

The  WEST VALLEY
ARTS production of

Disney's

NEWSIES



The Musical

Music by

Alan Menken

Lyrics by

Jack Feldman

Book by

Harvey Fierstein

Based on the Disney Film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White

Originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions

AUGUST 7-29

WEST VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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WEST VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
A West Valley City Venue

The  WEST VALLEY
ARTS production of
Disney's

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CAST: JERDYN AKERIPA, NNEKA BARCELONA,
FRANCESCA BIANCHI, DOUG CALDWELL, SAVANNAH CALDWELL,
BRYCE CLIFTON, WILSON COOK, ROMAN CURIEL, WENDY DANG,
MOANA FITISEMANU, SARAH FOLSTER, NATHAN KRISTJANSON,
NOAH LEE, LUKE LOGAN, SEBASTIAN LONG, TREY MCEVOY,
TANIA MOLINAR, KARELY MOLINAR, EVELYN PETERSEN, LIO RIVER,
CAMERON ROBBINS, ASHTYN ROSKELLEY, BENJAMIN SALAZAR,
LAUREN SLAGOWSKI, EVIE JO SMITH, TAYLOR SMITH,
JORDAN SOPER, SCOT STRUBLE, RYAN YEE.

DIRECTED BY KATE RUFENER

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2027 Season

FINDING
NEVERLAND

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 20

Steel Magnolias

MARCH 19-APRIL 10

RENT

JUNE 11-27

MATILDA

AUGUST 6-28

IN
THE HEIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 16

wvcArts.org

CAST

JACK.....	JERDYN AKERIPA
KATHERINE.....	ASHTYN ROSKELLEY
DAVEY.....	ROMAN CURIEL
LES.....	SEBASTIAN LONG
CRUTCHIE.....	TREY MCEVOY
PULITZER.....	TAYLOR SMITH
RACE.....	CAMERON ROBBINS
SPECS.....	SCOT STRUBLE
FINCH.....	BENJAMIN SALAZAR
JO JO.....	NOAH LEE
ROMEO.....	RYAN YEE
MUSH/ROOSEVELT.....	LUKE LOGAN
ELMER.....	WILSON COOK
SPOT CONLON.....	WENDY DANG
MEDDA.....	NNEKA BARCELONA
SNYDER.....	BRYCE CLIFTON
WEISEL.....	DOUG CALDWELL
OSCAR DELANCEY.....	LIO RIVER
MORRIS DELANCEY.....	NATHAN KRISTJANSON
ENSEMBLE.....	EVIE JO SMITH
HANNAH/NUN/ENSEMBLE.....	LAUREN SLAGOWSKI
JACOBI/NUN/ENSEMBLE.....	TANIA MOLINAR
SEITZ/BUNSEN/NUN/ENSEMBLE.....	KARELY MOLINAR
BROOKLYN/BOWERY.....	JORDAN SOPER
BROOKLYN/BOWERY.....	FRANCESCA BIANCHI
BROOKLYN/BOWERY.....	SARAH FOLSTER
BROOKLYN/BOWERY.....	MOANA FITISEMANU
BROOKLYN/BOWERY.....	EVELYN PETERSEN
BROOKLYN/BOWERY.....	SAVANNAH CALDWELL

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR.....	KATE RUFENER
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	AI LESA
CHOREOGRAPHER.....	EMILY HENWOOD
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....	SCOT STRUBLE
MANAGING PRODUCER.....	VANESSA OLSON
CONSULTING PRODUCER.....	JOHN SWEENEY
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....	ADAM FLITTON
STAGE MANAGER.....	MAISIE BUNKER NELSON
COMPANY MANAGER.....	KANDE SHACKELFORD
SCENIC DESIGNER.....	ADAM FLITTON
COSTUME DESIGNER.....	ALICIA KONDRICK
WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER.....	SAVANNA FINLEY
PROPERTIES.....	MARILYN MONTGOMERY
LIGHTING DESIGNER.....	RYAN FALLIS
SOUND DESIGNER.....	ANDREW DOMYAN
AUDIO ENGINEER.....	RACHEL MARDIS
LIGHT BOARD.....	GREY BROUGH
LEAD DECK.....	CONNOR VINCENT
SCENIC PAINTER.....	COLTON HATTABAUGH
DECK.....	GENEVIEVE OLSON
DECK.....	CHLOE BORGES
WARDROBE /WIG CREW.....	HEIDI FRANK
WARDROBE /WIG CREW.....	LINDSEY JARMAN
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER.....	JUSTIN LEE
FIGHT CAPTAIN.....	SCOT STRUBLE
ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGN.....	SPENCER DAVIS
ASSISTANT & TAP CHOREOGRAPHER.....	LUKE LOGAN
DANCE CAPTAIN.....	FRANCESCA BIANCHI
VOCAL/MUSIC CAPTAIN.....	LAUREN SLAGOWSKI
SOCIAL MEDIA.....	SYDNEY OLSON
GRAPHIC DESIGN.....	KAT PETERSON

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Just look at the world we're inheriting and think of the one we'll create..."

I do think of this new world. I think of it often.

I'm reminded of it anytime I hear these iconic Newsies songs.

I'm old enough to have seen Newsies in theaters when it was released as a movie. From that, I got a nice little crush on Christian Bale, but it was Robert Duvall as Pulitzer that haunted my nightmares.

What kind of person is so terribly cruel to kids?

Goons and officers and big burly guards chasing these tiny kids with tiny lives?

Not to mention the refuge... locking kids up? For what? The crime of being poor?

Putting the most vulnerable children in the care of crooked criminals is despicable. It's something out of a dystopian movie, not something that happens at the turn of a bright, new century... right?

"The World we're inheriting..."

Katherine, our girl reporter, sings this line about both the news organization Pulitzer runs, yes. But she ensures the Newsies don't stay satisfied with influencing that tiny corner of their whole world.

Can you imagine leading an entire revolution that shut down one of the largest industries in one of the largest cities known to 1910?

Can you imagine doing so in a little under 8 months?

And can you imagine a bunch of kids under 17 putting it all together and figuring out the logistics of such a huge venture?

While 'Newsies' plays a bit with historical events surrounding these strikes, it doesn't play with the reality of child abuse

and unregulated labor. A reality that remained hidden until photographers like Lewis Hine and journalists like Jacob Riis brought it to light through photos that would rock the foundations of capitalism itself.

As our Katherine sings,

"Thousands of children, exploited, invisible
Speak up, take a stand, and there's someone to write about it
That's how things get better..."

None of these kids knew whether or not they'd win.

They only knew that their inherited world was dangerous, because it was built by opportunist bullies. The kids had to take it from those tyrants and shape it into a world of their own creation. A world that expanded beyond their tiny borough.

As you watch the show tonight, we invite you to enjoy the beautiful story. We also invite you to think of the world we've inherited and consider asking...

What if all of us took one tiny stand?

What if we spoke out with one tiny rebellion?

What if great, sweeping reform isn't started by instant, aligned union on every point?

What if our very disagreements are proof of impassioned commitment to a much grander vision of our shared humanity?

And what if a group of poor, hungry, orphaned kids could show us how to actually create the world we want to change?

"And the world will see
that we had to choose
That the things we do today will be tomorrow's news."

Enjoy the show,

Kate Rufener
Director

PS... Keep an eye out for whenever Medda and the nuns dance. I love it when they do that.

Playing next at  WEST VALLEY
ARTS

WAIT UNTIL DARK



A play by Frederick Knott
Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher

OCTOBER 2-24

WEST VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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WAIT UNTIL DARK, adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, was originally produced by the Dallas Playhouse, Fort Worth, Texas. Artistic Director: Sam Brown, Managing Director: Edward Ryan, General Manager: Regina Miller, Chief Development Officer

SONG LIST

Overture

Santa Fe - Prologue

Carrying The Banner

The Bottom Line

That's Rich

I Never Planned On You / Don't Come A-Knocking

The World Will Know

Watch What Happens

Seize The Day

Santa Fe - Reprise

King Of New York

Letter From The Refuge

Watch What Happens - Reprise

The Bottom Line - Reprise

Brooklyn's Here

Something To Believe In

Once And For All

Finale

SYNOPSIS

Act One

As Jack Kelly is savoring the last few moments of quiet before the sun rises, he shares with his best friend Crutchie his rooftop view of the city and his dream for a better life out West ("Santa Fe - Prologue"). At dawn, the newsies sing about their life and their work ("Carrying the Banner"), introducing this ramshackle group of young friends. They make their way to the distribution window for the World, where they pick up their daily stacks of papers to sell from Wiesel, who runs the window, and Morris and Oscar Delancey, goons who work for the World. Davey and Les, brothers trying to earn money for their family, meet the newsies and try to learn the ropes. Jack agrees to partner with the boys since Les's young age will help him sell more papers, although Davey is skeptical.

Meanwhile, Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the World, expresses displeasure at the declining sales of his newspaper and vows to increase profits ("The Bottom Line"), even if it is at the expense of the newsies.

At the end of the day, it's clear that Les is a natural newsie. Before Jack and the brothers can part ways, a man appears and chases Jack. Davey and Les follow Jack's lead, running through the alleys of New York and finding safety in Medda's Theater. Jack introduces them to Medda Larkin, one of the Bowery's most famous performers. Jack explains that the man chasing them is named Snyder; he runs The Refuge, an orphanage that he keeps in squalid conditions and embezzles from. He's had it out for Jack ever since he escaped. Medda offers her theater as a safe haven, and they stay to watch her perform ("That's Rich").

During Medda's performance, Jack notices Katherine, a bright young reporter he had seen earlier that day. A smitten Jack makes several attempts to flirt with her, but Katherine, quick-witted and ever-professional, cleverly rebuffs him. While the Bowery Beauties perform their routine, Jack resorts to sketching a portrait of Katherine ("I Never Planned on You / Don't Come a-Knockin'"), and leaves it for her to find.

The next day, as the newsies gather at the distribution window, the boys are outraged to learn that Pulitzer has increased their price for newspapers - they can barely afford to eat as it is! Prompted by Davey, the newsies decide to form a union and strike ("The World Will Know").

After a successful first day of striking, newly elected union leader Jack Kelly assigns some kids to spread the word to newsies in other boroughs. Katherine arrives, hoping that the newsies will give her an exclusive for the Sun. Jack tells her to be at the distribution window the next morning; not only will the newsies prevent others from selling papers, but they plan to stop the delivery carts as well. He tells her that they all have a lot riding on her reporting skills, and Katherine gets to work writing her breakout article ("Watch What Happens").

The next day, Jack arrives to find that only a few kids have assembled to strike. He urges Davey to convince the small group not to back down. When scabs arrive to take the newsies' place, Jack asks them to stand in solidarity with all the city's exploited working children. The scabs throw down their papers, just in time for Katherine and her photographer to snap a victorious photo ("Seize the Day"). But soon the newsies engage in a fierce fight with the Delanceys, Wiesel, and the police. Snyder scares Jack away, but not before he watches the Delanceys take down Crutchie and carry him off to The Refuge. Reaching the temporary safety of his rooftop, Jack paces, feeling guilty about leading the kids into danger. He looks out over the city and longs to escape ("Santa Fe").

Act Two

Battered and bruised, the newsies lament the previous day's events at Jacobi's Deli. Amid rumors that Jack was captured, several newsies wonder where he is. Katherine arrives with a copy of the story she published in the Sun, complete with a front-page picture of the newsies. Ecstatically, they thank her and celebrate their - and Katherine's - fame ("King of New York"). Meanwhile, Crutchie writes a letter to Jack from The Refuge expressing that he feels no ill will toward Jack and urging the newsies to stick together ("Letter from The Refuge").

Davey, Les, and Katherine find Jack back at Medda's Theater and try to convince him to come back to the fight. Jack refuses, saying that they can't win against a man as powerful as Pulitzer. The three convince Jack that theirs is a fight worth fighting ("Watch What Happens - Reprise"); Jack finally agrees, and the kids plan a rally. Discovering Katherine's story, Pulitzer furiously resolves to take down Jack. Just then, a cocky Jack arrives to announce the newsies' rally. Pulitzer assures Jack that no paper will cover it - and if it's not in the press, it never happened. He then reveals Katherine,

exposing her as his daughter, and Snyder, who emerges from the shadows. Pulitzer offers Jack a choice: get sent to The Refuge or renounce the strike and leave New York with pockets full of cash. The Delanceys escort Jack to the cellar, where an old printing press rests, to ponder his decision ("The Bottom Line - Reprise").

That evening, Brooklyn newsies cross the bridge with Spot Conlon, their leader, to join newsies from every borough at Medda's theater for the rally ("Brooklyn's Here"). Davey gives an inspiring speech, riling up the newsies about their progress. However, Jack appears and tells them to go back to work because they are no match for Pulitzer. Jack accepts his payoff money at the door and exits quickly.

On his rooftop, Jack finds Katherine looking through his drawings of The Refuge's bleak conditions. He snatches them from her and they argue fiercely until she kisses him. Katherine shares her plan to have the newsies distribute an article which quotes Jack on the exploitation of working kids and calls for a citywide strike. Before heading to the old printing press Jack recently discovered, they share their hope in each other ("Something to Believe In").

With the help of Katherine and her well-connected friends, Darcy and Bill, the newsies sneak into Pulitzer's cellar to print their paper ("Once and for All"). The kids distribute the pamphlet all over the city.

Pulitzer's office is flooded with angry calls from every corner of New York. Having read the Newsies Banner, Pulitzer is furious at the kids' attempt to thwart him. Jack, Davey, and Spot show up ("Seize the Day - Reprise") to personally deliver the news and say that the kids are willing to make a compromise. Pulitzer refuses to back down until Governor Roosevelt appears with Katherine and Jack's drawings of The Refuge. Alone, Jack and Pulitzer come to an agreement they can both live with - the price increase is reduced by half, and publishers will buy back any unsold papers. The strike is over!

Outside, Jack announces the end of the strike. Crutchie appears amid the jubilation, followed by a handcuffed Snyder. Despite his dreams for Santa Fe, Jack realizes that the newsies are his family and Katherine gives him something to believe in - so he's staying put for now ("Finale Ultimo").

*Synopsis courtesy of Music Theatre International.

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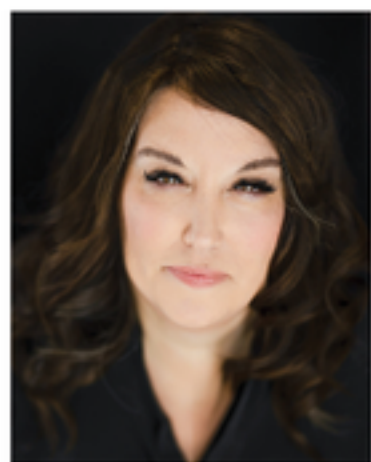


Mindi Hansen, Attorney



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BIOGRAPHIES



Kate Rufener, Director

Kate Rufener has been on or near a stage for nearly five decades. Some of Kate's favorite directing projects include *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Company*, *Small Courage*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Some of her favorite acting projects include *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Guys & Dolls*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

By day, she is an Associate Project Manager for Strategic 3C and the Founder/Artistic Director for *The Reclaimers Podcast*. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Psychology to better inform her work as a Victim Advocate. She also serves as the Board Chair for the West Valley Arts Foundation.

Outside a theater, Kate can be found in a Disney park, on a beach, in the dome of the Clark Planetarium, or writing books/scripts to the exclusion of sleep. She is grateful to unwavering Besties and innovative Mentors. This show made possible by generous laughs from Goodman and Little Dude.

Lovingly dedicated to Tabitha, who changed the whole world, just like she said she would.



Airoleoge Lesa, Music Director

Airoleoge is excited to be back at West Valley Arts! You may have seen him performing on stage in *Legally Blonde* (Professor Callahan), *Fiddler On the Roof* (Lazar Wolf), Jared has also recently been in *Into the Woods* (Baker), *West Side Story* (Doc), *The Little Mermaid* (King Triton), *Light in the Piazza* (Signor Naccarelli), *Christmas Carol* (The Ghost of Christmas Present), and in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (Don Magnifico).



Emily Henwood, Choreographer

Emily is thrilled to be back at West Valley Arts. Past choreographer credits include *Alice by Heart* at West Valley Arts, *Fun Home* at Tooele Valley Theatre, *Little Shop of Horrors* at American Crossroads Theatre, and *The Little Mermaid* at LaForge Encore Theatre. When she's not behind the scenes, Emily loves to perform on the stage. Some of her favorite roles include Maria Von Trapp in the *Sound of Music* and Anybody's in *West Side Story*.



Jerdyn Akeripa, Jack

Jerdyn is thrilled to be making his West Valley Arts debut as Jack Kelly in *Newsies*, his first production following a five-year hiatus from theatre. He is grateful for the opportunity to return to the stage alongside such a talented and kind company of artists. He would like to thank his castmates, crew, and creative team for their support and for an incredible rehearsal process. A special thank you goes to his partner, Merick, and his dogs, Cookie and Scooby, for their constant encouragement and support throughout this journey.



Ashtyn Roskelley, Katherine

Ashtyn is elated to be making her West Valley Arts debut, and couldn't think of a more perfect show, cast, or pro team to be blessed with for such an endeavor! *Newsies* is a personal favorite, and Katherine a personal hero. The message of this show is clear: words and pictures have power, and anyone can make change if they'll only stand together and fight for it.

After a flying trapeze accident earlier this year that left her with a mangled, broken foot, (no, really) Ashtyn has painstakingly and triumphantly re-learned how to walk, run, and dance for your viewing pleasure! "It was a labor of love!"

Past credits include Amalia Balash in *She Loves Me* (Hopebox Theatre), Lily Craven in *The Secret Garden* (Ogden Musical Theatre), Brenda Strong in *Catch Me If You Can* (Centerpoint Theatre), and Josephine Bloom in *Big Fish* (Centerpoint Theatre).

Ashtyn would like to extend her sincerest gratitude to the whole team at West Valley Arts for giving her "something to believe in." Thanks are also due in kind to her given family, her found family, the Utah Space Cadets, and of course, her loving husband who happens to be pretty easy on the eyes, as luck would have it.

Ashtyn can be found on instagram: @ash_in_the_atmosphere



Roman Curiel, Davey

Roman is thrilled to be a part of West Valley's production of *Newsies*. It has been a special show to him as his first entrance into Utah's theatre community. He has since performed shows with Hale Centre Theatre, The Ruth, and West Valley Arts. Along with his theatre experience, he has a Bachelor's of Art in Dance from BYU, and street cred performing music across the country. He currently works as an LMT with whatever artsy projects he can fit on the side.



Sebastian Long, Les

Sebastian (Bash) is elated to be joining in his first show at West Valley Arts and to join a revolution as Les in *Newsies*! He has most recently sang his heart out as the Baby Kangaroo in *Seussical* and Michael in *Elf* at the Draper historic theatre. In his free time away from the stage he enjoys swimming, violin, needoh collecting and screaming at the top of his lungs.



Trey McEvoy, Crutchie

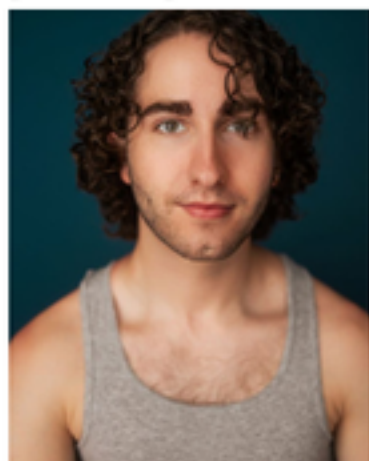
Trey McEvoy is so excited to debut at West Valley Arts! Trey is enthusiastic to play Crutchie and put a personal spin on the character. Trey would like to say thank you to the friends and family who have offered their support throughout this production process!



Taylor Smith, Pulitzer

Taylor is thrilled to be back at West Valley Arts! Last he was seen here at WVA was Disney's *Hunchback of Notre Dame* as Quasimodo. Other shows here include Hans Van Ripper in *Sleepy Hollow*, Ensemble in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Swing in *Sweeney Todd*. Taylor has also been seen in the Valley as Tunny in *American Idiot* at The Grand Theatre, Burs in *The Wild Party* at Hart Theatre Company, Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol* at Hale Centre Theatre, and Sydney Carton in *A Tale of Two Cities* at Centerpointe Theatre.

Taylor Holds a double major BFA from the University of Utah one in Acting and one in Vocal Performance (Opera). Taylor's favorite role is Husband to Amanda and Dad to Evie Jo and Miles. Thank you my Loves for all the endless support!



Cameron Robbins, Race

Cameron is a BFA graduate from Brigham Young University. Prior credits include *Hunchback of Notre Dame* at West Valley Arts and Hale Centre Theatre, *A Christmas Carol* at Hale Centre Theatre, and *A Chorus Line* with West Valley Arts. He would like to thank his parents and his family for their continued support and those who have taken the time to come and support the arts.

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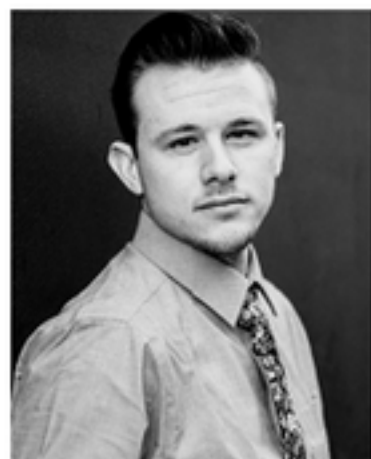
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Scot Struble, Specs/Assistant Director

Scot is excited to join the cast of Newsies! Everyone here has worked so hard to bring you a beautiful show and inspire you. Please enjoy.



Benjamin Salazar, Finch

Benjamin is thrilled to be performing on the West Valley Arts stage! Other notable performing credits include: *The Hunchback of Notredame*, *Sister Act*, *The Prince of Egypt*, and *The Addams Family* with Hale Centre Theatre; Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* with Grand Performing Arts; *Mary Poppins* with Royal Theatre Academy; and *Newsies* with Draper Historic Theatre. "Shoot for the Moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars" - Norman Vincent Peale.



Noah Lee, Jojo

Noah Lee (he/him) is thrilled to be performing on the West Valley Arts stage once again! He has last been seen as Nigel/Dormouse in *Alice By Heart* and previously before that as Luis/Shark in *West Side Story*. When Noah's not on stage, you can find him on a petri dish being observed with a microscope. Thank you to Mom, Dad, the sibs, his dog Honey and his chicken Grace, and, of course, dedicated gluten-free restaurants. Always remember that if you're going through tough times, Pitbull has been there and done that. Dale.



Ryan Yee, Romeo

Ryan is delighted to be making friends and be a part of this cast! Everyone in his family agrees that Romeo is a perfect fit for his first named role. A big shout out to his sister, Josie, who helped establish an early love of musical theatre, and encouraged him to try out for this show. A big thank you to his brother, Tre, for putting up with all the singing and dancing. And a huge thanks to his mom and dad (and the Long family) for all the transportation and support.



Luke Logan, *Mush/Roosevelt*

As a kid, Luke watched *High School Musical* every night til his parents hid the DVD from him. Once he started doing theater in Junior High, he never stopped. He is to beyond exuberated to be making his West Valley Arts debut as Mush/Roosevelt in *Newsies*. Past favorite roles included Squidward in *SpongeBob the Musical* (SCERA), Princeton in *Avenue Q* (Sanctuary Theater) and Dennis in *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (Hale Center Theater). He would like to dedicate this performance to his cat, Reba, who hates him.



Wilson Cook, *Elmer*

Wilson is stoked to be making his debut with West Valley Arts! Past credits include Mr. Krabs (*The SpongeBob Musical*) at Centerpoint Academy and Lumiere (*Beauty and the Beast*) at Backstage Academy. Until now, his favorite role was Nigel in *Something Rotten!* Wilson loves cooking and trying new foods. He dreams of performing in the show *Sweeney Todd* someday. Special shout-out to the best little bro, Andy.



Wendy Dang, *Spot Conlon*

Wendy is an actor, author, and playwright. She also owns The Dang Bakery and is one of the founders of Época: An Acting Class For People of Color.

She thanks her husband, Tyson, and two dogs for their continued support.

She is proud to have the world premiere of her first play, *What The Pho?* at Plan-B Theatre Company in Spring of 2027.

You can find her contemporary romance novels *Moon Shadow By Night*, *Miss Nguyen's Bodyguard*, and *Sweet Thing* at an indie bookstore near you.

Wendy's acting credits include *Romeo & Juliet*, *Bald Sisters*, and *Egress* (Salt Lake Acting Company), *Fourteen Funerals* (The Purple Rose) and films *Marry Christmas* (Netflix), *Mistletoe Mixup* (Netflix), and *The Ladies Room*.



Nneka Barcelona, Medda

Nneka is a trained Actor, Singer, and Storyteller who has performed across The United States. Some of her favorite roles include Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Jarene in *The Color Purple*, and Joanne in *RENT*. When she's not on stage, she enjoys traveling, teaching newborn care, connecting artists with one

another, spending time with her horses, and helping her loved ones with their rodeo businesses. She dreams of a peaceful planet that is safe for children to thrive. "War is Over" -John Lennon

@NnekaBarcelona



Bryce Clifton, Snyder

Bryce is thrilled to be back in SLC and on this stage after 11 years! You may have caught him all those years ago as King Triton in HTC's *The Little Mermaid*, or as Coach Van Buren in HCTO's *Damn Yankees*. Since then Bryce has been performing on one side of the country to the other. Maybe you saw him on

vacation as The Conductor of the Hogwarts Express at Universal Studios in Orlando, and in Osaka Japan. Or up in Spokane as Hercule Poirot in The Civics production of *Murder on the Orient Express*. Whereever you catch him, Bryce is incredibly thankful that you are in the audience, and supporting your local arts and artists!



Doug Caldwell, Weisel

Doug last performed on this stage over 20 years ago in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Armand). He is ecstatic to be back, this time with one of his offspring. He most recently performed in *Noises Off* (Selsdon) at Centerpoint Theater. Favorite roles include *Into the Woods* (Baker), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Man

in Chair), *Shrek* (Donkey), *Clue* (Wadsworth), and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (Himself). Love to Marie, L,M,S,P,G,V. You make me who I am.



Lio River, Oscar Delancey

Lio is excited to return to the stage and be part of this wonderful production. He is thankful to the cast, crew, and creative team for their dedication and hopes you have a memorable experience enjoying the performance.



Nathan Kristjanson, *Morris Delancey*

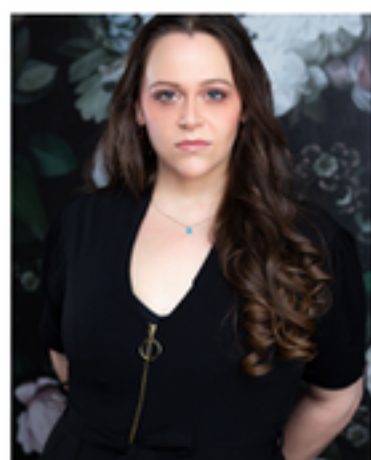
Performing in *Newsies* is literally Nathan's boyhood dream come true. Simply saying he is honored and grateful to be a part of this production would be a massive understatement. Even though this is his first time at West Valley Arts, he has several years of musical experience playing numerous lead roles from Lord Farquaad in *Shrek*, Buddy the Elf in *Elf*, and Mark Cohen in *Rent*, among many others.

Nathan returned to Utah last year having spent the last 10 years living and performing in Atlanta, Georgia and Bend, Oregon. When not on stage, Nathan enjoys working as an Instructional Designer, hiking the great outdoors, playing pickleball and video games with his friends, and spending time with his Australian Cattle Dog.



Evie Jo Smith, *Ensemble*

Evie Jo is so excited to make her stage debut at West Valley Arts. She has been working hard on her acting skills and singing skills with the education program at Hale Centre Theatre. Evie is in 5th Grade and one thing she absolutely loves are axolotls. Evie would like to thank her Mom, Dad and especially Miles for the support they have given her.



Lauren Slagowski, *Hannah/Nun/Ensemble*

Lauren is so glad to once again be back at West Valley Arts for this production of *Newsies*! Recent credits include: Charwoman/Mrs. Fezziwig (*A Christmas Carol*–HCT Sandy), Madame (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*–WVPAC), Betsy Foster (*Tuck Everlasting*–Centerpoint Theater), Octet (*A Christmas Carol*–HCT Sandy), Chaperone (*The Drowsy Chaperone*–The Grand Theater), Sister (*A Tale of Two Cities* –WVPAC), Sabine (*Sleepy Hollow the Musical*–WVPAC), Mother Abbess (*The Sound of Music*–Sundance Summer Theater), Jack's Mother (*Into the Woods*–WVPAC), Stepmother (*Into the Woods*–WVPAC), Cinderella's Mother/Granny (*Swing: Into the Woods*–WVPAC), and Alice Beineke (*The Addams Family Musical*–Scera Center for the Arts.) Lauren has a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Utah and performs in both opera and musical theater. Special thanks to her voice teacher Aioleoge Lesa and in loving memory of her late partner Hung Le.

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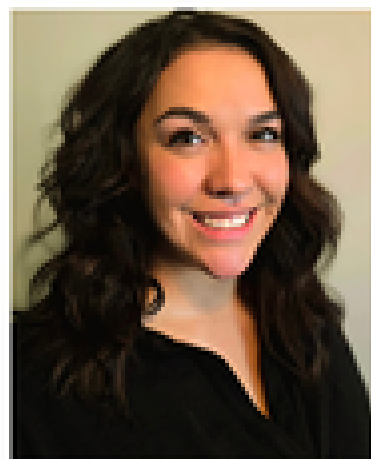
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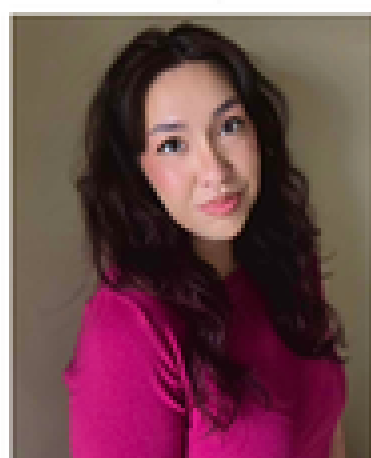
AGES 14-19



Tania Molinar, *Jacobi/Nun/Ensemble*

Tania is BACK at West Valley Arts and couldn't be more excited! Past credits include ensemble (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), ensemble/Lady Beaconsfield understudy (*Jekyll & Hyde*), Consuelo (*West Side Story*), Sandy (*Grease*), Sister Margaretta (*The Sound of Music*), Penny Pingleton (*Hairspray*),

Queen Maisie (*Cinderella*), and Ms. Hannigan (*Annie*). She sends a huge shoutout to her family and friends for their endless love and support – you know who you are, and she couldn't do any of this without you!



Karely Molinar, *Seitz/Bunsen/Nun/Ensemble*

Karely is thrilled to be making her West Valley Arts debut – her first show outside of school and a milestone she has been working toward for years. She is especially grateful to be sharing this experience with her sister, and to every family member and friend who has cheered her on,

pushed her to keep auditioning, and reminded her why she loves this art form. This one's for you.

Karely's previous credits include *Anastasia* (Any), Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Crazy Marie/Fairy Godmother), *The Addams Family* (Ensemble/Ancessor), *Guys and Dolls* (Ensemble), *Peter Pan* (John), *Beauty and the Beast* (Madame de la Grande Bouche), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Ensemble). She is hopeful for many more stages to come!



Jordan Soper, *Brooklyn/Bowery*

Jordan is delighted to be back at West Valley Arts! She is a recent BFA graduate, with a Musical Theatre Performance degree from the University of Utah. Some recent credits of hers include *Micky & Others*, *Come From Away* (Pioneer Theatre), *Elle Woods*, *Legally Blonde* (U of U), *Jerusha Abbott*,

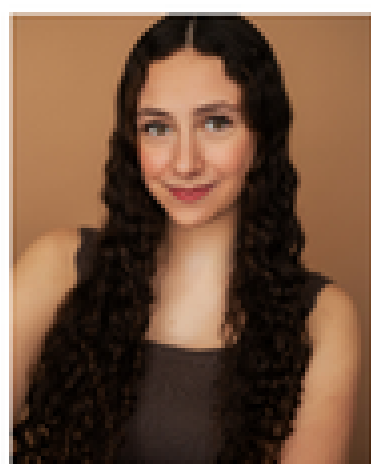
Daddy Long Legs (U of U), *Nana Wendy*, *Charting Neverland* (U of U), *Little Red*, *Into the Woods* (Centerpoint Theatre) Rapunzel, *Into the Woods* (West Valley Arts) & Katherine, *Newsies* (Centerpoint Theatre) Big thanks to the cast of *Newsies* for accepting her with open arms, the production team for having faith in her, and helping her along the way & to her husband, Jeff, for being her biggest cheerleader, always. Mark 12:29-31. Insta/TT: @thejordansoper



Francesca Bianchi, Brooklyn/Bowery

A native of Colorado, Francesca has been training in various genres of dance since she was three years old. Her versatility allows her to create a unique movement quality that can be seen through her passion for performance and choreographic achievements. Graduated from Point Park University, one of the top ten schools for the arts in the United States, Francesca not only had the amazing opportunity to work with their esteemed faculty, but had the opportunity to perform under respective choreographers in works such as: *Play By Play* by Penny Saunders, *Nightshades* by Teena Marie Custer and *Diversion of Angels* by Martha Graham.

She's currently under the mentorship of tap dance extraordinaire, Jason Janas, as a six year member in his tap dance company, Co.MITT. You may have seen Francesca during her musical theater debut in West Valley Arts' very own production of *A Chorus Line*. Francesca hopes to continue her artistic endeavors and use her gained knowledge to expand and grow upon her time at Point Park University. Her desire and aspiration in life is to use her artistic ability to reach farther than the eye can see.



Sarah Folster, Brooklyn/Bowery

Sarah is so excited and grateful to be a part of *Newsies*! Recent credits include Kathy Seldon in *Singing in the Rain Jr.* (HCT), *Fiddler on the Roof* (The Ruth), and Liesl in *Sound of Music* (Draper Arts Council). She will be attending UVU this fall pursuing a BFA in musical theater.

"Lots of love to my family and friends!"



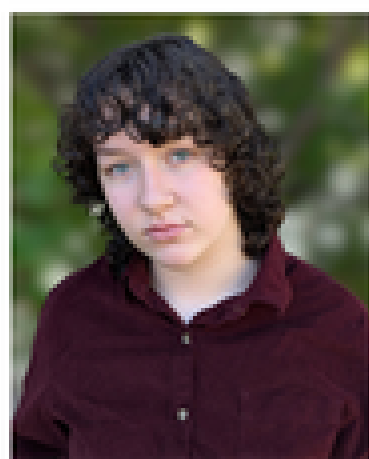
Moana Fitisemanu, Brooklyn/Bowery

Moana is an aspiring actor who has performed in a few shows like *Hadestown Teen Edition*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *The Addams Family*. She is super grateful to be in this production of *Newsies* in her hometown, and excited to make new memories and get more experience along the way!



Evelyn Petersen, Brooklyn/Bowery

Evelyn is 13 years old and in the 8th grade. She has loved acting since she was 10, and this is her eighth play. From singing to costumes, she loves every part of the theatre experience and can't wait to keep acting!



Savannah Caldwell, Brooklyn/Bowery

Savannah is pumped to be in her first theater production at West Valley Arts and getting to work with this amazing production team. It has been an amazing experience doing this show with her hilarious dad. She has recently been seen in *SpongeBob the Musical* (Patrick), *The Lightning Thief* (Hades), and *Newsies Jr.* (Spot Conlon). Many thanks and loves to her crazy family whom she loves eternally (Mostly). The world's your erster!



Alan Menken

Legendary composer Alan Menken has created some of the most beloved songs and musical scores of our time.

His unique voice, as a composer, a lyricist and a musical theater dramatist has captured the imaginations of audiences for over 35 years.

Alan's stage musicals include *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater*, *Patch Patch Patch*, *Atina: Evil Queen of the Galaxy*, *Real Life Funnies*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Dream on Royal Street*, *Kicks*, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Weird Romance*, *King David*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Sister Act*, *Leap of Faith*, and *Newsies*. He has also contributed to such revues as *Personals*, *Diamonds*, and *On the Record*.

His film musicals include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Newsies*, *Aladdin* (1992 and the 2019 live-action remake), *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Hercules*, *Home on the Range*, *Enchanted*, and *Tangled*. His dramatic underscores for films include *Life With Mikey*, *Noel*, *The Shaggy Dog*, and *Mirror Mirror*. He has contributed songs to such films as *Rocky V*, *Home Alone 2 - Lost in New York*, *Life With Mikey*, and *Captain America - The First Avenger*.

Alan's television credits include writing numerous songs for "Sesame Street", composing the score for the ABC mini-series "Lincoln", contributing songs for the musical Polly, the Hallmark adaptation of his musical of A Christmas Carol and the songs for an episode of the ABC-TV series "The Neighbors".

His songwriting collaborators have included Howard Ashman, Tim Rice, Stephen Schwartz, David Zippel, Jack Feldman, David Spencer, Lynn Ahrens, Dean Pitchford, Glenn Slater, Chad Beguelin, and most recently Benj Pasek and Justin Paul for the 2019 live-action film remake of Aladdin.

Alan won the 2012 Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his score to Newsies. He currently has more Academy Awards than any other living individual, including four for Best Score (The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin and Pocahontas) and 4 for Best Song ("Under the Sea", "Beauty and the Beast", "A Whole New World" and "Colors of the Wind"). He has earned 11 Grammy Awards (including Song of the Year for "A Whole New World"), 7 Golden Globes, London's Evening Standard Award, the Olivier Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, and the Drama Desk Award.

Other notable achievements include induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and Billboard's number one single ("A Whole New World") and number one album (Pocahontas). In 2001 he received the distinction of being named a Disney Legend. He has also been awarded two doctorates in Fine Arts from New York University and the North Carolina School of the Arts. In 2010 he received his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Jack Feldman

He has written music and lyrics for theater, film, television and pop records. His vast number of works include: Broadway and Off-Broadway: The Madwoman of Central Park West; Isn't It Romantic, by Wendy Wasserstein; Beyond Therapy, by Christopher Durang; Coming Attractions, by Ted Tally; Miami (book by Ms. Wasserstein). Regional: Music for Mr. Durang and Albert Innaurato's Idiots Karamazov at the Yale Repertory Theatre. Film: Oliver & Company; Tribute; Thumbelina; Newsies; Home Alone 2: Lost in New York; Used People; Life with Mikey; A Goofy Movie; The Lion King II: Simba's Pride; and 102 Dalmatians. TV: Music and lyrics for the PBS Theatre in America production of Eve Merriam's Out of Our Father's House; The Magic Hat; The Little Mermaid (TV special); Polly; "Sesame Street;"

“Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss;” and “Out of the Box.” Also many pop songs, including the Grammy Award-winning “Copacabana,” the top-10 hit “I Made It Through the Rain,” and songs and special material for Sarah Vaughn, Carmen McRae, Liza Minnelli, Lily Tomlin, Dionne Warwick, and the Muppets.



Harvey Fierstein

Harvey Fierstein is the Tony Award winning author of Torch Song Trilogy and La Cage Aux Folles. His other theater writing includes Kinky Boots (Tony nominated), Newsies (Tony nominated), Casa Valentina (Tony nominated), A Catered Affair (12 Drama Desk nominations), Safe Sex, Spookhouse, and Legs Diamond among others. His rewrite of the classic musical Funny Girl was produced in London's

West End, on Broadway and is currently on tour in North America. He wrote the teleplays of Hairspray Live and The Wiz Live, both for NBC. For HBO he's written On Tidy Endings (Ace Award), The Sissy Duckling (Humanitas Award) and Common Ground. He's written political editorials for The NY Times, Huffington Post, TV Guide and PBS as well as authoring the beloved children's book The Sissy Duckling. Beginning his acting career in Andy Warhol's Pork at LaMama ETC, Mr. Fierstein is also well known for his theater performances in Torch Song Trilogy (Tony Award), Hairspray (Tony Award), Fiddler on the Roof, La Cage Aux Folles, Gently Down the Stream, A Catered Affair as well as film performances including Mrs. Doubtfire, Independence Day, Mulan, Bullets Over Broadway and Bella Bella! TV audiences know him from shows like The Good Wife, Nurse Jackie, Cheers (Emmy nomination), HAIRSPRAY LIVE! and recognize his voice from appearances on BoJack Horseman, Family Guy, The Simpsons, How I Met Your Mother, Sesame Street and from his narration of the Academy Award-winning documentary, The Times of Harvey Milk. His memoir, I Was Better Last Night, is published by Knopf.

A special thank you to Mary Flitton, President Orwin, and the Granger North Stake for hosting our cast with such kind and flexible hospitality.

Thank you to our sponsors!

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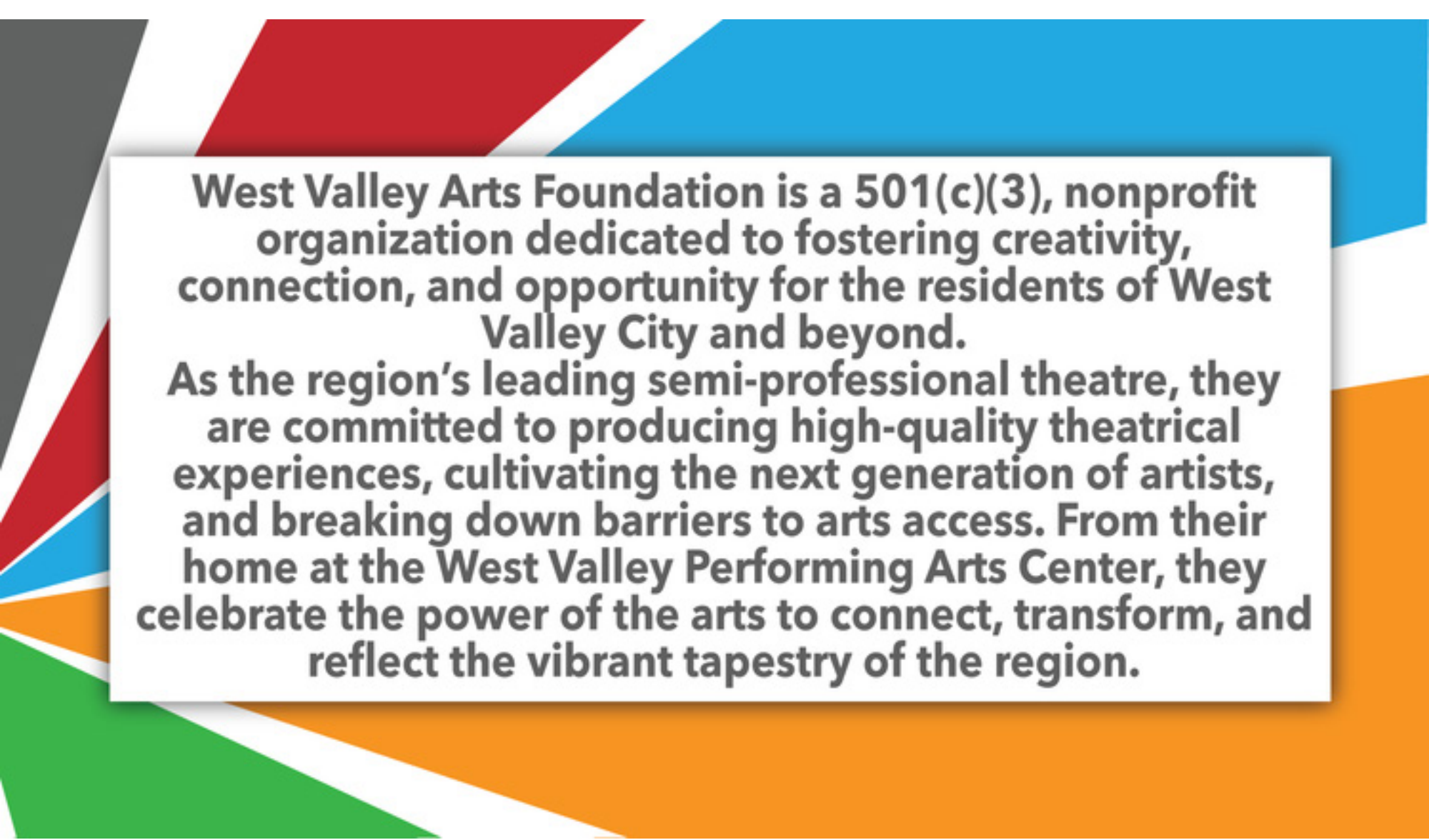
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West Valley Arts Foundation is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering creativity, connection, and opportunity for the residents of West Valley City and beyond.

As the region's leading semi-professional theatre, they are committed to producing high-quality theatrical experiences, cultivating the next generation of artists, and breaking down barriers to arts access. From their home at the West Valley Performing Arts Center, they celebrate the power of the arts to connect, transform, and reflect the vibrant tapestry of the region.