

**Auditions for Newsies**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
*Updated August 1, 2024*

**How do I sign up for auditions?**

Go to our website at [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions) and choose an available audition slot. Signups will be open on August 1, 2024.

**Where are auditions?**

**TBD** - we will update the website with location information before the auditions.

**When are auditions?**

Audition date and times are:

Friday, September 20 from 6:00 pm to 9:15 pm

Saturday, September 21 from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm and 1:30 pm to 5:45 pm

Sunday, September 22 from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm and 1:30 pm to 5:45 pm

Callbacks will be on Monday, September 23 from 6:00-9:00 pm - location TBD

**How old do I need to be to audition?**

Our shows are multi-generational for children and adults. To be eligible to audition, you must be at least seven years old and must have entered second grade or higher.

**What time should I arrive for my audition?**

Please arrive promptly at your appointed time. Arriving 5 - 10 minutes early is a good idea.

**What will happen when I arrive?**

You will sign in with the audition volunteers and receive an information sheet to take home. The forms are also available online at: [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions). The audition volunteers will check to make sure you have already filled out the [online audition form](#). **Please fill out this form before attending auditions.**

**What should I bring with me to the audition?**

As long as you have filled out the [online audition form](#), you only need to bring yourself, any sheet music you might want, and perhaps a water bottle. Dress comfortably, ready to move (no flip flops). If you plan to share tap dance skills, please bring your tap shoes. You must inform us of any and all possible conflicts, including vacations, recitals, sports events, rehearsals or performances with any other theater or dance group, even if you are not sure if they will conflict or not. If anything has changed since filling out the online audition form, please bring those details with you as well. **Casting decisions will not be made without conflict information, and no absences will be excused in January.**

**What if I have to cancel my audition at the last minute?**

Send an email to [producer@amherstacts.org](mailto:producer@amherstacts.org) or call producer, Sam, at 413-992-8039.

**Do I have to come prepared with a song to sing at the audition?**

Yes. Please prepare a song for your audition. An accompanist will be available for you to use. No a cappella auditions, please. If you are auditioning for a lead, you are required to sing a song from the show. Below is a list of suggested songs by character. Sheet music for these songs can be found at the Amherst Community Theater website [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions). Please sing the measures indicated (ex: m1-m29) and in the given key. Our preference is that you sing the provided audition cuts from the show, but if you choose to sing a song that is not from the show please bring sheet music in the correct key for the accompanist. Each person auditioning should expect to sing one song, even if they wish to be

considered for multiple roles. Some people may be asked to sing more than one song if the director so desires. If multiple songs are listed for callbacks, please prepare all of them.

Note: We hope to create a cast of the best performers possible. We will cast based on skills and chemistry with other actors, not on look, gender, age, race, body type, or anything else. Audition for a part you can perform and do not self-select out because of any preconceived notion of who the part might be for.

Please also note that while this is a “dance-heavy” show, there are many ways to contribute. Please be prepared to showcase all your movement skills in the audition. There will be a time to learn choreography, and there will also be a time to showcase special movement skills and tricks including tap, partnering, stunting, tumbling, juggling, acrobatics, parkour, other circus-type skills, etc. All tricks and skills need to be safely performed on a hard surface, and the audition room is not the place to attempt skills for the first time.

What we are looking for at auditions:

- Do you have any spontaneous, creative acting skills?
- Are you willing to take risks?
- How well do you work with others?
- Can you take direction?
- How well do you move?
- Can you learn choreography?
- Can you dance and act at the same time?
- Can you tap dance?
- Can you tumble and/or lift people?
- What is your vocal range?
- Can you project your voice?
- Can you learn music?
- Can you sing and act at the same time?

Role (Vocal Range, Gender & Age)	Character Notes	Audition Music Song (measures)	Callbacks (note: you may be asked to sing the regular audition music again at callbacks)
Jack Kelly  (A4-Bb2)  Gender: Male identifying  Presenting Age: 16-20	The charismatic leader of the Manhattan newsies, is an orphaned dreamer and artist who yearns to get out of New York and make a better life for himself out West. Fiercely protective of his best friend, Crutchie, and strongly loyal to his friends. Jack has a big heart and can demonstrate a sweet vulnerability –	<a href="#">Santa Fe (m80-end)</a>	<a href="#">Jack/Crutchie Santa Fe Prologue (m99-end)</a>  <a href="#">Jack/Katherine Something to Believe In (m. 99-end)</a>  <a href="#">Jack/Davey Seize the Day (pick up to m30-52)</a>

	especially when it comes to bantering with Katherine Plumber.		<a href="#">Jack/Katherine/Davey Once and For All (m9-27)</a>
Crutchie (A4 – C3)  Gender: Any  Presenting Age: 13 to 17	A dedicated newsie with a bum leg that’s painful, but helps sell more pages. 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.	<a href="#">Letter from the Refuge (pick up to m42 – end)</a>	<a href="#">Jack/Crutchie Santa Fe Prologue (m99-end)</a>
Davey (A4-D3)  Gender: any  Presenting Age: 15-20	Les’s straight-laced, bright older sibling starts selling newspapers to help their family earn a living, but becomes swept up in the fervor of the strike. A leader in their own right who is learning to use their voice to uplift others, Davey is the brains of the resistance.	<a href="#">Seize the Day (pick up to m30-62)</a>	<a href="#">Jack/Davey Seize the Day (pick up to m30-52)</a>  <a href="#">Jack/Katherine/Davey Once and For All (m9-27)</a>
Les (Bb3 – Db3)  Gender: Any  Presenting Age: 8-15	Davey’s cheeky younger sibling is inspired by the freedom of the newsies and loves their independent lifestyle. A precocious and natural newsie, Les is an intuitive saleskid and a pint-sized charmer. They should present as younger than the other newsies.	<a href="#">Carrying the Banner (m66-98) &amp; King of New York (m4-20 &amp; 175-end)</a>	

<p>Katherine Plumber (F5-A3)</p> <p>Gender: Female Identifying</p> <p>Presenting Age: 17-20</p>	<p>An ambitious young reporter, 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.</p>	<p><a href="#">Watch what Happens (Beginning through 41 &amp; pickup to m125-end)</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Jack/Katherine Something to Believe In (m. 99-end)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Jack/Katherine/Davey Once and For All (m9-27)</a></p>
<p>Joseph Pulitzer (F4-C3)</p> <p>Gender: Male Identifying</p> <p>Presenting Age: 35-50</p>	<p>A pompous businessman through and through, owns the World and is concerned solely with the bottom line. Katherine's no-nonsense father, Pulitzer doesn't sympathize with the strikers, but he does eventually – and grudgingly – respect Jack.</p>	<p><a href="#">The Bottom Line (m37-52)</a></p>	
<p>Medda Larkin (E5-F3)</p> <p>Gender: Female Identifying</p> <p>Presenting Age: 25-50</p>	<p>Inspired by vaudeville performer Aida Overton Walker, this big-voiced saloon singer and star of the Bowery offers her theater as a safe haven for the newsies. An astute entertainer with great comic delivery, she's a good friend to Jack and stands firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice.</p>	<p><a href="#">That's Rich (m36-end)</a></p>	

<p>Spot Conlon</p> <p>Gender: Any</p> <p>Presenting Age: 17 to 20</p>	<p>The proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation.</p>	<p><a href="#">Brooklyn's Here (m27-47)</a></p>	
<p>Featured Ensemble: Newsies</p> <p>Gender: Any</p> <p>Presenting Age: 7-20</p>	<p>Including Albert, Buttons, Elmer, Finch, Henry, Ike, Jo Jo, Mike, Mush, Race, Romeo, Specs, Splasher, and Tommy Boy, are some of the hard-working kids of New York City that go on strike for a livable wage.</p> <p><b>**May double as Delancey Bros., goons, scabs, other burroughs, photographer, Darcy or Bill**</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Carrying the Banner (m66-98) &amp; King of New York (m4-20 &amp; 175-end)</a></p>	
<p>Featured Ensemble: Nuns</p> <p>Gender: Female Identifying</p> <p>Presenting Age: 18-60</p>	<p>The nuns offer breakfast to the hungry newsies.</p> <p><b>**It is possible that some nuns will double as Bowery Beauties and/or Newsies**</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Carrying the Banner (m98-113)</a></p>	
<p>Featured Ensemble: Adults</p> <p>Gender: Any</p> <p>Presenting Age 18-75</p>	<p>Including Bowery Beauties, Wiesel, Bunsen, Seitz, Hannah, Nunzio, Guard, Snyder, Stage Manager, Customer, Mr. Jacobi, Police Officer, Mayor or Governor Teddy Roosevelt</p>	<p><a href="#">Carrying the Banner (m66-98) &amp; King of New York (m4-20 &amp; 175-end)</a></p> <p><b>**to be considered for a nun please sing <a href="#">Carrying the Banner (m98-113)</a>**</b></p>	

**Can I sing my audition song as a duet?**

No.

**Do I have to dance at the audition?**

Please be prepared to move and wear proper attire (i.e., no flip-flops). This show is “dance-heavy” and we are excited to showcase our entire cast. You may find the dance audition slightly more challenging than in the past. Please bring tap shoes if you have them and be prepared to show acrobatic and tap skills that you can safely perform on a hard floor. There may also be some lifting involved, so those with cheerleading and circus skills are also encouraged to audition.

**Do I have to read from a script at the audition?**

You will be asked to read something from the script at auditions. This is a cold reading with no need to prepare ahead of time. Children may be asked to participate in an acting exercise instead of reading.

**Will I go into the audition room alone or in a group?**

You will be called into auditions as part of a group of about 10 people.

**Must parents/guardians accompany children to auditions?**

Parents/guardians should accompany their children to help sign in, but parents/guardians are not permitted into the audition room.

**Can I bring my own musical accompaniment (i.e., CD player) to the audition?**

No.

**Can I sing my audition song without piano accompaniment?**

No.

**What should I wear at the audition?**

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes (dance/tap shoes if you have them), such as workout attire. No flip-flops, please.

**How long will the audition last?**

The audition will last a total of one hour and fifteen minutes. You can expect to be in the audition room for approximately one hour.

**Who will be in the audition room?**

The director, musical director, choreographer, producer, and rehearsal stage manager will lead the auditions. There may also be additional support staff in attendance.

**When will I know if I have a callback?**

Callback phone calls will be made in the evening on Sunday, September 22nd.

**Will there be callbacks for chorus members, or just for lead roles?**

Callbacks will likely be for lead roles only. There may be a callback for major dancers, however.

**When are callbacks?**

Callbacks will be on Monday, September 23rd from 6:00-9:00 pm - location **TBD**.

**If I don't get a callback, is it possible that I will still be cast in the show?**

Yes. Callbacks are not necessary for all parts.

**When will I know if I have been cast in the show?**

Everyone who is cast in the show will be notified by phone by Saturday, September 28th, by 8:00 pm at which time the complete cast list will be posted on the web page.

**If I am not cast in the show, will I get a phone call?**

No, only those who are cast will receive a phone call. There are simply too many people to call in a timely manner. Check the web page on Saturday, September 28th after 8:00 PM to see the cast list.

**Will everyone who auditions receive a part in the show?**

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer everyone who auditions a role in this production. Our total cast size will be between 55 and 65 performers.

**When and where is the first rehearsal?**

The first rehearsal will be on **Sunday, October 6th from 12:00 to 5:00 pm** at the Bangs Center.

**When and where will rehearsals be held?**

Regular rehearsals are scheduled for Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00 pm, and Fridays from 6:00-9:00 pm, Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm and an occasional Saturday rehearsal from 1:00-5:00 pm. **All rehearsals (except for October 6th) will be held at the Amherst Regional Middle School unless you are notified otherwise. (Please note that the Sunday, October 6th rehearsal begins at noon at the Bangs Community Center.)** Not all cast members will be called to all rehearsals, but you should remain flexible and available for all scheduled rehearsals as rehearsal plans do change.

Technical Rehearsals and Dress Rehearsals will be held at Bowker Auditorium at UMass.

**These rehearsals are mandatory.**

**The schedule below is tentative and subject to change. Please note that rehearsals often run later than the scheduled end time.**

- Sunday, January 5, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm (Required Bowker Orientation and Rehearsal)
- Monday, January 6, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (Full Cast Rehearsal)
- Wednesday, January 8, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (Full Cast Rehearsal)
- Friday, January 10, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (Full Cast Rehearsal)
- Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 12:00 pm to 10 pm (with 45 minute dinner) (Cue to Cue)
- Sunday, January 12, 2025 from 12:00 pm to 10 pm (with 45 minute dinner) (Cue to Cue followed by Wet Tech)
- Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6pm - Finished: Dress Rehearsal 1
- Wednesday, January 15, 2025 6pm - Finished: Dress Rehearsal 2

**What are the dates of the performances?**

- Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 7:30 pm
- Friday, January 17, 2025 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 1:00 pm (matinee)
- Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 1:00 pm (matinee)
- Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 7:30 pm
- Friday, January 24, 2025 at 7:30 pm
- Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 1:00 pm (matinee)
- Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 1:00 pm (matinee)

## **Possible Snow Dates**

Wednesday January 22, 2025 at 7:30pm  
Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 7:30pm  
Monday, January 27, 2025 at 7:30pm

## **What if I have to miss some of the performances?**

All cast members are **required** to participate in all performances.

## **How much does it cost to be in the show?**

Our standard registration fee is \$80 for each cast member.

If the fee poses a hardship for your family, we encourage you to pay what you can. If you are able to pay a higher fee, please do so to help us support families with less ability to pay. No family will be turned away from casting because of inability to pay the fee.

This fee entitles each cast member to two complimentary tickets to the show. Comp tickets will be for Thursday or Friday shows only. Cast members must contact Amherst Recreation directly by phone or in person to reserve their comp tickets. Tickets sell fast so reserve your comps early!

## **Will I be expected to help with costumes, set building, and/or other tasks during the show?**

All cast members are required to help with tasks in the months prior to the show and during the course of the production. These tasks can be done by the cast member or by a family member or friend. Details of these mandatory support activities can be found in the *Important Information and Dates* document, available at [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions).

## **Why are there mandatory show support activities for cast members and families?**

A typical Amherst Community Theater production requires hundreds and hundreds of hours of labor. Much of this time is donated by the production team and non-cast volunteers in our community, but our extraordinary shows would not be possible without the work of cast members and their families. In order to coordinate our efforts and ensure a high level of support, we expect a minimum of 8 hours of pre-show donated time per cast member in November and December. The pre-show time may be spent in the costume shop or the set shop and may be performed by the cast member, a family member, or a friend. We also ask that a family member or friend provide support work during two performances in January. A list of all the ways to help during a performance can be found on the *Important Information and Dates* document. (This can be found at [amherstacts.org/auditions](http://amherstacts.org/auditions)). We believe that you will find working with Amherst Community Theater to be a fun, rewarding, and amazing experience. We can't wait to get started!

## **What parts will be available, and for what age groups?**

The total cast will be composed of 55 to 65 actors. All roles are available and to all age groups. There are no pre-cast roles.