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We invite you to:

• Experience Milwaukee’s professional Equity music theatre company. We present the full spectrum of music theatre, ranging from blockbuster Broadway musicals to reimagined operas, from Gilbert & Sullivan operettas to exciting new works.

• Enjoy Skylight Style productions. We bring fresh approaches and create meaningful connections between the characters on stage and the audience in an intimate theatre that allows audiences to feel close to the powerful emotions on stage.

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To bring the full spectrum of music theatre works to a wide and diverse audience in celebration of the musical and theatrical arts and their reflection of the human condition.

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• Serving as the largest employer of Wisconsin theatrical artists in the State
• Performing in the beautiful, intimate Cabot Theatre
• Bringing the excitement of a live orchestra to every production
• Offering educational programming reaching over 14,000 students annually
• Engaging more than 30,000 people at performances each year
GENERAL INFO

**Box Office**
158 North Broadway, Main Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 291-7800
Email: Tickets@skylightmusictheatre.org
Monday - Saturday, Noon to 6 p.m.
The lobby window is open two hours prior to performances. Tickets also available at www.skylightmusictheatre.org

**ADA Services** Assisted listening devices are made possible through support from Alvin & Marion Birnschein Foundation. Audio description and wheelchair seating are available and can be arranged in advance by calling (414) 291-7800.

**Audience Guides** are free through Enlighten, Skylight’s education program. The guide is available on our website and in the lobby of the theatre.

**Skylight Insights** Skylight artistic staff lead free pre-performance talks one hour before curtain for every Wednesday and Sunday performance.

**Ushering** For information, current opportunities and to sign up to become a volunteer usher, visit www.skylightmusictheatre.volunteerhub.com.

**Volunteer for Skylight** by e-mailing info@skylightmusictheatre.org.

**Lost and Found** Leave a message with the House Manager at (414) 908-6645.

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**Administrative Office**
158 North Broadway, Sixth Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 291-7811
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Recording Equipment and Cameras** The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

**Late Arrivals** Patrons arriving after the performance has started will be seated at the discretion of House Management.

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**A Few Highlights from 60 Years**

1959 Skylight Opera Theatre is founded by Clair Richardson and Sprague Vonier in the skylighted attic of a European-style coffee house at 929 N. Jefferson St. The first show is a musical revue based on the life and works of Gilbert & Sullivan.

1962 Needing more space, Skylight moved nearby to a converted tire-recapping garage at 813 N. Jefferson St. on Cathedral Square and created a 99-seat theater.

1992 In April, construction begins on the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee’s historic warehouse district, the Third Ward.

1993 In October, Skylight opens its new home in the Broadway Theatre Center. The $6 million renovation and new construction was supported by an extensive capital campaign.
ABOUT THE CABOT THEATRE

“To help us forget some things, remember others, and to refresh the dry places in our spirit”
Quote adapted from “World of Wonders” by Robertson Davies

The intimate Cabot Theatre, modeled after an 18th century French jewel-box opera house, was built in 1992. With just 350 seats, everyone has a great view and feels close to the emotion and action on stage.

The quote on the ceiling celebrates the spirit of music and theatre. The people and cupids depicted represent various important players in Skylight history and landmarks from the Milwaukee skyline as it appeared in 1992.

The ceiling features the Goddess of Memory: Mnemosyne, mother of the Nine Muses. Each of the nine boxes on the Gallery level celebrates one of those Muses (History, Tragedy, Comedy, Literature, Science, Oratory, Poetry, Dance and Music) and is decorated with associated images. In a nod to the spirit of fun that makes up Skylight’s DNA, playful images are part of the decorations for each Muse. Can you spot the bag of cough drops for one of them?

“Do you want to have some real fun?” – Question Clair Richardson asked that led to the birth of Skylight in 1959. When Clair died in 1980, per his wishes, his ashes are kept in an urn under the stage, fulfilling his request that all future productions be performed “over my dead body.”

Can you find the following 1992 landmarks?
- St. John’s Cathedral
- Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company
- City Hall
- Wisconsin Electric Power Company
- Elsa’s on the Park
- The original Skylight Theatre on Jackson Street
- The Wisconsin Gas Company
- The Pabst Theatre

1967 Skylight is founding member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF), which generously provides ongoing support to Skylight and other area performing arts organizations.

1980 Clair Richardson dies. Per his wishes, his ashes are kept in an urn under the stage, fulfilling his request that all future productions be performed “over my dead body.”

1995 On January 31, the 358-seat theatre is inaugurated as the Cabot Theatre. Colin Cabot looked at small opera houses in France for inspiration, and found Le Theatre de la Coupe d’Or in Rochefort sur Mer. The Cabot Theatre was designed based on that theater’s architectural drawings.

2012 Name changes from Skylight Opera Theatre to Skylight Music Theatre to better reflect the broad array of music theatre works presented.
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Milwaukee Ballet, The Nutcracker, 2017, Marize Fumero, Photo by Mark Frohna;
First Stage, The Wiz, DiMonte Henning, Darrington Clark and Reese Parish, Photo by Paul Ruffolo;
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Photo by Ron Oshima
Production of

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

November 15 – December 29, 2019
CABOT THEATRE | BROADWAY THEATRE CENTER

DIRECTOR Molly Rhode
MUSIC DIRECTOR Christie Chiles Twillie
CHOREOGRAPHER Molly Rhode/David Roman
SCENIC DESIGNER Front Row Theatricals
COSTUME DESIGNER Jason Orlenko **
LIGHTING DESIGNER Joseph Arthur Franjoine **
SOUND DESIGNER Hankyu Lee
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Daniel J. Hanson*

Special thanks to First Stage and Coltyn Giltner for their assistance in making the sensory friendly performance of *Newsies* possible with the support of UPAF Connect.

*Appearing through an agreement between Skylight Music Theatre and Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

**The Costume and Lighting Designers are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829.

DISNEY’S NEWSIES is presented through arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All Authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019 | Phone: 212-541-4684 | Fax: 212-397-4684
www.MTIShows.com
Welcome to the second show of our landmark, 60th Anniversary Season. As you know, I’m new here and still getting settled – but the people I’ve met within and without Skylight over the past ten weeks have made me feel very much welcomed and at home. Thank you.

I was thrilled with our production of *Oklahoma!* and feel that we successfully gave it “the Skylight treatment” by taking a classic and viewing it through a new lens. As variety is the spice of life, we swing from one of the first American musicals to a recent one.

We hope that the shows we select fit the time in which we do them as well as, or better, than the time in which they were written. *Newsies* is no exception. Does art imitate life or does life imitate art? Perhaps a little bit of both. There cannot be a better time to present *Newsies* than now. We are, yet again, at a point in our history when the youth of our country are succeeding as the engines of change on issues that affect them directly. I firmly believe we are all better for the efforts of these brave teenagers across America who, like the newsies of 120 years ago, are teaching us adults a thing or two.

*Newsies* is based on the actual Newsboys Strike of 1899 which helped protect future young workers through the initiation of unions and child labor laws. Learning about history and issues that challenge our daily lives through the performing arts offers the finest classroom I can imagine. There will be no test, but I hope we all learn from these scrappy “pape-sellers” to pay more attention to those around us – no matter how small.

I feel confident that our young performers and their cohorts will once and for all be carrying the banner to give us something to believe in. The bottom line is they will seize the day and the world will know how these youth will work towards positive change when they inherit the earth. I, for one, cannot wait to watch what happens.

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - MICHAEL UNGER**

I love this show. I love its music. I love its message. And I love how popular it’s become. It’s popularity gives me hope.

I was 14 when the 1992 movie version was released, and I was obsessed. I was the target audience, and my teenage self could not have been happier at a movie. I didn’t realize at the time that the stunning singing and dancing in the film was turning me into an activist, but Disney is clever like that.

The Newsboys’ Strike of 1899 may have been at the turn of the century but it doesn’t feel far away. The way these young people stand up and say, “Listen to me!” is happening right now, all across the globe. Malala Yousafzai. The Parkland students. Greta Thunberg. The list is long. Young people are paying attention. And they deserve a seat at the table.

*Newsies* is not a nostalgia piece. Its contemporary resonance is palpable, and its inspirational power speaks straight to today’s headlines. Thank you for joining us for this brilliant piece of musical theater that packs a message of protest and persistence. I hope this show gets you fired up to make change and to trust in the next generation. We need them now desperately.
Michael Unger (Artistic Director) is thrilled to join the Skylight team as Artistic Director. Michael is also the Producing Artistic Director of NewArts in Newtown, CT, which he started with a local father in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. For NewArts he has directed a dozen large-scale musicals involving over 550 local children. He was until recently the Associate Artistic Director and Director of Education for Off-Broadway’s York Theatre Company. Michael’s work will be seen around the country in 2020 with the 70th Anniversary National Tour of You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown. Michael has directed many benefit concerts, including for the Sandy Hook, CT and Parkland, FL communities. Selected world premieres include The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Caligula, and A Rockin’ Midsummer Night’s Dream, which is featured in the award-winning documentary film, Midsummer in Newtown. Other directing credits include McCarter Theatre, 59E59, Paramount, W.H.A.T., Signature, Cape Playhouse, Deaf West, and The MUNY. He has directed fifteen operas, two of which are available on DVD.

Jack R. Lemmon (Executive Director) is starting his fifth season with Skylight having worked in the performing arts for over 30 years. He is also currently president of the board of the Historic Third Ward Association. Lemmon has served as Executive Director of the Joffrey Ballet, Louisville Ballet and Colorado Ballet to name a few. He also worked at the National Endowment for the Arts and has additionally served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Arts and Cultural Affairs. He served on the board and executive committee of Dance/USA and was a board member of the Partnership for Creative Economies (KY). He chaired the board of the Arts and Cultural Attractions Council in Louisville, KY, and the Chicago Dance Alliance. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Coe College in Cedar Rapids (Iowa) and an M.F.A. in Theatre from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

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CAST OF NEWSIES

Jack Kelly .......................................................................................................................... Marco Tzunux
Katherine Plumber .......................................................................................................... Rachael Zientek
Crutchie ............................................................................................................................ Jordan Arrasmith
Davey .................................................................................................................................. Nicholas Parrott
Les ...................................................................................................................................... Abram Nelson/Edward Owczarski
Joseph Pulitzer ................................................................................................................. Lee Palmer*
Medda Larkin ..................................................................................................................... Natalie Harris
Wiesel/Mayor ..................................................................................................................... Kevin James Sievert
Oscar Delancey/Stage Manager ....................................................................................... Shawn Holmes
Morris Delancey/Teddy Roosevelt .................................................................................. Christopher Elst
Snyder/Jacobi/Nunzio ........................................................................................................ Chase Stoeger
Race/Bunsen/Darcy .......................................................................................................... Austin Ryan Hunt
Finch/Sietz/Bill .................................................................................................................. Jonathan Turner
Hannah/Bowery Beauty/Newsie/Nun ................................................................................ Stephanie Staszak
Spot Conlan/Bowery Beauty/Newsie .................................................................................. Jamie Mercado
Albert .................................................................................................................................. Joseph Davila
Specs ................................................................................................................................... Kamani Graham
Henry ................................................................................................................................. Keleous Lange
Romeo ............................................................................................................................... Nathan Kabara
Elmer .................................................................................................................................... Nolan Van Haren
Buttons ............................................................................................................................... Tikvah Schlissel
Tommy Boy ......................................................................................................................... Francis Faye

Ensemble Newsies
Eloise Field, Max Larson, Michael Loomans, Lily Miller, Alica Rivera, Paisley Schroeder

Dance Captain
Austin Ryan Hunt

Fight Captain
Christopher Elst

Understudies
Christopher Elst (u/s Joseph Pulitzer), Eloise Field (u/s Finch),
Tosha Freeman (u/s Medda Larkin), Austin Ryan Hunt (u/s Davey), Max Larson (u/s Henry),
Jamie Mercado (u/s Hannah), Lily Miller (u/s Race), Matthew Peterson (u/s Crutchie),
Stephanie Staszak (u/s Katherine Plumber), Chase Stoeger (u/s Teddy Roosevelt),
Jonathan Turner (u/s Jack Kelly)

BAND
Reeds ................................................................................................................................. Curt Hanrahan
Trumpet ............................................................................................................................. Greg Garcia
Trombone .......................................................................................................................... Kyle Samuelson
Guitars ............................................................................................................................... Steve Lewandowski
Bass .................................................................................................................................... Tom McGirr
Drums ............................................................................................................................... Michael (Ding) Lorenz
Violin ................................................................................................................................... Cathy Bush
Cello ..................................................................................................................................... Viktor Brusabardis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks to: First Stage Costume Shop, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
Costume Shop, Fitz Patton, Sun Hee Kil, Susan Sajdak, Fine Arts Department Chair,
Marquette University High School

8 Skylight Music Theatre 2019-2020 Season
PRODUCTION SUPPORT

Assistant Music Director ................................................................. Alissa Rhode
Fight Director .................................................................................. Christopher Elst
Dialect Director .................................................................................. Raelleen McMillian
Installation Crew ............................................................................. Jack Austin, David Chapa Jr., Christopher Elst, Anthony Roman, Rachel Zembrowski
Draftsperson ....................................................................................... Libby Winchester Schultz
Wig Designer ....................................................................................... Dana Rochester
Costume Crafts ................................................................................... Haley Jaeger
Stitchers .............................................................................................. Patricia Risser, Lisa Quinn, Rebecca Gardner, Taylor Godden
Electricians ......................................................................................... Jack Austin, Elaine Brushafer, Bryan Bryars, David Chapa Jr, Rebekah Farr, Shane O’Neil, Tony Roman, Sarah Schlehelein, Steve Tonar
Assistant Stage Manager ..................................................................... Teresa McCarthy, Sarah Schlehelein
Deck Crew ............................................................................................ Elaine Brushafer, Taylor Godden, Anthony Roman, Lisa Quinn
Properties Lead, Run Crew ................................................................. Rachel Zembrowski
Props Master ....................................................................................... Simone Tegge
Wardrobe ............................................................................................. Jeanne Schrank, Lisa Quinn, Taylor Godden
Light Board Operator ........................................................................... David Chapa Jr.
Sound Operator ................................................................................... Adam Seaman
Followspot Operators ........................................................................ Ashley DeVos and Drea DeVos

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

Overture ............................................................................................... Orchestra
Santa Fe (Prologue) ............................................................................. Jack and Crutchie
Carrying the Banner ......................................................................... Jack, Crutchie, Race, Newsies, Nuns
The Bottom Line ................................................................................ Pulitizer, Seitz, Bunsen, Hannah
Carrying the Banner ........................................................................... Newsies
That’s Rich .......................................................................................... Medda
I Never Planned on You/Don’t Come a-Knocking ................................. Jack, Bowery Beauties
The World Will Know ......................................................................... Jack, Davey, Les, Crutchie, Newsies
Watch What Happens ........................................................................ Katherine
Seize the Day ..................................................................................... Davey, Jack, Les, Newsies
Santa Fe ............................................................................................. Jack

Intermission

Act II

Entr’acte .............................................................................................. Orchestra
King of New York ................................................................................ Davey, Katherine, Les, Newsies
Letter from The Refuge ...................................................................... Crutchie
Watch what Happens (Reprise) .......................................................... Davey, Jack, Katherine, Les
The Bottom Line (Reprise) ................................................................. Pulitzer, Seitz, Bunsen
Brooklyn’s Here .................................................................................. Spot, Newsies
Something to Believe In ..................................................................... Katherine, Jack
Seize the Day (Reprise) ...................................................................... Newsies
Once and for All ................................................................................. Jack, Davey, Katherine, Newsies
Seize the Day (Reprise 2) .................................................................... Newsies
Finale Ultimo ..................................................................................... Company
WHO’S WHO

Jordan Arrasmith (Crutchie) is so excited to be making his Skylight Music Theatre debut living out a childhood dream of playing the role of Crutchie in Newsies!

Jordan is coming straight from playing the roles of Tommy Boy/Spot Conlon in Newsies at Timber Lake Playhouse. Although based in Chicago, Jordan is no stranger to Wisconsin theatre as he was seen as Ralph Malph in Happy Days: A New Musical at The Palace Theater In The Dells last spring. Other regional credits include Mamma Mia and Ghost at The Winnipesaukee Playhouse. Special thanks to Christie for her brilliance. Much thanks to Ray, Sam, and Molly for bringing me into the Skylight family. Sending love from onstage to Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, and Maurice. LET’S STRIKE! @jordanarrasmith

Francis Faye (Jojo) Skylight debut! Productions at Marquette University High School include Newsies, Chet in A Separate Peace, Second Merchant in Shakespeare’s Comedy Of Errors and Godspell.

Eloise Field (Ensemble Newsie) being in this show is a DREAM COME TRUE! You may have seen her here as “Annie.” Happy holidays and enjoy the show!

Natalie Harris (Medda Larkin) is a singer, dancer, actor, director and voice/acting teacher. She has worked in television, film and theatre and starred in the Lena Baker Story biopic and acted in the movie The Honeydripper, starring Danny Glover. As a songwriter, her songs have been heard on radio throughout the U.S. She released her debut album entitled “We Believe” in 2017. Natalie has shared the stage with many Gospel greats from Tasha Cobbs to Donnie McClurkin. From founding Tree Theatre company, directing plays, to conducting voice and acting workshops, she has done it all and enjoys sharing her love of the arts.

Christopher Elst (Governor Teddy Roosevelt/Morris Delancey/Fight Director) A prominent member of several national theater organizations and an advocate for new and safer practices for theaters nationwide, Christopher has performed, directed, and designed violence and intimacy for professional theaters across the country, including Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival, Ogunquit Playhouse, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Next Act Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, First Stage Childrens Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, and The Milwaukee Rep. He thanks his wife, Marcee, for tolerating late nights and joint locks. www.christopherelst.com

Joseph Davila (Albert) has performed in Mary Poppins, Prince and the Pauper and Peter Pan the Musical Adventure at Hamilton High School and Footloose at Sundbrink Academy.

Kamani Graham (Specs) is a Junior at Pius XI Catholic High School. He appeared in Hairspray and is very excited to have another opportunity to perform at Skylight.

Eloise Field (Ensemble Newsie) being in this show is a DREAM COME TRUE! You may have seen her here as “Annie.” Happy holidays and enjoy the show!

Kamani Graham (Specs) is a Junior at Pius XI Catholic High School. He appeared in Hairspray and is very excited to have another opportunity to perform at Skylight.
WHO’S WHO cont.

Shawn Holmes (Oscar Delancey/Stage Manager) is extremely excited to be back at Skylight with Newsies. Shawn has been performing with theatres throughout Wisconsin. Some theatres include Florentine Opera, First Stage, Middleton Players Theatre, Black Arts MKE, and Four Seasons Theatre. Some of his favorite past performances were Coalhouse Walker Jr. in Ragtime (winner of Best Actor in a Musical – Broadway World), Sebastian the Crab in The Little Mermaid, and Jacob in La Cage aux Folles (winner of Best Supporting Actor in a Musical - Footlights). Shawn would like to thank his family and friends for their never ending support.

Austin Ryan Hunt (Race/Bunsen/Darcy) is thrilled to be carrying the banner in this dream show! Recent credits include Peter in Peter and the Starcatcher at EDGE of Orion, Swing for Matilda at Drury Lane, and the Swing for A Charlie Brown Christmas with Broadway in Chicago. Originally from Chicago, Austin studied acting, directing, design, and dance at Lipscomb University in Nashville and is a proud graduate of The School at Steppenwolf. Regional: Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Actors’ Playhouse, Nashville Shakes, Slow Burn. For Kevin.

Nathan Kabara (Elmer) is overjoyed to return to Skylight after appearing in Hairspray last season! He would like to thank his friends and family for their support.

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WHO’S WHO CONT.

Keleous Lange (Romeo) is 15 years old and excited to be in the cast of Newsies! In his spare time, he enjoys playing trumpet and being on stage.

Max Larson (Ensemble Newsie) is thrilled to make his Skylight debut in Newsies! In addition to singing and dancing, Max loves playing the piano, baseball, and soccer.

Michael Loomans (Ensemble Newsie) is thrilled to be in his first Skylight show. He's enjoying his final year at Slinger Middle School. Thanks music teachers everywhere. Enjoy!

Jamie Mercado (Spot Conlan/Bowery Beauty/Newsie) is delighted (and all of the other synonyms) to be making her Skylight debut this winter in Newsies! She hopes that she can be a source of inspiration for girls of color aspiring to make a career in theater. Recent credits include: Nancy Palmer in Windjammers and Kay Kliestine in We Like It Where? at Northern Sky Theater, Ensemble in Matilda at First Stage, and Woman #1 in Songs For A New World at All In Productions. Jamie would like to thank her family and friends for their unconditional support! On Instagram @jamielynnmercado

Lily Miller (Ensemble Newsie) is excited to be performing at Skylight again! She is a homeschooled junior who enjoys singing, writing, and Hallmark Christmas movies. Enjoy the Show!

Abram Nelson (Les) is thrilled to be at Skylight Theatre! He has appeared at First Stage as Stink in Judy Moody and Stink and as Charlie in Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

Edward Owczarski (Les) makes his Skylight debut with Newsies! He has previously been seen at Milwaukee Rep as Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol and as Teddy in Best Christmas Pageant Ever-The Musical with First Stage.

Lee Palmer (Joseph Pulitzer)* is pleased to return to Skylight, where he previously appeared as Tonton in Once on this Island. Other Wisconsin credits: A Murder is Announced and Ghost The Musical at Peninsula Players; Race, Microcisis, Perfect Mendacity, and The Exonerated at Next Act Theatre; To Kill a Mockingbird, Williams & Walker, Psychedelic Sundae, A Christmas Carol, and Benito Cereno at Milwaukee Repertory Theater; Timon of Athens, A Few Good Men, Bridge at Mo Duc, and The Millionairess at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. Regional credits include Jitney at Congo Square Theatre (Jeff Award nomination, Black Excellence Award winner); Two Trainings Running at the Goodman Theatre; Julius Caesar, Taming of the Shrew, and The Seagull at Michigan Shakespeare Festival; A
**WHO’S WHO CONT.**

*Christmas Carol* at Actors Theatre of Louisville; and *Five Guys Named Moe*, Tour and Mill Mountain Theatre. TV/Film: “Empire” (FOX), “Chicago Fire” (NBC), Spike Lee’s CHI-RAQ, Olympia, Recipiphany, and *Small Town Wisconsin.*

**Nicholas Parrott** *(Davey)* is thrilled to be making his Skylight Music Theatre debut in *Newsies.* Originally from Gurnee, IL, he holds a BA in Theatre Arts and Dance from Marquette University. Recent credits include: *West Side Story* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater), *The Old Man and the Old Moon* (Hope Summer Repertory Theatre), *West Side Story* (HSRT), *Shakespeare in Love* (HSRT), *Twelfth Night* (Summit Players Theatre). Much love to his family and friends for their endless support.

@ndparrott

Matthew Peterson *(Henry)* is 16 years old, and is thrilled to be a part of *Newsies!* In his spare time he enjoys tennis, camping, and singing.

Alice Rivera *(Ensemble Newsie)* is extremely excited to be in the cast of *Newsies!* She has previously performed with First Stage, Milwaukee Youth Theatre, Pius XI and Danceworks.

**Paisley Schroeder** *(Ensemble Newsie)* returns to Skylight after appearing as an orphan in *Annie* (2017)! She’s got game in any competitive sport that involves a ball, but musical theater’s #1.

**Kevin James Sievert** *(Wiesel/Mayor)* was seen at Skylight last season in *Five Guys Named Moe,* and is excited to be back! Originally from Manitowoc, Wis., he attended Silver Lake College of the Holy Family studying Vocal Performance and Pedagogy. When not performing, he enjoys directing and choreographing. Some favorite credits include Jamie Wellerstein in *The Last Five Years* and Beethoven in *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* at The University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc for which he received an Irene Ryan Award Nomination. He also played Donkey in *Shrek: The Musical* and Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar.* A big thank you goes to his hometown friends and family for their continued support.

**Stephanie Staszak** *(Hannah/Bowery Beauty/Newsie/Nun)* is overjoyed to be in her eighth production on the Skylight stage! Most recent productions include *Oklahoma!, Pippin and La Cage Aux Folles* as “Anne.” Stephanie has performed with other theatres such as In Tandem, Milwaukee Opera Theatre and All In Productions – most recently performing as “Logainne Schartzandgrubeniere” in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,* and had the opportunity to star alongside four adorable puppets in the award winning short film ANGELAAA in last year’s film festival. When not performing musical theatre, Stephanie choreographs for various theatres and high

**Tikvah Schlissel** *(Tommy Boy)* can be seen as an actor, dancer and ballroom performer all over Milwaukee. He is interested not only in the arts but in real estate and finance.
schools around the Milwaukee area. Much love to her husband Mike for being her rock and to her family and friends for their love and support.

Chase Stoeger (Snyder/Jacobi/Nunzio) is delighted to return to Skylight and be part of Newsies! Previous Skylight roles include Constantine in A Day in Hollywood/Night in Ukraine, Purser in Anything Goes, Scooter in White Christmas, and the Ensemble in The Producers, HMS Pinafore, The Mikado, and Cabaret as the Taxi Man. A Milwaukee native, Chase has performed with Milwaukee Chamber Theater, Next Act, First Stage, Milwaukee Shakespeare, In Tandem, and Bialystock and Bloom. He has spent the last 13 summers and many fall seasons in Door County with Northern Sky Theater, performing in numerous premieres throughout the years. Some of his favorite roles are Moonlight in Lumberjacks in Love, Nathaniel in Windjammers, Samual Clemens in Life on the Mississippi, TJ in Dairy Heirs, and Rufus in Fishing for the Moon. When he’s not onstage he likes to crochet, cook and play Atari with his daughter Silvia. Enjoy the show!

Jonathan Turner (Finch/Sietz/Bill) is beyond excited to begin his first adventure with Skylight Music Theatre. He is a recent graduate from the BFA Musical Theatre program at University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point. Some previous credits include Chantal in La Cage aux Folles and Porter in On the 20th Century both at his alma mater. Jonathan is also interested in community engagement and education in the arts and served as a teaching artist through the Mad Hot Tap and Ballroom program at Danceworks for the 2018-19 school year. Jonathan would like to thank those who have supported him to help achieve these goals, namely his family and friends. Without their support, he wouldn’t be able to sell papers with the best of ‘em!

Marco Tzunux (Jack Kelly) is an alum of the Chicago College of Performing Arts and from Fort Lauderdale. This is his first collaboration with Skylight Music Theatre. Regional credits include: Gypsy at Porchlight Music Theater (Tulsa), Hello Again at Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre (Young Thing), Seussical at Drury Lane in Oakbrook (Wickersham Brother), TRU at Greenhouse Theater (Thomas/Gabe), Altar Boyz at Theo Ubique Cabaret Theater (Juan), HAIR at Mercury Theater Chicago (Tribe), Head Over Heels at Kokandy Productions (Ensemble), The Producers at Paramount Theatre (Ensemble). TV/Commercial: “There’s Good Inside” (national Method soap TV spot), IL Lottery (regional TV spot), Chicago Fire ("Aaron"). @marquitolay

Nolan Van Haren (Buttons) is 17, and is incredibly excited to perform in Newsies! He would like to thank his family and friends for always supporting his dreams.

Rachael Zientek (Katherine Plumber) is a Milwaukee native and excited to be back at Skylight after playing Hope in Urinetown. She was recently seen as Althea in Annie Jump and the Library of Heaven at Renaissance Theaterworks and as Medium Alison in Fun Home at Forward Theater. This fall, she was seen in Unnecessary Farce at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and Elephant & Piggie’s “We Are In A Play!” at First Stage.
**WHO’S WHO IN THE CREATIVE TEAM**

**Molly Rhode (Director)** is the Associate Artistic Director at Northern Sky Theater in Door County, WI where she’s in charge of new play development and has participated in 18 world premieres since 2007. She received her degree in Playwriting and Directing from Southern Methodist University, but grew up in Wisconsin. She’s a product of Milwaukee High School of the Arts and First Stage Theater Academy. Molly is proud to call Skylight Music Theatre one of her artistic homes where she’s directed *The Sound of Music*, *Les Misérables*, and *Annie*. She also performed in many productions in the Cabot Theater, favorites including Ulla in *The Producers* and Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*. Molly directs and acts all across the state and is a huge cheerleader of the Wisconsin theater community. She is honored to helm Skylight’s *Newsies* with such a stellar team of artists. This show manages to get more important with each passing year.

**Christie Chiles Twillie (Music Director)** made her Skylight debut as music director for *Five Guys Named Moe* (2019), winning her the 2019 Footlights Award for Best Musical Direction. Since moving to Chicago, she has piano conducted over 30 productions. Recent projects: piano conductor for the Chicago Premiere of *Minnie's Boys* (Porchlight), Music Director for the U.S. premiere of *Hopelessly Devoted* (Piven), and Music Director for an all female workshop of *The Color Purple* (Definition Theatre) with the show’s original Broadway director Gary Griffin. In 2017, she earned Best Music Direction nominations for her original score for *Yellowman* and *Big Fish: The Musical*.

**David Roman (Choreographer)** has been seen in *Pippin* (2018) and *In The Heights* (2014). He has spent the last 18 years sharing his time as a performer for Royal Caribbean International and training the next generation at various locations including the Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Lake Shore Dance and the Milwaukee Ballet School and Academy.

**Joseph Arthur Franjoine “Jojo” (Lighting Designer)** is a light artist interested in visualizing spaces and stories that have potential to evoke visceral emotional responses. Jojo believes performance should be able to transform into gas, float into the mind, and cause transformation. Jojo recently completed their MFA in Lighting Design at Northwestern University and is currently based in NYC. Jojo is a design associate of Al Crawford/Arc3Design, a cross genre design group dedicated to merging theatrical aesthetic into all areas of art, architecture, dance, live music, theater, broadcast, and live event production. See more of their work at josephfranjoine.com.

**Hankyu Lee (Sound Designer)** is pleased to be making his Skylight Music Theatre debut! He is a sound designer and engineer originally from Seoul, South Korea. He is currently a graduate student at University of Cincinnati CCM. Internationally, Lee has worked for the Korea Performing Arts Center, Seoul International Performing Arts Festival, Seoul Theatre Festival, and Seoul Dance Festival. His sound designs include *42nd Street*, *Godspell*, *Les Miserables*, *The Government Inspector*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Tempest*, *Collective Stories*, *Love, Fuddy Meers*, *God of Carnage* and *Autumn Sonata*. Lee’s bachelor’s degree is in electronics engineering from Ajou University.

**Jason Orlenko (Costume Designer)** returns to Skylight were his previous designs include *Kiss Me Kate*, *Annie*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Snow Dragon* as well as many assistant design credits. Around Milwaukee, Jason’s costumes have graced the stages of the Milwaukee Rep, First Stage, Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Next Act Theater, In Tandem Theatre, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, UW-Milwaukee, and
Marquette University. Additionally, he has designed for the Rep of St. Louis, Cardinal Stage, Indiana Festival Theatre, Indiana University Theatre and Dance, Indiana University Opera and Ballet, University of Alaska-Anchorage, and Juniata College. Other credits include the Hangar Theatre, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Florentine Opera, as well as four summers at American Players Theatre. Upcoming work includes Gently Down The Stream at Milwaukee Chamber. Jason currently resides in Bloomington, Indiana where he heads the Costume Design MFA Program at Indiana University.

Daniel J. Hanson (Production Stage Manager)* is in his fourth season as Production Stage Manager at Skylight. Recent regional stage management credits include The Comedy of Errors, Romeo and Juliet (Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Santa Cruz, CA); Spamilton: An American Parody (Royal George Theatre, Chicago, IL); Guys on Ice (Milwaukee Repertory Theater); The Producers, The Addams Family, Avenue Q and The Color Purple (Mercury Theater Chicago). Other theaters Dan has worked with include Children’s Theatre Company, Minneapolis, MN; Park Square Theatre, St. Paul, MN; Mixed Blood Theatre, Minneapolis, MN; The History Theater, St. Paul, MN; Porchlight Music Theatre, Chicago, IL; Provision Theater, Chicago, IL; First Stage, Milwaukee, WI; and Surflight Theatre, Beach Haven, NJ. Dan received his MFA in stage management from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association.


Jack Feldman (Lyricist) has written music and lyrics for theater, film, television and pop records. His vast number of works include: Broadway and Off-Broadway: The Madwoman of Central Park West; Isn’t It Romantic, by Wendy Wasserstein; Beyond Therapy, by Christopher Durang; Coming Attractions, by Ted Tally; Miami (book by Ms. Wasserstein). Regional: Music for Mr. Durang and Albert Innaurato’s Idiots Karamazov at the Yale Repertory Theatre. Film: Oliver & Company; Tribute; Thumbelina; Newsies; Home Alone 2: Lost in New York; Used People; Life with Mikey; A Goofy Movie; The Lion King II: Simba’s Pride; and 102 Dalmatians. TV: Music and lyrics for the PBS Theatre in America production of Eve Merriam’s Out of Our Father’s House; The Magic Hat; The Little Mermaid(TV special); Polly; “Sesame Street;” “Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss;” and “Out of the Box.” Also many pop songs, including the Grammy Award-winning “Copacabana,” the top-10 hit “I Made It Through the Rain,” and songs and special material for Sarah Vaughn, Carmen McRae, Liza Minnelli, Lily Tomlin, Dionne Warwick, and the Muppets.
Harvey Fierstein (Book) a four-time Tony Award-winning writer and actor. His Broadway writing credits include Kinky Boots, Torch Song Trilogy (Tony, Drama Desk, Dramatists Guild Awards), Casa Valentina, Safe Sex, Legs Diamond and A Catered Affair (12 Drama Desk nominations and the Drama League Award for Best Musical). His La Cage Aux Folles is the only show to ever win Best Musical and 2 Best Revival Tony Awards. Other plays include Spookhouse, Forget Him and Flatbush Tosca. His teleplays include Tidy Endings for HBO (ACE Award), and On Common Ground for Showtime. His children’s HBO special, The Sissy Duckling, won the Humanitas Prize and the book version is in its eighth printing. Other honors include the Drama League Award for Outstanding Performer of the Year, a special OBIE award, NY Magazine Award, and nominations for The Olivier Award and an Emmy. His political writings have been seen on PBS’ series “In The Life” and published in The NY Times, Huffington Post and Hartford Courant. He was inducted into The Theater Hall of Fame in 2008.

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