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COLCHESTER COMMUNITY THEATRE

February

PRESENTS

2025

Disney's

NEWSIES

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Friday, February 14

7:00 pm

Saturday, February 15

2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Sunday, February 16

2:00 pm

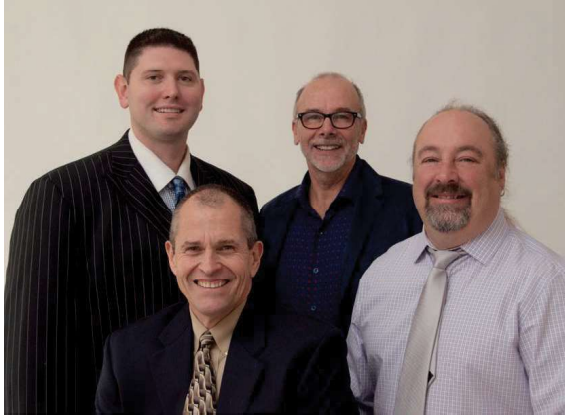
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COLCHESTER COMMUNITY THEATRE

PRODUCTION OF

Disney's

NEWSIES

A MUSICAL BASED ON THE DISNEY FILM

MUSIC BY
ALAN MENKEN

LYRICS BY
JACK FELDMAN

BOOK BY
HARVEY FIERSTEIN

ORIGINAL DIRECTION AND CHOREOGRAPHY BY
CHRISTOPHER GATTELLI

DANCE ARRANGEMENTS BY
MARK HUMMEL

ORCHESTRATIONS BY
DANNY TROOB

BASED ON THE DISNEY FILM WRITTEN BY
BOB TZUDIKER AND NONI WHITE

INCIDENTAL MUSIC & VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS BY
MICHAEL KOSARIN

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY
DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025

BACON ACADEMY AUDITORIUM - COLCHESTER, CT

COLCHESTER COMMUNITY THEATRE, INC.

P.O BOX 787, COLCHESTER, CT 06415

COLCHESTERCOMMUNITYTHEATRE.COM



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PRODUCER..... DONNA BROWN
MUSIC DIRECTOR JOY LAMB
CHOREOGRAPHER AMANDA LEIGH BACKER

PRESIDENT:
DIANE OZMUN

VICE PRESIDENT:
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*AMANDA LEIGH BACKER,
DONNA BROWN,
LYNN DICKEY,
RONALD GOLDSTEIN,
WILLIAM WATSON JR.*

CORPORATORS:
JESSICA ENGSTER, PAUL GERST

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COLCHESTER COMMUNITY THEATRE NEWS BULLETIN

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF COLCHESTER COMM. THEATRE:

I would like to first take this opportunity to thank you, and welcome you to Colchester Community Theatre's 27th season and production of Disney's **NEWSIES!** I am proud to announce on behalf of the Colchester Community Theatre Inc.'s Board of Directors, we are now successfully in our second year as a non-profit 501c3.

We are filled with gratitude to be able to continue to bring high quality, affordable musical theatre to the Colchester community. We continue to be honored and humbled by the outpouring of support from countless volunteers, our audience members and of course, our business and personal sponsors and advertisers who have contributed so greatly to our growth and success. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for being an ongoing part of this dream.

We would also like to give a special thank you to Dime Bank in Colchester for being our first major corporate sponsor since the inception of our 501c3 status. Please visit the portions of the digital program listing all of those who made such generous volunteer and monetary contributions.

We welcome and rely on your tax-deductible donations to continue to support theatre arts in our

community. So please consider making a donation now to Colchester Community Theatre, Inc., P.O. Box 787, Colchester, CT 06415 or contact me at 860-908-9286 on how to make your donation.

Colchester Community Theatre proudly presents Disney's **NEWSIES** through special arrangements with Music Theatre International. Set in turn-of-the-century New York City, "Newsies" is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teenaged "newsies." When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what's right!

Love, friendship, respect, kindness, acceptance...these are things that we all seek in order to know that we matter in this world...to know that we have a place among human kind. CCT does and will continue to support acceptance, inclusion, human and civil rights. May each one of us be more understanding, more accepting, more loving and more kind, and that if we open our hearts and minds, we can change the world. I hope that you are moved to unity, strength, joy and love in your hearts with this performance of **NEWSIES!** Now, I invite you all to sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

With sincerest appreciation for your support -

Diane Ozmun

President, Colchester Community Theatre

SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

PROLOGUE: ROOFTOP, DAWN

SANTA FE (PROLOGUE) JACK, CRUTCHIE

SCENE 1: NEWSIE SQUARE

CARRYING THE BANNER JACK, NEWSIES, NUNS

SCENE 2: PULITZER'S OFFICE, AFTERNOON

THE BOTTOM LINE PULITZER, SEITZ, BUNSEN, HANNAH

SCENE 3: A STREET CORNER

SCENE 4: MEDDA'S THEATER

THAT'S RICH MEDDA

I NEVER PLANNED ON YOU / DON'T COME A-KNOCKING

..... JACK, BOWERY BEAUTIES

SCENE 5: NEWSIE SQUARE, NEXT MORNING

THE WORLD WILL KNOW JACK, DAVEY, LES, CRUTCHIE, NEWSIES

SCENE 6: JACOBI'S DELI AND STREET, AFTERNOON

THE WORLD WILL KNOW (REPRISE) JACK, DAVEY, LES, NEWSIES

SCENE 7: KATHERINE'S OFFICE

WATCH WHAT HAPPENS KATHERINE

SCENE 8: NEWSIE SQUARE, NEXT MORNING

SEIZE THE DAY DAVEY, JACK, LES, NEWSIES

SCENE 9: ROOFTOP

SANTA FE JACK

ACT II

ENTR'ACTE

SCENE 1: JACOBI'S DELI, NEXT MORNING

KING OF NEW YORK DAVEY, KATHERINE, LES, NEWSIES

SCENE 2: THE REFUGE

LETTER FROM THE REFUGE CRUTCHIE

SCENE 3: MEDDA'S THEATER

WATCH WHAT HAPPENS (REPRISE) DAVEY, JACK, KATHERINE, LES

SCENE 4: PULITZER'S OFFICE AND CELLAR, AFTERNOON

THE BOTTOM LINE (REPRISE) PULITZER, SEITZ, AND MAYOR

SCENE 5: BROOKLY BRIDGE AND MEDDA'S THEATER

BROOKLYN'S HERE SPOT CONLON AND NEWSIES

SCENE 6: ROOFTOP, NIGHT

SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN KATHERINE, JACK

SCENE 7: PULITZER'S CELLAR

SEIZE THE DAY (REPRISE) NEWSIES

ONCE AND FOR ALL JACK, DAVEY, KATHERINE, NEWSIES

SCENE 8: PULITZER'S OFFICE, NEXT MORNING

SEIZE THE DAY (REPRISE) NEWSIES

SCENE 9: NEWSIE SQUARE

FINALE ULTIMO (PART 1 AND 2) COMPANY

COLCHESTER COMMUNITY THEATRE NEWS BULLETIN

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF NEWSIES:

The story of newsies all started with some kids. "Newsie" was a term used for the children who sold newspapers on the streets at the turn of the century. In New York City, newsies were thought of as little business people. However, two newspaper publishers, Joseph Pulitzer of The World and William Randolph Hearst of The Journal, controlled the prices of the papers. The newsies often had to choose between food and a bed to sleep in at night. The musical **NEWSIES** is based on the real-life Newsboys' Strike of 1899. It was not until 1938 that Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act, a law that prohibited the employment of children younger than 16 and placed limits on the employment of kids between

16 and 18 years old. At that time, many people argued that child labor helped children by teaching them a trade. When in reality, their jobs as children kept them from going to school and improving their futures.

Our own Newsies, an amazing group of young people, have worked tirelessly to tell you the stories of newsies from a different time period - their struggles and hardships, but mostly about the strong bonds that existed between kids that changed the world. The newsies in the late 1800's impacted children across our country. As a retired teacher, I believe in the power of our children of today - with their knowledge, ideas, and creativity, they have the ability to help create a better world for everyone.

Thank you,

Wallis Johnson

Director, Colchester Community Theatre

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THE CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

JACK KELLY	MATTHEW BENSON	NUNS/BOWERY BEAUTIES	
CRUTCHIE	CAILEAN BROWN		CLAIRE GALARNEAU
RACE	KIERSTEN BJORK		MORGAN GRUSS
ALBERT	AUSTIN COPORALE		ARLOW MOUSSEAU
SPECS	PAETYN MIDDLETON		SASHA OKONU
HENRY	PARKER NELSON		SOPHIE STRIMPLE
FINCH/DARCY	SCOTT KARDYS	MORRIS DELANCEY	JEFFREY HANSON
ELMER	SERAPHINA GRUSS	OSCAR DELANCEY	JOEL MICHAEL
ROMEO	JAELYN MIDDLETON	WIESEL	MATTHIEU BERNIER
MUSH	OLIVYA DELUCA	DAVEY	JASON BOGHOSIAN
BUTTONS	JOSEPHINE HESSER	LES	DALTON SCHROEDER
SPLASHER	OLIVER MARKHAM	JOSEPH PULITZER	MARK LAMB
TOMMY BOY	CHARLES MAULDIN	NUNZIO	GLENN TERLECKI
JO JO	KAITLIN BRADSTREET	SEITZ	MICHAEL GREENHOUSE
IKE	MARISSA PEREZ	BRUNSEN	JIM METZLER
NEWSIES		HANNAH	DIANE OZMUN
	ANGELINA AMBROSIA	SNYDER	ROBIN GREENWALD
	ELIZABETH AMBROSIA	POLICEMAN	LORI LEE
	AMANDA LEIGH BACKER	MEDDA LARKIN	LINDA SEMINARIO
	SAWYER BEDINI	STAGE MANAGER	EDDIE KRAUSS
	ELIJAH GREENHOUSE	GUARD	JACK JOBES
	EDDIE KRAUSS	MR. JACOBI	RON GOLDSTEIN
	JACOB LEE	MAYOR	FIRST SELECTMAN BERNIE DENNLER
	MAEGAN MEAKEM	SPOT CONLON	SAWYER BEDINI
	ELLERY MARKHAM	BILL HEARST	JACOB LEE
	LINDA SEMINARIO	GOV. TEDDY ROOSEVELT	GLENN TERLECKI
KATHERINE PLUMBER	JULIA STONE		

THE ORCHESTRA

COLCHESTER COMMUNITY THEATRE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A SPECIAL
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ORCHESTRA MEMBERS WHO VOLUNTEERED
THEIR TIME TO BRING US THIS WONDERFUL MUSIC.

CONDUCTOR	JOY LAMB	REED	ALAN WASSERMAN
VIOLIN	SAEKO RUSSELL,	TRUMPET	KEVIN KINSALL
	ANGELA HEALEY	TROMBONE	PAUL GERST
CELLO	CASSANDRA CIULLO,	KEYBOARD 1	PENNI BENNETT
	ANNA CATES	KEYBOARD 2	KEN KUDRAK
BASS	RYAN BENNETT	PERCUSSION	JOHN CONSIGILO
GUITAR	NASH MENDLINGER	DRUMS	MAURICE THOMAS

THE CAST



Angelina
Ambrosia



Elizabeth
Ambrosia



Amanda Leigh
Backer



Sawyer
Bedini



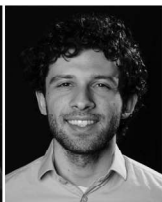
Matthew
Benson



Matthieu
Bernier



Kiersten
Bjork



Jason
Boghosian



Kaitlin
Bradstreet



Cailean
Brown



Austin
Corporale



Olivya
DeLuca



Claire
Galarneau



Ron
Goldstein



Elijah
Greenhouse



Mike
Greenhouse



Robin
Greenwald



Morgan
Gruss



Seraphina
Gruss



Jeffrey
Hanson



Josephine
Hesser



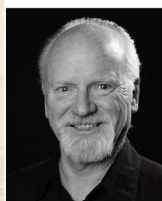
Jack
Jobses



Scott
Kardys



Eddie
Krauss



Mark
Lamb



Jacob
Lee



Lori
Lee



Ellery
Markham



Oliver
Markham



Charles
Mauldin

THE CAST



Maegan
Meakem



Jim
Metzler



Joel
Michael



Jaelyn
Middleton



Paetyn
Middleton



Arlow
Mousseau



Parker
Nelson



Sasha
Okonuk



Diane
Ozmun



Marissa
Perez



Dalton
Schroeder



Linda
Seminario



Julia
Stone



Sophie
Strimple



Glenn
Terlecki



MEET THE CAST

ANGELINA AMBROSIA (Newsie) is a 21-year-old actress portraying a Scab/Newsie for CCT's production of Newsies. Thanks to the St. Andrews Church community, she started acting at the age of seven and continued working with them until 2020, having various speaking and singing roles through their productions of A Passion Play and A Christmas Carol. Angelina also acted in the WJMS's drama club during her middle school years and went on to become the Co-President of the Bacon Academy's Drama Club. As she entered college, she began helping her peers act in short films for their classes. Acting is a lifetime passion of hers, but when she is not acting, she plays video games, reads with her cat and bunny, or completes schoolwork to finish her associate's degree at CT State Three Rivers Community College. She wants to thank her boyfriend, friends, and family for supporting her as she pursues her passion in acting.

ELIZABETH AMBROSIA (Newsie) is a 6th grader at William J. Johnston Middle School (WJMS). She participates in the WJMS chorus, and plays the clarinet in concert and stage bands. This is her first year participating in a CCT major production. She performed in Matilda JR. and is now portraying both a Newsie and a Scab! She is excited to share this experience as a Newsie with her sister Angie. Lizzie's acting career began at just two months old, when she portrayed baby Jesus in St. Andrew's A Passion Play. She continued to perform in the play each year, taking on various speaking, singing, and dancing roles until 2020. In 2019, she portrayed Tiny Tim in St. Andrew's production of A Christmas Carol and later portrayed Martha in Bacon Academy's production last year. She has been singing with St. Andrew's Young People's Choir and has been taking tap and ballet classes since the age of three.

SAWYER BEDINI (Spot Conlon/Newsie) would like to dedicate his performance to the real-life Spot Conlon. Sawyer has been trained in improv by the AHM Playhouse Theater Academy, where he also performed in its productions of The NeverEnding Story (Atreyu) and Storyville (Lion King/Chicken Little). Some other credits include the Porter Panther Players' Newsies Jr. (Jack Kelly), Frozen Jr. (Pabbie Troil), Matilda Jr. (Nigel/Escapologist), and Lord Farquaad in their upcoming production of Shrek Jr. He has also appeared in The Dream Rehearsed and CCT's Matilda Jr. Sawyer would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support.

MATTHEW BENSON (Jack Kelly) previously worked for The Walt Disney Company and is thrilled to have found his way back to the stage. Matthew is excited to be making his CCT debut. He currently teaches dance at The Revolution Academy of Dance. Past credits include Bright Bright Young Things (as Choreographer and Performer); Landmark Community Theater's production of Rocky Horror Picture Show (as Eddie); and Beauty and the Beast (as Dance Captain). Other credits include Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts A Chorus Line (as Al DeLuca), and Western Connecticut State University's Judith (Understudy Howard/Max) and The Worker (Man).

MATTHIEU BERNIER (Wiesel) works as an engineer at Electric Boat and has been performing in theater since middle school, with some of his favorite past roles being Hugo in Bye Bye Birdie, and Caldwell B. Cladwell in Urinetown. He is beyond excited to be playing Wiesel for his second production with CCT after playing Ziggy in Young Frankenstein (another favorite past role of his). He would like to thank the dedicated cast and crew for all of their hard work in making this show a success, as well as all his family and friends who come out to support and enjoy the show.

KIERSTEN BJORK (Race) is thrilled to make her CCT debut in a dream show! Her recent credits include Legacy theater: A Christmas Carol (Mrs. Fezziwig/Fan/Martha Cratchit), Beauty and the Beast (Enchantress/D'Arque), Joan Joyce! (Young Joan - World Premiere); Seven Angels: Joan Joyce! (Teen Joan); Brookfield theater: The Spitfire Grill (Percy); STC: Footloose (Ethel); theater Fairfield: [title of show] (Susan). Kiersten was also the ASM on The Great American Mousical (Legacy theater) with Dame Julie Andrews (Director) and Christopher Gattelli (Newsies - Choreographer). She thanks her parents, Christian, Carlin, Sarah, and Nick for their constant support. For Max. whitebirchblog.com

JASON BOGHOSIAN (Davey) is from Newington, CT and is performing in his first show with CCT! He has previously played Sky (Mamma Mia!), Joe (9 to 5), and Ricky (Ride the Cyclone). He would like to thank the Newsies cast and crew for being so supportive and making his first CCT experience an amazing one!

MEET THE CAST

KAITLIN BRADSTREET (Jo Jo) is excited to be taking part in CCT's production of *Newsies*. She is always thrilled to participate in theater and is thankful for the opportunity. She has also participated in other theater activities, such as the Bacon Academy Drama Club.

CAILEAN BROWN (Crutchie) is incredibly excited to be playing the part of Crutchie in CCT's production of *Newsies*. They started with CCT in fourth grade and have been a part of CCT's productions ever since. Some of their notable roles include Harry in *Kinky Boots*, Scuttle in *The Little Mermaid*, and Noah Claypole in *Oliver!* In their free time, Cailean is a writer, storyteller, and visual artist.

AUSTIN COPORALE (Albert) is in his first role in theater, and he is very excited because *Newsies* is one of his favorite musicals, if not the favorite. Austin would like to thank his family, especially his mom, for believing in him. He is eager to carry the banner!

OLIVYA DELUCA (Mush) is excited to be onstage this year with CCT! She was recently seen as Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid* at The Windham theater Guild, Christina in *Mother's Day* at Chestnut Street Playhouse, as well as in various staged readings and cabarets. Originally from Ohio, she relocated to Connecticut with her boyfriend after graduating from Ithaca College. She is currently employed at Goodspeed Musicals in the costume shop. A few of her favorite past credits are Diane (*Bare a Pop Opera*), Snake/Storyteller (*Children of Eden*), and Ensemble (*Parade*). She extends her heartfelt thanks to her friends and family, who continue to support her theatrical endeavors.

CLAIRE GALARNEAU (Nun/Bowery Beauty) is thrilled to be a part of this year's production of *Newsies!* Claire has been a part of CCT productions since 2011, including *Les Misérables*, *Shrek the Musical*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Mary Poppins*, *Oliver!*, *Kinky Boots*, and more! She is so grateful to be working with an exceptionally talented cast and crew this year.

RON GOLDSTEIN (Mr. Jacobi) has performed in 18 CCT shows and is proud to serve as a member of the CCT Board of Directors. Ron is most grateful for the support that CCT receives from Colchester and the surrounding communities. "Without that community support, we would not exist." Ron truly appreciates the opportunity to be on stage and enjoys being challenged by new roles. "For me, *Newsies* teaches important lessons on many topics including friendship, acceptance and strength of community. I hope everyone enjoys the show!"

ELIJAH GREENHOUSE (*Newsie*) is excited to make his debut on stage with CCT. A talented budding vocalist, pianist, and trumpeter, Elijah was invited to participate in the CT East Region Middle School music festival as the jazz band pianist. Elijah is proud to attend Interlochen Arts Camp in the summers. He would like to thank his parents and his music teachers for their dedication to his continued training.

MIKE GREENHOUSE (Seitz) is pleased to return to the theater under the auspices of CCT after a considerable hiatus. Mike installs your fiber optic internet, likes to fly small planes, and play hockey. Big love to all the family, thanks for coming!

ROBIN GREENWALD (Snyder) has previously appeared in CCT's *Kinky Boots*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Oliver!* Her favorite roles include Rappin' Grandma Rosie in *The Wedding Singer* and Mrs. Phelps, the librarian, in *Matilda*, with Podium Players. Robin is fortunate to serve as director to the talented theater kids of the Tyl Drama Company, who this year are performing *Newsies Jr!* She'd like to thank all of you for coming to see the show. She is most thankful for the support and love of Emily, Jacob, Anna, and her parents William and Marjorie Blau.

MEET THE CAST

MORGAN GRUSS (Nun/Bowery Beauty) has appeared as a lead and ensemble member in dozens of productions throughout Connecticut. Some of her favorites include *Les Misérables*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Godspell*, *Annie*, *Grease*, *Oliver!* and *The Sound of Music*. She attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC to study musical theater and opera. She also performed the national anthem at numerous stadiums and served as the frontwoman for several local rock cover bands. This marks her first musical production after a 20-year intermission, and she is thrilled to share the stage with her talented daughter, Seraphina. She would like to thank her supportive husband, her children for their encouragement, and her mother for all the years she spent driving her to the theater and assisting with costumes. She extends her gratitude to CCT for warmly welcoming her back to the magic of the stage.

SERAPHINA GRUSS (Elmer) is an eighth grader at WJMS. She's been singing since the age of three. This is her first full production with CCT, but she's no stranger to the stage. She performed at The Bradley Playhouse at a very young age with her grandmother and has performed in several Children's Summer Workshop shows. Her favorite roles include Agatha Trunchbull in *Matilda*, Crush in *Nemo*, and Mary Poppins in *Raise your Voice*. She is part of the Chamber Choir and All Eastern Region Choir. She has performed The national anthem at multiple stadiums. She also plays travel soccer, basketball, and softball. She would like to thank her family for their support and CCT for this wonderful experience!

JEFFREY HANSON (Morris Delancey) is delighted to be in his first CCT production. Past performances include *The Passion Play* and *A Christmas Carol* at St. Andrew's Church in Colchester, Connecticut.

JOSEPHINE HESSER (Buttons) began her theater journey as Young Elsa in the CCT's Children's Summer Theater Workshop production of *Frozen JR.* in 2020, where she fell in love with the stage. After eleven junior shows and five main stage youth productions, she is thrilled to join the cast of *Newsies* in her first adult production. Her favorite roles include Mal in *Descendants*, Mike Teavee in *Willy Wonka*, and Pepper in *Annie*. She would like to thank CCT for being a supportive and creative outlet, the cast and crew of *Newsies* for another chance to learn and grow, and her family for their endless support.

JACK JOBES (Guard) is rejoining the CCT cast after being unable to participate last year due to health reasons. His first show was *Cinderella*, and he only skipped *Les Misérables* (again for health reasons). Jack is looking forward to seeing the cast, friends, and making new ones.

SCOTT KARDYS (Finch/Darcy) is performing in his first production with CCT. Previous show experience was the role of an unexpected cop in *Clue* while at Bacon Academy. Scott attended a semester at Eastern Connecticut State University, where he was a member of the choir and toured in Puerto Rico. He would like to thank his mom for encouraging him to continue singing and performing. Even though the audition process was daunting, he is now very excited about *Newsies* and he wants to make his mom proud!

EDDIE KRAUSS (Stage Manager/Newsie) is grateful to be back at it again with Colchester Community Theater, ready to seize the day in *Newsies*. Recent credits include *Kinky Boots*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Mary Poppins* (Colchester Community Theater), *White Christmas* (The Bradley Playhouse), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Windham Theatre Guild), and *The Addams Family* (Chestnut Street Playhouse). Eddie has worn many hats both on and off stage, serving as choreographer, dance captain, and music director for productions such as *The Music Man*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *A Kid's Tribute to Broadway*, and an adaptation of *Frankenstein*. He also has an extensive background in dance, which makes leaping around like a newsboy feel like second nature. Outside of theater, Eddie is a graphic designer, wedding/event DJ, certified lifeguard, water aerobics and swimming teacher – basically, if it involves staying on your toes, he's got it covered. When he's not shouting, "extra! extra!" on stage, Eddie also serves as music director, choir director, and piano accompanist for the Plainfield Senior Chorus, 11th Hour Choir, and several local church and community choirs. Big thanks to the production team, this talented cast, and his family and friends for always helping him carry the banner!

MEET THE CAST

MARK LAMB (Joseph Pulitzer) performed in his first show, Cabaret, in 1971 at the Giles Little Theater. With the USNA Masqueraders, he performed in Caine Mutiny Court-Martial, Anything Goes, Of Thee I Sing, and The Boyfriend. With the Gilman Summer Theater, Mark performed in Iolanthe. With the Ledyard Ecumenical Choir, he performed in HMS Pinafore, and Pirates. Other credits include The Sound of Music, 1776, A Christmas Carol, Brigadoon, Little Mary Sunshine, Plaza Suite, Life With Father, Exit the Body, 100 Years of Broadway, The Butler Did It Singing, A Grand Night for Singing and a few more with the UM Players, as well as Joseph, Call Me Madam, King & I, and Oliver! with Waterford Week Players. And now CCT Newsies. What a blessing to do shows with my family!

JACOB LEE (Bil Hearst/Newsie) is thrilled to be part of his favorite show, Newsies. He previously played Horton in Seussical, Daddy Warbucks in Annie, Audrey II in Little Shop, Stepmother in Cinderella, and Greeter in CCT's Shrek. He dedicates this performance to his friends, family, teammates, classmates, teachers, and students. He'd like to give a special shout-out to his drama club students who will soon perform Willy Wonka Kids in Middletown, CT.

LORI LEE (Policewoman) is originally from NYC. She has been in numerous theater productions and independent films. This is her first musical, and she is both thrilled and honored to be part of this wonderful cast and of CCT. She'd like to thank her Mom, Pete, Travis, and Val for their constant support!

ELLERY MARKHAM (Newsie) is an eighth grader at WJJMS who sings with her school chorus and chamber choir, plays regional volleyball with Husky Volleyball Club, and performs with CCT whenever she can. She's participated in CCT's Summer Children's Theater Workshop productions since she was seven years old, with her favorite shows being Finding Nemo JR. (Bruce) and Elf JR. She was also in the ensemble of Oliver! Ellery is excellent at perfecting accents and loves a great nonfiction historical story, so she is excited to take part in bringing you into the past of the New York City Newsies.

OLIVER MARKHAM (Splasher) is a senior at Bacon Academy in Colchester who has loved being involved in theater since he was seven years old. He has participated in CCT's Summer Children's Theater Workshop productions every year he can with his favorite performance being Professor Harold Hill in The Music Man JR. He was also in CCT's The Wizard of Oz, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Mary Poppins (Michael Banks), and starred as Oliver Twist in Oliver! He has also joined the ensemble and helped out backstage in CCT's productions of Young Frankenstein and Kinky Boots. Currently, Oliver's biggest passion is singing and he's hoping to participate in and enjoy the arts while studying political science at a university in the big city. This performance of Newsies is truly special before he graduates this spring, leaving home to pursue great things. This stage has been a second home, and CCT, a second family. He wishes to thank Wallis, Ms. Ozmun, Amanda, and the rest of the crew for their dedication, guidance, and love throughout the years!

CHARLES MAULDIN (Tommy Boy) is excited to be participating in CCT's winter show once again. He particularly enjoyed participating in CCT when he was younger. Recently, he played Damian in the musical Mean Girls at YPCCA and Bob Cratchit in A Christmas Carol with the Bacon Academy Drama Club.

MAEGAN MEAKEM (Newsie) caught the theater bug three years ago and has not looked back. She is excited to be onstage with CCT again in Newsies as a featured dancer/Newsie. Previous CCT shows include Kinky Boots (Angel), Young Frankenstein (Featured Dancer). WTG shows include The Rocky Horror Show (Phantom) and Disney's The Little Mermaid (Pilot, Chef, Sea Creature). She is forever grateful for her husband Kevin, son, Easton, and her mom for supporting her in my new hobby.

JIM METZLER (Bunsen) is back with CCT for his sixth production on our stage. Since last appearing here as the Monster in Young Frankenstein, he was seen as Maurice in Beauty and the Beast (at the Little theater of Manchester). Jim has performed in more than 40 shows so far this century, including such CCT roles as John Utterson in Jekyll and Hyde, Bamatabois in Les Misérables, Thomas Andrews in Titanic - The Musical, and the Beast in Beauty and the Beast.

MEET THE CAST

JOEL MICHAEL (Oscar Delancey) after landing on Broadway several times (in Monopoly... not New York), He joins CCT for the first time as Oscar. His recent roles include the ridiculous yet lovable British con-artist Eric Swan in *Cash on Delivery*, two stints as a red herring in Agatha Christie murder mysteries, and the Brewster who doesn't kill people, Mortimer, in *Arsenic & Old Lace*. In the future, he looks forward to playing many new roles, such as a slightly knife-happy vigilante, a storybook prince with a salacious past, and a man with enough money to be confused as to why people rent vacation homes instead of buying them. (Note: He's willing to take any of these parts on or off stage). He dedicates this performance to Moira Rose for having a quote for any and every scenario possible. "I may have been wrong. You may have been not wrong."

JAELYN MIDDLETON (Romeo) is very excited to be a part of Newsies with CCT. She recently worked with The Bradley Playhouse on the *Crucible* as Abigail Williams, The Windham Theater Guild on *The Little Mermaid* as Leeward, and on *Newsies Jr* as Hannah. For fun outside of acting, she likes to sing and watch movies. She would like to thank her parents for taking her to rehearsals every day and would like to thank you all for coming. She hopes you enjoy the show!

PAETYN MIDDLETON (Specs) is excited to be a part of this production of *Newsies!* Some of her favorite roles include Amanda Tripp in *Matilda* at the ACT Summer Camp, Schwartz in *A Christmas Story* at the Bradley Playhouse, Crutchie in *Newsies JR.* at The Windham Theater Guild, Chad in *Descendants: The Musical* at the LTOBS, and Justice in *Rock of Ages: Youth Edition* at ACT Summer Camp. When not acting, she enjoys attending shows, watching performances online, and encouraging her friends to join her!! She would like to thank her parents for always supporting her love for theater and bringing her to all the rehearsals and shows!!

ARLOW MOUSSEAU (Nun/Bowery Beauty) is participating in her first production with CCT, and she is so blessed for the loving environment, and how welcoming everyone has been. In the past, she has notably played roles such as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, understudy for Donna Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!*, and a couple of others! She would like to thank everyone for supporting her throughout this production, and everyone who comes to see the show!!!!

PARKER NELSON (Henry) is thrilled to be back at CCT, especially performing on stage with his mom, Amanda! Recent theater work includes Kurt Von Trapp in Ivoryton Playhouse's *The Sound of Music*, Nathan in Little Theater of Manchester's *The Full Monty*, Wadsworth Mansion's *A Christmas Carol*, and CCT's *Kinky Boots*. He has done films with Discovery Channel, Emerson College, Purchase College, and Wesleyan University.

SASHA OKONUK (Nun/Bowery Beauty) is performing in her fourth CCT production. Her most recent shows have been *The Rocky Horror Show* (Phantom) and *The Little Mermaid* (Andrina) at Windham theater Guild. She has an associate's degree in music studies from CT State Community College Manchester. She previously sang at St. Andrew's Church. She is always grateful to return to her CCT family for another fantastically fun show!

DIANE OZMUN (Hannah) is so thrilled to return to the CCT stage for CCT's 27th season and is proud to be performing with the outstanding cast and crew of *Disney's Newsies!* Previous roles with CCT include Trish in *Kinky Boots*, Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein*, Mrs. Bedwin in *Oliver!*, Bird Woman in *Disney's Mary Poppins*, Mrs. Gulch/*Wicked Witch of the West* in *The Wizard of Oz*, Ursula in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, Mme. Thenardier in *Les Misérables*, Ida Straus in *Titanic - The Musical*, Mrs. Potts in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, and Dolly Levi in *Hello, Dolly!* She also holds the honor and privilege of being President of the CCT Board of Directors for the past 16 years, and the Music Director for the CCT's Summer Children's theater Workshop for 16 years. She is so grateful for the love & support of her husband & Oz 'N Bones BBQ business partner, Chris.

MARISSA PEREZ (Ike) is a student at Three Rivers Community College, about to begin her second semester. She plans to study to become an Ultrasound Technician. This is Marissa's eighth show with CCT, and she is so excited for the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing cast. She would like to dedicate this performance to all her amazing friends and family who have tolerated her talking about this show for months and have supported her through it all.

MEET THE CAST

DALTON SCHROEDER (Les) is excited to portray Les in this production of Newsies! His most recent credits include portraying Pumbaa in Lion King JR. at The Granite theater, and Race in Newsies JR. at Windham theater Guild. He is grateful for the wonderful support of his family and hopes you all enjoy the show!

LINDA SEMINARIO (Medda Larkin/Newsie) is very excited to play these roles in this production of Newsies. This is one of Linda's dream roles and she can't wait to feel like the "King of New York". This production marks Linda's debut with CCT, but she has previously performed as Sally Perks in Puffs, a Phantom in The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and Ziggy in Young Frankenstein at the Windham Theater Guild. She would like to dedicate her performance to all the brave young children who fought for their rights, as well as all workers who continue to do so today.

JULIA STONE (Katherine Plumber) is making her debut appearance with CCT. Prior to this, she has starred in 24 other productions as a variety of characters, including Mercutio (in Romeo & Juliet), the Ghost of Christmas Past (in A Christmas Carol), Sandy Dumbrowski (Grease), Morticia Addams (The Addams Family), Jean Fordham (August: Osage County), and Sebastian (in The Little Mermaid). Julia has also worked as a scare actor for Terror at Quassy and entertains on the North Pole Express at the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat. In addition, she is a songwriter, as well as a professionally trained pianist, dancer, and vocalist. Julia wishes to dedicate her performance to her incredible parents and her Great-Uncle Bie.

SOPHIE STRIMPLE (Nun/Bowery Beauty) has been in several other theater productions, including Anne of Green Gables and The Little Mermaid (both with the Windham theater Guild). This is her first time working with the CCT and she hopes you enjoy the show!

GLENN TERLECKI (Governor Teddy Roosevelt/Nunzio) is an actor based in Connecticut and originally from Middletown, where he was born in the late twentieth century. He is excited to be making his debut with CCT and is thrilled to be part of this talented team for the production. Since 2023, Glenn has performed in various community theaters and has become known for his remarkable ability to bring complex characters to life, transforming scripts into compelling stage performances. In addition to acting, he is an emerging playwright, a creative artist, and a passionate lover of theater, nature, and faith. He currently resides in Hebron, Connecticut.



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MEET THE DIRECTORS

WALLIS JOHNSON (Director) is very excited to be working on Disney's Newsies. She most recently directed *The Little Mermaid* for Windham Theater Guild and *Kinky Boots* for the Colchester Community Theatre. Favorite directing credits include *Titanic-The Musical*, *Mary Poppins*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Mother's Day* (original production) and *Grandma's Got a Gun* (original festival play). Wallis has been nominated for the Best Director of a Musical/Play (not equity) in Connecticut for her work on CCT's *Titanic - The Musical*, CCT's *Anything Goes*, CCT's 2018 production of *The Wizard of Oz*, WTG's *The Little Mermaid*, WTG's *The Thanksgiving Play*, and the new production *Mothers' Day* at Chestnut Street Playhouse. She thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with Tony Award Nominee Forrest McClendon on a special collaborative project between The University of Connecticut and the Charter Oak Cultural Arts Center of Hartford. She is one of the founders of the Colchester Community Theatre. She is a Certified Music Educator with her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership. She was named Teacher of The Year 2023 for the CREC school district. Wallis is a Certified Teaching Artist integrating the Kingian Nonviolence Principles into the Arts. She is honored to be an Associate Member of The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

JOY LAMB (Music Director) is happy to be collaborating with the lovely people of Colchester Community Theatre again. Previously, Joy was Music Director with CCT for *Mary Poppins* and *Kinky Boots*. Joy enjoys all aspects of theater and has a long history of participating either on stage, backstage, in the pit, directing, or conducting. Joy works at the United Methodist Church of Gales Ferry, CT as Director of Worship Arts. She has a private voice and piano studio. She has helped in several capacities with the music and drama program at Ledyard High School including as director of an auditioned after school a cappella women's ensemble for 14 years. Joy was a Vocal Performance and Music Education Major at The College of Charleston, SC. Many thanks to Mark Lamb, (husband) who makes it possible for Joy to do all the things she loves.

AMANDA LEIGH BACKER (Choreographer/Newsie) is thrilled to be choreographing and performing in Newsies, alongside her son Parker (Henry). Amanda choreographed CCT's *Kinky Boots*, *Oliver!*, and *Young Frankenstein*, as well as *Matilda* and *The Wedding Singer* for other theater groups in the state. Newsies is on the heels of Amanda's last show, *Something Rotten*, with Little Theater of Manchester. She thanks the entire cast for their hard-working dancing feet.

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM

RICHARD ARSENAULT (Lighting Design) started with CCT as a founding board member in 1998 and is excited to be lighting Newsies, which marks his 25th season with CCT. Rich has also worked productions with Blue Fire Stage Company, Podium Players, and other theater groups across Connecticut in areas of lighting, sound, and photography.

RICK BENNETT (Set Construction and Design) has been involved with CCT since 2010. He has performed in Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Titanic - The Musical, Anything Goes, and Les Misérables. Since then, he has been helping build the set, and it's a blast having the workshop so busy with builders and painters for the weeks leading up to the show.

LAURA BROWN (Stage Manager) began her journey with CCT as a cast member in Carousel in 1999. At that time, she was elected as Treasurer on the CCT Board of Directors and has remained so to date. Oliver! in 2003, was Laura's debut as stage manager, so this 2025 production marks her twenty-first musical for which she has "performed" in this role. While she lovingly remembers sneaking out on stage with Lesley Gallagher to dance to "Oom Pah Pah" in 2003, she has happily settled into being busy backstage. Previous on-stage performances with CCT include: The Music Man, The Sound of Music, The Odd Couple -Female Version, and Jesus Christ Superstar. She has also performed in Brigadoon and My Fair Lady with other local community theaters. As much as she misses performing under the lights, she has created her own magic and "choreography" backstage with an awesome, dedicated stage crew. Much love and thanks to her family and friends for all their support!

LYNN DICKEY (Co-Master Costumer) continues to honor her love of theater by channeling her organizational skills into creative costuming for the second year! After the huge success of Kinky Boots why not do it one more year! She has been working with the costume teams for previous productions such as Young Frankenstein, Oliver!, Mary Poppins and The Wizard of Oz. She enjoys sharing backstage with her sons - Sam (lighting) and Michael (props). Big hug and shout-out to her husband, Christopher, for his love and support!

SUSIE MILNER (Co-Costumer) has loved musical theatre since childhood. She joined the CCT family in 2018 as an Ozian in The Wiz-

ard of Oz, along with her son, Charles, who played a Munchkin. Since then, she has sung and danced in the ensemble of every CCT musical production - Mary Poppins, Oliver, Young Frankenstein, and Kinky Boots - while lending her thrift shopping expertise to the costume team. This year, she's over the moon to be working on costumes full time, with Charles onstage as one of the newsies! Susie thanks her family for their support - enjoy the show!

DIANA MATSUZAKI (Set Designer) believes it is always fun to have a creative outlet, especially during the darker days of winter, and designing the sets for CCT over the past years has been Diana's. A chance meeting at Starbucks brought her to CCT, and maybe reading this will do the same for you. After the show closes it's on to the flower and vegetable gardens, and of course the blueberry patch. Join her?

CHRISTA STEINER (she/her) is a Wig and Hair Designer and Theatre Professional hailing from the Garden State! She is excited to be working for the first time with Colchester Community Theatre. Christa is the recipient of the 2023 Broadway World Award for her Wig and Hair Design of Something Rotten at Surfflight Theatre. She has designed Wigs, Hair, and Makeup for productions of Beauty and the Beast, Xanadu, Disaster!, and was the Wig, Hair, and Makeup Supervisor for A Sign of The Times Off-Broadway. She currently serves as the Costumes Management Assistant at The Goodspeed, and is a Voice and Music Theory Teacher at Community Music School in Essex. Having been a performer for the early part of her career, Christa has performed in select credits: Cabaret (Sally Bowles), Chess (Florence Vassy), Joseph...Dreamcoat (Narrator), and Matilda (Miss Honey). She lives in Hebron with her partner, Meghan.

BELLE SARGENT is thrilled to serve as the wigs and hair assistant for this production of Newsies. She has a background in sewing and theatrical costuming, including her recent work at Goodspeed Musicals as Assistant Costume Shop Manager. A graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art, Belle also has a history of performance and show involvement from her time as a student. She is excited to contribute her skills to this community production and help bring stories to life! To see more of her work, you can find her at @lightskirtss on instagram.

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for the use of his truck, trailers, tools, and other equipment for the purposes of set transportation and construction. The set you see in the show would not be possible without the generous use of Paul's equipment.

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for all their assistance with the set construction and relocation.

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU to volunteers
whose names may be missing, as well as all
the parents, cast, volunteers, and families
who have donated their time, talents, and
energy to make this show a success!

PRODUCTION STAFF

CCT is grateful to all the volunteers that made this production possible.

DIRECTOR	WALLIS JOHNSON*
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	JOY LAMB
CHOREOGRAPHER.....	AMANDA LEIGH BACKER*
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER	HANNAH ROCCISANO
PRODUCER	DONNA BROWN*
STAGE MANAGER.....	LAURA BROWN*
ASST. STAGE MANAGER	KENNETH JOHNSON
STAGE CREW	RICK BENNETT*, ROB ESTEVE, JACK FASKI* CAROLYN GUARINO, CHUCK GUARINO, JONATHAN PIKTELIS, AL ULIASZ*
SOUND DESIGN	BILL WATSON*
SOUND CREW.....	MARK DUMOND, KATHY LYNCH-MUSSEN*
LIGHTING DESIGN	RICH ARSENAULT
LIGHTING CREW.....	SAMUEL DICKEY*, ERICA FEHER
SET DESIGN	DIANA MATSUZAKI
SET PAINTING.....	VIVIAN LUBINSKY, KELLEE RATZER, SAUNDRA WORONIK, JOANNE WOZNIAK, KARLI WOZNIAK
ORIGINAL ARTWORK (KATHERINE)	ALEXIS CURTIS
ORIGINAL ARTWORK (JACK'S DRAWING).....	BRIANNA LOCHOWSKI
SET CONSTRUCTION	RICK BENNETT*
SET CREW	RYAN BENNETT*, ALEX BRADLEY, JOE DOYLE, MARK DUMOND, PAUL ESTEVE, ROB ESTEVE, CHUCK GUARINO, PAUL PICARD, AL ULIASZ*, PENNI BENNETT
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COSTUME CREW	KATE BIRCH, LINDA DICAPRIO, JULIANNA HAGWOOD, CLAIRE KRIEGER, LIANE KINDL
PROPS COORDINATORS	JODI BRAZAL, DONNA GOODSPEED
MAKE-UP COORDINATOR	VICKI LANZO
WIG AND HAIR DESIGN	CHRISTA STEINER
WIG AND HAIR ASSISTANT	BELLE SARGENT
HOUSE MANAGER.....	KAREN VAN HEEST
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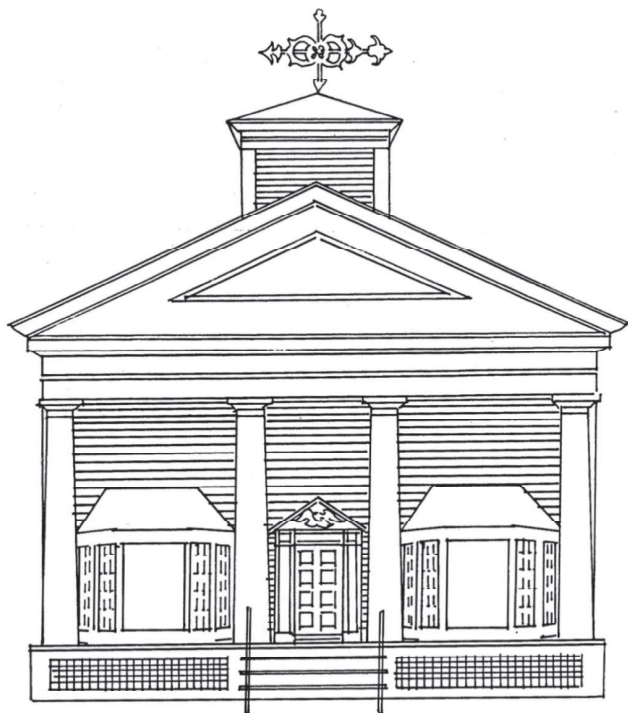
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The logo for CASEY chiropractic features a stylized white 'C' composed of horizontal lines on the left. To its right, the word 'CASEY' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, and 'chiropractic' is written below it in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font. A red dot is positioned between the two words.

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