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NEWSIES

The Musical

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

Robert Cottle, Director

Victoria Glover, Stage Manager

Kellye Watts, Music Director

Elizabeth McCooey & Nichole Deal, Choreographers

Robert Faller, Technical Director

Clint Tootle, Co-Technical Director

Dionna Williams, Marketing Director

Danielle Adams, Photographer

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

Based on the Disney Film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White Originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions

Newsies is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com





CHARACTERS

Jack Kelly

Eric Mims

Newsies

Shanna Haselton John Wesley Keene

John Wesley Ke

Ally Keene

Shelby Croft

Ella Sobaje

Sosi Sobaje

Benjamin Sobaje Maddie Herman

Thom Mortimore

Thomas Smith

Charlotte Bridges

Christopher Fowler

Caroline Sawhill

Anna Grace Rollins

Stephen Thomas

Hannah Holton Claire Davidson

Katherine Plumber

Ashley Horton

Cruthchie

Jarron Guy

Davey

Brandon Adams

Les

Lola Schwarz

Pulitzer

Alan Tyson

Medda

Christie McLendon

Spot Conlon

Macy Norton

Snyder

Mike McLendon

Hannah/Bowery Beauty/Nun

Abigail McMichen

Nun/Woman/Bowery Beauty

Nichole Deal

Wiesel/Stage Manager/Mr.

Jacobi/Mayor

Stan Haselton

Seitz

John Oglesby

Bunsen

John Parcels

Oscar Delancey

Benjamin Stansel

Morris Delancey

Gage Landing

Nunzio/Guard/Policeman/

Roosevelt

Brooks Adams



Eric Mims (Jack Kelly) is a Communication Studies Major at Georgia Southern University. This is his second time being a part of a production at the Averitt, following his debut as "Baker" in Into the Woods. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their kindness, patience, and dedication throughout this process as well as YOU for supporting the arts during such difficult times.



Shanna Haselton (Newsie) has acted at the Averitt for 9 years and has enjoyed every moment, starting out playing an orphan in Annie in 2012 to now, playing an orphaned newsboy with a cigar. Her favorite performances range from "The Fox" in The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, "Andromache" in The Trojan Women, "Duffy" in Annie in 2019, and "Shere Khan" in The Jungle Book. She has been excited to be a part of this show since August of last year and has loved every minute of it, and hopes that you do too.



John Wesley Keene (Newsie) is a homeschooled seventh grade. He likes Star Wars, Grogu, and chicken nuggets. He has been in two Averitt Center productions, his favorite being Mary Poppins which he starred as "Michael Banks". He wishes that everyone would enjoy the show. Also, feel free to let him know of any good fishing spots afterwards (he won't plan on revealing any of his secret fishing spots, but he will gladly discuss different baits with you).



Ally Keene (*Newsie*) is a homeschooled high school sophomore. Her favorite pastimes include writing essays and stories, spending time with her favorite people, studying, and people watching. Her favorite person is Jesus and if she had to choose a favorite flavor of M&M would be blue or red. *Newsies* is her sixth play with the Averitt Center. She is delighted to be a part of the *Newsies* cast with her little brother and hasn't the slightest notion of what an erster (orster? arster?) is.



Shelby Croft (Newsie) is a sixth grader at Pinewood Christian Academy. In her free time, she loves to dance, sing, read, write, play with her dog Toby, and bake. She danced in the Cinderella ballet and recently competed in her first solo dance competition. Newsies is her first show ever. She is so thankful for this opportunity and very excited to carry the banner with the rest of her union!



Ella Sobaje (Newsie) is a second grade homeschooler. Newsies is her third show at the Averitt Center, and she has performed in one other at Statesboro High. Some things she likes to do are horseback riding and playing with her friends. She is glad to be in this amazing show.



Sosi Sobaje (Newsie) is a seventh grade homeschooler who has had a passion for the stage ever since she was six when she made her debut as "Little Alice" in Alice in Wonderland. Some of her other hobbies are reading, writing, daydreaming, and having crazy adventures with her friends. Newsies is her fifth performance with the Averitt, and she is beyond thrilled to be a part of such an amazing cast.



Benjamin Sobaje (Newsie) is a fifth grade homeschooler. Newsies is his third play with the Averitt Center and he is having a great time at the rehearsals. In his free time, he enjoys playing sports and playing with his friends. He hopes you enjoy the show as much as he does!



Maddie Herrmann (Newsie) is an eighth grader at Bulloch Academy. She loves performing on stage whether it be acting, singing, or playing her guitar. She spends most of her time either reading, writing, or hanging out with her friends. She is also on the Bulloch Academy Soccer, Archery, and Cross Country teams. Maddie also played an orphan in *Annie* in 2019. She sincerely hopes you enjoy the show!



Thom Mortimore (Newsie) is a ninth grader at Southeast Bulloch High School. He has performed in shows at the Averitt Center including The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow, Dracula Jr., and Beauty and the Beast. He has also participated in many shows with Statesboro High's drama program. He has enjoyed being in Newsies and hopes you enjoy the show.



Thomas Smith (Newsie) is a fifth grader at Trinity Christian School. Newsies is his first time on stage. He loves reading, swimming, and spending time with his cousins. His favorite book of the Bible is Psalms and his favorite color is blue.



Charlotte Bridges (*Newsie*) is so excited to be a part of *Newsies* this year! She worked hard as "Middle Elsa" in the *Frozen* production that was canceled, so this opportunity means the world to her. Charlotte is full of life and is definately at home on the stage. She is spunky and spontaneous and loves baking...especially stuff with a lot of sugar.



Christopher Fowler (Newsie) is an energetic, happy young man and is currently in the fourth grade at Brooklet Elementary School. Christopher is the youngest of four and loves driving his sisters crazy. Althought this is his first foray into the musical arts and drama, he hopes it won't be his last. In addition to being a big soccer fan, he is looking forward to playing football in the fall.















Caroline Sawhill (Newsie) is excited to play "Specs" in her first Averitt Center production. She is no newcomer to the stage, having starred in The Three Piggy Opera, A Christmas Carol, Click Clack Moo, and numerous church performances and solos in Atlanta, Georgia before moving to Statesboro. Caroline attends Bulloch Academy and is in the 6th grade. In addition to drama, she enjoys singing, tennis, horseback riding, and reading.

Anna Grace Rollins (Newsie) is happy to be back on the Emma Kelly Theater stage! She is in the fourth grade at Trinity Christian School. Besides her love for performing, she enjoys video games, reading, and taking care of her hamster. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Claire Davidson (Newsie) is sixteen years old and currently lives in Reidsville, Georgia, where she attends school as a junior at Tattnall County High School. She played the first in a third-part chorus role in a competitive production of Antigone Now, a contemporary interpretation of Antigone that ranked second of four in a regional one-act play event earlier this year. She has also been cast as "Shenzi" in the upcoming Tattnall County High School production of The Lion King, scheduled for May 2021. Newsies marks her Averitt debut. She wishes to thank her mother for endless rides to and from Statesboro, as well as her grandparents for providing pieces of clothing for the show; all these relatives have been her biggest supporters.

Ashley Horton (Katherine Plumber) is thrilled to return to the Emma Kelly Theater stage. Ashley moved from New York to Statesboro to practice law, but she has always had a passion for theater. She has been performing in shows since she was fourteen. Ashley made her Averitt debut last fall in Into the Woods and feels blessed to be part of another amazing show with a terrific cast and fantastic directors. She is grateful for the opportunity she has been given and hope to be a part of many future Averitt Center productions.

Jarron Guy (*Cruthchie*) is a 21 year old student at SCAD pursuing a career in acting for Film and TV/Theater. He recently had his Averitt debut in last fall's production of *Into the Woods*. He hopes you enjoy this amazing show!

Brandon Adams (*Davey*) is a freshman at Georgia Southern University, who's been involved in various theater productions over the years. He began acting during his time at Statesboro High School, playing such roles as "Doctor Cukrowicz" in Tennessee Williams' *Suddenly, Last Summer* (2018), "Scar" in *The Lion King* (2019), and "Ebeneezer Scrooge" in Scrooge: *The Musical* (2019). This will be his third show at the Averitt Center and is by far his favorite role to date. And in case you're wondering, yes he does smell like powder.

Lola Schwarz (Les) is thrilled to play "Les" in Newsies. She turns 10 on the Saturday performance of the show and there is no way she'd rather spend her birthday that on the stage! Lola is a fourth-grade homeschooler. She has performed in many shows in Statesboro including The Lion King, Annie, The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, and Charlotte's Web. She wishes to thank Mr. Cottle and the Averitt Center for the Arts for these amazing opportunities. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Alan Tyson (Pulitzer) is a Statesboro native, who got his start on the stage in the early 1990s, playing "Fezewig" in Christmas Carol. Since that time, he has appeared in numerous productions both at Georgia Southern and the Emma Kelly Theater. Some of his favorite roles include "Boolie" in Driving Miss Daisy, "Lt. Billis" in South Pacific, "Captain Keller" in Miracle Worker, and "Big Daddy" in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. He would like to thank Robert for asking him to be a part of this awesome cast! As always, he thanks his wonderful wife, Debbie, for her willingness to let him continue enjoying his love of the theater! Hope ya'll enjoy the show!



Christie McLendon (Medda) loves performing and being on stage. Some of her favorite roles with the Averitt include "Miss Adelaide" in Guys and Dolls, "Louise" in Always, Patsy Cline, "Florence" in the female Odd Couple and "Cindy Lou" in The Marvelous Wonderettes. She also portrays characters from The Andy Griffith Show in theaters and annually on a 5-day carnival cruise "A Cruise to Mayberry" and will be featured in the upcoming movie Mayberry Man. She and husband, Mike, reside in Metter.



Macy Norton (Spot Conlon) has loved theater ever since she first discovered the art. She is a recent graduate of Georgia Southern and is exuberant with glee at returning to the stage. By day, she is an elementary school teacher and by night, she's the rough and tough leader of the Brooklyn Newsies. This is the first of many shows that she will be a part of, so stay on the look out for this Statesboro star.



Mike McLendon (Snyder) never knew he had a love of musical theater but here he is, in his second performance at the Averitt, killing it. He would pretty much do anything Christie asks with a smile. Look out Broadway, here he comes!



Abigail McMichen (Hannah/Bowery Beauty/Nun) is very excited to be in her second production at the Averitt Center for the Arts. She is a sophomore studying Music Education at Georgia Southern University. She dreams of becoming a middle or high school chorus teacher. She is also currently preparing one-act operas for radio with Georgia Southern Opera. Abby would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support, and the directors for giving her the opportunity to perform this amazing show.



Stephen Thomas (Newsie) is a senior Math and Physics student at Georgia Southern University. He is joining the Averitt Center for the first time as a Newsie. Theater is nothing new to him though, as he's participated in musicals such as Sweeney Todd and Legally Blonde in high-school and others at a younger age. He enjoys playing saxophone and video games and plans to attend graduate school for a Ph.D in Theoretical Physics.



Nichole Deal (Nun/Woman/Bowery Beauty) is returning to the stage having most recently appeared in The Sunshine Boys. She has performed in numerous productions at the Emma Kelly Theater that stem from her passion for dance, music and acting. Nichole has filmed as background talent for The Act, Florida Girls, Ozark and Council of Dads. She will be traveling this Fall to New Mexico to film the movie Of Myth and Legend that is about Billy the Kid. She has enjoyed being a part of this cast and crew and would like to thank Robert Cottle for casting her in the roles she has portrayed in Newsies. Please support your local arts community!



Stan Haselton (Wiesel/Stage Manager/Mr. Jacobi/Mayor) has participated in several productions in the Emma Kelly Theater since 2010. The shows that he has been a part of include White Christmas, The Music Man, I Remember Mama, Annie (twice), The Cotton Patch Gospel, Mary Poppins, Our Town, The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, Miracle on 34th Street the Musical, and The Diary of Anne Frank. Stan got his initial performance experience in high school and college band and choir, and has a half dozen year's experience as a radio announcer. He hopes you enjoy watching Newsies as much as he has enjoyed performing in it.



John Oglesby (Seitz) is excited to be a part of this show. This will be his first musical and the second production here at the Averitt Center for the Arts. John is retired from the USAF and from Georgia Southern University. John and the love of his life, Wanda enjoy travelling, seeing new places across this great country. John is most grateful for the opportunity to work with Robert Cottle again and for this fine group of enthusiastic and talented young folks. Hope you enjoy the show. God Bless You for your support of the Averitt.



John Parcels (Bunsen) is a retired faculty member from Georgia Southern. He has appeared on the Averitt stage previously in The Nutcracker; Coppelia; The Music Man; Miracle on 34th Street; Zombie Macbeth; Boarding House Reach; Calendar Girls; South Pacific; The Last Supper, the Musical; The Miracle Worker; Honk; Arsenic and Old Lace; Little Women; A Christmas Carol Ballet; Cinderella; The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe; Guys and Dolls; The Legend of Sleepy Hollow; The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee; An Averitt Christmas Carol; The Addams Family; Smoke on the Mountain; Mary Poppins, and Annie. He portrays "Lord Ulrich" in A Year and a Day, on Amazon Prime.



Ben Stansel (Oscar Delancey) is a ninth grader at Statesboro High School. Benjamin is honored to be a part of this cast. He has performed in other Averitt Center productions such as *The King and I, The Music Man, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, and Hansel and Gretel where he played "Hansel." Benjamin loves being a part of the Averitt Center family.

CAST AND CREW



Gage Landing (Morris Delancey) has been in about 2 to 3 shows at Statesboro High School including the Beauty and the Beast and The Lion King. Newsies is his Averitt debut. His favorite pastime is fishing.



Brooks Adams (Nunzio/Guard/Policeman/Roosevelt) has been active with the Averitt Center for the last eleven years. Appearing on and off stage as an actor, producer, director, MC, set builder, prop master, stage manager, and general cut-up and chief, he has been in over 20 different dramatic performances at the Averitt Center. Brooks has worked on several productions with his daughter Darian, worked backstage with his older son Jake and gets to share the stage with his younger son Brandon once again (the first being A Christmas Carol in 2018). He hopes ya'll enjoy watching Newsies half as much as I has enjoyed rehearsing and performing in it.



Robert Cottle (Director) serves as the Artistic Director for the Averitt Center for the Arts. He has been involved in theater at the Averitt Center since 2011. He has served as a director, music director, and actor. Robert also teaches piano, guitar, and voice lessons at the Averitt. He would like to thank this cast for being amazing and Victoria Glover for being an excellent stage manager.



Victoria Glover (Stage Manager) is happy to be participating in her seventh show at the Averitt Center. Her past onstage and behind-thescenes roles at the Averitt Center include Harvey, Blithe Spirit, The Nutcracker, and most recently Into the Woods where she played the "Wolf" and "Giant." She currently teaches history at Statesboro High School. Victoria would like to thank her husband, Brian, for his love and support."



Kellye Watts (Music Director) is a musical theatre lover at heart, Kellye is thrilled to return to the piano to accompany and direct music for another Averitt Center production. Working on Newsies with her longtime friend, Robert, has been a dream come true! She is also grateful for the opportunity to play with some of the best musicians around-you rock! Her previous Averitt performances include Rocky Horror Picture Show, Guys and Dolls, and Honk! as well as Georgia Southern's production of Chicago. She has also accompanied Statesboro High School's Holiday Follies, Broadway in the 'Boro, and Scrooge. Kellye is an elementary music teacher in Effingham County and runs a piano studio from her home. In her spare time... just kidding, she has none. Break a leg, cast and crew!

BAND



Kristen Watts is a double graduate of the Georgia Southern music department earning both her undergrad in music education and her Master's degree in flute performance. Originally from McDonough, GA, Kristen lives in Statesboro and is currently in her third year teaching at Effingham County Middle School. She enjoys teaching private flute lessons after school and performing whenever she can. Her previous performances include You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Honk!, and South Pacific here at the Averitt Center.



Jacob McCooey holds a B.M. in Music Education from Georgia Southern University. He teaches guitar, bass, and ukulele at Pladd Dot Music. In addition to teaching, he is an active performer, playing bass for the local band "The Ripleys." Jacob has also played bass for other theatrical productions such as 9 to 5, Rocky Horror Picture Show, and Godspell.



Richard Johnson moved to Statesboro for school and over the years has managed to turn it into home. He is currently one of the band directors at Southeast Bulloch, and with his limited free time he enjoys cold brew, naps, and daydreaming of the time where social distancing wasn't a thing. This is only the second show that Richard has performed at the Averitt Center and he is honored for the opportunity to play under Kellye Watts' musical leadership.



Tracy Yarbrough is a Savannah, GA based musician, he has been a crucial part of the music scene in Southeast Georgia for more than 30 years. He received a bachelor's in Trumpet Performance and Music Composition from Georgia Southern College, now University, in 1986. While receiving his undergraduate degrees, he performed regularly with the Savannah Symphony and Symphony Quintet. Other notable performing groups are The Temptations, Four Tops, Disney's Holiday on Ice, and the Savannah Jazz Orchestra with guest artists such as: Wycliffe Gordon, Marcus Printup, Clarke Terry, Jon Faddis, and more. Currently, Tracy is a repair technician at Portman's Music as well as a freelance trumpet player.

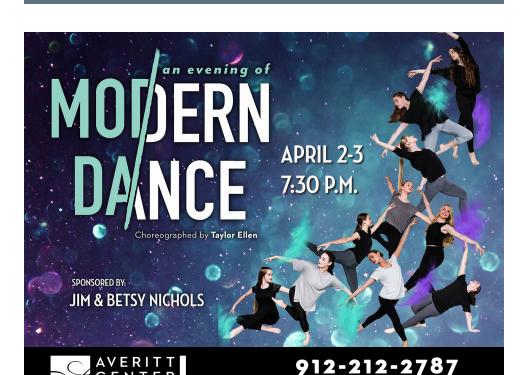


Zach Gatewood is a freshman bass trombone performance major at Georgia Southern University. He also works in the Savannah and Statesboro area as a freelance trombonist. Zach has worked with notable figures such as Peter Steiner and Ilan Morgenstern.



Matt Fallin is a versatile solo and orchestral percussionist performing classical, jazz, and rock music. He frequently performs with several orchestras around the Savannah and Hilton Head area and on drum set with the Georgia Southern Faculty Brass Quintet. He has also played drums with the Chris Mitchell Band and the Statesboro Blues Band. He has been the Percussion Instructor at Georgia Southern University since the fall of 1991 and is endorsed by The Vic Firth Stick and Mallet Company and the Jupiter/Mapex/Majestic Instrument Company.





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