



NEWSIES STOP THE WORLD!

By **Kamaile Zimmerman**

The Borel Drama Dream Theater production, *Newsies*, tells a tale of a young man named Jack Kelly and a group of newsies fighting for their rights in an attempt to reduce the current rise in newspaper prices. The musical is based on an original event which occurred in 1899; however, the show strays a bit from the original story.

In 1898, the Spanish-American War quickly caught the attention of the public as the story was a major success in the newspaper business. Many were eager to read the news about any updates on the war. As the war continued so did the constant competition between the newspaper businesses. In an attempt to make extra money, many companies began to raise the price from fifty cents per hundred papers, to sixty cents per hundred.

The newsies, who acted as salesmen for the newspaper companies, also benefited from the sudden increase in the price of the papers. The war came to an end in December of 1898, and newspaper sales began to decrease. Most newspaper companies lowered the price of the paper except for *The New York Journal* and *The New York World* owned by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer respectively.

As the biggest newspaper companies maintained the raised price, newsies found it harder and harder to sell the papers for profit. Since they could not get a refund for any unsold newspaper, it was very difficult to buy resources needed to survive. The newsboys, mainly made up of orphans and runaways, often had to lie about the story written or persuade buyers in order to sell one newspaper.

Continued on Page 2



Joseph Pulitzer and his staff discuss

the newspaper headline

(Jane Palladino, Nicholas Schick,

Xavier, McKenzie, Natalie Kantor)



Under the leadership of Jack Kelly, the newsies ban together to go on strike!

(Jack Barrett, Dylan Daniel, Maya Efron, James Koeppen, Leo Leviti, Kade McKenzie, Avery Misner, Dariush Norton, Sacha Perlson, Luke Phillips, Catcher Sanchez, Maren Sawamura, Cameron Sears, Quinn Shirley, Carmella Verducci, Ross Victor, Logan Wall, Lloyd Walter)

From Screen to Stage

By **Jada Shanberge**

The 1992 Disney movie *Newsies* was inspired by the real life 1899 New York Newsboy strike. Despite its efforts, it was one of the studio's biggest flops of all time, making only \$3 million from a \$15 million budget. The movie's Jack Kelly, Christian Bale, had no experience in musical theater when he was cast. Kenny Ortega, first time director, had to convince him to take the part. "At 16, he [Bale] was about choices and participating in the choices that he and his father were making in his career," Ortega says. "It took some confidence building. He was not a singer, not a dancer. We had workshops and classes and he worked himself to the bone. He got in there and wasn't afraid of falling on his face."

Due to overwhelming requests to license a stage version of *Newsies*, Disney Theatrical Productions put the title into development in 2009.

Continued on Page 2

BOREL DRAMA DREAM THEATRE
PRESENTS

NEWSIES

MARCH 1, 2019 at 7:00pm
MARCH 2, 2019 at 7:00pm
MARCH 3, 2019 at 2:00pm

AT
THE SAN MATEO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

WWW.BORELDRAMA.COM

NEW YORK 1899

Piece of Candy - \$.01

Dozen Eggs - \$.20

Loaf of Bread - \$.05

Dress Shirt - \$1

Bowery Theater Ticket - \$.20

Average Home Sold for \$5,000

Average Yearly Salary - \$400

Borel Drama Triple Threats

By **Maren Sawamura**

When most people hear the term "triple-threat," they think about an



actor or actress who is a skilled actor, singer and dancer. At Borel Drama, the phrase represents a student actor who has participated in the musical all three years they have attended Borel Middle School. However, being a Borel Drama Triple-Threat is much more than just a title. It shows that a student has not only worked hard to put together a show, but has also had the privilege to be part of a family for three amazing years. Our Triple-Threats this year participated in *Fame* in sixth grade, *Peter Pan* in seventh grade, and *Newsies* as a finale to the magical Borel Drama experience. These students have put in extra time after school to join together and create incredible productions.

This year we have twenty-one actors onstage and four stage crew working behind the scenes that are Triple-Threats. In sixth grade, many of us saw the cast and crew list for *Fame* and assumed we had just been given the chance to be part of a middle school show. We quickly learned that in addition to that, we also joined a family. This family is something that, over the years, has grown and thrived. Even after graduating from Borel, many alumni come back to help each year. No matter how long it has been since they have left our school, they always remain strong members of the Borel Drama family.

Continued on Page 2

Lives of Newsies in the 1890's

By **Logan Wall**

Throughout the end of the 19th century, a common enterprise for young urban children without homes or support was selling newspapers. At the time, the education of America's youth was not taken very seriously. The U.S. Census of 1880 revealed that one in six children was employed. That number does not include children illegally working in sweatshops or undocumented children.

The occupation of selling newspapers provided a sense of freedom, as newsies (8 - 15 year old children selling papers) could choose their hours and sell anywhere they could reach. Unfortunately, due to impossibly low wages, newsies were often forced to work 14 hours a day. Many newsies were forced to choose between buying food, clothing, or shelter with the little money they earned from each day's work.

Continued on Page 2

"THE THINGS WE DO

TODAY WILL BE

TOMORROW'S NEWS!"



Newsies Stop the World!
Artwork by Maya Dulman-Turner

Newsies Stop the World

Continued from Page 1

Some families relied solely on support from one working newsie. Newsies often faked injuries or lied about headlines to attract more attention and business.

As newspaper sales continued to decrease week after week, the newsboys' anger grew more relentless. One newsboy named Louis Ballatt, otherwise known as Kid Blink, decided to take a stand against the two major newspaper companies and declared a strike on July 20, 1899.

The kids soon gained support from other newsies across New York City and a union was formed. Small rallies of newsies were gathered across the city where various speeches were held.

The publishers paid no attention to the strike until advertisers requested to get their bills adjusted. After the strike continued for two weeks, the newsies reached a compromise with the publishers. The newsies agreed to buy the hundred papers for sixty cents and the publishers agreed to buy back any unsold paper, thus ending the newsboy strike on August 2, 1899.



Lives of Newsies in the 1890's

Continued from Page 1

New York newsies were also subjected to the terrible effects of the harsh New York climate. Because newsies couldn't afford winter clothing or shoes, many struggled through illnesses. Often if a newsie did contract a disease or have a physical health defect, he or she couldn't afford to visit a doctor, making his or her condition worse.

Most newsies were orphans, with no home or family. The Newsboy's Lodging House was a common place for newsies to sleep and eat. The lodging house was a large building that housed up to 600 kids at one time. Typically, there was a six cent fee for housing and a six cent fee for food. Many newsies were forced to choose between the two. At the Newsboy's Lodging House, newsies formed an unbreakable trust and camaraderie. Longing for families and support, newsies joined together to create an inseparable family.

Borel Drama Triple Threats

Continued from Page 1

During the rehearsal process, many things are said by actors, crew, and staff that have made us laugh and taught us valuable lessons. But there are a few things our director, Ms. G, has said to us over the years that have stood out: *"We are Borel Drama. We make magic happen!"* We try as hard as we can to create the best productions possible. The things that one might think are impossible to put onstage in the time given, can be done with determination and the commitment of the cast, crew and staff. *"What happens in Borel Drama, stays in Borel Drama!"* Theatre is about being creative and working hard. We are a strong group of people who trust, guide, and support one another. We love to encourage each other to be the best we can be. And, her favorite, *"Once in Borel Drama, always in Borel Drama!"* This is displayed whenever alumni come back and visit (which happens often!). It represents a powerful bond between the different classes from over a decade of Borel Drama shows that keeps us together as a family. Ms. G has brought together over ten years of students to create a community that is creative, encouraging, trusting, and inspiring.

As you probably noticed, the word "family" is used quite often when describing Borel Drama. That is because it truly sums up who we are. We are a family with a shared love of all aspects of the theater on and off the stage. We are a family. We are Borel Drama.

"Stop the presses! Newsies is an irresistible, high energy winner!"
-Entertainment Weekly

From Stage to Screen

Continued from Page 1

The plan was to create a version to license to schools and local community theater groups. Harvey Fierstein joined the project as book writer. Alan Menken and Jack Feldman complemented their original film score with several new songs. On September 25, 2011, a test production of *Newsies: The Musical* opened at Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey directed by Jeff Calhoun and choreographed by Christopher Gattelli.

After a successful North American tour, the Making it into a Broadway show was a hard and long journey. Since the show flopped at the multiplex in 1992, nobody could have guessed that the Disney movie musical would somehow become a Broadway hit.

After a successful run at Paper Mill, the decision was made to transfer the show to Broadway. *Newsies* began previews of a limited Broadway run at the Nederlander Theatre on March 15, 2012.

After the show sold out its first twelve weeks and a ten week extension, Disney announced an open ended run. The musical earned eight 2012 Tony Award nominations and won for Best Original Score and Best Choreography. *Newsies* ran for 1,004 performances on Broadway, playing to over 1.2 million audience members before closing on August 24, 2014.



Newsies film and Broadway musical poster

After a successful North American tour, the Making it into a Broadway show was a hard and long journey. Since the show flopped at the multiplex in 1992, nobody could have guessed that the Disney movie musical would somehow become a Broadway hit.



Weisel runs the distribution window with the help of Oscar and Morris Delancey

(Nico Oberes-Padre, Joseph Gloss, Jeremy Hsieh)



Miss Medda Larkin and the Bowery Beauties (Abigail Lee, Sofia Ivers, Charlotte Gregory, Mia Rabinowitz, Estella Osgood)



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



Borel Drama presents *Newsies* March 1 - 3 at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center

Visit www.BorelDrama.com to reserve your seats today!