

February 2020

Dear Student/Parent,

Hello and welcome to Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre (CAST)! We are extremely excited of summer season!!! Our play is **Puffs** by Matt Cox. *Puffs* will take place at The Carnegie in Covington, KY over two weekends with six performances on Friday, July 3rd thru Sunday, July 5th and Friday, July 10th thru Sunday, July 12th. Our musical is **Newsies** by Alan Menken, Jack Feldman and Harvey Fierstein. *Newsies* will take place at Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, KY over two weekends with six performances on Friday, July 17th thru Sunday, July 19th and Friday, July 24th thru Sunday, July 26th.

Puffs: "For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs... who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world. *The New York Times* proclaims PUFFS, "A FAST-PACED ROMP through the 'Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.' For POTTERphiliacs who grew up alongside Potter and are eager to revisit that world, 'PUFFS' exudes a jovial, winking fondness for all things Harry!" This clever and inventive play "never goes more than a minute without a laugh" (*Nerdist*) giving you a new look at a familiar adventure from the perspective of three potential heroes just trying to make it through a magic school that proves to be very dangerous for children. Alongside them are the Puffs, a group of well-meaning, loyal outsiders with a thing for badgers "who are so lovable and relatable, you'll leave the theater wishing they were in the stories all along" (*Hollywood Life*). Their "hilariously heartfelt!" (*Metro*) and epic journey takes the classic story to new places and reimagines what a boy wizard hero can be.

Newsies: New York City, 1899. Jack Kelly and his ragtag team of newsboys make a meager living selling newspapers on the city streets. But when the prices of "papes" are hiked and the newsies are hung out to dry, there is nothing left to do but "open the gates and seize the day!" Led by charismatic Jack and independent, young newspaper reporter Katherine Plummer, the Newsies form a union and organize a strike against the greedy publisher of the New York World. Can a group of idealistic newsboys win against a foe as powerful as acclaimed publisher Joseph Pulitzer? Inspired by the true story of the 1899 Newsboys Strike, *Newsies* is an ebullient, joyful, and entertaining musical capturing the strength that young people have when they join together and stand up against injustice. With a funny, poignant book by Harvey Fierstein and stunning music by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman -- including the show-stopping Seize the Day, power ballad "Santa Fe" and lovely new songs like Katherine's "Watch What Happens -- *Newsies* is a classic with the power to inspire.

We will hold vocal/acting and dance auditions and technical crew interviews at Highlands High School in Ft. Thomas, KY. The times for these auditions will be:

- **Sunday, March 8th from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM**
- **Saturday, March 14th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM**
- **Callbacks for Puffs will be Saturday, March 21st from 9am to noon**
- **Callbacks for Newsies will be Saturday, March 21st from 6pm to 9pm**
- **Tech/Crew interviews will be Saturday, March 14th from 9:00AM to 1:00PM**
- **Cast and crew list will be posted at www.caststages.org on Monday, March 30th by 9pm**

Please only attend one of the auditions dates!!!!

In order to audition, you must select a time slot online. The web addresses are as follows:

Audition Sign-Up Sheet for Sunday, March 8th – <https://tinyurl.com/CASTAud8th>

Audition Sign-Up Sheet for Saturday, March 14th – <https://tinyurl.com/CASTAud14th>

Tech/Crew Interviews Sign-Up Sheet for Saturday, March 14th -
<https://tinyurl.com/CAST2020crew>

Where are the auditions, callbacks and interviews and what has to be prepared?

Auditions and tech/crew interviews will be held at Highlands High School in Ft. Thomas, KY.

Audition requirements

- If you are auditioning for *Newsies*, you need to bring a *memorized* 45 second to 1-minute monologue and a 32-measure excerpt from a Broadway show similar to *Newsies* that showcases your vocal talents. You will also need to learn a dance audition that will be found at www.caststages.org. The video will be posted shortly.
- If you are auditioning for *Puffs*, you need to bring a memorized 45 second to 1 minute comic monologue
- If you are auditioning for both shows, please cater your memorized monologue towards *Puffs* and your song towards *Newsies*. Also, you will need to learn the dance audition which will be located at www.caststages.org and will be posted shortly.

An accompanist, CD player and mp3 player/iPod/phone hook-up will be provided. If you intend on using the accompanist, please provide a clearly marked score that is either hole-punched or placed in a three-ring binder. No *a cappella* please. Please make sure to fill out an audition form located at <https://tinyurl.com/CASTAudForm2020>. Please fill out the audition form completely as well as including all schedule conflicts and bring it with you as well as a resume and headshot to your audition time. Please show up for the auditions on time and ready to go. You will also dance in the audition; however, the dance audition will not be taught at the audition. You must learn the dance ahead of time by following the video linked on www.caststages.org. There will be a *voluntary* dance workshop to brush up on the video for anyone interested for 30 minutes prior to auditions starting on both days. This will take place from 5:30pm to 6pm on Sunday, March 8th and 1:30pm to 2pm on Saturday, March 14th.

Tech/crew requirements

Technical crew interviews will be held at Highlands High School in Ft. Thomas, KY. Please make sure to fill out a crew application form located at <https://tinyurl.com/CASTCrewForm2020>. Please fill out the application form completely as well as including all schedule conflicts and bring it with you as well as a technical resume and headshot to your interview time. If you have a portfolio, feel free to bring it as well but it is not a requirement. Please show up for the interview on time and ready to go.

The rehearsal schedule will not be completed until we cast the show and look at everyone's conflicts. Rehearsals will be held in the evening until high schools are out of session and then they could be held during the day except for the week of the show opening then rehearsals will be in the evening. Crew sessions will be held predominantly in the evenings and possibly include some weekend times.

The first rehearsal for *Puffs* and *Newsies* has been set and it will be Wednesday, May 13th from 6pm to 10pm at Highlands High School in Ft. Thomas, KY.

We understand that participating in this musical requires a commitment. Please consider all activities and work schedules when thinking about joining this production. Make sure that this is an activity you can commit to before auditioning and/or interviewing. Students will have two (2) unexcused absences and any more after that and students will not be allowed to continue in this production or will be removed from certain numbers, scenes, roles or positions. Also note that mandatory rehearsals will occur the week before the show opens and the production week of the show.

Thank you for your interest and we hope to see you at the auditions and interviews!!!

Mrs. Amy Burgess Mr. Jason Burgess Mr. Joe Rivers
Mr. Michael Sherman Mrs. Laura Martin

A Note About the Casting Process!

Thank you all for your interest in **Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre (CAST)** productions of ***Puffs* and *Newsies***. We can speak for our whole team when we tell you how thrilled we are to finally be auditioning and interviewing for these productions. We have been working on the shows for a while now and have assembled a great creative team. We look forward to meeting you at auditions and crew interviews. Break a Leg!

As you prepare for the audition/crew interviews, please remember the following:

- All roles/crew positions are open to all students from all schools, there has been no pre-casting or assigning of positions.
- You must be an incoming high school freshman to a graduating high school senior to audition/interview for *Puffs* and/or *Newsies*.
- Any student from any school in the tri-state area (Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky) may audition/interview for *Puffs* and/or *Newsies* and be considered for any role/position.

- Every student will be required to pay an activity fee to participate in either production of *Puffs* or *Newsies* or both. The payment will be required within the first two weeks of rehearsals/crew work days in order to participate in all activities related to CAST. The activity fee is \$65 if you are participating in one show, \$100 if you are participating in both. If your family has financial hardships, please contact us at amyburgess@caststages.org, we have scholarships available.

- Students may audition to be cast in the play and/or musical AND also interview for a crew position.

-Anyone under the age of 18 MUST have a parent's signature on the Parental Consent Form.

- In the event an actor cannot attend auditions, he or she may contact CAST about making alternate arrangements. The production team may or may not be able to accommodate an alternate audition time.

-If you are not called back, it doesn't mean you have not been cast. And alternately, getting a callback does not guarantee you will be cast in the production. Casting decisions will be made within the week after the final callback audition. This means that the cast and crew list will be posted no later than Monday, March 30th.

-The auditions and crew interviews are CLOSED! No one other than the production team will see you audition/interview.

-Final casting/crew decisions are made by the production team. Decisions are final, and the team has chosen not to offer feedback on the process, individual auditions, or deliberations. Please respect this and understand that the casting process is difficult for all those involved.

-By auditioning, you are obligating yourself to a considerable rehearsal and performance process. Please be certain that you are willing and able to make this commitment (double and triple check the time commitment).

-If you wish to be considered for ONLY a certain role/roles/crew positions, please indicate this clearly on your audition/crew interview form.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW! THANK YOU FOR AUDITIONING/INTERVIEWING FOR CREW!!!

If I accept a role/crew position in **Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre (CAST)** production of *Puffs* and/or *Newsies*, I will make myself available, and be on time for all scheduled rehearsals and performances. I will not be absent unless I have been given prior approval by the production team. I have read the commitment schedule and listed all known conflicts on this form. I grant permission for the production team and **Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre (CAST)** to use my photograph and/or personal statements to publicize the activities of **CAST** without compensation. I understand that I rehearse and perform at my own risk.

Signature

Parent Signature (If Under 18 years-old)

Date

Parental Consent Form

Dear Parents, I wanted to address common questions regarding our summer productions of *Puffs* and *Newsies*. As the Artistic Director, I take my role very seriously and working with young actors is one of my favorite parts of the job. I want you to know that I recognize and empathize with your concerns and as with all my productions plan on creating a safe environment for the cast/crew to work in, no matter their age. Below I have listed questions and my answers to them. If you want more information or are still unclear, please feel free to contact me at any time, at jasonburgess@caststages.org or 859-545-0770.

How old does someone have to be to audition for Puffs and/or Newsies?

You must be an incoming high school freshman to a graduating high school senior to audition.

What are the shows about?

Puffs: "For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs... who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world. The New York Times proclaims PUFFS, 'A FAST-PACED ROMP through the 'Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.' For POTTERphiliacs who grew up alongside Potter and are eager to revisit that world, 'PUFFS' exudes a jovial, winking fondness for all things Harry!" This clever and inventive play "never goes more than a minute without a laugh" (Nerdist) giving you a new look at a familiar adventure from the perspective of three potential heroes just trying to make it through a magic school that proves to be very dangerous for children. Alongside them are the Puffs, a group of well-meaning, loyal outsiders with a thing for badgers "who are so lovable and relatable, you'll leave the theater wishing they were in the stories all along" (Hollywood Life). Their "hilariously heartfelt!" (Metro) and epic journey takes the classic story to new places and reimagines what a boy wizard hero can be.

Newsies: New York City, 1899. Jack Kelly and his ragtag team of newsboys make a meager living selling newspapers on the city streets. But when the prices of "papes" are hiked and the newsies are hung out to dry, there is nothing left to do but "open the gates and seize the day!" Led by charismatic Jack and independent, young newspaper reporter Katherine Plummer, the Newsies form a union and organize a strike against the greedy publisher of the New York World. Can a group of idealistic newsboys win against a foe as powerful as acclaimed publisher Joseph Pulitzer? Inspired by the true

story of the 1899 Newsboys Strike, *Newsies* is an ebullient, joyful, and entertaining musical capturing the strength that young people have when they join together and stand up against injustice. With a funny, poignant book by Harvey Feirstein and stunning music by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman -- including the show-stopping Seize the Day, power ballad "Santa Fe" and lovely new songs like Katherine's "Watch What Happens -- *Newsies* is a classic with the power to inspire.

Is the show appropriate for my teenager to be a part of?

Only you know your child, and what is best for them. What I can tell you is that *Puffs* is a comedic play loosely based off of the Harry Potter series with a lot of improv elements. As far as *Newsies* is concerned, it is a touching and entertaining musical that has been performed all over the world with big musical numbers and lots of technical challenges.

What kind of adult supervision will there be during the rehearsal process?

The production team will be present at all rehearsals. We all have experience with children's theatre camps, teaching, and significant theatrical resumes.

Can I watch my child's audition?

No. The team has decided to have closed auditions. We will ask that you wait for your child in the hall.

Rehearsals start while school is still in session, how flexible is the rehearsal schedule?

The production teams will take all conflicts into account while creating the rehearsal schedule. We do understand your child may still be in school and that their school work is first priority, but beyond that we ask that this commitment be very serious. We are working on a very condensed rehearsal schedule. We also understand some vacation/camps have already been set in family schedules and try to accommodate to the best of our abilities.

Thank you again for your time, and reading this thoroughly. In an effort to do the right thing and offer parents the whole truth about the audition/crew interviews process I felt this was necessary. I look forward to meeting you and your child at auditions/crew interviews.

Break A Leg!

-Jason Burgess, Artistic Director

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

SYNOPSIS OF PUFFS

“For seven years a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs... who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world. *The New York Times* proclaims PUFFS, “A FAST-PACED ROMP through the ‘Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.’ For POTTERphiliacs who grew up alongside Potter and are eager to revisit that world, ‘PUFFS’ exudes a jovial, winking fondness for all things Harry!” This clever and inventive play “never goes more than a minute without a laugh” (*Nerdist*) giving you a new look at a familiar adventure from the perspective of three potential heroes just trying to make it through a magic school that proves to be very dangerous for children. Alongside them are the Puffs, a group of well-meaning, loyal outsiders with a thing for badgers “who are so lovable and relatable, you’ll leave the theater wishing they were in the stories all along” (*Hollywood Life*). Their “hilariously heartfelt!” (*Metro*) and epic journey takes the classic story to new places and reimagines what a boy wizard hero can be.

SYNOPSIS OF NEWSIES

As Jack Kelly is savoring the last few moments of quiet before the sun rises, he shares with his best friend Crutchie his rooftop view of the city and his dream for a better life out West. At dawn, the newsies make their way to the distribution window for the *World*, where they pick up their daily stacks of papers to sell from Wiesel, who runs the window, and Morris and Oscar Delancey, goons who work for the *World*. Davey and Les, brothers trying to earn money for their family, meet the newsies and try to learn the ropes. Jack agrees to partner with the boys since Les's young age will help him sell more papers, although Davey is skeptical.

Meanwhile, Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the *World*, expresses displeasure at the declining sales of his newspaper and vows to increase profits, even if it is at the expense of the newsies.

At the end of the day, it's clear that Les is a natural newsie. Before Jack and the brothers can part ways, a man appears and chases Jack. Davey and Les follow Jack's lead, running through the alleys of New York and finding safety in Medda's Theater. Jack introduces them to Medda Larkin, one of the Bowery's most famous performers. Jack explains that the man chasing them is named Snyder; he runs The Refuge, an orphanage that he keeps in squalid conditions and embezzles from. He's had it out for Jack ever since he escaped. Medda offers her theater as a safe haven.

During Medda's performance, Jack notices Katherine, a bright young reporter he had seen earlier that day. A smitten Jack makes several attempts to flirt with her, but Katherine, quick-witted and ever-professional, cleverly rebuffs him. While the Bowery Beauties perform their routine, Jack resorts to sketching a portrait of Katherine and leaves it for her to find.

The next day, as the newsies gather at the distribution window, the boys are outraged to learn that Pulitzer has increased their price for newspapers - they can barely afford to eat as it is! Prompted by Davey, the newsies decide to form a union and strike.

After a successful first day of striking, newly elected union leader Jack Kelly assigns some kids to spread the word to newsies in other boroughs. Katherine arrives, hoping that the newsies will give her an exclusive for the *Sun*. Jack tells her to be at the distribution window the next morning; not only will the newsies prevent others from selling papers, but they plan to stop the delivery carts as well. He tells her that they all have a lot riding on her reporting skills, and Katherine gets to work writing her breakout article.

The next day, Jack arrives to find that only a few kids have assembled to strike. He urges Davey to convince the small group not to back down. When scabs arrive to take the newsies' place, Jack asks them to stand in solidarity with all the city's exploited working children. The scabs throw down their papers, just in time for Katherine and her photographer to snap a victorious photo. But soon the newsies engage in a fierce fight with the Delanceys, Wiesel, and the police. Snyder scares Jack away, but not before he watches the Delanceys take down Crutchie and carry him off to The Refuge. Reaching the temporary safety of his rooftop, Jack paces, feeling guilty about leading the kids into danger. He looks out over the city and longs to escape.

Battered and bruised, the newsies lament the previous day's events at Jacobi's Deli. Amid rumors that Jack was captured, several newsies wonder where he is. Katherine arrives with a copy of the story she published in the *Sun*, complete with a front-page picture of the newsies. Ecstatically, they thank her and celebrate their - and Katherine's - fame. Meanwhile, Crutchie writes a letter to Jack from The Refuge expressing that he feels no ill will toward Jack and urging the newsies to stick together.

Davey, Les, and Katherine find Jack back at Medda's Theater and try to convince him to come back to the fight. Jack refuses, saying that they can't win against a man as powerful as Pulitzer. The three convince Jack that theirs is a fight worth fighting; Jack finally agrees, and the kids plan a rally.

Discovering Katherine's story, Pulitzer furiously resolves to take down Jack. Just then, a cocky Jack arrives to announce the newsies' rally. Pulitzer assures Jack that no paper will cover it - and if it's not in the press, it never happened. He then reveals Katherine, exposing her as his daughter, and Snyder, who emerges from the shadows. Pulitzer offers Jack a choice: get sent to The Refuge or renounce the strike and leave New York with pockets full of cash. The Delanceys escort Jack to the cellar, where an old printing press rests, to ponder his decision.

That evening, Brooklyn newsies cross the bridge with Spot Conlon, their leader, to join newsies from every borough at Medda's theater for the rally. Davey gives an inspiring speech, riling up the newsies about their progress. However, Jack appears and tells them to go back to work because they are no match for Pulitzer. Jack accepts his payoff money at the door and exits.

On his rooftop, Jack finds Katherine looking through his drawings of The Refuge's bleak conditions. He snatches them from her and they argue fiercely until she kisses him. Katherine shares her plan to have the newsies distribute an article which quotes Jack on the exploitation of working kids and calls for a citywide strike.

With the help of Katherine and her well-connected friends, Darcy and Bill, the newsies sneak into Pulitzer's cellar to print their paper. The kids distribute the pamphlet all over the city.

Pulitzer's office is flooded with angry calls from every corner of New York. Having read the *Newsies Banner*, Pulitzer is furious at the kids' attempt to thwart him. Jack, Davey, and Spot show up to personally deliver the news and say that the kids are willing to make a compromise. Pulitzer refuses to back down until Governor Roosevelt appears with Katherine and Jack's drawings of The Refuge. Alone, Jack and Pulitzer come to an agreement they can both live with - the price increase is reduced by half, and publishers will buy back any unsold papers. The strike is over!

Outside, Jack announces the end of the strike. Crutchie appears amid the jubilation, followed by a handcuffed Snyder. Despite his dreams for Santa Fe, Jack realizes that the newsies are his family and Katherine gives him something to believe in - so he's staying put for now.

Crew Descriptions for CAST

All crew positions listed below are needed for both shows.

Production Stage Manager (SM) - is a key position in any successful theater production. The SM, stage manager, will be the key assistant to the director; however, the SM is also serves as an assistant to the designers, technical director, costume shop supervisor, director of theater, conductor, and all other staff positions. Daily contact must be maintained with the entire production staff in order to communicate all of the various bits of information pertaining to the production. The SM will be responsible for the creation and distribution of the Daily Rehearsal Report and the Performance Log. The report serves as a two-way communication between all members of the production staff. The SM should email the report in order to ensure that everyone receives the information.

A primary duty of the SM is the creation of the Prompt Script. The SM will prepare a prompt script that will eventually contain all blocking notations, plus cues for lights, sound, shift, orchestra, and whatever is necessary for the production. This “bible” must be created with care so that anyone would be able to assume the position of SM and call a successful performance.

The SM will maintain a Production Book that will contain all information necessary for the production: Company Roster, production and rehearsal calendars, prop list, Daily Rehearsal Reports, Performance Logs any and everything pertaining to the production. This production book must be brought to every production meeting. When rehearsals move into technical rehearsals, the SM will run the rehearsals. The SM will maintain the show throughout the run of the show, as rehearsed.

Assistant Stage Manager(s) – 2 ASMs – will assist the stage manager in all of the duties above.

Assistant Technical Director – is an extension of the technical director. The assistant acts as liaison to the crews, helping those who need extra time while the technical director focuses on the big picture. During tech rehearsals, the assistant is potentially backstage attending to the details while the technical director sits in the house conferring with the other members of the production team.

Master Carpenter – The master carpenter, under the supervision of the technical director, is responsible for the construction, mounting, and rigging of the scenery. They usually supervise the run/set building crew in the actual construction. They may also be responsible for the maintenance of the scene-shop equipment and supplies.

Props Master - supervises properties, also known as props. Props are various objects that are used by actors and actresses during their scenes. He or she usually makes a list of these objects, and meets with the director, costume designer, set designer, and lighting designer to discuss the vision for the finished piece to ensure that suitable props are picked out. Armed with this list, the props master scours for props. The props master leads the props crew.

Props Crew - is responsible for the upkeep, repair, cleaning, and running of all props during the run of a particular production.

Set Decorator/Scenic Painter - The set decorator is responsible for converting the blank canvas of the set into a space that feels authentic, lived-in, and believable. This artist deals in the details, the small touches that reveal to the audience something about the person, people, locations, etc.

Set Decoration/Scenic Painting Crew – This crew helps the set decorator(s)/scenic painter(s) convert the blank canvas of the set into a space that feels authentic, lived-in, and believable. These artists deal in the details, the small touches that reveal to the audience something about the person or people who occupy the locations of films and television shows.

Make-up Designer/Leader – is an artist whose medium is the human body, applying makeup and prosthetics. Stage makeup is used as a method in conjunction with stage lighting to highlight the actors' faces in order make expressions visible to the audience from moderate distances. This often includes defining the eyes and lips as well as the highlights and lowlights of the facial bones.

Costume Designer/Leader - is a person whose responsibility is to design costumes. The costume designer might also collaborate with a hair/wig master or a makeup designer. Costume designers will typically seek to enhance a character's personality, and/or to create an evolving plot of color, changing social status or period through the visual design of garments and other means of dressing, distorting and enhancing the body - within the framework of the director's vision. The designer needs to possess strong artistic capabilities as well as a thorough knowledge of pattern development.

Wardrobe/Hair/Make-up Crew - is responsible for the upkeep, repair, cleaning, and running of all costumes during the run of a particular production. Wardrobe Crew members are on the Run Crew and may also be assigned to assist with quick changes or other backstage duties.

Light Designer – is responsible for implementing a light design for the production. They learn light concepts, hang and focus lights. Decide on colors of lights and set light cues.

Light Board Operator - is responsible for helping set lighting cues and assisting the Lighting Designer during Hang and Focus and for implementing the Light Design during the run of the show. The Light Board Operator is responsible for maintaining any paperwork including Light Cue List for the show.

Sound Designer – is responsible for implementing a sound design for the production. They learn sound concepts, fix and troubleshoot mic issues, find and make sound effects and cues.

Sound Board Operator(s) - is responsible for implementing the Sound Design and maintaining all sound equipment for the show. The Sound Board Operator is responsible for maintaining any paperwork including Sound Cue Sheets for the show. The Sound Board Operator performs a sound check prior to each Technical and Dress Rehearsal, and each performance. The Sound Board Operator is responsible for safely storing all tapes, master tape, minidisks, and/or CDs after each rehearsal and performance.

House Manager(s) – directs and coordinates the entire house staff for each performance. They coordinate, assign and supervise the work of the house staff; resolve problems such as complaints regarding heating or ventilation, seat location, the seating of infirmed or incapacitated persons, provide training to employees of the house staff.

House Crew/Publicity Crew/Ushers – assist the house manager(s) in all aspects. Help wherever needed. Pass out programs, help with concessions, create candygrams, etc.

Character Descriptions for Newsies

NOTE: Some doubling or tripling of roles may or may not occur.

Principal Characters

Jack Kelly (M) - the charismatic leader of the Manhattan newsies; an orphaned dreamer and artist who yearns to get out of the crowded streets of NYC 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 NYC.

Katherine Plumber (F) - 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; while she generally has no time for cocky, streetwise young men, she makes an exception for Jack Kelly; though she only has a brief dance solo in "King of New York,"

Crutchie (M/F) - dedicated newsie with a bum leg that's painful, but helps sell more papers; though he walks with the assistance of a crutch, Crutchie doesn't let it define him; Crutchie is the heart of the resistance; though his movement will suggest his bum leg, he should still be included in the dance numbers; good movement is essential.

Davey (M) - Les's 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 (M) - Davey's cheeky younger brother is inspired by the freedom of the newsies and loves their independent lifestyle; Les is an intuitive, precocious salesboy and a pint-sized charmer;

Joseph Pulitzer (M) - 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.

Medda Larkin (F) - female performing artist at the turn of the century; big-voiced vaudevillian singer and star of The Bowery; 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.

Featured Characters

Spot Conlon (M/F) - proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation and a short singing solo in "Brooklyn's Here."

Setiz (M/F) - editor, advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper.

Bunsen (M/F) - editor, advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids' newspaper.

Hannah (F) - Pulitzer's practical and insightful secretary.

Wiesel (M) - or "Weasel," runs the distribution window for the World, and knows most of the newsies by name; assisted by the intimidating Delancey brothers, who keep order by any means necessary, Wiesel is Pulitzer's disgruntled paper-pusher.

Oscar Delancey (M) - tough brothers who work at the distribution window for the World, taking the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point.

Morris Delancey (M) – tough brothers who work at the distribution window for the World, taking the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point.

Snyder (M/F) – crooked and sinister warden of The Refuge, a horrible orphanage, who is concerned only with catching enough kids to keep the government checks coming.

Nunzio (M) - Pulitzer's barber.

Governor Teddy Roosevelt (M) – well-respected lifelong public servant, inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

Mr. Jacobi (M/F) – allows the newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike.

Darcy (M/F) – upper-class kid of a publisher who sides with the newsies;

Bill (M) – son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the newsies' cause.

Ensemble Roles

Bowery Beauties (F), Goons (M), Guard (M/F), Mayor (M), Nuns (F), Photographer (M/F), Policemen (M), Scabs (M/F), Stage Manager (M/F), Woman (F), etc.

Character Descriptions for Puffs

NOTE: Some doubling or tripling of roles may or may not occur.

Wayne Hopkins (M) - The hero. Totally uncool, but full of charm and heart. Loyal to a tee. Likes comic books and video games, knows nothing about magic or this weird magic world he is now a part of. Best friends with Oliver and Megan.

Megan Jones (F) - One of the main trio; begins the show by only desiring to live up to her mother's reputation: a dark wizard currently in Wiz Priz for being such a bad-ass Death Buddy in her youth. Favorite store: Hot Topic. Favorite color: black. Over time, her tough veneer begins to soften, as a budding romance with Oliver becomes apparent. Defiant and headstrong on the surface, the audience begins to see that her adamance of being completely unique and independent really stems from her desire to be loved and accepted.

Oliver Rivers (M) - One of the main trio. Incredibly smart and cerebral, he is a math wiz, and proud of it; lovingly a nerd from New Jersey. After ending up at wizarding school, he finds out he isn't the top of his class, and instead begins a fantastical journey of friendship and even some love, better than any algebra class could ever promise. Real comic chops, incredibly appealing, youthful.

Narrator (All Genders) - The narrator of the story. She/he guides us through our entire show of Puffy-ness. British accent. Must be a great storyteller, as she/he must keep the audience engaged and updated on all the goings-on. Can be a bit of a know-it-all, but still relatable and appealing. Comedy skills a must, improv background is a plus.

Ernie Mac (M) - Proud. Loud. Pretty sure he's the best.

Hannah (F) - Shy. Very shy.

J. Finch (M) - Boyish & fun. Chipper and happy except, when his life is in mortal danger.

Leanne (F) - A little distant. A little random. Is possibly a genius or really, really stupid. But has a really strong heart. The Puffiest of the Puffs.

Sally (F) - Nice. In year 3, goes through a bit of a growth spurt that attracts the other student's attention, if you know what I mean.

Susie (F) - Sad. Gloomy. Think Eeyore from "Winnie the Pooh." Constantly in fear of her or her family dying.

Cedric (M) - A champion. Athletic, winning, popular, and charming. Everyone's favorite, but still loyal, patient, and kind. A leading example of a Puff.

Mr. Voldy (M) - Evil. Like, reeeeaaally evil. Wants to rule the world in shadows and darkness and terror. (Or, ya know, just an amazing Ralph Fiennes impression.)

Harry (M) - Young, plucky, and famous. Struts around school like he owns it. Gets into a few wacky situations, but it's nothing the bonds of friendship can't overcome.

Bippy (F) - A house elf. Devoted. Loyal. Kind of annoying.

Female Teachers/Male Teachers/Others - Professor McG, Professor Plants, Professor T, Bath Babbles, Potions Teacher/ Locky/ Professor Turban/ Mr. Moody. All impressions. Strong comedic ability. (Impressions: Rickman/ Branagh/Gleeson/Whoever played Quirrell in the movie). Adults of all kind of different personalities. (Maggie Smith impression for McG.)