NEWSIES Jr. — Cast Bios

Pearl Alvarado *(Les (Closing))*

Pearl Alvarado is 8 years old and excited to be back this summer with Places! Productions. Her past performances include *The Lion King* (Nala), *Frozen* (Elsa), *Annie* (Miss Hannigan), *We Are Monsters* (Growly), and *Matilda* (Tommy). She also does competitive dance and enjoys attending the NATS competitions. She is grateful to Ms. Allison for supporting her growth as a singer.

Tiana Barnum *(Newsie (Opening); Hannah / Tommy Boy (Closing))*

Tiana (16) is an incoming Senior at Connections Academy. She is so excited to make her debut at Places! Productions in *Newsies* for her 28th show! She has performed around the Valley for 5 years, and her favorite appearances include *Secret Medusa* and *Alice in Wonderland* at EVCT, as well as *She Kills Monsters, Chicago, and Big Fish* at AYT. Tiana enjoys dancing, piano, karate, volunteering, and is an NHS officer and Student Council Rep at school. She is also starting her second year in the Cosmetology program at EVIT. She would like to thank the entire *Newsies* production team, as well as her parents for their love and support!

Adalia Blitz *(Hannah / Tommy Boy (Opening))*

Adalia Blitz is a kind and creative person. She spends her free time reading, playing piano, and taking voice lessons. Adalia is also a passionate volunteer, working with children for the past seven years. Past musical performances with Places! Productions include *Grease* (Sheila), *Kam D. Cain* (Cupid), and most recently *Seussical* (Grinch). She can't wait to be in future shows.

Ava Chiappetta *(Newsie (Opening); Race (Closing))*

Ava Chiappetta (Race) will be a senior at Gilbert High School, where she participates in both the school choir and the Places! Productions show choir. This year, she was a finalist in the AYAC for acting and a semi-finalist in Cal-Western NATS. She's received four Zoni nominations and won an NYA in the junior division. Some of her favorite past roles include Sour Kangaroo (*Seussical* Places! Productions), Snoopy (*You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* – Limelight), Portia (*Cinderella* – Places! Productions), Mrs. Peacock *(Clue* – Limelight), Madame Thénardier *(Les Misérable*s – Limelight), Denise (*The Play That Goes Wrong* – Limelight), Pumbaa (*The Lion King* Jr. – Limelight), Miss Hannigan (*Annie Jr.* – Mesa Encore). Ava would like to thank Allison and the production team of *Newsies* for this opportunity to play such a fun role!

Grace Csuy *(Darcy / Police Chief (Opening))*

Grace Csuy is excited to perform in *Annie* and *Newsies* this summer! Her previous theater credits include Jukebox, *Cinderella*, *Kam Musical*, and *Seussical*, along with several musical productions at her church. Grace is going into 7th grade this fall and loves singing, acting, and being on stage. She is thrilled to perform in *Annie* and *Newsies* and share her love of performing with the audience!

Aidan Dame *(Morris / Seitz / Roosevelt (Closing))*

Aidan Dame is glad to be back for his 4th and 5th shows at Places! He previously has played Wickersham 1 (*Seussical*), Bobby Darin (*Jukebox Time Machine*), and Eugene Florczyk (*Grease*). He has also acted as Wickersham 3 for Fiat Production's *Seussical* the Musical and as the *Wizard of Oz* and Gaston in his school's productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and the *Wizard of Oz*. He would like to thank his parents for letting him continue acting as he takes on

the role of Rooster Hannigan in *Annie* and Morris/Seitz/Roosevelt in *Newsies*. He would also like to thank everyone at Places! for offering him a place he can grow in the world of theater.

Ethan Day *(Newsie (Opening); Crutchie (Closing))*

Ethan is so excited to be back at Places! for another show. He's recently graduated from LFPA, where this year he's played Damian (*Mean Girls: High School Edition*) and Beetlejuice (*Beetlejuice* Jr.). He would like to thank all his family and friends for seeing his shows and supporting him through all his endeavors.

Zack Desmangles *(Morris / Seitz / Roosevelt / Male Swing (Opening); Newsie (Closing))*

Zack is so excited to be in his 6th show with Places! Productions! He's been seen in other shows like *Urinetown* (Sen. Fipp), *Cinderella* (Harold), *Grease* (Doody), and his most recent *Seussical* (Cat in the Hat). In his off time, Zack likes to play many instruments, mainly guitar, and write music (stream Anemoia by Ever Red Rose on all platforms!). He also leads Jr. High and Highschool Worship for Sun Valley. He would like to thank everyone who helped put this amazing show together and also his Grandparents for being his biggest fans!

Emma Douglas *(Albert / Scab 3 (Opening))*

Emma is excited to return to the stage with Places! Production! Emma has performed in *Seussical*, *Alice in Wonderland* (Tall Alice), *Matilda* (*Matilda*), *Narnia* (Lucy Pevensie), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere), *We Are Monsters* (Oozy Loompa), *Mary Poppins* (Jane Banks), and *Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy). Emma is grateful for the support from her family, friends, and directors who have guided her along her theater career.

Lindsay French *(Muriel / Olive (Opening); Newsie (Closing))*

Lindsay French recently graduated from Higley High School and will be attending Midland University this fall, where she will study Arts Management. She received a theatre scholarship to continue pursuing her passion for the performing arts. During her time at Higley, she earned her Seal of Fine Arts in Theatre and was a three-time Choreography Award winner. Her favorite role was Karen in *Mean Girls* at Higley High School. Lindsay is grateful for the opportunities, friendships, and memories she has gained through theatre and would like to thank her family, friends, and directors for their support throughout her journey.

Annie Gibson *(Specs / Scab 2 (Opening); Newsie (Closing))*

Annie is 13 years old and a 8th grader at Shepherd Jr. High! *Annie* is in both Newsies and *Annie*, which are her first shows at Places! Productions. She has been in theater for 2 years, performing and acting in multiple shows, her favorites being Xanadu Jr, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Elf jr*. In her free time, she plays piano and experiments with acrylics and oil painting, showing off her creativity in many ways. *Annie* is so excited to be apart of this show and is so thankful to the directors, choreographers and cast!

Charlotte Hover-Lashnits *(Newsie (Opening); Muriel / Olive (Closing))*

Charlotte is thrilled to be back on the Places! stage. Over the last year, she has danced competitively in hip hop and tap companies and is thrilled to be back in musical theatre. Some of her favorite credits include Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* (Inspire Entertainment), Ensemble in *White Christmas* (Zao Theatre), and Shaman in *Sleepy Hollow* (EVCT). She hopes you enjoy the show!

Tanner Hutchinson *(Oscar / Bunsen (Closing))*

Annie and *Newsies* are Tanner's 6th and 7th shows with Places! Productions as Oliver Warbucks and Oscar Delancey. Previously he was in *Mary Poppins*, Addams Family, *Cinderella*, *Grease* and *Seussical*. He has also performed elsewhere in *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Music Man, The Wizard of Oz* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.* Tanner is very happy to have found his "home" with Places and excited to be a part of these casts.

Ayden Iwan *(Jack Kelly (Opening); Customer / Newsie (Closing))*

Ayden Iwan is honored to be playing Jack Kelly in Places! Productions' production of *Newsies* Jr. In the past Ayden has played roles such as Gomez Addams (*The Addams Family)*, Marius (*Les Mis*), Danny (*Grease*), and Bert (*Mary Poppins*). Ayden would like to thank everyone who has worked on this show including the amazing cast, directors, choreographers, and volunteers.

Taylor Keyes *(Newsie (Opening); Albert / Scab 3 (Closing))*

This is Taylor's first performance with Places! Productions. She has performed in *Seussical* Jr and *Kaleidoscope* at LFPA. Taylor is grateful for the opportunity to perform with this wonderful cast and crew and would like to thank her family for their constant love and support! She is very thrilled to participate in *Newsies Jr*!

Cecily Kinnaman *(Newsie/ Hazel Cover (Opening); Pigtails / Scab 1 (Closing))*

Cecily is thrilled to be part of this production! At 13 years old, she loves all things musical theater and especially enjoys dancing. When she's not rehearsing, she can usually be found dancing, listening to music, or spending time with friends and family. She is grateful for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show!

Eliza Lauritzen *(Pigtails / Scab 1 (Opening); Newsie / Hazel Cover (Closing))*

Eliza is thrilled to be performing as Pigtails and Scab 1 in Places! Productions' *Newsies* Jr. Her most recent stage experience was with Ballet Etudes in their production of *Cinderella*, where she danced the parts of Ballroom Corps and Toujour Relie. Some notable roles include Chinese, Russian, and Party Girl in *The Nutcracker*. Her favorite musical theatre roles include The Bird Woman in *Mary Poppins* Jr., KC in *We Are Monsters*, and Cindy in *At The Bandstand*. Eliza brings grace and versatility to all of her roles. Her dedication to her art form shines through from the studio to the stage. Eliza is thankful to her Places! Productions family and directors for helping her foster her love for performing.

Owen Lauritzen *(Les (Opening); Newsie (Closing))*

Owen is grateful to play the role of Les in *Newsies* Jr. His favorite role to date was Jojo in *Seussical* Jr. Other notable roles include Fritz in *The Nutcracker,* Vreddy the Vampire in *We Are Monsters*, and Michael in *At the Bandstand*. Owen loves show choir and spending time with friends! Owen would like to thank the entire *Newsies* Jr. Production Team for making this experience a memorable one!

Alexis Martin *(Newsie/Ada (Opening); Wiesel / Ada / Woman (Closing))*

Alexis is thrilled to be back on the Places! Productions stage in *Newsies* Jr.! Now going into her senior year, her past productions include the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, and most recently Miss Scarlet in *Clue* as an impactful member of BASIS Mesa's theater program. Alexis is a first degree black belt in American Kenpo and Krav Maga, and is on East Mesa Karate's All Stars team. She'd like to thank the entire cast and crew of these summer shows, and hopes you enjoy the shows!

Farrah McArthur *(Jo Jo / Spot Conlon (Opening))*

Farrah (Age 14) is thrilled to take on the role of Miss Hannigan in *Annie Jr.* & Jo Jo/Spot Conlon in *Newsies* with her favorite Youth theater group, Places! Productions. Farrah's recent stage credits with Places! include Mazie La Bird in *Seussical*, Kam in Dante X Johnson's original work *Kam D. Cain*, *Cinderella* in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, Lucy Pevensie in *Narnia*, and *Mary Poppins* in *Mary Poppins* Jr. Prior to that, she portrayed Oliver Twist in Limelight's *Oliver* and Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden* with Places! Her dynamic stage presence has also lit up the Places! Show Choir for the past three years. A passionate vocal competitor, Farrah has been a standout in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competitions for the past four years. This year she placed 1st in all three categories (Classical, Musical Theater and Commercial) for State and placed 1st in Classical and 3rd in Commercial at Regionals in San Jose. Farrah's boundless love for theater shines through in every rehearsal and performance. She extends heartfelt thanks to Allison Houston for her dedicated voice coaching and unwavering encouragement, and to her family for their constant love and support.

Hyrum McClure *(Customer / Newsie (Opening); Jack Kelly (Closing))*

Hyrum McClure is excited to be playing Jack in his 8th show with Places! He recently graduated from ALA Gilbert North and plans to serve a 2-year mission before majoring in Musical Theatre at Utah State University. Hyrum loves performing and a few of his favorite roles have been Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* (ALA, 2026), Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family* (Places! 2024), Kenickie in *Grease* (Places! 2025), Major-General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance* (ALA, 2025) and Mr. Krabs in *SpongeBob the Musical* (ALA, 2025). He would like to thank his Places! family and friends for making his final show so memorable and Allison for being an incredible support, teacher, and mentor over the last 4 years. He also sends his gratitude to all of those that repeatedly show up to cheer him on.

Christina McIntosh *(Nancy / Ethel (Opening); Newsie (Closing))*

Christina McIntosh is 15 years old and attends Higley High School where she will be performing this Fall as part of the school's Musical Theatre and Junior Company. She is thrilled to join Places! Productions in her debut performance with the company. Previously, she performed in *Little Red Riding Hood* with The Long Ridge Elementary Theater Group, and was a Soprano/Alto soloist with Eastmark High School's Choir. She also earned a Superior Achievement Award at the AZ State Choral Festival. Christina would like to thank her parents and the Places! directors for their support and for this opportunity.

Reagan Morgan *(Jo Jo / Spot Conlon (Closing))*

Reagan Morgan enjoys musical theater and is excited to make her Places! debut! This is her first time participating in a Places! Production. Some of her favorite shows that she has done are *Mary Poppins* where she played Bert and *Princess Bride* where she played Vizzini. Outside of theater, Reagan likes script writing. She would like to thank her family for supporting her and Piper Searcy for inspiring her in theater.

Annie Richardson *(Darcy / Police Chief (Closing))*

Annie is excited to be performing in both *Annie* and *Newsies* this summer. She loves being apart of the Places! Productions community!

Evalee Rushing *(Warden Snyder (Closing))*

Evalee has loved performing since she was able to talk. Any crowd of people can be considered an audience in her book. She loves singing and dancing and hopes to be on the stage the rest of her life! This is her second production with Places! Productions and she is grateful to share the spotlight with so many of her friends.

Anelise Sampson *(Dorothy / Buttons (Opening))*

Anelise is an incoming eighth grader at Shepherd Jr. High and is excited to make her Places! debut. She has participated in over ten productions of community theater across Mesa. She wants to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support. Enjoy the show!.

Lauren Thiessen *(Pat / Bill / Police Officer (Opening); Newsie (Closing))*

Lauren has performed in plays and musicals for a little over 12 years, danced for 6 years, and (mostly self-taught) singing for as long as she can remember. Most recently, she enjoyed her performance as a Russian townsperson and Reporter in *Anastasia*, one of her dream musicals. She'd like to thank Jesus and close friends and family for all their support.

Jayda Vannoy *(Medda (Opening); Romeo (Closing))*

Jayda Vannoy (Medda / Romeo) is so excited to play Medda with this great *Newsies* Cast. Jayda is a student at Learning Foundation Performing Arts where she started in Musical Theater. She wants to say a big Thank you to Mr. Mills who noticed her talent and convinced her to join Places! Production where she fell in love with another family — all her new amazing talented friends. Some of her favorite roles are ChaCha in *Grease* (Places!), Coco in *Kam D. Cain* (Places!), Jane Fairfax in *Emma* pop musical (LFPA), Meg in *Little Women* (LFPA), Miss Argentina in *Beetlejuice* (LFPA), and Cady Heron in *Mean Girls* (LFPA). In addition to musical theater, Jayda also loves being a part of Places! Production Presto Show Choir. She wants to thank her mother and Places! Producing Team for all their love and support along the way. She also wants to thank Allison for everything — for helping her with her confidence and helping her grow.

Kade Wallace *(Race (Opening); Newsie (Closing))*

Kade Wallace is so excited to be a part of *Newsie*s! This is Kade's 3rd show with Places! He was previously seen in *Seussical* TYA as the Cat in the Hat and in *Kam D. Cain* as Vixen and Jack. Kade is a 2nd degree black belt in American Kenpo Karate. In his downtime, you will find him playing games like Minecraft and hanging out with his friends. He would like to thank Allison, Jung, Breona, and everyone at Places! for this opportunity! “Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!!”

Kayden Whitmer *(Joseph Pulitzer (Closing))*

When Kayden Whitmer was twelve, he did his first improv show that sparked his interest in performing. He then did his first Shakespeare play, learning to fully inhabit a character. He studied and prepared more deeply for subsequent roles, continuing to grow as a performer. After four years of improv and several stage experiences, he is now cast in *Newsies*, ready to try again.

Sophie Whitmer *(Pat / Bill / Police Officer (Closing))*

Sophie appreciates you coming to see *Newsies*. She is a 5 year 4-H member, she raises and shows goats, currently has a herd of 25 goats. She has been clogging for 2 years with the Maricopa 4-H cloggers. She is a brilliant homeschool Shakespearean performer. Last year she was Ariel in *Tempest* for TJLA's performance. She's in ballroom and used to do Hip-Hop and has done so for 7 years. She has been in JesterZ Improv program for 3 years.

Audrey Williams *(Newsie (Opening); Dorothy / Buttons (Closing))*

Audrey Williams loves theatre and always has an amazing time doing all of the Places! Productions shows. She has been in many shows including *Legally Blonde, Much Ado About Nothing, Bye Bye Birdie, Les Misérables*, and many more. Audrey also studies theatre along

with ballroom at her school, where she has earned a few awards for her performances. Audrey would like to thank her family and her friends for always supporting her.

Zander Zahorka *(Crutchie (Opening))*

Zander, 13, loves theater and is excited to play Crutchie in *Newsies* Jr. Most recently, he appeared as a Wickersham Brother in *Seussical*, Sheldon Gumdrop in *Kam D. Cain*, and the King in *Cinderella* with Places! Productions. He is especially excited to learn a New York accent for this role and bring Crutchie's heart and humor to the stage. Zander is grateful to everyone at Places! and to the many actors he has worked alongside who have helped him grow as a performer.