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Local Teen Ensemble Announced for Starlight's Production of Disney's *Newsies*



*Starlight's Production of Disney's Newsies will play September 8 - 13
as part of the 2026 AdventHealth Broadway Series.*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Starlight is thrilled to announce the local teen ensemble cast for its upcoming production of Disney's *Newsies*. Out of hundreds of local students who auditioned, the musical's creative team chose 33 Kansas City-area high school students to join the professionals representing the 'Newsies' in the production. Disney's *Newsies* is produced by Starlight and directed and choreographed by David Grindrod, who has worked on titles including *A Chorus Line*, *CATS*, *South Pacific*, and *Beauty and the Beast* at venues across the country and around the globe.

"Kansas City continues to prove it is home to exceptional young musical theatre talent," Caroline Gibel, Executive Producer and Starlight's Director of Theatre, said. "The students cast in Disney's *Newsies* bring remarkable energy, athleticism, and heart to this production. We're thrilled for them to perform alongside professional artists on our stage and to inspire and develop the next generation of performers in our community."

Combined with the adult cast, Starlight's Production of Disney's *Newsies* will feature more than 50 'Newsies' dancing on stage. The teen ensemble represents the roles of Brooklyn, Woodside, and Richmond Newsies gangs, as well as the Scabs, and supports ensemble vocals when not dancing on stage.

In alphabetical order, the students cast in Starlight's production of Disney's *Newsies* are:

MORE

Louisa Bartlett, Shawnee Mission School District
David Bunnell, Liberty Public Schools
Deuce Chanos, The Barstow School
Bennett DaMetz, Shawnee Mission School District
Charlea Emison, Blue Springs R-IV School District
Corbin Gardner, Liberty Public Schools
Joaquin González Layton, Blue Valley Unified School District
Lyla Horwitz, Liberty Public Schools
Savion Jackson, Shawnee Mission School District
Dylan Johnson, Blue Valley Unified School District
Tatum McGinness-Wood, North Kansas City School District
Lainey McManamy, St. Teresa's Academy
Mae Murray, Independence School District
George Nessinger, Rockhurst High School
Sophia Payton, Park Hill School District
Ryan Peterson, Blue Valley Unified School District
Gage Pfannenstiel, Olathe Public Schools
Jack Polak, St. Thomas Aquinas High School
Luke Pyron, Unified School District #232 (De Soto)
Jonathan Raymond, Lawrence Public Schools
Rayna Reed, Park Hill School District
Wyatt Ricker, Blue Valley Unified School District
Santana Romero, Olathe Public Schools
Jared Romney, Blue Springs R-IV School District
Dane Schwartz, Shawnee Mission School District
Liam Smith, Olathe Public Schools
Quincy Stribling, The Barstow School
Ethan Suen, Blue Valley Unified School District
Izzy Taghizadeh, Blue Valley Unified School District
Charlie Tietjen, Pembroke Hill
Paolo Vitug, Liberty Public Schools
Harper Ward, Shawnee Mission School District
Keston Wimberly, Platte County School District

About Disney's *Newsies*:

Carry the banner with Disney's *Newsies*! 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!

Based on the 1992 motion picture and inspired by a true story, *Newsies* features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken (*Little Shop of Horrors*, *Sister Act*) and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein (*Kinky Boots*). Featuring the now classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "Santa Fe," *Newsies* is packed with non-stop thrills and a timeless message.

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This production of *Newsies* was licensed by Music Theatre International.

How to Purchase Tickets:

All tickets are on sale now and available online at kcstarlight.com, by calling (816) 363-7827, or by visiting the ticket office at 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City Mo., 64132. Evening performances of Starlight's production of Disney's *Newsies* will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, including show content advisories, please visit kcstarlight.com.

Discount prices for groups of 10 or more are available by contacting Starlight's group sales department at 816-997-1137 or groups@kcstarlight.com. Please note that kcstarlight.com is the only official ticket source for all shows in the 2026 AdventHealth Broadway Series. If you purchase tickets from another website or ticket broker, we cannot guarantee those tickets are legitimate.

About Starlight:

Opened as a theatre in 1950 and a nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight is the largest and oldest performing arts organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and connects our community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage audiences of all ages. Offering diverse programming year-round, Starlight presents Broadway musicals, concert events, and extensive community engagement programming, including arts access initiatives, scholarships, school partnerships, and one of the most well-regarded high school musical theatre award programs in the nation. Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, the historic, city-owned venue is the second-largest outdoor producing theatre in the country with almost 8,000 seats. Follow Starlight on social media @kcstarlight and visit kcstarlight.com for more information.

Starlight is supported in part by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

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