

(#1 – OVERTURE. NEWSIES fan throughout the house variously shouting historical headlines, one on top of the other:)

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! NEWSIES “Spanish-American War Is Over”!

“Post Office Thief Caught”!

“Night of Terror for East Side Excursionists”! “Dark Days Ahead for Pigeons”!

“Naval Heroes Doing Gospel Work”!

“Mr. and Mrs. Hahn Celebrate Golden Anniversary”!

“New Miracle Drug Called ‘Aspirin’ Invented by Bayer”! “Montreal Shamrocks Win Stanley Cup”!

“Mile-a-Minute Murphy Breaks World Cycling Record”! “The New Richmond Tornado Wipes Out Town, Killing 120”! “Alfred Dreyfus Acquitted”!

“Norwegian Man Invents Paper Clip”!

“New York City Incorporates to Unite Boroughs”!

(As the NEWSIES shout headlines to a chaotic climax, the next four stand out individually:)

“Theodore Roosevelt Wins Election for New York Governor”!

“The Refugee Expands to House More Youth”!

“Entertainment Entrepreneur Medda Larkin Buys Bowery Theater”! “July 5, 1899: Trolley Strike Enters Second Week”!

(After selling their papers to audience members, the NEWSIES disperse as lights come up on a makeshift shanty in a quiet alley in Lower Manhattan at dawn. It is summer, 1899.)

DAVEY

Is anyone else coming?

JACK

Don’t got a clue.

ALBERT

We need back up! Pulitzer’s goons is gonna make mince meat outta us.

PIGTAILS

They’re gonna pound us into smithereens!

CRUTCHIE

Bring ’em on, I say!

RACE

Youse seen Spot Conlon, right? Is Brooklyn coming?

JACK

They wanted proof we're not gonna fold at the first sign of trouble.

MURIEL

Are we?

JACK

We are not! There's us and Harlem—

HAZEL

Not so fast, boss. Harlem wants to know what Brooklyn's gonna do.

JACK

How about Queens?

SPECS

Queens will be right here backing us up—

JACK

Ya see!

SPECS

... as soon as they get the nod from Brooklyn.

RACE

I got the same fish-eye in Midtown.

(The DELANCEYS enter.)

MORRIS

Say, Oscar, looks like we got bum information about a strike happenin' here today.

OSCAR

My skull-bustin' arm could use a day of rest.

(The DELANCEYS head to the cart to work.)

LES

Are we doing the right thing?

DAVEY

Sure we are.

RACE

Maybe we put this off a couple days?

DAVEY

No.