the Rain*, Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd* (Village Theatre) and many more around the Puget Sound area. He would like to thank his friends and family for all of their love and support. "Enjoy the show!"

BIG ANDERSON | KATHERINE PLUMBER

Big is delighted to return to musical theatre with her ASTRA debut. Big earned her BA in Visual Narrative Design from Seattle Pacific University (SPU). Past credits include Sheila Birling (*An Inspector Calls*, Dukesbay), Piglet (*Winnie the Pooh*, New Muses), Meg (*A Wrinkle in Time*, SPU), and Mabel (*An Ideal Husband*, SPU). Big is on-screen in local films and has performed with Princess Cruises and American Immersion Theater. "143, Family."

JOE BLOTNER | JOSEPH PULITZER

Joe is excited to be joining ASTRA! Select previous roles include Principal Hawkins (*The Prom*), Gomez (*The Addams Family*), Daddy Warbucks (*Annie*) with ACP. Other acting credits include *Godspell*, *Company*, *Harvey*, and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. Joe also co-directed with Suzie Newbury on *Into the Woods*, *Pippin*, *Working*, *The Hollow*, and other shows. His favorite roles are husband to Suzie and father to Katie, AJ and Ellie Newbury "Love you, Fam Bam!!"

ANGEL LUNA | MEDDA LARKIN

Angel is thrilled to make her debut as Medda Larkin with ASTRA! She was most recently seen as Mae Tuck (*Tuck Everlasting*) at Mustard Seed Theater and Hedy

LaRue in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at Auburn Community Players. Angel has a soft spot for dramatic roles with "killer belting notes." She sends her love to her family and friends for their support, encouragement, and heroic patience during tech week!

MILES CANTRELL | DAVEY JACOBS

Miles has been in theatre for two years. Past credits include *Into the Woods*, *The Play that Goes Wrong*, and *Annie!* This is his first musical outside of high school and his debut performance with ASTRA. Miles is beyond excited to perform for you today. He would like to thank his dearest friends, family, and Lindsay Delmarter for encouraging him and supporting him through and through.

STELLA SOPRANO | LES JACOBS

Stella is 10 years old and attends All Saints School. This is her first big play, and she's excited to be on stage! She has performed in summer camp shows including *Honk!* (Goose) and *Aladdin* (Genie) and had roles in *Doctor Dolittle* and *Robin Hood*. Stella loves singing, dancing, and acting and dreams of attending Juilliard to become a professional singer and actor one day.

GRAYSON LOCKEY | CRUTCHIE

Grayson's hoping for a Nat 20 with his ASTRA debut! Recent credits include (Jonathan) *Have Yourself a Crazy Little Christmas* and being his mom's favorite child. Off stage, Grayson's "purs-n-ality" shines when he performs as a magician at the local farmers' market and when making junk food disappear. Special thanks to the Agents of Chaos (his parents) for surviving the endless loop of *Newsies* songs without launching a strike of their own.



Miles Cantrell

Stella Soprano

Grayson Lockeby

Victoria Robson



VICTORIA ROBSON | RACE (NEWSIE)

Victoria is thrilled to be in her first ASTRA performance! She started acting in 2022 as Marta (*The Sound of Music*, ManeStage Theatre) and has loved the stage ever since. Victoria would like to thank Breanne for the opportunity to act with ASTRA, Daisy and Lindsay for their vocal guidance, Shanee for tap lessons, and her family for their constant support. "Seize the day! Rom 8:31."

KARINA HARTUNG | HANNAH, NUN, BOWERY BEAUTIES SINGER

Karina is absolutely delighted to return to the ASTRA stage! This will be her 5th show. You may have seen her previously in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Singin' In the Rain*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. She has also done various local productions of *The Music Man*, *Cinderella*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Oliver!*, and more. Karina couldn't be happier that you're here. "Please enjoy the show!"

CALEB OSBORNE | FINCH (NEWSIE)

Caleb is entering 8th grade at All Saints Catholic School. What began with singing in the shower became moonwalking in the kitchen. He found a welcoming and creative space at Tacoma Musical Playhouse and attended Junior Musical Theatre Festival in February 2025. This is his first season of (hopefully) many more with ASTRA. "Thank you to the many friends and family for encouraging this creative kid!"

NOAH CARR | SPOT CONLON (NEWSIE), OSCAR DELANCEY, MEDDA'S MEN

Having joined ASTRA in 2016 for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Noah fell in love with this wonderful community and has been involved with every show since. He has

worked professionally as a Character Performer in Walt Disney World, Florida, as an actor for Maris Farms, and has performed in local theaters since he was nine years old. He is overjoyed to return to the ASTRA Family for another show!

CAVIN ALSUP | SPECS (NEWSIE)

Cavin is a freshman at Stahl Jr. High. This is his first musical performance with ASTRA, but some of his other notable roles include Ryan Evans (*High School Musical, Jr.*), Pepper (*Mamma Mia!*), and Lucas Beineke (*The Addams Family, Jr.*). Cavin is also involved in several choirs both inside and outside of school.

ELLE TENA | ALBERT (NEWSIE)

Elle Tena is very excited to be a part of *Newsies*. This is Elle's first show at ASTRA and they have loved being a part of this production. This show is a treasure, and Elle hopes you sit back and enjoy the ride.

HANNAH MICHALEK | BUTTONS (NEWSIE), SCAB, BOWERY BEAUTIES SINGER

Hannah is so excited to be in her first ASTRA production as well as her first Disney show! This show and cast are so incredible and so much fun to be a part of, and she hopes you enjoy every second of it. She would like to thank her family and friends for always being so supportive and for being there every step of the way!



Karina Hartung

Caleb Osborne

Noah Carr

Cavin Alsup



Elle Tena

Hannah Michalek

Everett Mann

Ashwin Raman

EVERETT MANN | ELMER (NEWSIE)

Everett is a 7th grader at Aylen and is excited to be performing with ASTRA for the first time. He has appeared in a number of productions, some favorite roles being Charlie (*Willy Wonka*) and Pugsley (*The Addams Family*). When he isn't busy with school, Everett enjoys drawing, writing, listening to music, and learning guitar. He would especially like to thank Ms. Hicks and Hannah McVay for their guidance and support.

ASHWIN RAMAN | ROMEO (NEWSIE)

Ashwin is excited to join the ASTRA community bringing *Newsies* to life. He is currently majoring in Computer Science and Engineering and minoring in Musical Theatre at Santa Clara University. Recent musical productions include *Into the Woods* (Milky White) and *42nd Street* (Billy Lawlor). Ashwin just finished performing in a student-written devised piece, *Overhead, A Skylark Called*. In his free time, he enjoys writing, acting, singing, tap dancing, and playing piano and guitar.

OLIVIA KULAAS | MUSH (NEWSIE)

Olivia is 17 and a student at Sumner High School. This is her first time performing with ASTRA. Olivia has done theatre since she was a toddler. Some of her recent roles include Wednesday (*The Addams Family*, SHS) and Alice (*Alice in Wonderland*, SHS). She is enjoying performing with ASTRA! Olivia would like to thank her directors, her parents, and everyone else who has helped her along her acting journey! "Enjoy the show!"

MADELIN LEMIEUX | MIKE (NEWSIE), BOWERY BEAUTIES SINGER

Madelin is so excited to be in her first show with ASTRA! She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her and for everyone at ASTRA for being so kind. Recent performances include ensemble (*The Prom*, ACP) and Nat (*Rabbit Hole*, PCD). She has enjoyed working on this performance so much and hopes to be able to work alongside her favorite people again in the future!

ELLIANA GREGORY | HENRY (NEWSIE), SCAB, BOWERY BEAUTIES SINGER

Eliana is thrilled to be in her 6th ASTRA show. Elli has danced since she was 2 years old and acted since she was 8 years old. Most recently you may have seen her at OSLC's Good Friday service, as a featured Dancer/Ensemble for *Tuck Everlasting*, *Anastasia*, *Cinderella*, and *Hello Dolly!* (Mustard Seed Theatre), Ensemble in *How to Succeed* (ACP), and *Music Through the Decades* (ASTRA). Elli wishes to thank her family, friends, and God. "And of course, you! Jer 29:11."

GILLIAN MILSTEIN | IKE/JOJO/SPLASHER (NEWSIES), SCAB

Gillian is honored to be making her ASTRA debut in this year's production of *Newsies!* A Washingtonian since 2018, Gillian is, by day, a medical technologist at Tacoma General and joyfully fills the roles of proud wife and aunt. She is so grateful to join this stellar *Newsies* cast in one of her all-time favorite musicals. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands".



Olivia Kulaas

Madelin Lemieux

Elliana Gregory

Gillian Milstein



JJ Greenwell

Calvin Breanfield

Adam Gregory

Chris Bohnen

JJ GREENWELL | DARCY, MORRIS DELANCEY, MR. JACOBI, GOON, MEDDA'S MEN

JJ has been gracing the stage for over a decade now, most recently appearing as Miles (*Tuck Everlasting*) at Mustard Seed Theatre. Other notable roles include Flick (*A Christmas Story*), Tevye (*Fiddler on the Roof*), and Dmitry (*Anastasia*). This is JJ's first show with ASTRA, and he could not be happier to have become a part of the family.

CALVIN BREANFIELD | WIESEL, STAGE MANAGER, GOON

Calvin is ecstatic to be in his first show with ASTRA. Recent credits include Constable Joe (*Tuck Everlasting*), Ensemble (*Cinderella, Hello Dolly!*) at Mustard Seed Theatre, and Bud Frump (*How to Succeed*) for ACP. Calvin would like to thank his friends, family, and God for their love and support. "Bestie, you rock! Prov 3:5-7."

ADAM GREGORY | SEITZ, SNYDER

Adam is elated to be back on the ASTRA stage. Most recently, you may have seen him as Angus (*Tuck Everlasting*), Vlad (*Anastasia*), part of the Ensemble in *Cinderella* and *Hello Dolly!* (Mustard Seed Theatre), and Bratt in *How to Succeed* (ACP). Adam would like to thank his family and God for their love and support. "Enjoy the show!"

CHRIS BOHNEN | BUNSEN

Chris is delighted to be involved with this year's show. He hopes you enjoy all the traditions ASTRA has to offer. Chris has appeared in several ASTRA productions. He currently sings in the All Saints choir. With thanks to his family for supporting his hobby, "Enjoy the show!"

CARLY NIRSCHL | BILL, NUNZIO, NUN, PHOTOGRAPHER, GOON

Although Carly grew up alongside ASTRA's origins, she's glad to be returning to its stage after an 8-year hiatus. Some recent credits include Chad (*All Shook Up*, SU's Inigo Theatre Club), and Myrtle Webb (*Our Town*, Emerald Ridge). With *Newsies*, Carly is proud to be bringing such an important lesson to the stage. "Enjoy the show!"

MANDIE MILLER-SHOWSSOW | NUN, MAYOR, WOMAN, BOWERY BEAUTIES SINGER

Mandie is so happy that ASTRA is doing a musical this summer!! She has been in five ASTRA shows, starting with *Once Upon a Mattress* through *Singin' in the Rain*, the ASTRA Gala, and last year's concert, *Music Through the Decades*. Mandie has also performed with other theatres in Auburn and Tacoma, most recently as an Ensemble/Animals member in TMP's *Grease*. "Thanks for supporting live theatre. Enjoy the show!!"

ROD NIRSCHL | TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Rod has been involved with ASTRA since our first musical, *Sound of Music* (2004). *Newsies* marks the 14th show he has appeared in on the ASTRA stage. A couple of Rod's favorite roles include Captain Von Trapp (*The Sound of Music*) and Maurice (*Beauty and the Beast*). Rod feels blessed that ASTRA has introduced him to so many talented, caring, and hard-working people over the years.



Carly Nirschl

Mandie Miller-Schossow

Rod Nirschl



Determined despite *Disability*

"I don't need the limp to sell papes. I got *purs-n-ality!*"

–Crutchie

*N*ewsies is set in 1899, at the height of the Second Industrial Revolution when workplace injuries resulting in physical maiming or other forms of impairment were incredibly common and a source of great fear and anxiety. Decades of poor workplace conditions and mistreatment of workers led to a massive labor movement in the U.S. This movement and the creation of labor unions, like the newsboys' union, resulted in many of the laws and workplace protections we have today. Before such legislation was fought for and enacted, however, factory workers who became disabled on the job were often left with little recourse. Davey and his younger brother Les, for example, join the newsies because their father is out of work and disabled due to a work-related accident.

Disability is incredibly prevalent in *Newsies*, both in the stage musical and its history. Kid Blink, the newsies' union leader in 1899, who wears an eye patch as a result of a visual impairment, is featured in the film as a minor supporting character, while the role of strike leader is given to the fictional Jack Kelly. Blink and another real-life newsie, Morris Cohen, were the initial inspiration for Kelly. And, of course, there's Crutchie.

In the libretto's character list, he is described as the "newsie with a bum leg." Crutchie's specific disability is never named. Described in the opening stage directions as a "slight and sickly boy of 15" and based on his initial conversation with Jack, it seems that Crutchie's disability may be something he has acquired rather than something he was born with.

Polio, an infectious viral disease that affects the

central nervous system and can cause temporary or permanent paralysis, is a reasonable cause for Crutchie's disability; epidemics of the disease were fairly common at the time, with the last one striking North America in 1950. Another malady one could consider is rickets, a childhood disease caused by vitamin D deficiency, characterized by imperfect calcification, softening and distortion of the bones, typically resulting in bow legs.

Despite Crutchie's physical issues, however, he makes clear to the other characters (and the audience), that like most in his situation, he is more than his disability. From the top, we hear how Crutchie is the envy of Jack and other newsies because his disability gives him an almost preternatural advantage in his profession. Crutchie's pride and optimism sets the tone for the rest of the production.

It is Crutchie who becomes the standard bearer for the movement when he fashions his crutch into the fledgling union's first make-shift picket sign. In the show's opening, Crutchie and Jack's relationship sets up the thematic thread of fraternity, friendship and family that is at the core of this musical. His capture by the bulls and the nefarious Delancey brothers that lands him in The Refuge is an inciting incident that gives Jack's character his greatest moral dilemma, while his "Letter From the Refuge" is one of the most endearing, heart-wrenching numbers in the score. It is Crutchie's "big moment," and it propels Jack on his course to become the true hero of the story. §

STRIKE continued from page 10

eager for news from the front. Newspapers did everything they could to outdo one another and spent exorbitant amounts of money on eye-catching front pages and eyewitness accounts. To make up some of the money, they raised the wholesale price for the newsies from 50 to 60 cents per hundred. The newsies didn't feel the pinch as much because they were enjoying a rise in their profits from the additional demand. But by the summer of 1899, the war had long ended and circulation declined. Almost all of the papers rolled their wholesale price back to 50 cents, except Joseph Pulitzer's World and William Randolph Hearst's Journal; as the two largest publishers, Hearst and Pulitzer figured that they would be able to maintain their prices and that the newsies would continue to buy from them.

As the newsies sold fewer papers each week, the cost difference became harder to manage, and a strike commenced against these two papers beginning July 20, 1899 and ending August 2, 1899. During that time, the kids drew support from newsies all over the Northeast, as well as other young workers. Though the kids banded

together, at times things became violent – scabs (people hired by the publishers to deliver papers despite the strike) were attacked on the streets, their papers ripped from their hands and destroyed to prevent their sale. The publishers did not take the strike seriously until advertisers started making requests to get their bills adjusted. 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.

After the successful resolution of the newsies' strike nearly two weeks after it began, two other children's strikes quickly followed in New York City: The shoe-shine boys wanted a wage increase, and messengers were opposed to the 50-cent "tax" they were being charged every week for their uniforms. An irreversible revolution of child laborers had begun. §

Timeline of the Strike

April 25, 1898 – The Spanish-American War begins.

August 12, 1898 – The Spanish-American War ends.

July 19, 1899 – Dissent among the newsies due to a price hike builds to a head and word spreads of a strike commencing the following day.

July 20, 1899 – The newsies refuse to sell the World and the Journal. Jersey City, NJ newsies join with their New York brethren in a strike against the papers.

July 22, 1899 – Newsie leader Kid Blink meets Hearst outside of his office to share the newsies' demands. Hearst invites him, David Simons and two other boys inside and promises them an answer by Monday July 24.

July 24, 1899 – Pulitzer and Hearst do not give in to the newsies' demands. The publishers hire men to sell their papers, paying them as much as \$2 per day to do so.

July 24, 1899 – A mass meeting of newsies is held at New Irving Hall. 2,000 kids are inside the theatre and another 3,000 observe from the street.

July 25, 1899 – Pulitzer and Hearst agree to lower the cost from 60 cents per hundred to 55 cents per hundred. The newsies decline the offer, deciding to hold out.

July 27, 1899 – Kid Blink leaves the newsies' union. Rumors spread that he accepted a bribe from the publishers.

August 1, 1899 – Pulitzer and Hearst agree to buy back unsold papers from the newsies. Satisfied with this historic compromise, the newsies call off the strike.

August 2, 1899 – The newsies of New York return to work, carrying the banner.



ASTRA PRESENTS

Newsies the Musical

July 2025

Music Through the Decades - 2024

ASTRA's Winter Gala - 2020

Singin' in the Rain - 2019

Beauty and the Beast - 2018

The King and I - 2017

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang - 2016

Guys and Dolls - 2015

Once Upon A Mattress - 2014

Seven Brides For Seven Brothers - 2013

42nd Street - 2012

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat - 2011

Fiddler On the Roof - 2010

Oliver! - 2009

Anything Goes - 2008

Cinderella - 2007

The Music Man - 2006

The Music of Godspell - 2006

The Wizard of Oz - 2005

The 5 Ghosts of Ebenezer Scrooge - 2005

The Sound of Music - 2004

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - 2004



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