

Australian Premiere

Seize the Day with Disney's rousing musical that has thrilled and inspired young people for generations.

The majestic Drum Theatre, Dandenong will host the **Australian Premiere** of **Disney NEWSIES Jr** this Sunday 15th May 2022

Produced by Masquerade Youth Productions renowned for their quality entertainment, have cast 50 young performers from 8 to 18 years of age from all over Melbourne and surrounding suburbs.

What is unique about this production, is it's being produced in just a weekend! That's right! The race is on to rehearse, create and design this action-packed show in 2 days!

About the show – the perfect family musical

Recently released in Australia for licensing by MTI Australasia, Disney's *Newsies JR.* is a 60-minute version of the 2012 Broadway musical, based on the 1992 film. Inspired by the rousing true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City, *Newsies JR.* features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein.

When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys' expense, the charismatic Jack Kelly rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions. Together, the newsies learn that they are stronger united and create a movement to fight for what's right.

Including the now-classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "Santa Fe," *Newsies JR.* is a timeless story full of spirit and heart.

Artistic Director, Carmen Powell is thrilled for the cast to experience being part of an Australian Premiere and returning to the stage after 2 years of chaos of not being able to perform. Many of the cast have rehearsed for other productions during that time and never got to perform.

"For many children and young people, theatre is their sport. They are committed and passionate about everything musical theatre. They are our future artists and it's wonderful to provide them with the opportunity to learn and experience theatre in a program designed for young people.

The crazy idea to take on the challenge of a short rehearsal and production time was to add to the experience and try to avoid any 'covid' related effects! 'Strike while the irons hot!' Having the Australian Premiere is just so exciting for our team and cast, including the audience! It's a 'first' for everyone!

Schedule:

Saturday 14th May - rehearsals in Berwick

Sunday 15th May - rehearsal & 7pm performance Drum Theatre, Dandenong

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(images attached)

About Masquerade Youth Productions

Masquerade Youth Productions AKA MYProductions and MYP is a not-for-profit incorporated organisation, producing inclusive performance opportunities for youth with non professional youth productions in a fun & friendly environment.

Since 2014, audiences have been entertained by Masquerade Youth Productions, celebrating musical theatre with amazing young talent.

Each season is a collaboration of youth theatre enthusiasts working together to produce a wonderful musical with a full show or junior version at the majestic Drum Theatre Dandenong.

As a youth company, we strive to provide opportunities for young creatives, creating spectacular shows with stellar casts of 8-21 years. Our fabulous production team are always looking to bring new fresh concepts to the stage and yet still deliver what audiences expect from iconic shows.

MYP provides the ultimate live theatre production experience in an inspiring, positive, fun, challenging and supportive environment.

Providing young performers acting, singing and dancing opportunities in a professional setting.

Fostering and mentoring stagecraft/production skills for young people looking for a learning environment with access to state of the art equipment and resources.

Masquerade Youth Productions is extremely proud of the professional engagements of past and current performers who have pursued careers in theatre, film and television including commercials, Australian film and print/catalogue work. But equally proud of those that have used their performance skills for personal development in a range of diverse careers and everyday life skills.

We are appreciative to our audiences for their continued support - as we create magic one show at a time.