

Aurora Central to stage 'Newsies' musical March 29, 30, 31

AURORA, IL - Aurora Central Catholic High School, 1255 N. Edgelawn Dr. in Aurora, will stage Disney's "Newsies" musical March 29-31.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday by a cast of more than 50 students.

The public is invited. Parking is free. Tickets are \$10. Tickets can be preordered by calling (630) 907-0095 and will be available at the door.

Based on the 1992 movie, "Newsies" is a rousing, family-friendly musical nominated for eight Tony Awards, winning Best Choreography and Best Score. The production features music from Alan Menken, the eight-time Oscar-winning genius behind scores from some of the most popular Disney films of all time, including "Aladdin," "The Little Mermaid," "Pocahontas" and "Beauty and the Beast."

Based on a true story from turn of the century New York City, "Newsies" recounts how newspaper baron Joseph Pulitzer plots a way to increase the revenue of his declining newspaper.

Down in the streets, newsboys hawk papers on corners barely making enough to survive. When Pulitzer raises the price of the paper, delivery boy Jack Kelly organizes a strike to push back against Pulitzer.

ACC drama instructor Phil Nohl serves as production director, music director and technical director. "Newsies" is his 11th musical at ACC and 38th productions in his tenure.

Nohl's wife, Jennette, is the choreographer. The couple shares costuming duties.

Kendra Hiltenbrand, ACC band director, is rehearsing students who will be playing in the pit. She will also play in the pit. John Apple, pit director, brings in adults to round out the pit.

The production runs about two hours, including intermission.

Refreshments will be available at concessions at intermission. A raffle will be held to help raise \$6,000 to replace microphones that have frequencies that the government has sold to cable and cell phone companies.

Nohl said, "It is a sad story for a lot of schools and churches and institutions that use wireless microphones. We have 25, but 11 have frequencies that will become illegal to use by next year."

Call (630) 907-0095 for tickets or more information.

PHOTO: Aurora Central Catholic students rehearse Disney's "Newsies" musical to be performed March 29-31 at the school, 1255 N. Edgelawn Drive in Aurora. From left are Jade Cervantes, Aurora; Eve Tamez, North Aurora; Macke Van Whye, Sugar Grove; Nick Hausler, Plano; and Emma Kearby, Aurora. (Al Benson photo)

