

Amherst Community Theater: “Newsies” Important Information & Dates

Performance dates in January 2025: January 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 & 26

- **Callbacks:** Callbacks will be held **Monday, September 23** from **6:00 pm – 9:00 pm** at location TBD in Amherst. Please wear clothes in which you can move comfortably. Those auditioning for principal roles will be expected to sing music from the show and may be asked to take directions and/or improvise. Any required music for callbacks can be found at our website amherstacts.org.
- **CASTING NOTIFICATIONS:** Everyone who is cast in the show will be notified by phone by **Saturday, September 28**. If you are not cast, you will NOT receive a phone call. The complete cast list will be posted on our website by 8:00 pm on **Saturday, September 28**.
- **First Rehearsal: Sunday, October 6** from **12:00 pm – 5:00 pm** at The Bangs Center. A tentative rehearsal schedule will be distributed at this time. Registration fees must be paid to Amherst Recreation prior to or at this meeting. **Registration and costume measurement will begin at 12:00, followed by a short informational meeting at approximately 1:00 pm. parents/guardians of cast members high school age and under are required to attend the informational meeting from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. NOTE: New information will be reviewed at this meeting, so parents/guardians must attend even if you have had a child in a prior show.**
- **Rehearsals** are scheduled Wednesdays (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm), Fridays (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm), Sundays (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm) and an occasional Saturday (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm). Please note that the first rehearsal on **Sunday, October 6** begins at noon at the Bangs Center and will include being measured for costumes. **All other rehearsals will be at the Amherst Regional Middle School unless you are notified otherwise.** Not all cast members will be called to all rehearsals, but you should remain flexible and keep all rehearsal dates open, as schedules do change.
- **January 2025 Rehearsals at Bowker Auditorium: Tentative and subject to change! Please note that rehearsals may 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
- **Performances: January 16** (Thurs. evening at 7:30 pm), **17** (Fri. evening at 7:30 pm), **18** (Sat. 1:00 pm matinee), **19** (Sun. 1:00 pm matinee), **23** (Thurs. evening at 7:30 pm), **24** (Fri. evening at 7:30 pm), **25** (Sat. 1:00 pm matinee AND evening at 7:30 pm), **26** (Sun. 1:00 pm matinee) at Bowker Auditorium in Stockbridge Hall on the UMass campus. Please keep the evenings of January 22, 26, and 27 available as snow dates. Cast is typically called two hours prior to performance times.
- **Attendance:** If cast, you will be expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and to be ready to start rehearsing on time. **Only** absences approved in advance by the stage manager or sudden **serious** emergencies will be accepted as excuses for absence. Cast members are responsible for determining what they have missed in their absence. Unexcused absences may result in removal from the scene or song being rehearsed that day. Anyone with more than two unexcused absences may be dropped from the cast. **Absences in January will not be permitted.**
- **Striking the set** occurs immediately after the last performance. Every cast member is expected to help with strike and clean-up of dressing rooms and green rooms.
- The company party will be **Saturday, February 1 at 5:00 pm**, the weekend after the show closes.
- During set and costume construction sessions and during rehearsals there may be a photographer taking pictures for newspaper, website, or other promotional uses. If you do not wish your photograph to be used for these purposes, please notify the producer.

OBLIGATIONS include:

- Payment of Amherst Recreation fee is due by October 6. The fee entitles you to two complimentary tickets. Cast members must contact Amherst Recreation directly by phone or in person to reserve their comp tickets. Note: Comp. tickets will only be available for Thursday or Friday performances. Tickets sell fast, so reserve your comps as soon as tickets go on sale!
- Attendance at rehearsals
- Appropriate behavior during rehearsals and performances

MANDATORY SUPPORT ACTIVITIES:

A typical Amherst Community Theater production requires many 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 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 2 performances in January. 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!

- **Pre-Show: at least 8 hours of work - per cast member** - at the Set Shop and/or Costume Shop. Please plan your time and complete a minimum of four hours prior to December. These hours can be worked by the cast member, a family member or a friend.
 - Set & Scenery – assist with building and/or painting sets. No experience or special skills are necessary. The set shop typically operates Saturdays 8-5, Sunday afternoons 12-5, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7-10.
 - Costuming - assist with finding, building, altering, and organizing costumes. The costume shop operates on Sunday afternoons during rehearsals, and some sewing can be taken home. Volunteers will be needed every Sunday to help set up and break down the costume shop and must be able to lift folding tables and plastic bins of clothing.
- **During Show: work a minimum of two shows per cast member's family.** This requirement can be completed by a family member or friend. Jobs include:
 - Cast Supervision – *required of parents/guardians of children/teens (high school age and younger) in the cast* – supervising children and teens in cast during dress rehearsals and performances when they're not on stage.
 - Backstage Crew and Props – working backstage during dress rehearsals and performances. Must work 50% or 100% of shows and January rehearsals.
 - Wardrobe – ironing and repairs, dressing room duties during dress rehearsals and performances.
 - Make-up – helping cast members with make-up at dress rehearsals and performances.
 - Hair – helping cast members with hair at dress rehearsals and performances.
 - Ushering – collecting tickets, handing out programs, seating patrons, and selling concessions during intermission (must be 18 years old per UMass rules).
 - Telegrams – organizing telegrams for cast and crew during performances. Siblings or children of cast members age 9 and up are encouraged to participate as telegram runners.
 - Company Party – assisting with set up, decorating, and clean up.
- **Baked Goods** (if we decide to sell concessions this year) – contribution of baked goods (4 dozen items per cast family) for sale at the concession table during one performance to be assigned.
- **Strike** – every cast member is expected to help with striking the set, organizing costumes, and/or cleaning the lobby, classroom, hallway, and dressing rooms in Bowker after the last performance.