

The Newsies Tryout Script

A rowdy group of young, roughly-dressed street kids have massed on the Brooklyn Bridge. The kids have jammed the bridge, stopping all traffic.

All: Newsboys on strike! Newsboys on strike!

Actor 1: We demand a fair deal!

Actor 2: Don't buy the *Journal* or *World* newspapers!

Actor 1: What's a dime a day to millionaires like Hearst and Pulitzer when t'you and me it's da difference 'tweens eatin' and goin' hungry?!

The crowd whistles, hoots, and cheers. A pair of street kids comes out of the crowd to address the audience.

Actor 2: Here's what yas gotta know. Papes is what we call newspapers.

Actor 1: And the way we's talk, well, ya gotta listen careful.

Actor 2: Bein' street kids in 1899, we ain't got no teachers to learn us up none.

Actor 1: Why, many of us don't even have moms or dads to raise us up right.

Actor 2: We live on the streets. And sellin' papes is how we survive.

They rejoin the protest.

Actor 1: We's united in a patriotic cause! Here comes dem papes now!

Two dangerous looking mean pushing a cart full of papers attempts to cross the bridge.

Actor 2: Give it to 'em hot!

Actor 1: These blokes may look dangerous, but they ain't never met the likes a us before.

The newsboys swarm the men, overturning the cart and grabbing the bundles of papers.

Actor 2: Tear 'em up! Ain't no papes circulatin' t'day!

Actor 1: Shred them papes! Hurl dem bundles into the river!

Other: Let's get outta here!

Actor 2: That's right! You run!

Actor 1: And you tell Mister Hearst we ain't givin' up!

*The protestors sing **Ta Ra Ra Boom De Ay**; lights drop suddenly when the song ends.*