

**A MISSOURI BAPTIST
UNIVERSITY
THEATRE PRODUCTION**



Disney's

NEWSIES

THE MUSICAL

Presenting Sponsor: Don and Mary Pillsbury Wainwright

November 14-17

MBUTHEATRETIX.COM

MISSOURI BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

School of Performing Arts

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and

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for their generous donations to bring the world
of the Newsies to life on the MBU stage.

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Missouri Baptist
UNIVERSITY



SHINE ON

Missouri Baptist University
School of Performing Arts
&
Don and Mary Pillsbury Wainwright
present

Disney's
NEWSIES
THE MUSICAL

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Jack Feldman
Book by Harvey Fierstein

Based on the Disney Film written
By Bob Tzudiker and Noni White

Originally produced on Broadway by
Disney Theatrical Productions

Orchestrations by Danny Troob
Incidental Music & Vocal Arrangements by Michael Kosarin
Dance arrangements by Mark Hummel

NEWSIES is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance Materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

Please silence electronic devices that may distract your
fellow audience members during the performance.
Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
No food, drink or smoking is allowed in the Pillsbury Chapel.
The restrooms are located in the Mabee Great Hall just outside the auditorium.
Please see one of our ushers if you have any questions or special needs.
Enjoy the performance—we are glad you're here!

THE MBU THEATRE MISSION

MBU Theatre is a Christ-centered program that challenges our students to view their work through a Biblical vantage point. We believe that all truth is God's truth, and therefore all great and truthful works of theatre carry within them glimmers of God's redemptive plan.

Because of this foundation, we believe that storytelling through theatre is a calling worthy of intensive training. Graduates from our theatre program will have knowledge of theatre history; acting methods of Stanislavsky, Chekhov, Meisner, Strasburg, and many others; directing technique; and a variety of design areas. We purposefully want education to be broad, but deep - giving students the opportunity to thrive in a transient job market that requires theatre students to work in a variety of positions.

Additionally, we give students ample opportunity to practice these skills. We produce a full season of performances and learning opportunities every year, allowing our students to choose design, tech, or performance and tailor their education to their needs.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Dr. Keith Ross, Dr. Andy Chambers, Dr. Lydia Thebeau,
Dr. Jordan Cox, Oran Woodworth, Ashlee Johnson,
Julie Sullivan, MBU Public Safety,
MBU Communications Department,
University Communications, Special Events Staff,
Maria Majors, Elyn Collier,
Jung Kellogg Learning Center Staff

PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Director/Producer.....	Kasey Cox
Music Director.....	Michael Frazier
Choreographer.....	Chaz Wolcott
Asst. Director/Asst. Choreographer.....	Jenny Duncan
Stage Manager.....	William Launsby
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Claire Baur, Haley Clegg
Dance Captain.....	Emma Brandwein
Visual Artist/Charge Artist.....	Emily Kay Rice
Projection Animator.....	Chris Schloemp
Set Designer.....	Benjamin Grabill
Costume Designer.....	Andrea Robb
Lighting Designer.....	Nick Cook
Lighting Crew.....	Lexie Jackson,Samantha Reiner, Mia White
Props Designer.....	Katie Orr
Sound Designer.....	Hankyu Lee
Sound Assistants.....	Christian Cecil, Sarah Westbrook
Fight Director.....	John Wilson
Production Manager.....	Jason Stahr
Technical Director.....	Josh Hunt
Master Carpenter.....	William Launsby
Costume Assistant.....	Ashley Harris
Graphic Designer.....	Ruth Bratcher
Box Office.....	Kinsey McKibbin, Aubrey Girard

ORCHESTRA

Conductor.....	Michael Frazier
Violin.....	Fiona Brickey
Cello.....	Jake Brookman
Guitar.....	Steve Schenkel
Bass.....	Glen Smith
Reeds.....	Ben Reece
Trumpet.....	Jason Harris
Trombone.....	Kurt Silver
Percussion.....	Chris Treloar
Drums.....	Adam Kopff
Keyboard I.....	Sarah Walseth
Keyboard II.....	Pam Grooms/Jordan Cox

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In 1900, 1.75 million American children under the age of 15 worked, often for poverty-wages and in unsafe working conditions (census.gov). These children laundered and sewed clothes in their homes, made their living in slaughterhouses, and often were sent into machinery if there was a mechanical failure because they were small enough to fit where a grown man could not (Children of the City). And, of course, they hawked newspapers on the streets, one penny per page.

When Willian Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer refused to lower the price of papers after the Spanish-American War had ended, the newsboys began the largest child-led strike in history. Hundreds of newsboys refused to sell papers.

And they won.

Newsies is a high-energy, fun, joyful piece of musical theatre, but it is also a slice of history. It reminds us that when people, even children as young as five years old, band together for a common good their voices can overwhelm the most powerful people. It calls for us to "bring justice to the oppressed and poor (Proverbs 31:9)" and to "loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke (Isaiah 58:6-7)."

I hope that tonight you find this production cathartic and hope-bringing. I also hope that it inspires you to look for the injustices around you and side with the oppressed. And if you are a Christ-follower, I hope that it makes you look a little more like Jesus.

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**

Luke 4:16-21

A very special THANK YOU to all who sponsored our LED wall for Newsies!

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Don and Mary Pillsbury Wainwright

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We are grateful to those who financially support MBU Theatre and SOFA (Society of Fine Arts) at Missouri Baptist University.

The SOFA fund specifically benefits our music, worship, theatre and dance programs and makes a direct difference in the lives of those students.

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Melanie and Brian Bishop

Ernie Downs

Kristen Pelster

Bryanna and Joe Hartmann

Eliana Steele

Lydia and Mike Thebeau

Robyn and Kyle Wand

To financially support the students and mission of MBU Theatre, visit mobap.edu/give and designate your gift to "Society of Fine Arts".

CAST

Jack Kelly.....Nick Damon
Katherine Plumber.....Mattie White
Joseph Pulitzer.....David Blazer
Medda Larkin.....Ally Armstrong
Davey.....Dakota Davis
Les.....Lexie Dobson
Crutchie.....Gavin Nobbe
Race.....Ben Keller
Specs/Spot Conlon.....Andrea Reed
Splasher.....Taryn Johnson
Romeo.....Lincoln Hollinger
JoJo.....Peyton Altemeier
Albert.....Tyler Bugg
Mike.....Gia Danhoff
Tommy Boy.....Emma Brandwein
Buttons.....Jada Jacobs
Henry.....Joey Barker
Mush.....Shareon Brown
Elmer.....Sarah Nelson
Finch.....Maddie Cook
Ike.....Carissa Mitchell

Seitz.....Trey Griggs Bunsen.....Wesley Hahn
Snyder.....Dan Johnson Wiesel/Mayor.....Justin Bouckaert
Hannah.....Makenna Tilley Nunzio.....Gavin Acker
Oscar Delancey.....Gabe Maupin Morris Delancey.....Faron Horlacher
Scabs.....Abby Garrett, Aiden Shy Police/Goons.....Gavin Acker,
.....Caleb Gall

Mrs. Jacobi: Jamie G'Sell Darcy: Caleb Gall Bill: Gavin Acker
Teddy Roosevelt: Tim Callahan

Bowery Beauties: Maddie Cook, Sarah Nelson, Makenzie Pechnik

Medda's Stage Manager: Caleb Gall

Nuns: Jamie G'Sell, Abby Garrett, Saigel Mickan, Aiden Shy

Brooklyn Newsies

Andrea Reed, Caleb Gall, Faron Horlacher, Gabe Maupin, Tyler Bugg, Gavin Acker

Ensemble

Gavin Acker, Adelyn Bouckaert, Clare Clever, Nataleigh Daleen, Eliana Easter, Evie Easter, Caleb Gall, Abby Garrett, Mackenzie Gillham, Faron Horlacher, Naomi Griggs, Trey Griggs, Jamie G'Sell, Gabe Maupin, Saigel Mickan, Olivia Podner, Aiden Shy

Understudies

Jack u/s: Lincoln Hollinger, Katherine u/s: Makenzie Pechnik,
Medda u/s: Maddie Cook, Davey u/s: Joey Barker, Crutchie u/s: Peyton Altemeier,
Specs/Splasher/Mush u/s: Abby Garrett, Mike u/s: Saigel Mickan,
Albert u/s: Olivia Podner, Tommy Boy u/s: Clare Clever,
Race/Romeo u/s: Gabe Maupin, Bowery Beauty u/s: Jamie G'Sell, Saigel Mickan
Specs/Spasher/Ike/Tommy Boy/Buttons/Finch Swing: Jenny Duncan,
Mush/Albert/Mike/Jojo/Elmer/Henry Swing: Mackenzie Pechnik



A holiday tradition for the whole family!

**December 13-15, 2024
Missouri Baptist University**

mostLY Holidays, an interactive holiday celebration, features live music and dance performances by STLRC's professional ensembles, *mostLY TAP & mostLY JAZZ*, performances by Pre-Professional Program students, rhythm activities, caroling, and more!



Pre-show hot chocolate reception included.



Post-show Q&A and cast meet 'n greet.



Visits with special holiday guests!

Reception & Show Times:

Friday, December 13, 2024

Hot Chocolate Reception: 5:45-6:45pm
Production Begins: 7:00pm

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Hot Chocolate Reception: 5:45-6:45pm
Production Begins: 7:00pm

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Hot Chocolate Reception: 1:15-2:15pm
Production Begins: 2:30pm

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Hot Chocolate Reception: 1:15-2:15pm
Production Begins: 2:30pm



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THE SHOW & GET TICKETS!**
WWW.STLRHYTHMCOLLABORATIVE.ORG



SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE


Overture.....	Orchestra
Rooftop, Dawn	
Santa Fe (Prologue).....	Jack, Crutchie
Newsboys' Lodging House & Newsie Square	
Carrying the Banner.....	Jack, Newsies, Ensemble
Pulitzer's Office, Afternoon	
The Bottom Line.....	Pulitzer, Seitz, Bunsen, Hannah
A Street Corner	
Medda's Theater	
That's Rich.....	Medda
I Never Planned on You/Don't Come a-Knocking.....	Jack,
.....	Bowery Beauties
Newsie Square, Next Morning	
The World Will Know.....	Jack, Davey, Les, Newsies
Jacobi's Deli & Street, Afternoon	
The World Will Know (Reprise).....	Newsies
Katherine's Office	
Watch What Happens.....	Katherine
Newsie Square, Next Morning	
Seize the Day.....	Davey, Jack, Newsies
Rooftop	
Santa Fe.....	Jack



SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS



ACT TWO

Entr'acte.....	Orchestra
Jacobi's Deli, Next Morning	
King of New York.....	Davey, Katherine, Les, Newsies
The Refuge	
Letter from The Refuge.....	Crutchie
Medda's Theater	
Watch What Happens (Reprise).....	Davey, Jack, Katherine, Les
Pulitzer's Office & Cellar, Afternoon	
The Bottom Line (Reprise).....	Pulitzer, Seitz, Bunsen
Brooklyn Bridge & Medda's Theater	
Brooklyn's Here.....	Spot, Newsies
Rooftop, Night	
Something to Believe In.....	Katherine, Jack
Pulitzer's Cellar	
Seize the Day (Reprise).....	Newsies
Once and For All.....	Jack, Davey, Katherine, Newsies
Pulitzer's Office, Next Morning	
Seize the Day (Reprise).....	Newsies
Newsie Square	
Finale.....	Company



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Service Times

Sunday Mornings

9:00 Worship Gathering

10:15 Fellowship & Training Hour

Wednesday Evenings

6:45 Summit Club (Kids Ministry)

6:45 Anchored Hope Youth Group

7:00 Women's Bible Study

7:00 Men's Bible Study



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more about
SCBC!*



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

Gavin Acker (Nunzio, Bill, Police) is a junior in high school and is thrilled to be in Newsies! He has most of his theatre experience from Lighthouse Youth Theatre, his favorite roles there being Rudolph, Perchik (Fiddler on the Roof), Jojo (Seussical) and more! He would like to thank his parents for their love and support and his friends for encouraging him to audition!

Peyton Altemeier (JoJo) is a transfer student pursuing a BFA in musical theatre with a minor in dance. Some of her previous credits include Les Miserables (Eponine), Into the Woods (Little Red), The Lightning Thief (Annabeth), Newsies (Race), Be More Chill (Chloe), BIG (Susan), Urinetown (Hope), and Big Fish (Josephine). She is thrilled to be back on the MBU stage and to be a part of telling this story!



Have a great show, Peyton!
Love, Mom, Dad, Anna and Mylie

Ally Armstrong (Medda Larkin) is beyond thrilled to be in her senior season with MBU Theatre. Ally is majoring in theatre and minoring in music. Some of her previous roles include Fiddler on the Roof (Grandmother Tzeitel), Hairspray (Tracy Turnblad), Junie B. Jones The Musical (Chenille), The Crucible (Ruth Putnam), and 12 Angry Jurors (Juror #10). Ally is also a part of the Agency Improv Troupe, Chorale, and is the Vice President of Gamma Delta Sigma. She is proud to present her senior capstone, Eleemosynary, on December 7- follow MBU Theatre for more information! She hopes this show impacts the audience as much as it has impacted her personally. Now honey, that's rich!

Joey Barker (Henry) is in his fourth year at MBU, studying theatre and dance. Joey wishes to pursue choreography after completing his studies here at the university. This is Joey's seventh performance at MBU (Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Dancing in the Light 2022, Mary Poppins, All Is Calm, Dancing in the Light 2023, Fiddler on the Roof). He has also had the opportunity to help with the production team for several productions, including costume design for 12 Angry Jurors this spring. In spring 2022, Joey had the honor of competing with the Coed Cheer team for NAIA Nationals. In 2023, the Cheer team won the NCA Championship in Daytona, FL. Joey is beyond excited to help tell the story of Newsies and he hopes you enjoy the show!

Follow us on social media
for great photos, performance clips, and info!

INSTAGRAM: mbutheatre, mbuperformingarts, mbuanthem,
mbuchambersingers, mbu_theagencyimprov



TIKTOK: mobaptheatre



FACEBOOK: MBU Theatre,
Missouri Baptist University Choral Department

YOUTUBE: MBU School of Performing Arts



Peyton: Best of luck and
continued success with MBU Theatre!
Love PaPa

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

David Blazer (Joseph Pulitzer) worked for 15 years in Entertainment for Six Flags Theme Parks, where he was the Corporate Music Director and Director of Entertainment for Fiesta Texas, in San Antonio. He was last on the MBU stage when he played the Constable in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Other roles have included Carl Hanratty in *Catch Me if You Can*, Herbie in *Gypsy*, Mr. Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Dennis Dupree in *Rock Of Ages*, Mr Cladwell in *Urinetown*, Mr. Simmons in *Memphis* and Melvin P. Thorpe in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. He holds a B.A. in Music (Vocal) from MBU and Masters in HR from Ottawa University.

Adelyn Bouckaert (Ensemble) is excited to be doing her first show ever with MBU! Adelyn is a 5th grade student who participates in her school's R.E.A.C.H., character council, choir and art club. Adelyn also takes classes at Gateway Center of Performing Arts. Adelyn would like to thank her friends and family for their support.

Justin Bouckaert (Wiesel/Mayor) is excited to be making his MBU debut! Justin has performed in many shows over just the last two and a half years. Some of his favorite/recent roles include Freddy Eynsford-Hill for CMP's *My Fair Lady*, Moonface Martin for KTG's *Anything Goes* and Bobby in *Straydog's* performance of *Saturday night fever*. Justin is a teacher with the Jennings school district, husband and father of three wonderful children. One of whom is making her own debut in this performance!

Emma Brandwein (Tommy Boy/Dance Captain) is a senior at MBU, Majoring in Psychology with a Minor in Dance. She has previously performed with Missouri Ballet Theatre, STL Rhythm Collaborative, and Ballet 314. She has choreographed for Missouri Baptist University's *Dancing in the Light* Concert, Resilience Dance Company's *Seen: STL* event, and Ballet 5:8's *Summer Intensive*.

Shareon Brown (Mush) is a theatre major in her senior year at MBU. Her first production with us was *Fiddler on the Roof* as a featured dancer. She also appeared in *12 Angry Jurors (Juror #2)* and *Dancing in the Light* production. She feels so blessed for the opportunity to learn and share stories in the arts. Shareon's encouragement to all the freshman and students is "If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it." Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will later." John 13:7

Tyler Bugg (Albert) is thrilled to be playing Albert in this production of *Newsies* in his MBU debut! Tyler has been performing for about five years, most recently starring as Sweeney Todd at *Dayspring* and performing in *Waitress* and *In The Heights* at The Muny. He loves to perform and is so glad you came to watch him and his friends "Seize the Day!" @Tyler_The_Bugg | @tyler.bugg.official

Tim Callahan (Governor Roosevelt) is delighted to make his MBU debut. He has performed with St. Louis Shakespeare, Hawthorne Players, and Fly North Theatricals, among others. He is also a director at *Alfresco Productions* in Illinois, and a set designer at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center and Bluff City Theatre in Hannibal. He is also one of the founders of *Voices of Valhalla/Voices of Bellefontaine*, a historic reenactment project in its 14th year. Much love to his "first assist."

Broadway to the Bap Series



Chaz Wolcott, MBU Newsies
Choreographer
Newsies 1st National Tour and
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Tony Award Nominee, *Once on this Island*

Avi Asuleen
Director of off-Broadway Revival of
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Elyn Collier
Assistant Choreographer, Broadway
Remount of *In the Heights*

Newsies Broadway to the Bap Sponsors

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Broadway to the Bap is an initiative that seeks to bring Broadway professionals into production processes and master classes. This gives MBU Theatre and Dance students the opportunity to learn from the very best and to launch into the theatre profession with connections in the industry and confidence in their skills.

If you are interested in becoming a Broadway to the Bap sponsor for our November 2025 production of *White Christmas*, please contact kasey.cox@mobap.edu

**MBU Theatre is
pleased to announce their
2025-2026 season!**

Silent Sky

by Lauren Gunderson

White Christmas

Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin

Directed by Broadway artist Elyn Collier

Senior Theatre Capstones

The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical

Music and Lyrics by Rob Rokicki

King Lear

by William Shakespeare

Dance Concert

with company-in-residence

STL Rhythm Collaborative

BFA Student Showcase

Tickets for these productions
will go on sale Summer 2025 at
mbutheatretix.com

UPCOMING FREE PERFORMANCES
School of Performing Arts

School of Performing Arts
Christmas Concert
Friday, December 6, 2024
7:30 p.m.

MBU Chamber Singers with
Missouri Music Men Concert
Saturday, March 1, 2025
3:00 p.m.

MBU Opera Theatre Performances
April 4 & 5, 2025
7:30 p.m.

MBU Ringers & Band Concert
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
7:30 p.m.

MBU Choral Concert
Mozart's Requiem
Friday, April 25, 2025
7:30 p.m.





Maddie Marie:


To say we are proud of the woman and
artist you have become does not
cover how proud you make us.

We will always be your biggest fans!
Shine on! We love you to the moon and back!
Mom, Dad & Riley



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

Clare Clever (Ensemble) is a freshman at MBU, currently working toward her BM in Musical Theatre with a Minor in Dance. She is excited to be a part of her first MBU show and can't wait to see where God continues to lead her in life. She would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers, especially her mom and dad, for all their support!



Congratulations, Clare, on the jump
to college musicals! We are so excited to see you!
Love, Mom, Dad & Siblings

Maddie Cook (Finch/Bowery Beauty) is pursuing her last year at Missouri Baptist University, and is thrilled to participate in this production! Most recently, she has been Susanna Wallcott in *The Crucible*, the title role in *Mary Poppins*, and Yente in *Fiddler on the Roof*. She has also recently won an award for her performance as Grace Fryer in O'Fallon Theatre Works' production of *Radium Girls*. *Newsies* has been one of Maddie's dream shows since she began her interest in theatre. She is very grateful to all who have made this opportunity possible, and to share her passion with her friends and audiences! Mom, Dad, Memaw, and Riley I love y'all to the moon and back! Enjoy the show! <3 Thank you, David Blazer and famed director Kasey Cox.

Nick Cook (Lighting Designer) is a Production Designer currently based in Central Florida. A few of his favorite Missouri Baptist lighting credits include *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, and now *Newsies*. When he is not designing in the theater, he is a freelance production designer for corporate events and a house of worship production consultant. Nicholas is the Production Director for Bell Shoals Church in Brandon, Florida.

Kasey Cox (Director/Producer) is the Director of Theatre & Dance at MBU. She is a 2010 graduate of MBU with a degree in musical theatre and a 2014 graduate of Fontbonne University with a master of arts in theatre. She is currently completing a master of fine arts in directing. Kasey's directing credits include *The Crucible* (MBU), *Romeo and Juliet* (Acting Out!), *The Odd Couple: Female Version* (Act Two Theatre Company) and *Steel Magnolias* (Kirkwood Theatre Guild). Some of her favorite roles include Sally (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*), Rosie (*Bye Bye Birdie*) and Jo (*Little Women: The Musical*). She would like to thank her husband Jordan and kids, Noah, Jobi, Katy and Lawson, for keeping her house full of joy.

Nataleigh Daleen (nun/office worker/city kid) is a freshman Speech/theatre education major. Some of her favorite roles have been Mrs. Bennett (*Pride and Prejudice*), Ms. Paddy (*The Curious Savage*), and Pearl (*SpongeBob the Musical*). She is very excited to be part of her first MBU production and can't wait to see what the future holds for her. She wants to thank her parents and sister for always supporting her.

Nick Damon (Jack Kelly) is a Senior BFA Musical Theatre Major at MBU. Some of Nick's previous roles are Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Reverend Parris in *The Crucible*, Juror #3 in *12 Angry Jurors*, and George Banks in *Mary Poppins*. Nick would like to thank his family and friends for always supporting him, Famed Director Kasey Cox for everything that she does and of course a thank you to David Blazer. He hopes you enjoy the show!

CONGRATULATIONS NICK!

We are so proud of you, your accomplishments,
and your determination and perseverance.

Looking forward to watching what the
future holds for you!




Love.....Mom, Dad, Daniel & Lizzie

Gia Danhoff (Mike) is a sophomore BFA musical theatre student with a minor in dance. Some of Gia's favorite roles have been Rosencrantz in R&G Are Dead (MBU), Cinderella in Into The Woods (SCCC), Bottle Dancer in Fiddler on the Roof (MBU), and Anya in Anastasia (St. Dominic High School). Gia has had such a fantastic time rehearsing for this show and she hopes that you thoroughly enjoy the music, the dancing, and most of all- the story. She would like to thank her wonderful director Kasey Cox, her phenomenal choreographer Chaz Wolcott, and most of all, thank you to David Blazer.

Dakota Davis (Davey) is a freshman BFA in Musical Theatre Student at MBU. He's excited to be performing in his first show at MBU! He's also a part of MBU Chorale, Chamber Singers, and the Agency Improv group. Dakota wants to thank God for leading him to MBU, for from Him and through Him and in Him are all things, and to Him be glory forever. Amen.

Lexie Dobson (Les) is a competition dancer on the Dynamic Edge Dance Center team. This will be her 4th year competing and 6th year of technique dance classes. She's also taken piano lessons for 4 years and singing lessons for 1. She loves music and is excited to perform in her 1st musical!

Jenny Duncan (Assistant Director) is a graduate of MBU with a degree in Theatre and a minor in dance. Jenny made her professional acting debut as Yellow Girl in SHOUT! The Mod Musical The Paul Bunyan Playhouse and her professional dance debut with STL Rhythm Collaborative in Live At The Last Hotel. While at MBU Jenny played the roles of Hodel in Fiddler on the Roof, Elizabeth Proctor in The Crucible, Mrs. Banks in Mary Poppins, the title role in Eurydice, and Woman 2 in Songs for a New World. She also served as dance captain, assistant director, lighting designer and student choreographer. Jenny is thankful to Kasey Cox and MBU for all the amazing opportunities.

 To Evie and Eliana Easter: 
we love you and are so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad, and John 

Eliana Easter (Ensemble) is in fourth grade and excited to take part in her second musical. She was in MBU's Fiddler on the Roof. She loves going up to her dad's school for practice. Eliana enjoys writing stories about animals and playing with her dog. She has a heart for God and for serving his people.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

Evelyn Easter (Ensemble) is in 8th grade and excited to take part in her fourth musical at MoBap. She was in *The Music Man*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Evelyn loves theatre and reading. She enjoys youth group and hanging out with friends. Evelyn has a generous spirit and loves God's people.

Michael Frazier (Music Director) has been working as a musician in the St. Louis area for the past 30 years. As pianist, conductor, and music director he has worked on over countless musicals including *Les Miserables*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Spitfire Grill* (AFL winner for Best Music Direction), *The Music Man*, *Bye Bye Birdie* and many more. Michael has been music directing shows with MBU Theatre for over a decade, including *Mary Poppins*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Godspell*.

Caleb Gall (Darcy/Brooklyn Newsie/Medda's Stage Manager) is pleased to be appearing in *Newsies* with MBU Theatre! He is thankful for the friends and family who support him. Enjoy the show!

Abby Garrett (Scab/Nun/Ensemble) is a senior in high school and has been doing musical theater for 13 years. She is excited to be in her 4th MBU show. Some of her favorite roles have included Maria in *Sound of Music*, and Kathy in *Singing in the Rain*, and Katherine in *Newsies*. She would like to thank God for this wonderful opportunity and amazing production team.

Mackenzie Gillham (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her debut production with Missouri Baptist University. A freshman at MBU, Mackenzie has previously been involved in various productions, including *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Into the Woods*, among many others. In addition to her onstage work, she has gained valuable experience behind the scenes, contributing tech to productions such as *Seussical* and *Godspell*. Mackenzie would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to her family and friends for their unwavering support, as well as to Kasey Cox for providing her with this incredible opportunity. Joshua 1:9

Benjamin Grabill (Set Designer) is an Artist, Musician, Designer, and Entrepreneur. Currently serving as Technical Director and Resident Scenic Designer at the Wonder Theatre, in San Antonio, Texas, he has designed for a broad range of projects (stage and film) including feature films, pilots, music videos, musicals, operas, and plays. Back in 2012, while a student of Architecture, he first tried his hand at scenic design for a production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, starring Sharon Needles (Frank-N-Furter). The rest is history. Benjamin is truly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the wonderful people at MBU. Sincerely, it has been a blessing!

Naomi Griggs (City Child) is so honored to be performing in *Newsies* this year, her third production with the MBU Theater Department. Her theatrical credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* (Missouri Baptist University), *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe* (Living Water Academy), *Mary Poppins* (Missouri Baptist University), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Young People's Theater, SCCC), *The Ransom of Emily Jane* (Living Water Academy), *Mary Poppins* (Spotlight Productions, Rockwood), *Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Devine Performing Arts), as well as five musicals with the Fellowship of Wildwood's Music & Missions ministry. Naomi is a 9th grader at Living Water Academy, and in her free time she enjoys hanging out with friends, singing, dancing and swimming.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

Trey Griggs (Seitz/Ensemble) is a local entrepreneur enjoying his first production with the MBU theater company along with his daughter, Naomi, who is in her third MBU production singing background vocals for Newsies. He is an alumni of Missouri Baptist University and a member of the International Champion Mens Barbershop Chorus, the Ambassadors of Harmony, based in St. Charles, MO. As CEO of BETA Consulting Group, Trey helps businesses with their sales, marketing and branding, and in his spare time he loves to travel and play golf.

Jamie G'Sell (Mrs. Jacobi/Ensemble) is thrilled that she gets to go from her day job as a preschool teacher for one group of wild and rowdy kids to being here with yet another group of wild and rowdy kids– the Newsies! She is an alum of the Education and Theatre departments at MBU, where favorite past productions include Steel Magnolias (Annelle), The Diary of Anne Frank (Margot Frank), and The Taffetas (choreographer). Watching this production come together has been an incredible experience, truly a dream come true. Many thanks to her family and friends for being so encouraging, this incredibly talented cast and crew (break a leg!), and God. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

Wesley Hahn (Bunsen) is an MBU alum and is thrilled to be back performing at his alma mater! Thank you to everyone who made this incredible show possible.

Lincoln Hollinger (Romeo) is a sophomore in high school and is so excited to play Romeo in this production of Newsies. This is his favorite show and his 3rd time performing in Newsies. He has been doing theater for 10 years, and some of his favorite roles include: Jack Kelly in Newsies, Rolf in Sound of Music, Lord Farquard in Shrek, and Fred in Oklahoma through Lifelight Youth Theater and Wentzville Christian Church. He hopes you enjoy the show.

Faron Horlacher (Morris Delancey/Brooklyn Newsie) is a freshman, majoring in Musical Theatre. He is pleased to be in his first performance at MBU. Faron is also a member of Chamber Singers, Spirit Wing–Red Team and MBU Ringers.



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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

Jada Jacobs (Buttons) has been doing musical theater for 10 years and was a competition dancer for 14 years. She graduated from high school last year and plans to go to college in the fall of 2025 and major in Musical Theater and minor in Dance Choreography and Performance. Some of her favorite roles have been Mae Tuck in Tuck Everlasting, Millie Dillmount in Thoroughly Modern Millie, and Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz. This is her first MBU show and is very grateful for all the friends she has made while doing this show!!

Daniel Johnson (Snyder) returned to the stage 5 years ago after abandoning it for other pursuits after college. This is Daniel's second show with MBU. He played the role of Lazar Wolf in the 2023 MBU production of Fiddler on the Roof. He has been happily married to his wife, Karen for over 30 years and has 3 adult children and 1 grandchild. Daniel is thankful to the MBU Theatre family for their warm welcome and for allowing him a place to hone his skills as an actor.

Taryn Johnson (Splasher) is 20 years-old and come from Kansas City, Missouri. She is a Forensic Psychology major, as well as a STUNT athlete here at MBU. She is also the Vice President of ABC (Association of Black Collegiates). She loves reading, painting, singing and dancing in her free time. In high school, she was involved in the thespian society and in their productions of Newsies and Mary Poppins.

Ben Keller (Race) is beyond thrilled to be performing in his first show at MBU! A Junior in high school, Ben has been performing on various stages since 2015. His favorite roles from his time at Lifelight Youth Theatre include Georg von Trapp in The Sound of Music, Gaston in Beauty and the Beast, Don Lockwood in Singin' in the Rain, and Motel in Fiddler on the Roof. His directing credits include Matilda Jr. and he looks forward to directing High School Musical Jr. at Wentzville Christian Church. Ben wants to thank his family for all their love and support!

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

William Launsby (Stage Manager/Master Carpenter) is excited to return to his alma mater ('23) to tell another story. He would like to thank the Lord for the talents and gifts he has been blessed with, as well as the cast and crew for their wonderful work. Some of his recent technical credits include: Electrician/Spot Op at STAGES (*Ragtime*), Production Team at *Evolution Fest*, Stage Manager at *Grove Fest*, Lighting Designer at St. Louis Rhythm Collaborative (*Live at the Last Hotel & MoSTLy Holidays*), and Electrician at *Music Theatre Wichita*. See more at: IG @willlaunsby & www.WilliamLaunsby.com

Hankyu Lee (Sound Designer) is joining MBU Theatre for a second season. He studied sound design at Sangmyung University and the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and served as a sound designer/engineer for the Arts Council Korea and taught sound design at Southeast Missouri State University.

Gabriel Maupin (Oscar Delancey) is thrilled to return to this Newsies with MBU! Gabriel majored in musical theater and now works in and around St. Louis in stage and film. Past productions include *The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), *Aladdin* (Aladdin), *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Clopin), and most recently in *Pippin* (Lewis). Every story needs good villains and Gabriel relishes the chance to incur your ire! He would like to thank his parents for their support, the cast and crew for their talent and passion but above all praises God for His many gifts.

Saigel Mickan (Nun/Ensemble) is excited to be performing on the MBU stage for the first time! Saigel is a Freshman BFA musical theater student at MBU. She has been involved in many productions through local community theaters and at her high school. Some of her favorites have been *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Miss Dorothy), *Frozen* (Anna), and *Seussical* (Gertrude). She would like to thank her mom, dad, and brother for always supporting her and encouraging her to pursue what she loves!

Carissa!

Once and for all you're a
Newsie of New York!
Stare down the odds and
seize the day!
Strike Strike Strike!
Break a Leg!

Dance with
all your might
and praise the Lord!
(2 Samuel 6:14,
Psalm 150:4)



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

Carissa Mitchell (Ike) a high school Senior at Westminster Christian Academy, is delighted to perform in her first MBU production! Her recent roles include featured dancer and dance captain in *The Music Man* at WCA, Helena in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* at WCA, and Shenzi in *The Lion King Jr.* at COCA. She would also like to thank all those who have tirelessly worked to make this production possible. Finally, she hopes you enjoy the show and leave feeling just like *The King of New York!*

Sarah Nelson (Elmer, Bowery Beauty) is a sophomore BFA in Musical Theatre. Some of her favorite roles have been Queen Gertrude (Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead), Dorothy (*The Wizard of Oz*), and Ariel (*The Little Mermaid*). She is so excited to be a part of such an incredible cast. She hopes this story will resonate with audiences and is thankful for her wonderful family and friends who continue to support her always.

Gavin Nobble (Crutchie) is very excited to join the cast of *Newsie's* as Crutchie. Gavin is 14 years old and a 9th Grader at Fort Zumwalt North High School. Gavin has performed in many shows over the years throughout St. Louis. Most recently he was seen on the Muny stage in *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Les Miserables*. Some of Gavin's favorite roles have been the Little Boy/Edgar in *Ragtime* (Union Avenue Opera), Peter Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* (The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), and Little Josh in *Big, The Musical* (Stages Performing Arts). Gavin is also part of The Muny Kids Troupe and has performed on The Muny mainstage the last 4 summers. When not performing Gavin studies Voice with Dr. Jeffrey Carter & Dance with Ms. Natalie at Rokita Dance Studio. He would like to thank MBU Theatre for allowing him to be part of this amazing cast and his Mom, Dad and sister for always supporting what he loves to do.



**Break a leg, Gavin!
We are so proud of you!
Your hard work, dedication,
and talent shine bright on
stage. Watching you bring
Crutchie to life is a joy,
and we know you'll
captivate the audience with
your performance.
Keep chasing your
dreams and know that we are
cheering you on
every step of the way!
Love always,
Mom, Dad and Shayna**

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

Katie Orr (Props Designer) is a designer, painter, theatre-marketing aficionado, and graduate from Stephens College. As a theatre advocate and native St. Louisan, it's her passion to highlight local theatre. There are so many incredible unsung companies, and that is why she stays in STL-to further her mission as a committed designer, artist, and advocate in the St. Louis community. Some design credits include: Into the Woods (New Jewish Theatre Company), Eddie & Vinnie (Metro Theatre Company), Proof (Moonstone Theater Company), Forgottonia (Fly North Theatricals), 12 Angry Jurors (Missouri Baptist University). www.katiemicorr.com

Makenzie Pechnik (Bowery Beauty) is currently in her second year at MBU pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. Since arriving, she has played Tzeitel in Fiddler on the Roof as well as participated in both Dancing in the Light and the BFA Cabaret. Before she arrived at MBU, Makenzie had performed in Into the Woods (Baker's Wife), Legally Blonde (Vivienne), and The Drowsy Chaperone (Janet). She would like to thank her mom, dad, Delaney, and Todd for always believing in her, and would also like to thank director Kasey Cox and choreographer Chaz Wolcott for their hard work and dedication. And, most importantly, she would like to give a HUGE thank you to David Blazer!

Olivia Podner (Ensemble, Albert u/s) is a junior theatre major. Olivia has played Juror #5 in 12 Angry Jurors, Ambassador/Tragedian in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Betty Parris in The Crucible, and ensemble in Mary Poppins and The Tempest. She is also a member of drama troupe In Character. Olivia is excited to see what comes next for her as she continues here at MBU!

Andrea Reed (Specs/Spot Conlon) is a Senior at MBU, obtaining her BA in Speech/Theatre. Previous roles include Val in A Chorus Line, Guildenstern in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Juror #7 from 12 Angry Jurors and a medley of roles for featured dance. She would like to thank her parents, friends and production team for their endless support and encouragement.

Emily Kay Rice (Visual Artist/Charge Artist) is an abstract artist from St. Louis as well as an MBU Theatre Alumni. She has been working as an illustrator in her professional practice over the last 10 years and is excited to have blended her passions of visual art and stage by illustrating the background imagery for this production of Newsies. After graduating in 2017, Emily continued working with the MBU theatre department as a set designer and artistic collaborator on several productions such as Into the Woods, Peter and the Starcatcher, The Music Man, Big Fish, The Crucible, and Fiddler on the Roof. She continues to work professionally as an artist, illustrator, and graphic designer outside of MBU but enjoys coming back to collaborate on these lightning-in-a-bottle show experiences led by Kasey Cox. www.emilykayriceartwork.com

Andrea Robb (Costume Designer) is an alumna of Missouri Baptist University with a B.A. in Psychology and a B.A. in Theatre, and of Fontbonne University where she graduated with her M.A. in Theatre. Melding her two educational backgrounds, Robb specializes in Performance Psychology and is currently pursuing her PhD in this subject at Grand Canyon University. Andrea is an instructor of theatre at MBU and regularly works behind the scenes as a costumer, director, and as a freelance artist in the Greater St. Louis Area. With extensive background in costume construction and design, she has earned high praise from local outlets like Ladue News, STL Today, and the Riverfront Times. Recent works include The Crucible (MBU) and SpongeBob the Musical (GCPA). As always, Andrea is thrilled to be a part of the magic of MBU Theatre!



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Chris Schloemp (Projection Animator) holds an MFA in Theatre Arts from the University of Idaho and a BA in Dramatic Art and English from the University of California at Santa Barbara. His work in projection design has appeared on stages all over Northern California, and has been nominated by the San Francisco Bay Area Critics Circle for excellence in projection design. His projections for the U of Idaho production of *Amelie* were recognized for Meritorious Achievement by the KCACTF, Region 7, in 2024. When he is not designing or performing himself, he is the Theatre Program Director at Montgomery High School in Santa Rosa, California.

Aiden Shy (Scab/Nuns) is honored to be a part of Newsies, her first show with MBU. Aiden is a senior in highschool. She is so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful cast. She is so grateful for this experience. Aiden has performed many shows with Lighthouse Youth Theater and has been a specialty dancer at Take 3 Christian Theater for multiple years. Some of her favorite roles have been Bunsen in Newsies and a White Stag dancer in Narnia. Aiden wants to thank MBU for allowing her to be a part of this amazing show.

Jason Stahr (Production Manager) has been working in professional theater for nearly forty years. He has worked with such local companies as St. Louis Shakespeare, Mid-America Theater, and Hot City Theatre. He is the Director of Stage Services for the Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL, and an adjunct instructor in Theatre at MBU. Jason is thankful to Kasey Cox and the MBU Theatre Department, and is most appreciative of the encouragement and support from his family.

Makenna Tilley (Hannah) is a junior speech/theatre education major. She was last seen on the MBU Theatre stage in the immersive spring production of 12 Angry Jurors. She would like to thank her family for all their support as well as Kasey Cox and for giving her this opportunity. Lastly, she would like to thank this amazing cast and designers for making this show such a blessing! Luke 1:45

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

Mattie White (Katherine Plumber) is in her second year at MBU pursuing a BFA in Musical Theater. She has appeared in the ensemble of *Fiddler on the Roof* (2023) and as Juror #6 in *12 Angry Jurors* (2024). She is also a member of Chorale and Chamber Singers. Prior to MBU, Mattie performed in *The Sound of Music* (Maria Rainer), *Little Women* (Marmee), *Big Fish* (Sandra), *The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), *Spongebob the Musical* (Pearl Krabs), and *Emma Woodhouse* (Emma). Mattie thanks her friends and family for pushing her to be her best, her teachers for giving her the tools she needs to succeed, and finally, thank you David Blazer.

John Wilson (Fight Director) is a theatre professional and 22-year veteran in higher ed, having served as the Chair of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at University of Central Missouri. He has taught courses in acting, directing, playwriting, theatre history and stage movement. He currently serves as the Director of Cultural Arts at the Jewish Community Center of St. Louis.

Chaz Wolcott (Choreographer) is ecstatic to return to Newsies Square! Chaz appeared on the First National Tour of Disney's *Newsies* for 2 years and over 750 performances, he was featured in the filmed version, *Newsies The Broadway Musical* as Buttons, he played Race at Arena Stage in Washington D.C., and he has directed and/or choreographed the show 7 times! The original movie was a huge source of inspiration for Chaz in his childhood, and it's truly magical to be able to help pass the torch to the next generation of ragamuffins. Director/Choreographer credits: Broadway - Red Bucket Follies, Broadway Backwards, and Gypsy of the Year, Regional - MT Wichita, The Gateway, 3D Theatricals, Short North Stage, Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, Millbrook Playhouse, Woodstock Playhouse, and Interlakes Theatre. Chaz is a Professor of Dance and Musical Theatre at Pace University in New York City, and serves on faculty at Broadway Dance Center and Steps on Broadway. He holds an MFA in Theatre from the University of Idaho, and earned his BFA in Dance from Oklahoma City University. Chaz is thankful to join forces with Kasey and the MBU team on this strike. Thank YOU for joining us. *Newsies* Forever! For more, visit chazwolcott.com



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