

SIGHTLINES

THE MUNI NEWSLETTER



Muni Board of Managers President, Deb Rudis | Photo by Jill Gum Photography

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT — *Deb Rudis*

The Muni is back! We made it.

Because of you, our loyal patrons, sponsors, Backstagers, and season ticket holders, we will restore our 70-year tradition of bringing you memorable evenings of musical theater under the stars. We are grateful to all of you for supporting us every step of the way. You are truly essential to The Muni!

After being closed for two seasons, the world has changed. However, one constant remains the same. Both audiences and performers still yearn for the many ways that musical theatre brings us together. And now, as the lights come up on Season 2022, we hope you will return as well. Together, we will bring to our community the unique and magical experience that is

live theatre under the stars.

I would like to offer a special thank you to our 2022 season sponsors: Edward Jones (*The SpongeBob Musical*), Sikich LLP (*Ragtime*), UCB (Disney's *Newsies*) and Springfield Clinic (*Matilda*). We could not be more grateful for their support of the performing arts in Springfield.

Lastly, I would like to personally invite you to audition for our great 2022 season. Shows include *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Ragtime: The Musical*, Disney's *Newsies*, and Roald Dahl's *Matilda*. It is sure to offer something for everyone, and we can't wait to see you this summer under the stars!

Welcome home to The Muni...you belong here! — Deb

2022 SEASON:

EDWARD JONES presents

nickelodeon
**SPONGEBOB
MUSICAL**

MAY 27-29, JUNE 1-5 | 8:30 p.m.

SIKICH LLP presents

RAGTIME
★ THE MUSICAL ★

JUNE 17-19, 22-26 | 8:30 p.m.

UCB presents

Disney
NEWSIES
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

JULY 8-10, 13-17 | 8:30 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD CLINIC presents

ROALD DAHL
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

JULY 29-31, AUG 3-7 | 8:30 p.m.

AUDITION WORKSHOP

Join us at the audition workshop to learn more about The Muni's audition process! Attendees will hear from the directors of each show about their expectations and casting requirements. Afterwards, the shows' directors and staffs will be available to answer questions. Auditionees can also select an audition time before it is open to the public.



Director Carly Shank meets guests at the 2018 Audition Workshop.

AUDITION WORKSHOP – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

KIDS (8-13) & ADULTS | 10 a.m. | at the Hoogland Center for the Arts

WHAT TO EXPECT THE DAY OF YOUR AUDITION



The cast of Peter Pan (2019) rehearses a dance number.

ADULT AUDITIONS take place in hour-long sessions. Vocal auditions are separate from dance auditions. Plan to check in at the registration table at least 45 minutes prior to your scheduled audition time, allowing time for the vocal warm-ups before the actual audition.

The Muni provides accompanists for all vocal auditions, so please bring sheet music suitable for piano accompaniment.

Some roles require auditionees to participate in a full dance audition. The "Parts Available" section of this edition of *Sightlines* notes which parts require dance.

ADULT AUDITIONS

March 5, 6, 12, 13 • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

at the Hoogland Center for the Arts

Open to those 13 years of age and up

CHILDREN'S AUDITIONS take place in two-hour sessions; casting will be for *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Ragtime* and *Matilda*. During the first hour, Muni staff will teach auditionees a simple song and dance. Auditionees' parents or guardians are welcome to observe this learning portion of the audition.

The second hour is a closed audition and only the Muni show staff are permitted to be present. During the audition, auditionees will perform the song and dance in front of show staff. Callback invitations are posted by auditionee number in the lobby shortly following each audition session.

CHILDREN'S AUDITIONS

March 19 • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

at the Hoogland Center for the Arts

Open to kids between 8-13 years of age

SEASON AFTER SEASON, our family of sponsors, donors, patrons, volunteers, and performers have made it possible to bring the very best of musical theater to our stage on the shores of Lake Springfield. And because we wouldn't be here without the generosity of our community, we believe the stories we tell and the people who tell them should represent and welcome – both onstage and off – the diversity of the audiences we entertain. We aspire to respect and include this community by fully, carefully, and intentionally considering and selecting a diverse group of auditionees, performers, staff, creative teams, and volunteers. There is a role for everyone either onstage or off at the Springfield Muni. *Come experience the magic with us this summer!*

SpongeBob –
Presented by Edward Jones

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

May 27-29, June 1-5 | 8:30 PM
Rehearsals start: March 21



Director: **Craig Williams II**

Producer: **Jacob Pahde**

Assistant Director: **Meredith Vogel-Thomas**

Vocal Director: **Christie Lazarides**

Choreographer: **Anna Bussing Maisenbacher**

Apprentice Director: **Lindsey Rudd**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: We are ecstatic to kick-off the return of Muni magic with the regional premiere of *The SpongeBob Musical*. *SpongeBob* is not a theme park show, but instead, an unexpectedly inventive story that celebrates both the spirit of theater and the surreal. With songs written by artists including John Legend, Lady A, and Sarah Bareilles, being part of *The SpongeBob Musical* will offer a refreshing musical experience for everyone involved. The 30–35-person cast will consist of both adults and children who love to color outside the lines! While we welcome a musical selection from *SpongeBob*, it is not required. We invite everyone to consider brushing off their dancing fins, tuning up their vocal scales, and joining the fish of Bikini Bottom this summer at The Muni. Questions? Please email us at thespongebobmusical@gmail.com. The town of Bikini Bottom celebrates the diversity of its population - anyone may audition for any role, regardless of body type, race, age, or gender.

PARTS AVAILABLE:

Dance is required for all auditioning

SpongeBob SquarePants: (*Tenor*) The protagonist and title character of the show, happy-go-lucky SpongeBob spends the show trying to prove to everyone that they are "not a simple sponge," while simultaneously trying to save the town they love.

Patrick Star: (*Tenor*) SpongeBob's carefree, and mildly dimwitted best friend. SpongeBob calls upon Patrick to help save Bikini Bottom from its impending doom.

Sandy Cheeks: (*Mezzo-Soprano/Alto*) A true country squirrel, Sandy is a handy friend to have around during the end times.

“SPONGEBOB” Cont’d...

Sandy’s friendship, optimism, and love for science may just be the key to saving the day.

Eugene Krabs: (*Baritone*) The money-hungry owner of the Krusty Krab, parent to Pearl and SpongeBob’s boss. Krabs’ lack of confidence in SpongeBob’s ability, may actually be the motivation SpongeBob needs to prove their worth to everyone.

Sheldon Plankton: (*Tenor*) Evil genius and antagonist owner of the Chum Bucket, Plankton’s goal in life is to see the demise of the Krusty Krab. Audience members will see just what lengths Plankton is willing to go to ensure Chum Bucket reigns supreme. Plankton’s musical numbers feature rap styles throughout the show.

Squidward Tentacles: (*Tenor*) Uptight and constantly annoyed with his neighbors, Squidward is put to their own tests throughout the show as they work to appease “The Electric Skates.” Squidward tap dances throughout the show.

Karen the Computer: (*Mezzo-Soprano*) Spouse of evil genius Plankton. Karen works with Plankton to rile up the citizens of Bikini Bottom and convince them to enter their escape pod, where they plan to hypnotize the town and convince them of their love for the Chum Bucket.

Pearl Krabs: (*Soprano/Mezzo-Soprano/Alto*) Offspring of Eugene Krabs who has no interest in running the family business. Pearl much prefers love, attention, and affection to greed and money.

Perch Perkins: (*Bass*) News anchor of Bikini Bottom who alerts the town of the impending doom.

Mayor of Bikini Bottom: (*Soprano/Mezzo-Soprano/Alto*) Political leader of Bikini Bottom, the Mayor may very well cause more harm than good when trying to maintain control of the town while in crisis.

Larry the Lobster: (*Tenor/Baritone/Bass*) Buff citizen of Bikini Bottom. Larry will also double as the voice for Gary the Snail.

Mrs. Puff: (*Soprano/Mezzo-Soprano/Alto*) Bikini Bottom’s high-strung, paranoid driving instructor.

Patchy the Pirate: (*Baritone*) SpongeBob’s number one fan, desperately wants to be a part of the show. Patchy often breaks the fourth-wall to get a word in with the audience.

The 3 Electric Skates: (*Tenor/Baritone/Bass*) The three member famous rock band called upon to perform to help raise money to save Bikini Bottom. The members will ideally roller skate, rollerblade, or skateboard.

Featured Ensemble: The staff is seeking to cast a strong ensemble of adults and children who both sing and dance.

Ragtime — Presented by Sikich LLP

RAGTIME

★ THE MUSICAL ★

June 17-19, 22-26 | 8:30 PM
Rehearsals start: TBA

Director: Reggie Guyton
Producer: Dennis O’Brien
Assistant Director: Tiffany Williams
Vocal Director: Nicole Pittman
Choreographer: Montel Morgan
Apprentice Director: LaDonna Wilson



DIRECTOR’S NOTES: After a long intermission, we are happy to hear “New Music!” The staff of *Ragtime: The Musical* are happy to return with the opportunity to tell a beautiful story. We are looking for moving voices, thoughtful hearts, and open minds to tell the diverse and nuanced story of America. What better place to share a parable for the times. After all, there’s “nothing like The Muni.”

PARTS AVAILABLE:

Coalhouse Walker, Jr.: (*No dance/ Appears 25-35*) A proud and talented pianist. He is sophisticated, with a romantic demeanor and gentle heart though an intimidating build. African-American. *Vocal Range: G2-A4*

Tateh: (*No dance/ Appears 30-40*) The haggard artist and father. He wears the trials and tribulations of his past on his sleeve, but remains optimistic. Full of genuine drive and heart. Latvian-American. *Vocal Range: Bb2-F#4*

Mother: (*No dance/ Appears 30-40*) The consummate wife and mother. A kind woman with incredible moral fiber. Refined, intelligent, and graceful. She is accepting of others. *Vocal Range: G3-F#5*

Father: (*No Dance/ Appears 35-45*) Mother’s professionally successful husband. Fancying himself an amateur explorer, he is commanding and attractive. Enjoys being the family breadwinner. *Vocal Range: A2-F4*

Sarah: (*No Dance/ Appears 25-35*) Washwoman. Sarah is beautiful and filled with a strong will to live fueled by an innocent spirit. Falls deeply in love with Coalhouse after much resistance. African-American. *Vocal Range: G#3-F35*

Little Boy (Edgar): (*Dance/ Appears 8-12*) Mother and Father’s son. He is open-hearted and curious with inexplicable clairvoyance. Never passes judgement on others. *Vocal Range: E4-D5*

Younger Brother: (*No dance/ Appears 25-35*) Mother’s younger brother. With his wiry frame and obsessive personality, he is an erratic soul. Influenced greatly by Goldman’s teachings. *Vocal Range: B2-F#4*

Booker T. Washington: (*No Dance/ mid to late 40s*) Incredibly intelligent social activist. He is an eloquent and articulate gentleman with no patience for Black Americans leading less than exemplary lives. *Vocal Range: D3-Eb4*

Emma Goldman: (*No Dance/ Appears 35-45*) Social activist. With an unapologetically demanding presence, she is a leader and powerful woman. Russian-American. *Vocal Range: B3-D5*

Grandfather: (*No Dance/ Appears 55-65*) Mother’s very conservative father. He is a retired professor and easily irritated by nearly everything. Spoken role only.

Harry Houdini: (*No Dance/ Appears 20-30*) The famous magician. With dark features and notable physical ability, he stands as a symbol of the ‘American Dream.’ Hungarian-American. *Vocal Range: E3-G4*

J.P. Morgan: (*No Dance/ Appears 55-65*) One of the wealthiest men in America, J.P.

“RAGTIME” Cont’d...

Morgan is a famous financier who believes the cream of the crop rise to the top. *Vocal Range: D3-E4*

Little Girl: (*Dance/Appears 8-12*)

Tateh’s daughter. A confused and vulnerable child in a brand-new home, she is guarded and shy. Loves her father very much. Latvian-American. *Vocal Range: C4-Bb4*

Sarah’s Friend: (*No Dance/Appears*

25-40) Sarah’s loyal friend who, despite having reservations regarding Coalhouse’s intentions with Sarah, enjoys Coalhouse’s Ragtime music. Strong vocal improvisational skills required. *Vocal Range: D3-D5*

Willie Conklin: (*No Dance/Appears 30-*

40) A volunteer firefighter who has a very specific idea of the way things should be. *Vocal Range: D4-F5*

Henry Ford: (*No dance/Appears 35-45*)

One of the wealthiest men in America, Henry Ford is famous for his Model T Ford vehicles and for the assembly line utilized to make them. *Vocal Range: C4-G5*

Evelyn Nesbit: (*Dance/Appears 25-35*)

Beautiful vaudeville performer. Thrust into the limelight after the high profile murder of her lover, the entire world is her stage. *Vocal Range: B3-D5*

Ensemble: (*Various ages/vocal parts*)

A diverse blend of ages representing three casts of authentic America. May be asked to portray various roles. **Featured Dancers (4)** – dance audition required.

Disney’s Newsies – Presented by UCB



July 8-10, 13-17 | 8:30 PM
Rehearsals start: Late May

Co-Directors: **Morgan Kaplan**
& **Andrew Maynerich**
Co-Producers: **Katina Gude**
& **Jake Smith**



Assistant Director: **Stacy Kolaz**
Vocal Director: **Damien Kaplan**
Co-Choreographers: **Morgan Kaplan**
& **Andrew Maynerich**

DIRECTORS’ NOTES: The *Newsies* team is thrilled to bring this show to the stage in its Muni debut! Disney’s *Newsies* is an upbeat, fast-moving show with the powerful message that young people can and will change the world. We are seeking approximately 30 cast members. With a demanding vocal score and high-intensity dancing, we are especially looking for very experienced singers for all cast members, with a group of very strong singers/dancers to comprise our band of Newsies. All genders are welcome for our band of Newsies. Anyone that is interested in being cast as any of the Newsies (including Jack and Crutchie), Katherine, or the “Bowery Beauties” should complete a dance audition. We are open to a pit chorus to help support the vocals if there is a need or interest. We hope that you will join us in “carrying the banner” out at The Muni this summer!

PARTS AVAILABLE:

See parts below for dance audition information.

Jack Kelly: (*Dance/Male/Appears 16-25*)

The charismatic leader of the Manhattan newsies; tough-guy exterior with a big heart and demonstrated sweet vulnerability. Must have a great pop tenor voice and sense of physicality. *Vocal Range: Bb2-A4*

Katherine Plumber: (*Dance/Female/*

Appears 17-20) An ambitious young reporter. Quick, funny, and resourceful. Has a dance solo in “King of New York,” tap experience needed. Katherine should have a great contemporary pop voice with a high belt. *Vocal Range: A3-F5*

Crutchie: (*Dance/Appears 16-20*) A dedicated newsie with a bum leg that’s painful, but helps sell more papers; goofy, sweet sense of humor and optimistic resilience. His movement will suggest his bum leg, but he will still be included in the dance numbers. *Vocal Range: C3-A4*

Davey: (*Dance/Male/Appears 16-25*) Les’s strait-laced, bright big brother starts selling newspapers to help his family earn a living, but becomes swept up in the fervor of the strike. The brains of the resistance. *Vocal Range: D3-A4*

Les: (*Dance/Male/Appears 10-15*)

Davey’s cheeky younger brother. A precocious and natural newsie, Les is an intuitive salesboy and a pint-sized charmer. He should present as younger than the other newsies. *Vocal Range: Db3-Bb3*

Medda Larkin: (*No dance/Female/*

Appears 25-45) Big-voiced saloon singer and star of the Bowery. An astute entertainer with great comic delivery, she’s a good friend to Jack and stands firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice. *Vocal Range: F3-E5*

Newsies: (*Dance/Appears 15-25*)

Including Albert, Buttons, Elmer, Finch, Henry, Ike, Jo Jo, Mike, Mush, Race, Romeo, Specs, Splasher, and Tommy Boy, are some of the hard-working kids of New York City that go on strike for a livable wage.

Spot Conlon: (*Dance/Appears 17-25*)

The proud leader of the Brooklyn newsies, boasts an intimidating reputation and a short singing solo in “Brooklyn’s Here.”

Darcy: (*Dance/Appears 15-20*) The

upper-class kid of a publisher who sides with the newsies. Can double as a newsie.

Bill: (*Dance/Male/Appears 15-25*) The

son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the newsies’ cause.

Wiesel: (*Dance/Male/Appears 35-50*)

Pulitzer’s disgruntled paper-pusher.

Oscar & Morris Delancey: (*Dance/*

Male/20s) Tough brothers who work at the distribution window for the World, take the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point.

Joseph Pulitzer: (*No dance/Male/*

Appears 35-50) A pompous businessman through and through, owns the World and is concerned solely with the bottom line. Katherine’s no-nonsense father, Pulitzer doesn’t sympathize with the strikers, but he does eventually – and grudgingly – respect Jack. *Vocal Range: C3-F4*

Seitz: (*No dance*) Editor, advises Pulitzer, but ultimately admires the kids’ newspaper.

Bunsen: (*No dance/Appears 35-50*)

Pulitzer’s bookkeeper. Comes up with the idea to raise the newsies’ price per paper.

“NEWSIES” Cont’d...

Hannah: (No dance/Female/Appears 20-40) Pulitzer’s practical and insightful secretary. Potentially doubles as a nun in opening.

Snyder: (No dance/Male/Appears 45-65) The crooked and sinister warden of The Refuge, a filthy and horrible orphanage.

The Bowery Beauties: (Dance/Female/Appears 18-30) Two female performers at Medda’s Theater. Potentially double as nuns in opening number.

Nuns: (No dance/Female/Appears 20-60) The three nuns offer breakfast to the hungry newsies.

Mayor: (No dance/Male/Appears 45-60) The Mayor of New York City rebuffs Pulitzer’s attempts to shut down the newsies’ strike.

Governor Teddy Roosevelt: (No dance/Male/Appears 50-65) A well-respected lifelong public servant. Inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

Ensemble: (No dance) Includes policemen, photographer, Mr./Ms. Jacobi, Stage Manager, Guard, Goons (Assist the Delanceys in roughing up the newsies at the end of Act One) Nunzio the barber

Matilda –
Presented by Springfield Clinic

ROALD DAHL’S Matilda

THE MUSICAL

July 29-31, Aug. 3-7 | 8:30 PM
Rehearsals start: June 6

Director: Laurie Barnes
Producer: Mary Matheny
Assistant Director: Betsy O’Brien
Vocal Director: Steve Rotello
Choreographer: Ronda Brinkman



DIRECTORS’ NOTES: I am very excited to direct *Matilda*. I have always loved the book, but I love the musical even more. Matilda’s strength and determination

inspires everyone around her to become a better person. I also love working with a cast that includes both adults and children. The children share their energy and idealism with the adults and the adults share their experience and professionalism with the children.

PARTS AVAILABLE:

See parts below for dance audition information.

Matilda Wormwood: (Mezzo-Soprano/Dance/Female/Appears 8-12) An imaginative girl with a thirst for learning that cannot be quenched. Despite a lack of familial support, she has a strong sense of ethics and justice. Must be able to project strength as well as vulnerability. *Vocal Range: D5-A3*

Miss Agatha Trunchbull: (Mezzo-Soprano/Dance/Female/Appears 35-55) The tyrannical headmistress at Matilda’s school who despises children. Must have an imposing and intimidating presence. Physical dexterity and/or acrobatic ability a plus. *Vocal Range: G4-A2*

Miss Honey: (Mezzo-Soprano/No Dance/Female/Appears 25-40) Matilda’s kindhearted and wonderful teacher. Meek from years of intimidation by Miss Trunchbull. *Vocal Range: D5-F3*

Mr. Wormwood: (Tenor-Baritone/No Dance/Male/Appears 35-45) Matilda’s uncaring father. A slimy, greedy used-car salesman. *Vocal Range: A4-D3*

Mrs. Wormwood: (Mezzo-Soprano/Dance/Female/Appears 35-45) Matilda’s loud, self-absorbed, negligent mother. A ballroom dance enthusiast. *Vocal Range: F5-A3*

Michael Wormwood: (Spoken/No Dance/Male/Appears 10-16) Matilda’s older brother and the Wormwood’s favorite child. He is not very bright.

Bruce: (Tenor/Dance/Male/Appears 8-14) Matilda’s classmate. Lover of chocolate cake. He is subjected to extreme punishment by Miss Trunchbull. *Vocal Range: E5-C4*

Lavender: (Mezzo-Soprano/Dance/Female/Appears 8-12) Matilda’s classmate and friend.

Mrs. Phelps: (Spoken/No Dance/Female/Appears 30 or older) A nice librarian who loves Matilda’s stories.

The Escapologist: (Tenor-Baritone/Dance/Male/Appears 20-30) A character in a story Matilda tells to Mrs. Phelps. He comes to life in their imagination. *Vocal Range: E4-C3*

The Acrobat: (Mezzo-Soprano/Dance/Female/Appears 20-30) A character in a story Matilda tells to Mrs. Phelps. She comes to life in their imagination. *Vocal Range: A4-D4*

Rudolpho: (Tenor-Baritone/Dance/Male/Appears 18-35) Mrs. Wormwood’s ballroom dance partner. *Vocal Range: A4-D#3*

Doctor: (Tenor-Baritone/Dance/Male/Any Age) Mrs. Wormwood’s Doctor when she goes into labor with Matilda. *Vocal Range: A4-C3*

Children’s Entertainer: (Tenor-Baritone/Dance/Male/Any Age) A party entertainer at the start of the show. *Vocal Range: Eb4-F#3*

Adult Ensemble: (Vocal Range-Variou/Dance/Males & Females/All ages) Very active throughout the show playing additional characters as well as parents and the “bigger” kids at Matilda’s school.

Children’s Ensemble: (Vocal Range-Variou/Dance/Males & Females/8-13) Matilda’s fellow classmates Amanda, Nigel, Eric, Alice, Hortensia, Tommy. They are terrified of Miss Trunchbull, they adore Miss Honey, and they are inspired by Matilda.

The
Muni



Broadway Under the Stars

The Springfield Municipal Opera
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