



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contact: Natalie Jane, natalie@woodminster.com

Theater contact: Harriet Schlader, harriet@woodminster.com, 510-531-9597

Online: [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#)

CALENDAR INFORMATION

What: Disney's Newsies

Presented by: Woodminster Summer Musicals by Producers Associates, Inc.

When: 8 pm on July 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14

Where: Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park, 3540 Sanborn Drive, Oakland

Tickets: 510-531-9597 or www.woodminster.com or at the box office before any performance

PRESS RELEASE

Woodminster Summer Musicals Opens 53rd Season July 5th With A High-Energy, Can't-Miss Musical

June 12, 2019, Oakland, CA -- Producers Associates opens the 53rd season of the Woodminster Summer Musicals with *Disney's Newsies*. This inspiring story based on true events will be performed July 5-14 at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park. A two-time Tony Award®-winning show, *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 don't want to miss.

Newsies tells the captivating true story of how a band of underdogs became unlikely heroes when they fought for what is right and stood up to the most powerful men in New York. Timely and fresh, the fictionalized adaptation of *Newsies* addresses age-old themes of social injustice, exploitative labor practices and David-versus-Goliath struggles as the young learn to harness their power against a corrupt establishment. High-energy with non-stop thrills, the stage version introduces eight brand-new songs by the original team of Menken and Feldman while keeping many of the beloved songs from the film, including "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," "King of New York" and "Santa Fe."

Disney's *Newsies*, based on the 1992 motion picture, features a score by eight-time Academy Award® winner Alan Menken (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Sister Act*) and Jack Feldman and a book by four-time Tony Award® winner Harvey Fierstein (*La Cage aux Folles*, *Torch Song Trilogy*). While on Broadway, *Newsies* received 23 major theatrical nominations – including eight Tony Award® nods – and won Tony®, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Score and Choreography.

“We are so thrilled to be producing Disney’s Newsies on our stage for our 53rd season opener!” Says director, Joel Schlader. “This show has an incredibly talented cast and their energy just pours off the stage.”

Tickets are available by phone, at 510-531-9597, online at www.woodminster.com, or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 10-4 Monday-Sunday, or at the box office 2 hours before any performance. Performances are July 5 (opening), July 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14, all at 8 p.m.

Starting this season, we are offering Open Captioning for two performances of each show. Open Caption performances of *Newsies* will be July 6 and 7. We will also be including a performance with Audio Description on July 13. Hearing devices and printed scripts will be available for every performance at both the upper and lower entrances. Please contact Harriet Schlader to reserve a printed script at least one week in advance of the performance attending. Visit our website for more accessibility details. We want as many people as possible to experience "Broadway in the Redwoods" at our amphitheater.

Tickets for summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater range from \$33 to \$70, with a \$2 discount for seniors 62 and older and a wonderful K75 discount for Kids 16 and younger. Since the beginning, one of Producers Associates’ missions has been to make live theater affordable for families in the local community, and the organization offers many ticket discount programs with that in mind. They include:

- Season tickets and flex passes (about a 15% discount)
- Group rate 25+ (about half price, specific performances)
- Group rate 12+ (about 15% off, any performance)
- Oakland residents (about half price, opening night of each show)
- 17-24-year olds (about half price, at the door any performance)
- Kids Come Free (up to 16 yrs, 1 free with 1 paying adult, at the door any performance)
- K75 (up to 16 yrs, about 75% off, 5 discounted kids with 1 paying adult, pre-sales, any performance)

The production is directed by Joel Schlader, with music direction by Mark Dietrich, and choreography by Jody Jaron. Woodminster shows are performed with live orchestras, and musicians are members of Musicians Local No. 6.

The role of Jack Kelly will be played by Nikita Burshteyn, seen last season in *Oklahoma!* as Curly during the first weekend. The headstrong and determined Katherine Plummer will be played by Amanda Sylvia, who first graced our stage as Annie in *Annie* many years ago. We would also like to welcome back Chris Vettel to our stage who will be playing the greedy Mr. Pulitzer. The cast of 40 performers (both Equity and non-Equity) will bring this powerful, athletic, and contemporary musical to life on the Woodminster Amphitheatre stage.

After *Newsies* the 53rd season of the Woodminster Summer Musicals will continue with *Billy Elliot The Musical* featuring Elton John’s score August 2-11 and Stephen Sondheim’s *Into the Woods* August 30-September 8.

Over the last 53 years, Producers Associates has presented 160+ productions, entertaining over a million Woodminster Summer Musicals ticket holders. The shows have been performed by more than 5000 actors, over 20% of them members of Actors Equity Association, making the organization one of the Bay Area's most reliable employers of professional actors. The musicals have always been performed with live professional orchestras, which have included 23 different conductors and over 1800 members of Musicians Local #6. In addition, the organization has employed 26 professional set designers, 17 lighting designers, 25 costume designers, 6 sound technicians, 18 choreographers, 6 directors, and over 1,500 young backstage interns.

Woodminster Summer Musicals are performed under the stars at Woodminster Amphitheater, an open-air performance facility in Joaquin Miller Park high in the Oakland Hills. The park's spectacular views and serene woodsy environment made it the perfect setting for the amphitheater, cascades, reflecting pool, and paths that were originally built as a WPA project in 1939-40. For many East Bay families, it is a long-standing summer tradition to enjoy a picnic in the park and then see a musical at Woodminster.

For more information about the 2019 season or the history of the organization, visit www.woodminster.com.

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Natalie Jane, Publicity & Marketing
Woodminster Summer Musicals
Producers Associates, Inc.
www.woodminster.com
natalie@woodminster.com