



PARAMOUNT
THEATRE



SEPTEMBER 4-OCTOBER 20, 2019

DIRECTED BY PARAMOUNT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JIM CORTI

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Lyrics by
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Based on the Disney Film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White
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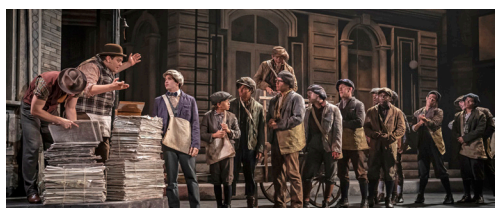
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Newsies Synopsis

As *Newsies* opens, we meet Crutchie. A young newsboy, getting ready to start his day. Before he has a chance to leave the rooftop where he sleeps, he wakes his best friend, Jack Kelly. Crutchie tells Jack, "I wanna beat the other fellas to the street. I don't want anyone should see; I ain't been walkin' so good." Crutchie has hurt his leg so badly that he now walks with a crutch. Jack brushes him off, "That bum leg of yours is a gold mine." Jack encourages Crutchie to take a moment and sit with him. Jack then shares that he aches to leave New York behind and head to where in can have a "big life in a small town." He dreams of heading to Santa Fe, where the weight of the world won't be on his shoulders.

After Crutchie and Jack share this heart to heart, Jack wakes all of the other newsies sleeping on the roof top. They begin poking fun at one another as they get ready to head out and sell papers for the day. They are all hoping to have a juicy headline to help them move papers. They begin to sing "Carrying the Banner," and we soon discover that many of these kids are out here fending for themselves. They have no parents, most are living on the streets and through it all they'll "Carry the Banner." The better the headline, the more papers they'll sell, and the more money they'll make.

Unfortunately, the headline they are stuck with is about the Trolley Strike - again. A headline they've had to hawk for too many days in a row. They begrudgingly line up to buy their papers from Wiesel, and as they do, two new boys, Davey and Les, show up to buy papers. Davey is a 17-year-old boy, and Les is his kid brother. Davey and Les get in line with the rest of the newsies, and



Davey buys 20 papers for 10 cents. He asks Wiesel if he'll buy back any of the papers they don't sell. Wiesel pokes fun at Davey, "Certainly. And every time you lose a tooth I put a penny under your pillow."

Davey counts his papers and realizes that Wiesel has given him only 19 papers. Wiesel doesn't take too kindly to being accused of shortchanging the new kid, "You seen how nice I was to dis new kid? And what did I get for my civility?"

Luckily, Jack steps in and counts Davey's papers for him. He confirms that Wiesel did shortchange Davey. Jack offers to pay for Davey to take another 50 papers. Davey takes offense to this saying, "I'm no charity case. I don't even know you." Jack continues to introduce himself to the brothers, asking Les how old he is. Les responds, "I'm ten. Almost." Jack tells Les, "If anybody asks, you're seven. Younger sells more papes, and if we're gonna be partners..."

Davey tells Jack that he doesn't want to be partners, but Les already knows that Jack is the best of the best. Jack spits in his hand and holds it out to Les to make it official. Les spits in his hand, and the boys both shake on it.

Next, we meet Joseph Pulitzer in his office. He's holding a meeting, discussing the money that his paper, *The World*,

is losing. "Our circulation is down for the third quarter in a row." He's asking some of his staff to help him come up with a solution to raise profits, despite circulation being down. Pulitzer's staff member, Bunsen, comes up with what he thinks is a brilliant plan. He thinks they should raise the price newsies pay for 100 papers from 50 cents to 60 cents. "Every single newsie would have to sell twenty-five more papers just to earn the same amount as always."

Pulitzer's secretary Hannah says, "It's going to be awfully rough on those children." Pulitzer disagrees. "Nonsense. I'm giving them a real life lesson in economics." The decision is made to go ahead and up the price of newspapers for the newsies.

We next see Davey, Les and Jack at the end of the day. Les grabs Davey's last paper and tells him he knows exactly how to sell it for him. Les stops a woman on the street and says, "Buy a paper from a poor orphan boy." The woman immediately buys Les's paper. Jack is impressed with Les's natural ability to sell papes. He thinks they should all grab dinner and split their money. Davey and Les tell Jack they can't because their mother will be expecting them home for dinner. They invite Jack to come with them for dinner, but he says he can't. Before they have a chance to part, they run into Snyder. Snyder runs a juvenile

home for delinquent children called The Refuge. Snyder is on a mission to bring Jack back to The Refuge after his escape. Jack yells, "Run for it!" All three boys book it, and try to find safety.

The boys are able to relax once they reach Medda Larkin's theater in the Bowery. Davey wants to know why they were running from Snyder. Jack tells him, "Snyder the Spider....runs a jail for underage kids called The Refuge. The more kids he locks up, the more the city pays him." Jack then introduces the boys to Medda. He asks if they can hide out to avoid running into Snyder. She says they are free to stay as long as they need.



Medda then steps on the stage to perform. While Medda and the Bowery Beauties perform, Jack sneaks into a box where he finds Katherine. Katherine is a reporter from the *New York Sun*, reviewing Medda's show. Jack continues to strike up a conversation with her, as he finds himself pretty smitten with her. He sings, "No, I never planned on no one like you." As Katherine continues to ignore Jack, he quickly sketches a photo of her. He hands it to her as he sneaks out of the theater, and Katherine is left stunned by the beauty of the photo Jack has just created for her.

The newsboys awake the next morning and head over to buy their papers to sell for the day. They're hoping for a great headline. Instead, they see that Wiesel has written, "New Newsie Price: Sixty Cent Per Hundred." The boys think this has to be a joke. Wiesel informs them the new price is no joke. Jack says, "Me and the fellas will take a hike over to the Journal." Wiesel tells him that all of the papers have raised their prices, so it's no use heading to another paper.



The newsies are furious. Jack tells them, "here's the deal: if we don't sell papes, then no one sells papes. Nobody gets to that window till they put the price back where it belongs." The newsies decide, under the leadership of Jack and Davey, that they're going to strike and encourage newsies all over the city to strike, as well.

Jack, Davey and the rest of the newsies create a makeshift union and head over to *The World* to tell Pulitzer of the strike and their demands. However, the boys don't make it far before they are literally thrown out. The newsies head over to their favorite hangout in order to talk over how to move forward. They're proud of the way they announced their strike, but aren't sure where to go from here. They decide to split up and garner support from other newsies all over the city. While they're deciding who will go to which borough, the reporter Katherine appears again and introduces herself as Katherine Plumber. She tells the boys that she's willing to write about them and the strike.

The boys are excited. Katherine pulls Jack aside to interview him. Jack tells her, "Hey, Plumber. Write it good. We both



go a lot ridin' on you." Katherine assures him that she will, but internally she doesn't feel as confident as she appears.

The next morning, the newsies gather in hopes of reinforcements of newsies from other boroughs joining them, but nobody comes. They find a couple of scabs (kids who have decided to sell papers despite the strike) and confront them. Jack convinces them that this strike is, "...for the sake of all the kids in every sweatshop, factory and slaughter house in this town, I beg you...throw down your papers and join the strike." The scabs are convinced to join the other newsies on strike, but just as they are about to strike, Wiesel shows up with men willing to sell the papers. The newsies and men fight when the police show up. In the scuffle, many of the newsies are hurt, and Crutchie is carried off to The Refuge. The next day, the boys are again sitting



in their favorite hangout. Katherine approaches and tells them, "Would you get a load of these glum mugs? Can these really be the same boys who made front page of the *New York Sun*?" The boys are ecstatic. They can hardly contain their excitement, and all proclaim to be the "King of New York."

However, while the rest of the newsies are celebrating, Crutchie is stuck in The Refuge. He writes a letter to let Jack know that he's pretty banged up, but okay. We find Jack at Medda's theater. He has been busy painting backdrops for her theater to earn some extra money. He's planning on leaving New York as soon as he can. Davey, Les and Katherine run into the theater and are thrilled to have found Jack. Davey says, "How 'bout lettin' a pal know you're alive?" Jack tells them that he didn't want to be found. Davey, Les and Katherine can't

understand why Jack isn't thrilled with the progress of the strike. Their story made such a splash that Katherine has been blacklisted as a reporter. All Jack can think of though are the kids who were hurt in the strike, "...thanks to my big mouth, filled to overflowing with failure. Kids hurt, other arrested--" Davey, Les and Katherine convince him that they need to keep going to make sure that all that they've done so far hasn't been in vain.

Next, we transition to Pulitzer's office where the Mayor of New York and Pulitzer are discussing what to do about the newsies strike. Pulitzer can't believe the newsies have the audacity to strike against him. He has also gathered Snyder, his secretary Hannah and Katherine Plumber into his office, as well. Pulitzer is using Snyder to convince the Mayor that Jack Kelly is truly a menace to society. If he can get rid of Jack, he may be able to get rid of the newsies strike all together.

In the middle of their discussion, Hannah announces that Jack Kelly is in the hall asking to speak with Pulitzer. Pulitzer tells Katherine and Snyder to hide as Jack Kelly comes in. He addresses Jack, "And which Jack Kelly is this? The charismatic union organizer, or the petty thief and escaped convict?" Jack responds, "Which one gives us more in common?" It is with this response that Pulitzer realizes Jack is going to put up a fight. To really hit him where it hurts, Pulitzer reveals Katherine and introduces her as his daughter. He explains that Katherine Plumber is the name she writes under and that she has refused to work for him.



Katherine is embarrassed and hurt and runs from the room.

Pulitzer then tries to convince Jack to end the strike. He tells Jack that if he uses the newsies rally to tell them to stop the strike he'll, "see your criminal record expunged and your pockets filled with enough cash to carry you, in a first-class train compartment, from New York to New Mexico and beyond." Jack refuses, and Pulitzer has the Delancy Brothers throw him into the basement of *The World* with an old printing press being the only furniture for him to use.

Despite Jack being trapped, the newsies from boroughs all over New York are coming together for the rally. For a moment, it looks like Jack might not even show up, which makes the newsies nervous. When Jack finally runs into the room, they are all ecstatic, and ready to hear what he has to say. However, they are shocked when Jack says, "Fellas, we gotta be realistic. We don't work, we don't get paid. How many days can you go without makin' money? However long, believe me, Pulitzer can go longer."

Katherine gets Jack alone and confronts him about his change of heart. He's still mad at her for lying to him. And she's mad at Jack for just giving up. She can't understand, "If you were willing to go to jail for those boys, how can you turn your back on them now?" They continue to hurl blows at one another until they wind up kissing one another. After they kiss Katherine says to Jack, "I need to know that you didn't cave for the money." Jack tells her that he truly believes that Pulitzer has the upper hand. Katherine tells him that she has a plan. She wants to use Jack's art illustrating the atrocities that occur at The Refuge. They just need a printing press that isn't run by any of the newspapers in town. And Jack knows exactly where they can find one.

They rush off to the basement of *The World*, where they find an old printing press. The newsies get busy printing off hundreds of copies of a newspaper that features Jack's illustrations and news of the newsies strike on the front page. While they print the papers and get them ready for distribution, the newsies sing,

"There's change comin' once and for all." The papers' release creates an outrage, and the phones in Pulitzer's office are ringing off the hook. Jack walks into Pulitzer office and says, "New York is closed for business...You can't even leave your own building. So, what's your next move?"

Before Pulitzer has a chance to answer, the Mayor of New York enters with none other than Governor Teddy Roosevelt in tow. Mr. Roosevelt is furious and says to Pulitzer, "Well, Joe, don't just stand there letting those children sing endlessly. Give them the good news...you've come to your senses and rolled back prices. Unless, of course, you want to invite a full state senate investigation into your employment practices."

Pulitzer asks to speak to Jack Kelly one-on-one. Pulitzer tells Jack that he can't move the price of papers back. Jack says he understands but, "From now on, any papes we can't sell, you buy back - full price." Despite some hesitation, Pulitzer agrees with this compromise. Jack runs out to tell the newsies that they won! They all celebrate and are even joined by Crutchie, since Mr. Roosevelt demands that The Refuge be shut down. Pulitzer is impressed that one of Jack's drawings was so convincing to encourage Roosevelt to investigate and shut down The Refuge that he offers him a job as a political cartoonist at *The World*. The newsies, Jack, Katherine, Davey and Les all celebrate their victory in the street outside *The World*.



From the Silver Screen to the Lights of Broadway

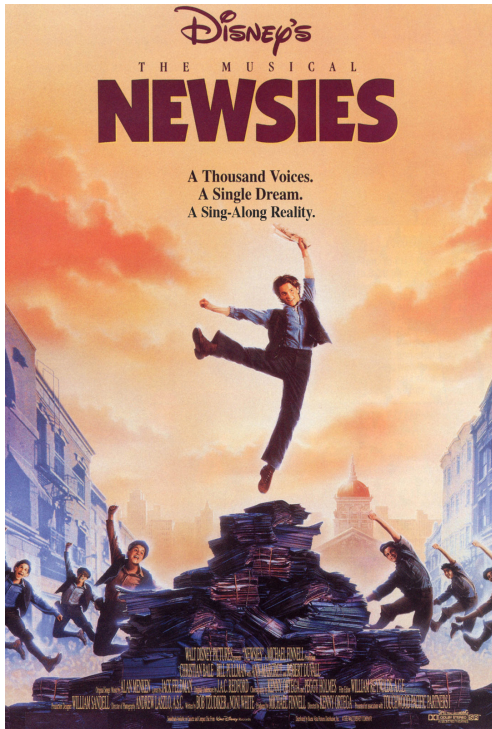
"You don't need money when you're famous...They give you whatever you want, gratis"

For the most part, the Disney movie and musical are pretty similar.

But here are just a few of the differences between the two.

The original movie was released by Disney in 1992.

The stage musical was first performed on Broadway in 2012.



In the movie Medda Larkin is friendly with several of the newsies and not just Jack. She also sings "High Times, Hard Times" in the film version and not the musical version.

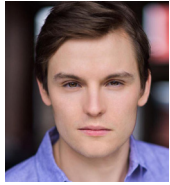


In the movie, Bryan Denton (played by actor Bill Pullman) is the reporter that breaks the news of the strike. In the musical, Katerine Plumber (Pulitzer) is the reporter that breaks the news of the strike.



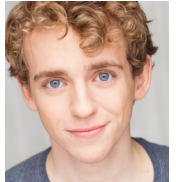
Newsies Roll Call

Alex Prakken*



Jack Kelly is the leader of the newsies. An outspoken, and extremely loyal friend. He commits himself to standing up for and leading his friends but also longs for a life away from his current surroundings. He also happens to be a talented artist and has painted backdrops for Medda Larkin and her show at the Bowery theater.

Michael Kurowski*



Crutchie is a newsie with a bum leg. He's starting to worry that his leg is going to slow him down and he won't be able to sell as many papers. Jack consoles him and tries to convince him that his leg is actually a great thing to help him sell papers. While many of the Newsies are close, Jack and Crutchie consider each other best friends, if not brothers.

Koray Tarhan



Davey is 17 years old, and joining the Newsies for the first time. He and his younger brother, Les, are out trying to make some money for their family while their dad is laid up from an injury he encountered on the job. Unlike many other Newsies, Davey and his brother Les have both a mother and a father. Davey is very protective of his younger brother and happy to work hard to help his family out in their time of need.

Daniel Font-Wilets

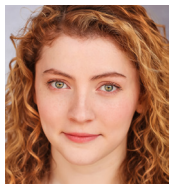


Les is Davey's little brother. At nine years old, he is extremely excited to be out of school and work with the "famous" Jack Kelly. While Davey carries the weight and burden of his family on his shoulders, Les sees this experience as an exciting adventure. He's a quick learner, and he's anxious to help the Newsies with the strike.

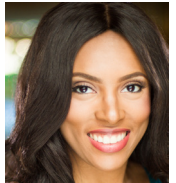


Nathaniel Buescher

Justine Cameron



Medda is a famous vaudeville actress who runs and owns a theatre in The Bowery, a neighborhood in New York. She has a close, motherly relationship with Jack Kelly, and lets him take shelter inside her theatre when he's on the run. She is also happy to host the Newsboy Rally in her theater, in the hopes of helping the Newsies win the strike.



Jerica Exum

Michael Ehlers*



Katherine Plumber is a reporter for *The New York Sun*. She stumbles across Jack Kelly and the Newsboy Strike, and knows this story will be big. She makes it her mission to be the reporter who breaks the story of the Newsboy strike. The story hits home especially for Katherine since her real name is Katherine Pulitzer, and her father is the owner of *The World*, the Newspaper the Newsies start the strike over.

Joseph Pulitzer is the owner of *The World*, the largest and most circulated newspaper of 1899. He is struggling to keep his profits as his circulation slowly starts to dip. He has no sympathy for the newsies. All he can see is how he can make more money, no matter what it cost someone else.



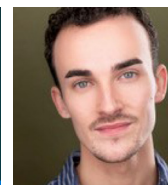
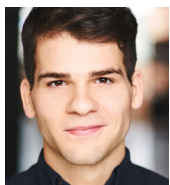
Bret Tuomi*

The newsies refer to him as Snyder the Spider. Snyder runs The Refuge, a juvenile correction center for young boys. Snyder is a dishonest man who knows that the more kids he can put in The Refuge, the more money the state will give him. He wants to have as many young men in The Refuge as he can, whether they've actually done anything wrong or not.

The Newsies



(top row, left to right)
Tom Avery, Anthony Avino*, Joe Capstick*, Grant Carriker, Jordan De Leon*, Evan C. Dolan



(bottom row, left to right)
Christopher John Kelley*, Ivory Leonard IV, Jarais Musgrove, Nich O'Neil, Drew Porrett, Jonny Stein*, Travis Austin Wright

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Newsboys go on strike in 1899

In the mid 1800s, newspapers relied on newsies to sell their newspapers. Newsies needed 50 cents to buy 100 papers. They would then sell their papers for 1 cent. Any papers the Newsies couldn't sell would eat into their profits for the day, as the publishers would not buy back any unsold newspapers. In order to sell as many papers as they could, Newsies would do anything from making up sensational headlines to faking injuries or illness. They also came up with other ways to nickel and dime their customers. If they were selling a paper to someone who looked like they were in a hurry or might have to catch the trolley, they would pretend to have trouble making change in the hopes that the customer would grow so impatient that they would just leave the spare change with the newsie.

While the late 1800s started with booming profits for the famous newspaper men of the day (William Randolph Hearst, Joseph Pulitzer), when 1899 hit, profits started to slow down. Not wanting to raise prices for customers, the publishers decided to raise the price for Newsies. Instead of paying 50 cents for 100 papers, Newsies would now have to pay 60 cents for 100 papers. They would also still have to eat their losses.

On July 19, 1899, Newsies met in City Hall Park in New York City and declared a strike. They would no longer sell newspapers for *The Journal* and *The World*, until prices were put back to where they were. Soon the strike spread all over New York City and even moved to cities in New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

On July 22, it looked as though William Randolph Hearst might give in when he took a meeting with some of the Newsies. He listened to them as they asked for the price to be put back to 50 cents per one

hundred papers. He told them he would give them an answer on Monday, July 24. When Monday came around however, no change was made. Instead, the Newsies discovered that the *The Journal* and *The World* had hired grown men to take the place of Newsies and sell papers instead. Newsies retaliated by attacking the men selling papers, as well as by "raiding newsstands and emptying delivery trucks." (Campbell Bartoletti, p. 57)

Despite spending almost two weeks pushing back against the Newsies, saying they would not back down, by August 2 the strike was over. Don Seitz, the business manager for *The World*, sent a message to Joseph Pulitzer saying that "the loss in circulation had been 'colossal'" (Campbell Bartoletti, p.61).

The publishers agreed to keep the cost increase on the papers the same at 60 cents per one hundred, but they would buy back any unsold papers at the end of the day. The Newsies were pleased with this compromise, and on August 2, went back to business as usual.

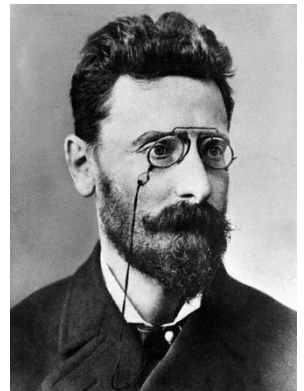
Wait, Did That Really Happen? *Newsies* is based on a real, historical event. But does that mean that everything that happened in the musical happened in real life? Not exactly. We'll break down for you the difference between fact and fiction.

Jack Kelly - Was there really a Jack Kelly? While there wasn't any particular newsboy that we know of who went by the name Jack Kelly, the newsies did have a strike leader. Their strike leader went by the name of Kid Blink. He was described as small for his age and only had one eye. He was the spokesperson for the newsies, and spoke at gatherings to get everyone fired up. He even went to meet with William Hearst outside of the Journal. However, unlike in the musical, it is believed that Kid Blink did sell out to Pulitzer and Hearst. After not being seen for a few days, many of the newsboys came across Kid Blink in what appeared to be an expensive new suit. The newsboys assumed Kid Blink's betrayal and never forgave him. Despite Kid Blink leaving the cause, the strike did eventually end after two weeks.

Crutchie's Limp - While we never find out the source of Crutchie's injury, and while he's the only character on stage with an injury, it was not uncommon for newsies to have similar injuries. Many of the newsies would "flip" cars. Flipping cars meant trying to jump onto moving trains and streetcars in the hopes for a free ride. However, sometimes the boys would slip, and either injure an arm or a leg, or lose their limb completely.

Katherine Plummer (Pulitzer) - There was a real Katherine Pulitzer, however she unfortunately passed away from pneumonia in May 1884. She was only two years old.

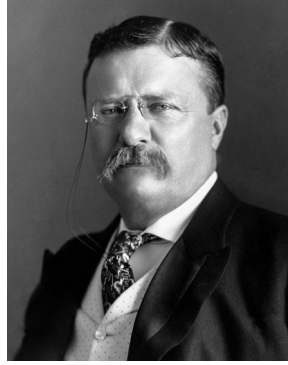
Joseph Pulitzer - There was indeed a Joseph Pulitzer, and he did in fact own *The World* newspaper. His name may sound familiar as it is attached to the famed journalistic award, [The Pulitzer Prize](#). Many would argue that Pulitzer was one of - if not the most - successful journalist of his time. At the height of his paper's success, *The World's* circulation reached 600,000 (that's more than 4 times the population of Aurora!), and was the most successful newspaper in the world.



Medda Larkin - While there wasn't necessarily a real woman named Medda Larkin, in the musical, she is based off of "The Queen of the Cakewalk," Aida Overton Walker. Aida was a singer, actor, dancer and choreographer. She was argued to be the most famous African American female performer at the turn of the century. She was known for bringing popularity to a dance known as the Cakewalk - the first dance to become popular with white audiences. Check out what the cakewalk looked like here: [CAKEWALK](#)

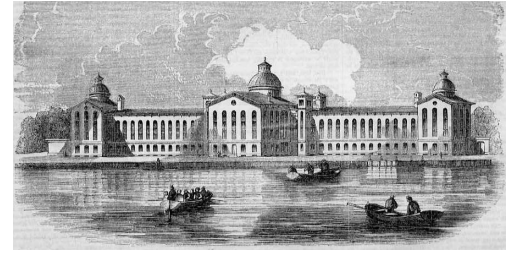


Theodore Roosevelt - Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th President of the United States. Unfortunately, as much as we wish Teddy Roosevelt was at the forefront of helping to end the newsboy strike, he was not.



The Refuge - The Refuge was, in fact, a real place. It was the first juvenile reformatory in the United States. It was privately-funded and actually looked at with acclaim by "French prison reformers [Gustave de Beaumont](#) and [Alexis de Tocqueville](#) in

1831, and writer [Charles Dickens](#), who described it approvingly in his 1842 *American Notes*. However, those who lived in The Refuge themselves felt very differently. A first hand account can be found in *The Life and the Adventures of a Haunted Convict*, written by Austin Reed. It is believed to be the earliest prison memoir written by an African American. Link to the book can be found here: [THE LIFE AND THE ADVENTURES OF A HAUNTED CONVICT](#)



What Do You Think?

Now that you've seen the show, what do you think about the newsies and their strike.

1. What surprised you most about how newsies lived from day to day?
2. Do you think you would have joined the strike as a newsie?
3. There's a lot of dancing in this show. Do you think it added to the storytelling? Why or why not?
4. While Davey and Les are the only biological brothers on stage, many of the newsies consider themselves family to one another. Which relationships stuck out most to you on stage? Which characters did you find were the closest to one another?
5. Katherine at first hides her true identity from Jack. Do you understand why she hid her real last name from him? How would you have handled the situation if you were Jack or Katherine? Would you have hidden your name if you were Katherine, or would you have felt betrayed if you were Jack?
6. Jack comes to a point where he feels Pulitzer is just too big to beat. Did you agree with the way Jack felt?
7. Do you think a fair compromise was reached between Pulitzer and the newsies? Do you feel one side got a better deal than the other?

Make Up a Headline

Just as the newsies say, “If I hate the headline
I’ll make up a headline.”

MATERIALS:

Index cards

Pencils

White board/smart board

This game is meant to spark creativity in your classroom. A play on words to help transform boring, not so eye catching headlines into show stopping, paper selling taglines to hook in your reader.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Take a boring headline from our list below.

Write the word on your smart board, white board, etc.

Students then have 1 minute to create a more intriguing headline.

Students write the headline on their note cards.

All note cards are turned in.

Each revised headline is read out loud.

A student or teacher can then pick the best headline revision.

The game can also be reversed and pick a riveting headline and re-write it so it doesn’t catch people’s attention.

Choose exciting headline ask the students to de-emphasize the headline.

BORING HEADLINES:

Newsies don’t want to sell papers

Price of papers increases

Deli owner likes the newsies

Women performs at her own theater

Children held overnight in dark building

Lady reporter reviews dancing shows

Jack Kelly paints pictures

Governor Roosevelt challenges Pulitzer

Snyder gathers children for refuge

3rd week of trolley strike

Brothers sell papers to help family

Newspaper sales low

Children working for low wages

Disabled child injured in fight about paper sales

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