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# Casting Announced for Disney's NEWSIES

**Broadway's Tony® Award-Winning Smash Musical** 

Fort Lauderdale's Limited Premiere Engagement Plays Tuesday, November 17 to Sunday, November 29 at The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Fort Lauderdale, FI – October 23, 2015 - Casting has been announced for the Fort Lauderdale engagement of **DISNEY'S NEWSIES**. The Tony® Award-winning production will begin performances at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, November 17 for a limited engagement through Sunday, November 29, 2015.

The production features **Joey Barreiro** as "Jack Kelly", **Steve Blanchard** as "Joseph Pulitzer", **Morgan Keene** as "Katherine", **Aisha de Haas** as "Medda Larkin", **Stephen Michael Langton** as "Davey", **Zachary Sayle** as "Crutchie", and **John Michael Pitera** and **Ethan Steiner** alternating the role of "Les."

Rounding out the cast are Josh Assor, Evan Autio, Bill Bateman, Josh Burrage, Kevin Carolan, Benjamin Cook, DeMarius Copes, Nico DeJesus, JP Ferreri, Sky Flaherty, Kaitlyn Frank, Michael Gorman, David Guzman, Jeff Heimbrock, Stephen Hernandez, Meredith Inglesby, James Judy, Eric Scott Kincaid, Eric Jon Mahlum, Nicholas Masson, Alex Prakken, Michael Ryan, Jordan Samuels, Melissa Steadman Hart, Andrew Wilson and Chaz Wolcott.

In Fort Lauderdale, *NEWSIES* will play Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8:00p.m. and Sunday evenings at 6:30p.m. Saturday matinees at 2:00p.m., Wednesday, November 25 at 2:00pm and Sunday matinees at 1:00p.m.. Tickets are available at the **Broward Center AutoNation Box Office**, 201 SW Fifth Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 33312, visit <a href="www.browardcenter.org">www.browardcenter.org</a> or call **954.462.0222.** Orders for groups of ten (10) or more may be placed by calling **954.660.6307.** 

Ticket buyers are reminded that the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and Ticketmaster are the only official retail ticket outlets for all performances at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Ticket buyers who purchase tickets from a ticket broker or any third party should be aware that the Broward Center for the Performing Arts is unable to reprint or replace lost or stolen tickets and is unable to contact patrons with information regarding time changes or other pertinent updates regarding the performance.

### **ABOUT NEWSIES**

**NEWSIES**, the new American musical, features a Tony® Award-winning score with music by eight-time Academy Award® winner Alan Menken and lyrics by Jack Feldman, a book by four-time Tony® Award winner Harvey Fierstein and is produced by Disney Theatrical Productions, **NEWSIES** is directed by Tony® nominee Jeff Calhoun and choreographed by Christopher Gattelli, who won a 2012 Tony Award® for his work. The entire creative team has reunited to bring the break-out smash musical to audiences across North America.

When it opened on March 29, 2012 **NEWSIES** was intended for a Broadway run of just 101 performances. The show's fiercely devoted fans had other ideas, however; they propelled the show to a run of 1005 performances, attendance of more than 1 million and a gross of over \$100M.

While on Broadway, **NEWSIES** set and broke seven Nederlander Theatre house records and became the highest-grossing show from the 2011-12 Broadway season. The show received 23 major theatrical nominations – including eight Tony Award® nods – and won Tony®, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Score and Choreography.

Set in New York City at the turn of the century, **NEWSIES** is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a ragged band of teenaged 'newsies,' who dreams only of a better life far from the hardship of the streets. But when publishing titans Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack finds a cause to fight for and rallies newsies from across the city to strike for what's right.

**NEWSIES** is inspired by the real-life 'Newsboy Strike of 1899,' when newsboy Kid Blink led a band of orphan and runaway newsies on a two-week-long action against Pulitzer, Hearst and other powerful newspaper publishers.

The stage version introduces seven brand-new songs by the original team of Menken and Feldman, including a song written specifically for the tour called 'Letter from the Refuge,' while keeping many of the beloved songs from the film, including 'Carrying the Banner, 'Seize the Day,' 'King of New York' and 'Santa Fe.'

Since the film's 1992 theatrical release and subsequent DVD release, **NEWSIES** has grown into a cult phenomenon, and for years had been the single most requested title of all the Disney musical films not yet adapted for the stage. (The film featured a screenplay by Bob Tzudiker & Noni White (*Tarzan, 102 Dalmatians*).)

For more information, visit NewsiesTheMusical.com, Facebook.com/Newsies and Twitter.com/Newsies.

The Fort Lauderdale engagement of **NEWSIES** is presented by arrangement with Broadway Across America, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and Florida Theatrical Association and is a subscription offering of the Bank of America Broadway in Fort Lauderdale 2015-2016 Series.

The current schedule is listed below.

Tuesdays: 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays\*: 8:00 p.m. Thursdays: 8:00 p.m. Fridays: 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. Sundays\*\*: 1:00 and 6:30 p.m.

\*There will be a special 2:00 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, November 25

\*\*There will not be a 6:30 p.m. performance on Sunday, November 29.

Calendar Listing

Disney's NEWSIES

November 17 – 29, 2015

"An irresistible, high energy winner...a surprise sensation!" – Entertainment Weekly

They delivered the papers, until they made the headlines... Direct from Broadway comes **NEWSIES**, the smash-hit, crowd-pleasing new musical from Disney. Winner of the 2012 Tony Awards® for Best Score and Best Choreography, **Disney's NEWSIES** has audiences and critics alike calling it "A musical worth singing about!" (*The New York Times*). Filled with one heart-pounding number after another, it's a high-energy explosion of song and dance you just don't want to miss. Based on true events, **Disney's NEWSIES** tells the captivating story of a band of underdogs who become unlikely heroes when they stand up to the most powerful men in New York. It's a rousing tale about fighting for what's right...and staying true to who you are.

**Disney's NEWSIES** was brought to the stage by an award-winning creative team. It features a score by Alan Menken (*Beauty and the Beast*) and Jack Feldman (*The Lion King II: Simba's Pride*); and a book by Harvey Fierstein (*La Cage Aux Folles*); with choreography by Christopher Gattelli (*South Pacific*); and direction by Jeff Calhoun (*Big River*). Now is the time to seize the day with NEWSIES, playing November 17 – 29, 2015 at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

\*Tickets start at \$35

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts** 

201 SW Fifth Avenue, Ft Lauderdale, FL, 33312

For tickets visit **Browardcenter.org**; by phone 954.462.0222

\*All programs, artists, ticket prices, availability, dates and times are subject to change without notice. Additional fees may apply. Visit <u>Browardcenter.org</u> for upto-date information, details and performances.

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## THE BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is one of America's premier performing arts venues, consistently ranked among the top ten in the country. Presenting more than 700 performances each year to more than 700,000 patrons, the Center showcases a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events, and offers one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, serving more than 150,000 students annually. In 2007, the Broward Center was named the Cultural Embassy of Broward County in recognition of its success in linking cultural activity with the region's economic development.

The Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. receives and maintains funds to sustain, develop, and secure the future of the Broward Center. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit BrowardCenter.org.

### **About Broadway Across America**:

**BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA** is part of the Key Brand Entertainment family of companies, which includes <u>Broadway.com</u>, under the supervision of John Gore (Owner & CEO). BAA is the foremost presenter of first-class touring productions in North America, operating in 38 markets. Current and past productions include *On Your Feet, View from the Bridge, Beautiful, Finding Neverland, Million Dollar Quartet, Hairspray* and *The Producers*. <u>BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com</u>; <u>Broadway.com</u>

**Florida Theatrical Association** – the non-profit presenter of Broadway in Orlando, Fort Lauderdale and Miami – was founded with the charge of educating and developing new theater audiences and encouraging and preserving the presentation of touring Broadway theater. Since 1989 Florida Theatrical Association has presented over 1,000 Broadway performances and distributed over \$1.5 million in scholarships and grants to arts organizations across the state of Florida.

## **BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY**

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, Bank of America is delivering on a 10-year goal to donate \$2 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation gave more than \$200 million in 2010, making the bank one of the largest corporate cash donors in the United States. As a global company serving clients through operations in more than 40 countries, Bank of America approaches investing through a national strategy under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Reaffirming a commitment to develop and sustain a culture of service, bank associate volunteers contributed more than one million hours in 2010 to enhance the quality of life in their communities worldwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit Bankofamerica.com/foundation.