



# Audition Central: Disney's Newsies JR.

Script: Jack Kelly

## SIDE 1

**JACK**

Hey, Crutchie, where you going? Morning bell ain't rung yet. Get back to sleep.

**CRUTCHIE**

I wanna get there before everybody. Ever since I got the polio, it takes me extra time to warm up my leg.

**JACK**

That bum pin of yours is a gold mine! You know how many newsies fake a limp for sympathy? That's why they calls you "Crutchie," 'cause they wish they had one too!

**CRUTCHIE**

Yeah, "pretend" is one thing, but Snyder gets the idea I can't make it on my own for real, they'll lock me up in The Refuge for good.

**JACK**

Don't worry about nuthin', I got your back. What d'ya think of my latest creation?  
*(JACK reveals his drawing. CRUTCHIE is impressed.)*

**CRUTCHIE**

Jack, you're a regular Nickelangelo Dervinci! But how come you always drawing pictures of mountains and stuff?

**JACK**

*(rolls up drawing and tucks it away)*

These streets sucked the life right outta my old man. Well, they ain't doin' that to me. You can keep your small life in the big city. Give me a big life in a small town way out west where a fella can breathe!

**END**

## SIDE 2

**JACK**

I ain't gonna see no more of my pals beat up and tossed into jail. No matter how many days we strike, your father ain't givin' up. I don't know what else we can do.

**KATHERINE**

Ah. But I do.

**JACK**

No, I'm through. No way.

**KATHERINE**

Really, Jack? Really? Being boss doesn't mean you have all the answers - just the brains to recognize the right one when you hear it.

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*(JACK is at a loss for words.)*

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**JACK**

Okay, I'm listening.

**KATHERINE**

The strike was your idea. The rally was Davey's. And now my plan will take us to the finish line.

*(KATHERINE takes a piece of paper from her pocket and hands it to him.)*

**JACK**

*(reading)*

"The Children's Crusade"? Now, there's a headline!

**KATHERINE**

*(snatches it back and reads)*

"For the sake of all the kids in every sweatshop, factory, and slaughterhouse in New York, I beg you... join us."

With those words, you challenged our whole generation to help each other!

**JACK**

I can't believe it, I mean people like you would never give me the time of day, and here you are, taking up the banner. Why?

**KATHERINE**

We all need something to believe in, Jack. I believe in this story. I believe in you. And so do the newsies.

**END**

**SIDE 3**

**JACK**

Miss Medda, I got a little situation out on the street. Mind if I hide out here a while?

**MEDDA**

Is Snyder the Spider after you again? Make yourself at home.

**LES**

Hey Jack, did you really escape jail on the back of Teddy Roosevelt's carriage?

**CRUTCHIE**

He sure did!

**DAVEY**

What would the Governor be doing at a juvenile jail?

**JACK**

So happens he was runnin' for office and wanted to show he cared about orphans and such. So while he got his mug in the paper, I got my butt in the back seat and off we rode together.

**LES**

You really know Governor Roosevelt?

**MEDDA**

He don't, but I do. Teddy's a regular patron of the arts, been a big fan of mine for years. By the way, Jack, can you paint me some more of these backdrops? Things have been going so well that I can actually pay you soon.

**JACK**

I couldn't take your money, Miss Medda.

**LES**

You pictured that?

**DAVEY**

It's really good.

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**MEDDA**

Your friend is quite an artist.

**JACK**

Don't get carried away. It's a bunch of trees.

**MEDDA**

The boy's got natural aptitude.

**LES**

Geez. I never knew no one with a aptitude!

**PAT**

Miss Medda, you're on!

**MEDDA**

Kids, stay as long as you like. You're with Medda now!

**PAT**

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the magnificent Medda Larkin and her Bowery Brigade!

**MEDDA**

Well, hi-dee-ho, everybody! Welcome to my theater. Yessiree, it's a brand new century with a brand new set of rules for women, and the Brigade and I are gonna tell you all about them. Maestro, if you please!

**END**

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