

PERUSAL SCRIPT

PINOCCHIO

A Play

Adapted from the Carlo Collodi story

by
E. Gray Simons III



NEWPORT, MAINE

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PINOCCHIO

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ORDER #3182

CHARACTERS: 9f, 16m (doubling possible)

BLUE FAIRY (f)

PINOCCHIO (m)

MR. CHERRY (m)

GEPPETTO (m)

POLICEMAN 1 (m)

POLICEMAN 2 (m)

ONLOOKER 1 (f)

ONLOOKER 2 (f)

ONLOOKER 3 (m)

CRICKET (a puppet) (f)

FIRE EATER (m) — a fire-breathing performer and puppet master

HARLEQUIN (m)

DUSTY (a puppet) (m)

PUNCHINELLO (m)

BOB (a puppet) (m)

CLAUDE (a puppet) (m)

RICH (a puppet) (f)

SANDY (a puppet) (m)

JOE (a puppet) (m)

FOX (m)

CAT (f)

INNKEEPER (f)

DOVES (puppets)

3 NOSES (puppets)

3 WOODPECKERS (puppets)

WAVES (a manipulated prop)

SAIL BOAT (a small puppet)

SEA MONSTER (a small puppet)

LAMPWICK (m)

STUDENTS (m or f)

COACHMAN (m)

THE COACH (a puppet or prop)

FISH (puppets)

GARDENER (f)

FLOWERS - (Colorfully flowered fabric prop)

FARMER (f)

CART (a prop preceding farmer)

SEA MONSTER (all company members, except BF, PINO, GEPP)

DOUBLING: 2f, 5m, 1 either

ACTOR 1 — Blue Fairy, Cricket (f)

ACTOR 2 — Pinocchio (m)

ACTOR 3 — Mr. Cherry, Company, Policeman 2, Fire Eater, Dusty, Doves, Nose, Waves, Coachman (m)
Sea Monster, Flowers, Doves

ACTOR 4 — Geppetto, Harlequin, Bob, Doves, Nose, Company, Doves (m)

ACTOR 5 — Company, Policeman 1, Punchinello, Claude, Innkeeper, Doves, Nose, Waves, Farmer, Sea
Monster, Flowers, Doves (m or f)

ACTOR 6 — Company, Onlooker 1, Rich, Cat, Doves, Woodpecker, Waves, Fish, Gardener, Sea Monster,
Doves (f)

ACTOR 7 — Company, Onlooker 2, Sandy, Doves, Woodpecker, Fish, Sea Monster (puppet), Lampwick,
Sea Monster, Doves (m)

ACTOR 8 — Company, Onlooker 3, Joe, Fox, Doves, Woodpecker, Sail Boat (puppet), Fish, Sea Monster,
Doves (m)

SCENE LIST

PROLOGUE — HOUSE OF THE BLUE FAIRY, PRESENT

SCENE 1 — GEPPETTO'S WORKSHOP, A SHORT TIME LATER

SCENE 2 — IN THE STREET, MOMENTS LATER

SCENE 3 — THE GREAT PUPPET SHOW, A SHORT TIME LATER

SCENE 4 — A LESS THAN HOPEFUL PART OF TOWN, SOMETIME LATER

SCENE 5 — THE WILDERNESS, SOMETIME LATER

SCENE 6 — A DEEP, DARK PART OF THE FOREST

SCENE 7 — THE HOUSE OF THE BLUE FAIRY, THE NEXT MORNING

SCENE 8 — THE SEA COAST, SOME DAYS LATER

SCENE 9 — THE SHORE OF A DISTANT ISLAND, THE NEXT MORNING

SCENE 10 — PLAY LAND, WEEKS LATER

SCENE 11 — INSIDE THE SEA MONSTER, MOMENTS LATER

SCENE 12 — THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE, SEVERAL HOURS LATER

PINOCCHIO (Adapted from the story by Carlo Collodi) by E. Gray Simons III **TYA** 9f, 16m (doubling possible) 2f, 5m, 1 either with doubling. About 55 minutes. The Blue Fairy animates a block of wood and begins this antic-frantic story as Geppetto carves the wood into the puppet Pinocchio, then gets arrested. Meanwhile, Pinocchio meets other puppets, a troupe of actors, the sly Fox and Cat, Lampwick and the children at Play Land, then the children change. Pinocchio gets lost at sea, Geppetto searches for him, they are belched onto the shore from a sea-monster, and are rescued to live together as father and real-boy son. The Blue Fairy, and her Cricket friend, may have had something to do with it all!
Part of the **TALES FROM THE FRACTURED SIDE** Series. **Order #3182**

Playwright **E. Gray Simons III** has worked for fourteen years as an Artist-in-Residence at BTF. In 2000, he became Artistic Director of BTF PLAYS! and has since written and directed more than a dozen original plays, among them *Aesop's Network*, *Nursery Rhyme Café*, *Mystery Sideshow 2: Strange Waves*, and *Mystery Sideshow 3: Way Out West*.

Simons made his BTF directorial debut in 2000 with *The Wind in the Willows* and in 2001 he became director of the *Summer Performance Stories*, *The Odyssey*, *The Magic Flute*, *Arabian Nights*, and *Monkey*. Other directorial credits include *The Wizard of Oz*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Oliver!* and *Peter Pan*(2009) on BTF's Main Stage, *Where Has Tommy Flowers Gone?* and *Holiday Memories* in the Unicorn Theatre, *Robin Hood* at the Berkshire Museum, *The Who's Tommy* at Brandeis University with co-director Eric Hill, and *Big Love* at Brandeis University. His BTF acting credits include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Peter Pan*, *Moby Dick-Rehearsed*, and *Wilder, Wilder*.

Berkshire Theatre Festival's year-round education program, BTF PLAYS! serves area students from kindergarten through high school. At the heart of BTF PLAYS! is a passionate commitment to bring live theatre and all its inherent excitement and creativity to children in our region. Each year, more than 10,000 students in underserved rural and inner city schools throughout Berkshire Country are reached through in-school residency programs, vacation camps, and our touring production. Over the course of the summer, BTF PLAYS! hosts vacation camps for students from grades K-6, providing opportunities to learn about acting, improvisation, storytelling, and working behind the scenes in the theatre.

TALES FROM THE FRACTURED SIDE is a series of plays by E. Gray Simons III that premiered at the Berkshire Theatre Festival (BTF) TYA Summer Touring program. This series contains: *Alice In Wonderland*, *Arabian Nights*, *Cinderella*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale*, *Just So Stories*, *The Magic Flute*, *Monkey*, *Nursery Rhyme Café*, *Pinocchio*, *Robin Hood*, *The Wind in the Willows*.

PINOCCHIO

PROLOGUE

SETTING: HOUSE OF THE BLUE FAIRY, PRESENT

(The stage is set resembles a cross between a workshop and a child's messy room consisting of three archways to which long curtains are attached. There are various movable window frames with colorful curtains along with four festive stage cubes, two large and two small. The colors are all various shades of blue. The BLUE FAIRY enters and begins to uncover or reveal characters that are positioned in and around the various set pieces. After interacting or playing with various items on the set, she finds a medium sized piece of wood or log.)

BLUE FAIRY: There was once upon a time...

COMPANY: A king!

BLUE FAIRY: No, children, you make a mistake. Once upon a time there was a piece of wood.

(The BLUE FAIRY holds up a piece of wood and then passes it over to the COMPANY members, which they examine in turn. The COMPANY member who plays PINOCCHIO ends up with the piece of wood)

COMPANY: Oh!

BLUE FAIRY: It was not perfect, but just a common piece of wood used to kindle fires and heat stoves and warm rooms in the winter. Now, it happened that one fine day this piece of wood was sitting on a wood pile in the shop of an old carpenter named Mr. Cherry.

(A COMPANY member becomes MR. CHERRY)

His real name was Antonio, but everyone called him Mr. Cherry because the tip of his nose was red and shiny.

(The other COMPANY members giggle at MR. CHERRY and he looks around as if he's not sure they are laughing at him)

As soon as Mr. Cherry discovered the piece of wood, he was delighted.

(MR. CHERRY examines the piece of wood)

MR. CHERRY: This has come at exactly the right moment! It is just what I need to make a new leg for my little table.

(MR. CHERRY picks up an axe and raises it over his head as if to chop the wood)

BLUE FAIRY: But just as Mr. Cherry was about to shape the piece of wood into a table leg, the piece of

wood called out.

PINOCCHIO: Please don't hurt me!

(MR. CHERRY is startled and looks around for the voice.)

BLUE FAIRY: He looked around his shop for the source of the voice, but found no one.

MR. CHERRY: I must have imagined that tiny voice.

BLUE FAIRY: Mr. Cherry shook his head, picked up a sheet of sandpaper and turned his attention back to the piece of wood.

(MR. CHERRY picks up sandpaper and begins to sand the wood.)

PINOCCHIO: *(giggles)* Hey, that tickles!

(MR. CHERRY stops and looks around.)

MR. CHERRY: Who's there?

(MR. CHERRY leaves the piece of wood center stage and walks down stage so the piece of wood is now behind him.)

PINOCCHIO: I'm behind you.

(MR. CHERRY spins and moves up stage past the piece of wood)

Over here!

(MR. CHERRY crosses stage right)

Nope. You're cold.

(MR. CHERRY moves down stage and starts to spiral inward)

Warm...

(MR. CHERRY moves stage left and in)

Warmer...

(MR. CHERRY moves up stage and in)

Warmer, still...

(MR. CHERRY moves down and is standing over the piece of wood)

Very, very warm...

(MR. CHERRY looks down and slowly picks up the piece of wood.)

Hot!

(MR. CHERRY yelps and throws the piece of wood from him.)

Cold.

BLUE FAIRY: Mr. Cherry could not believe his senses! How could a piece of wood be speaking to him? And how could he be hearing it? Just as he was pondering this extraordinarily, perplexing state of affairs, into his shop walked a jolly woodcarver named Geppetto.

(A bell jingles, which startles MR. CHERRY. He yelps as GEPETTO enters.)

GEPETTO: Good morning, Mr. Cherry!

MR. CHERRY: Ah, Geppetto. Welcome, welcome! What can I do for you today?

GEPETTO: Today, I have decided to carve a fine wooden puppet.

PINOCCHIO: Why in the world would anyone do that?

GEPETTO: *(thinks that Mr. Cherry asked the question.)* Well, let me tell you... If I make a really fine puppet that could act and dance and turn somersaults in the air then, with this puppet, I believe I could travel the world and earn my food and drink.

MR. CHERRY: I see...

PINOCCHIO: Bravo!

GEPETTO: I'm glad you agree. Now, I need only to find the right piece of wood out of which I might fashion such a puppet. It should be extraordinary, for I will treat this puppet as if it is my own son.

MR. CHERRY: Yes, of course...

PINOCCHIO: Here is a piece of wood.

GEPETTO: Where?

(MR. CHERRY quickly picks up the talking piece of wood and shows it to Geppetto.)

MR. CHERRY: Here!

(GEPETTO approaches and examines the wood.)

GEPETTO: Hmm... Yes. I think this is just right.

PINOCCHIO: Of course it is!

GEPETTO: I'm glad you agree.

(GEPETTO takes out a money pouch and looks inside)

MR. CHERRY: Yes, yes.

GEPETTO: How much will it cost?

MR. CHERRY: It's free.

GEPETTO: Free?

PINOCCHIO: Free!

GEPETTO: I see.

MR. CHERRY: As long as you take it home right now.

GEPETTO: That's very kind of you, Mr. Cherry.

(MR. CHERRY starts to usher GEPETTO toward the door.)

MR. CHERRY: Well... You're a splendid woodcarver and... I like to support the arts...

GEPETTO: I had no idea.

MR. CHERRY and PINOCCHIO: You have no idea.

GEPETTO: I'm glad you agree. Good day, Mr. Cherry!

BLUE FAIRY: So Geppetto left the shop of the befuddled, yet relieved, Mr. Cherry and went home with his fine new piece of wood.

(Scene shifts from Mr. Cherry's shop to Geppetto's workshop. COMPANY members are positioned around the shop like inanimate toys.)

SCENE 1

SETTING: GEPETTO'S WORKSHOP, A SHORT TIME LATER

(GEPETTO enters, carrying the piece of wood.)

BLUE FAIRY: Geppetto was so excited about his fine new piece of wood and what it was to become that he could hardly wait to begin. As soon as he arrived home, he took out his tools and started carving.

(As GEPETTO begins to mime carving, the COMPANY members, as PUPPETS, examine each body part as the BLUE FAIRY describes it. They move like they are newly made puppets discovering themselves)

First he carved the puppet's head.

(COMPANY move heads with eyes closed.)

But of course the puppet could not see, so Geppetto gave it eyes.

(COMPANY open eyes and look around.)

The eyes looked so lively and curious that he quickly made the mouth and tongue so the puppet could describe what it saw.

(COMPANY slowly open mouths.)

But when the puppet opened its mouth it did not speak. Instead, it turned its face to Geppetto and offered a rude expression.

(COMPANY gives Geppetto a Bronx cheer and he is aghast.)

Then the puppet's head laughed at its creator.

(COMPANY members laugh and caper in place with childish glee.)

GEPETTO: Hey, what is so funny?

COMPANY: Your face!

(ALL laughing and capering)

GEPETTO: No, it's not!

(PUPPETS stops laughing.)

No more laughing!

(PUPPETS assume a deferential manner)

That's better. How can I finish my work, with you carrying on?

(BLUE FAIRY now becomes a bit more of an observer as COMPANY members pick up some of the narration. However, she very much continues to "conduct" the action. When GEPETTO goes back to work and puts his head down, the PUPPET sticks out its tongue. GEPETTO looks up and the PUPPETPINOCCHIO quickly rearranges its face to reflect respectful innocence.)

COMPANY: So, Geppetto made the puppet's right arm.

(COMPANY waves right arm.)

—And then the left arm.

(COMPANY waves left arm.)

GEPETTO: Look, my little friend! Now you have arms.

(The PUPPETPINOCCHIO examines its own arms. Then it looks up and gasps and points. When GEPETTO looks in the direction the puppet is pointing, the puppet snatches his hat and places it on his own head and grins broadly.)

Oh! You are such a little mischief maker... And you're barely halfway finished.

(GEPETTO takes his hat back and puts it on his head.)

Now, be still and I will give you a body.

COMPANY: After that, he shaped the puppet's little body.

(PUPPETPINOCCHIO twists torso and bends at the waist.)

—Then, the right leg.

(PUPPETPINOCCHIO kicks right leg.)

—And finally, the left leg.

(PUPPETPINOCCHIO kicks left leg.)

GEPETTO: *(steps back to admire his work)* There! Now, I must give you a name. Let's see... how about... Pinocchio!

PINOCCHIO: Pinocchio! Why, Pinocchio?

GEPETTO: Well, because Pinocchio means "little one made of pine." And I think it's a name that will bring you luck.

PINOCCHIO: Luck?

GEPETTO: Good fortune.

(PINOCCHIO looks puzzled.)

You shall learn about such things later. But first, let's see if you can walk.

(GEPETTO sets Pinocchio on the floor. For the first few steps, PINOCCHIO is hesitant and wobbly. But, with GEPETTO's encouragement, he soon gets the hang of walking and starts to move more easily.)

PINOCCHIO: Am I doing it right?

GEPETTO: Yes, my boy! You are moving very well! Better than any puppet I have ever seen. Why, I don't even think I need to put strings on you.

(As PINOCCHIO skips and struts and dances around the room, GEPETTO is delighted.)

Oh, my goodness, you are such a talented young fellow. Just wait until I take you out into the street and people see how remarkable you are.

PINOCCHIO: Can we go out now?

GEPPELTO: No, I think it's too soon.

PINOCCHIO: Why?

GEPPELTO: Because you've only just now taken your first few steps and I don't want you getting hurt.

PINOCCHIO: But I want to go now and see the world.

GEPPELTO: Maybe tomorrow.

PINOCCHIO: No! Now!

GEPPELTO: Pinocchio, I have made you and you must do as I say. You need to learn to listen and be respectful before I take you out.

PINOCCHIO: I don't need to learn anything.

GEPPELTO: Just like all good little children, you need to go to school and study and learn proper behavior. How else will you get along in the world?

PINOCCHIO: I'll get along by following whimsy.

GEPPELTO: *(Laughs.)* That, my boy, is a quick way to a miserable end. Now, listen carefully...
(He picks up a book.)

This was my schoolbook when I was a young boy and now it shall be yours.
(He hands the book to PINOCCHIO, who looks at it briefly.)

PINOCCHIO: Now this book belongs to me?

GEPPELTO: Yes.

PINOCCHIO: Then I will begin my first lesson.

GEPPELTO: That's the spirit!

PINOCCHIO: I will venture out to find a river and see if this book floats.

(PINOCCHIO runs out the Geppetto's house with the book.)

GEPETTO: What? No! Wait? Pinocchio! Come back!

COMPANY: And before Geppetto could catch the little puppet, it dashed out the door and into the crowded, busy street.

(GEPETTO follows PINOCCHIO off stage, still holding his hammer.)

SCENE 2

SETTING: IN THE STREET, MOMENTS LATER

(As the scene shifts to the street, PINOCCHIO enters, followed closely by GEPETTO. The onlookers in the street take interest in the comical chase and are generally amused by the wild, scampering puppet. Finally, GEPETTO catches Pinocchio.)

PINOCCHIO: Let me go! Let me go!

GEPETTO: You have behaved very badly.

PINOCCHIO: You're terrible and mean!

GEPETTO: How can you say that?

PINOCCHIO: You tried to keep me locked up!

GEPETTO: I was trying to keep you safe.

PINOCCHIO: And you said I would come to a miserable end!

GEPETTO: You could have, trying to run away like this. You're coming home with me right now!

PINOCCHIO: No! No! No!

(PINOCCHIO flings himself to the ground and throws a tantrum. POLICEMAN 1 and POLICEMAN 2 enter and move through the crowd of onlookers.)

POLICEMAN ONE: One side!

POLICEMAN TWO: Step back!

POLICEMAN ONE & TWO: We're policemen!

POLICEMAN TWO: One side!

POLICEMAN ONE: What's all this about?

GEPETTO: Officer, I'm sorry to have caused such a disturbance.

PINOCCHIO: He tried to keep me locked up!

POLICEMAN ONE: What's that?

PINOCCHIO: And he said I'd come to a miserable end!

POLICEMAN TWO: Is this true?

GEPETTO: Well...

ONLOOKER ONE: We saw it all happen!

ONLOOKER TWO: First, the puppet ran into the street

ONLOOKER THREE: Carrying his schoolbook, then...

ONLOOKER ONE: Then, that man chased the puppet with a hammer.

POLICEMAN ONE: A hammer?

GEPETTO: (*holds up hammer*) It's a tool I use for my work.

POLICEMAN TWO: And what do you do for a living? Torture poor, defenseless puppets?

POLICEMAN ONE: Who are just trying to study their schoolbooks?

GEPETTO: No, no! You misunderstand...

POLICEMAN TWO: We understand enough to take you to jail.

POLICEMAN ONE & TWO: Let's go.

(POLICEMAN 1 takes the hammer from Geppetto and hands it to a slightly bemused Pinocchio.)

GEPETTO: I would never hurt, my Pinocchio... I love him. Please, don't take me away! He'll be all alone!

(POLICEMAN 1 and POLICEMAN 2 escort Geppetto away as the murmuring CROWD disperses and leaves Pinocchio alone.)

COMPANY: *(variously)* As the policeman led Geppetto away and the crowd dispersed, Pinocchio realized he was alone and he could do whatever he liked.

—However, he was not feeling especially carefree.

—He was not a bad-hearted puppet and, although his behavior was certainly selfish, his guilt over seeing Geppetto taken to jail was certainly bothering him.

—Confused by the jumble of perplexing new feelings, Pinocchio stood in the middle of the street trying to decide what to do next.

(A COMPANY member enters with a CRICKET puppet.)

—Then, suddenly, a small voice spoke to him.

CRICKET: Hello, Pinocchio.

PINOCCHIO: Who are you?

CRICKET: I am a cricket who has lived for more than a hundred years.

PINOCCHIO: Oh, I suppose just because you're elderly, you think you should be advising me.

CRICKET: No more so than a boy thinks he has a right to act foolishly based on his youth. However, I would like to share with you a great truth.

PINOCCHIO: Okay, what is it?

CRICKET: Woe to those children who disobey their parents and run away for they will likely come to no good in this world and will sooner or later repent bitterly.

PINOCCHIO: Sing away all you want cricket, but I will not be discouraged from my dearest ambition, which is to eat, drink, sleep, and amuse myself.

CRICKET: Those who follow that path and do not work will surely come to a miserable end.

PINOCCHIO: I disagree!

COMPANY: Pinocchio was so irritated by the prophesying insect that he took the hammer he was holding...

(PINOCCHIO hits the cricket puppet with the hammer and flattens it.)

—And squashed the cricket flat.

CRICKET: *(In a squashed voice)* I promise you, this behavior will hurt you more than it hurts me.

(The CRICKET exits.)

COMPANY: Just as Pinocchio was starting to feel guilty for flattening the cricket, he heard a delightful melody that distracted him from his shame.

(Music is heard)

PINOCCHIO: What is that delightful sound? I must find its source.

COMPANY: And the wayward puppet wandered down the street toward the enchanting music.

(PINOCCHIO exits.)

SCENE 3

SETTING: *THE GREAT PUPPET SHOW, A SHORT TIME LATER*

(After a COMPANY member brings out a sign that reads “The Great Puppet Show”, FIRE EATER enters. With the help of the COMPANY members who flutter colorful fabric, he “breathes fire” as PINOCCHIO enters.)

FIRE EATER:

Come, one! Come two!
Come three! Come, four!
It’s fun! For you!
You’ll see! I’m sure!

Fire Eater is my name.
To entertain, my chief aim!
The puppets you will see
All brought to life by me!

We play! We roar!

We dance! We act!
But stay! There's more!
Romance! In fact!

Line up! Step in!
And you shall know
The spectacle of...
The Great Puppet Show!

COMPANY: Although he himself was a puppet, Pinocchio had never seen a puppet show, having just been made

—And therefore he was utterly dazzled by the extravagant invitation of the man who breathed fire.

—He was desperate to see the performance, but he had no way to pay admission.

—He then realized that he still had the schoolbook that Geppetto had given him.

PINOCCHIO: I could sell this old book for the price of a ticket.

COMPANY: And without a second thought he sold the book to a bystander and entered the pavilion.

(The set shifts to a puppet show with numerous puppets on a framed stage. After performing an opening dance, two puppets, HARLEQUIN and PUNCHINELLO take center stage.)

HARLEQUIN: You know, Punchinello, if it weren't for our strings we wouldn't be able to move with such liveliness.

PUNCHINELLO: Gee, Harlequin, I suppose you're right. Without strings we'd be... what-cha-call-it... inanimate.

HARLEQUIN: Well, as it happens, I once met a puppet without strings, while floating in the ocean.

PUNCHINELLO: Oh yeah, what was his name?

(BOB puppet comes forward and bobs as if floating in water. After each of the Punch Line Puppets delivers his or her line, we hear a rim shot followed by canned laughter.)

BOB: Bob.

PUNCHINELLO: What a coincidence, I once met a puppet without strings, who was left under a bed.

HARLEQUIN: Oh really, what was his name?

(DUSTY puppet comes forward holding a feather duster.)

DUSTY: Dusty.

HARLEQUIN: Oddly enough, I once met a puppet without strings that was trapped in a tiger cage.

PUNCHINELLO: No kidding, what was his name?

(CLAUDE puppet comes forward wearing shredded clothes.)

CLAUDE: Claude.

PUNCHINELLO: In a strange twist, I once met a puppet without strings who was locked in a bank vault.

HARLEQUIN: Do tell, what was his name?

(RICH puppet comes forward holding a bag of money.)

RICH: Rich.

HARLEQUIN: As fate would have it, I once met a puppet without strings while visiting the beach.

PUNCHINELLO: You don't say, what was his name?

(SANDY puppet comes forward with a bucket and shovel.)

SANDY: Sandy.

PUNCHINELLO: By extraordinary chance, I once met a puppet without strings sitting in a cup of coffee.

HARLEQUIN: Is that so, what was his name?

(JOE puppet comes forward holding a very large coffee cup.)

JOE: Joe.

COMPANY: Pinocchio was so utterly delighted with the proceedings, that before anyone could stop him,

(PINOCCHIO steps between HARLEQUIN and PUNCHINELLO.)

—He hopped up on stage.

PINOCCHIO: This is wonderful!

HARLEQUIN and **PUNCHINELLO**: Who are you?

PINOCCHIO: My name is Pinocchio and I have no strings!

BLUE FAIRY: Pinocchio, of course, did not know that it was terribly inappropriate to interrupt a performance, but now the show had come to an abrupt end and as the audience began to file out of the pavilion, Fire Eater stormed onto the stage.

(FIRE EATER steps away from puppet.)

FIRE EATER: What is the meaning of this? Why have you disrupted my show?

PINOCCHIO: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make it stop.

FIRE EATER: Who are you?

PINOCCHIO: Pinocchio.

FIRE EATER: Little one made of pine? Perfect! I need some wood to stoke my fire. I think I'll use you.

PINOCCHIO: Oh, please, Mr. Fire Eater, please don't use me as firewood!

FIRE EATER: Why not? Your name is Pinocchio.

(FIRE EATER grabs Pinocchio and starts to drag him away.)

PINOCCHIO: Well, if you insist on putting me in the fire, Mr. Fire Eater... I guess I'll have to change my name to "Bernie".

(Another rim shot is heard and HARLEQUIN and PUNCHINELLO start to laugh. FIRE EATER glares as PINOCCHIO does a series of cartwheels in celebration of his jest.)

HARLEQUIN: Hey, Punchinello, look. It's true!

PUNCHINELLO: Yeah, I see it, Harlequin!

HARLEQUIN and **PUNCHINELLO**: He has no strings!

(FIRE EATER notices.)

FIRE EATER: That is remarkable. Who made you without strings?

PINOCCHIO: A man named Geppetto.

FIRE EATER: Oh, yes, I've heard of him. He's a poor, yet good-hearted woodcarver.

PINOCCHIO: Now, he's in jail.

FIRE EATER: Jail, why?

PINOCCHIO: I'm afraid it's my fault. He was just trying to teach me how to behave and was unjustly accused of ill-treating me.

FIRE EATER: Well, misunderstandings can happen, but you have the power to correct it.

PINOCCHIO: Yes, if you'll forgive my inconsiderate interruption of your splendid performance and let me go, I'll do my best to make amends.

FIRE EATER: I can do better. Here are five gold pieces.

(FIRE EATER holds out a small money purse and PINOCCHIO takes it.)

PINOCCHIO: What have I done to deserve such a gift?

FIRE EATER: Well, if you are true to your intentions then you will give this gold to Geppetto. He is a good man and I'm sure he will use it wisely and in your best interest.

PINOCCHIO: Oh, yes, yes, you're right. A thousand thanks, Mr. Fire Eater!

COMPANY: And so, after a fond farewell, Pinocchio took his leave of The Great Puppet Show and went in search of Gappetto.

(PINOCCHIO shakes hands with Fire Eater and waves to the other puppets.)

—Goodbye!

—Goodbye!

—Goodbye!

SCENE 4

SETTING: A LESS THAN HOPEFUL PART OF TOWN, SOMETIME LATER

(As FIRE EATER and the puppets exit, the scene shifts. The cubes, window frames and curtains are set in disarray.)

COMPANY: *(variously)* Pinocchio wandered for hours, but of course he had no idea where the jail might be and before long he had lost his way and had wandered into a less than hopeful part of town.

(The FOX and CAT enter. The FOX is on crutches and leads the CAT, who has on dark glasses and wears a sign around his neck that says “Blind”.)

—He was just about to ask for directions when he came upon a lame fox and a blind cat.

FOX: Care for the crippled!

CAT: Beneficence for the blind!

FOX and CAT: Donations for the disabled!

PINOCCHIO: Oh, excuse me. Could you, please, help me?

CAT: Oh, who’s there?

PINOCCHIO: My name is Pinocchio.

FOX: *(Explaining to the cat)* Why, it’s a curious, young puppet.

(To Pinocchio)

What is it, my boy?

PINOCCHIO: Well, I’ve lost my way.

FOX: Oh, dear me. How might we be of service?

CAT: We exist to serve.

PINOCCHIO: I’m wondering if you might know the way to the jail.

FOX: Hmm... the jail? Oh, yes, I have heard that there is such a place where they confine the ne’er-dowells of this realm.

CAT: Yes, I too have heard of this repository for rascals.

FOX: Of course, I haven’t the first notion of where to begin to find it.

CAT: No, haven’t the foggiest.

PINOCCHIO: Oh.

FOX: But why, pray tell, are you looking for it?

CAT: Yes, why in the wide and wonderful world?

PINOCCHIO: I must find the wood carver who made me, so I can give him this money as recompense for my bad behavior.

(PINOCCHIO shows the bag of gold to the Fox and the Cat. The FOX drops his crutch when he walks forward to examine it and falls only after he realizes he's left it behind. PINOCCHIO innocently moves to help the Fox and hands the bag of gold to the CAT, who lowers its dark glasses to get a better look at it. After a moment, PINOCCHIO helps the Fox to his feet and onto his crutch.)

FOX: Thank you, my kind fellow. I must say, I was overwhelmed and seem to have lost my balance when you spoke of your tragic plight and your subsequent altruistic intentions.

(The FOX takes the bag of gold from the Cat and hands it to Pinocchio.)

I believe this is yours. I'm sorry we cannot point a path to the penitentiary.

CAT: Dreadfully regretful.

PINOCCHIO: That's okay...

FOX: But perhaps, there is a way we might aid you.

PINOCCHIO: How?

CAT: How we would love to lend assistance.

FOX: How would you like to give your dear woodcarver ten times the amount of gold you have now?

PINOCCHIO: Ten times five?

FOX: That's fifty.

CAT: Or one hundred times the amount?

PINOCCHIO: One hundred times five?

CAT: That's five hundred.

PINOCCHIO: Or one thousand times the amount?

FOX and CAT: One thousand times five!

PINOCCHIO: That's...

FOX and CAT: Five thousand.

PINOCCHIO: Wow. How might I gain such a fortune?

FOX: It just so happens, that I know a magical place called "The Field of Miracles".

PINOCCHIO: Where's that?

CAT: Just outside a bustling city called "Fools' Trap".

FOX: Yes, all you need to do is go to the "The Field of Miracles" and dig a little hole and bury your little bag of gold. Then, after you gently sprinkle the ground with water, you must go to bed and in the morning you will find a marvelous tree, blossoming with countless, shiny new pieces gold.

PINOCCHIO: This is wonderful! Can you show me where to find "The Field of Miracles"?

FOX: It would be our pleasure.

CAT: A pure delight.

FOX: And perhaps, along the way, we might run into some well-informed soul who knows the way to jail.

CAT: You never know who you might run into.

PINOCCHIO: My friends, once I have harvested enough gold pieces to make Geppetto a rich man, I shall give the rest to both of you.

FOX: A present for us?

CAT: A gift?

PINOCCHIO: For helping me.

FOX: My dear boy, we don't work for gain. We merely help others.

CAT: Tending to the needy.

PINOCCHIO: How lucky I am to have found you!

COMPANY: Pinocchio was overjoyed with his newfound guides and happily followed the Fox and the Cat out of town and into the wilderness.

(PINOCCHIO follows the FOX and CAT off stage.)

SCENE 5

SETTING: THE WILDERNESS, SOMETIME LATER

(The set shifts to an extremely elegant restaurant. The cubes become tables that the COMPANY members gather around. They pose as if they hold cocktail glasses and are engaged in sophisticated conversation. PINOCCHIO, FOX and CAT enter.)

COMPANY: *(variously)* Pinocchio was so consumed with the idea of turning his little pouch of gold into a gold bearing tree from which he might pluck thousands of sparkling coins that he did not consider the treacherous nature of his companions.

—After walking for miles, dusk descended and they came upon a remote little tavern called The Red Crab Inn where they decided to stay for the night.

(A sign reading “The Red Crab Inn” is placed on stage. INNKEEPER enters holding menus.)

INNKEEPER: Welcome to the Red Crab Inn. Will you be dining with us tonight?

PINOCCHIO: I'm so excited about finding “The Field of Miracles” I don't feel very hungry. Do you fellow's feel like supper?

(PINOCCHIO takes menus from the Innkeeper and hands one each to the FOX and the CAT. THEY move to a table, tucking napkins into their shirts.)

FOX: Well, I don't really have much of an appetite. I think I'll just have a little something to nibble on.

CAT: No, I'm not especially famished. I'll just have a little something to peck at.

FOX and CAT: I think we'll start with...

FOX: A Wild rabbit croquet on a crusty French baguette.

CAT: Red robin ragout.

FOX and CAT: And a savory, sparrow stew.

INNKEEPER: Splendid.

FOX: The roasted duck flambé

CAT: With a pigeon liver pâté

INNKEEPER: Very good.

FOX and CAT: Then we'll follow with...

FOX: The flounder au fromage.

CAT: Spicy salamander sau-sage.

FOX: Pressed partridge pecan soufflé.

CAT: Extra crispy, deep-fried blue jay.

INNKEEPER: And dessert?

FOX: Well maybe something light.

CAT: One final, dainty bite.

FOX and CAT: How about...

FOX: The pheasant crème brulee

CAT: And the minced chipmunk parfait.

INNKEEPER: Excellent choice.

(The INNKEEPER takes the menus.)

COMPANY: After the Fox and the Cat finished their extravagant meals they asked the innkeeper for two

comfy rooms for the night.

(The FOX and CAT wipe the corners of their mouths as if they have just finished a large and very satisfying meal.)

—One for the two of them and one for Pinocchio.

FOX: It wouldn't be right for all of us to crowd into one room. And you should be able to luxuriate in your own suite.

CAT: After all, you're soon to be a wealthy man.

PINOCCHIO: Thank you, my friends. You are too kind.

COMPANY: *(variously)* They went to their separate rooms and went to bed.

(PINOCCHIO slumps onto one of the cubes as if it is a bed and he pulls one of the curtains around him as if it is a blanket.)

—In the morning Pinocchio was awakened by the knocks of the Innkeeper,
(INNKEEPER knocks and PINOCCHIO wakes up.)

—who informed the puppet that his companions had gone and handed Pinocchio a note.

(The INNKEEPER hands Pinocchio a note. The FOX and the CAT, who now stand on two cubes upstage and put on their robber costumes, speak the words in the note as PINOCCHIO reads.)

FOX: My good Pinocchio, We apologize for leaving without you...

CAT: ...but we did not wish to disturb your rest.

FOX: We have ventured ahead...

CAT: ...so that we may check the road for robbers and thieves...

FOX: ...who might waylay you and steal your bag of gold.

CAT: We trust you had a restful night...

FOX: ...and we will be overjoyed to see you later today.

CAT: Just follow the path into the deepest, darkest part of the forest.

FOX: We will patiently await your swift...

CAT: ...and safe...

FOX: ...arrival and look forward to our subsequent journey to “The Field of Miracles”.

FOX and CAT: Yours,

FOX: Fox

CAT: and Cat.

PINOCCHIO: *(to himself)* How fortunate I am to have such loyal friends.

COMPANY: Then the Innkeeper handed him the bill for all three of the travelers’ meals and lodgings.

(INNKEEPER hands Pinocchio a bill)

INNKEEPER: Four gold pieces, sir.

PINOCCHIO: Oh. Well, after I pay four, I will still have one coin left which, I suppose, is all I need to plant in “The Field of Miracles” to grow a fruitful money tree.

COMPANY: Without concern, Pinocchio paid the bill with four of his gold coins and left at once with his one remaining piece of gold.

(PINOCCHIO hands Innkeeper four gold pieces.)

—As he was instructed, the hopeful puppet followed the path into the deepest, darkest part of the forest.

(PINOCCHIO exits as the set is shifted. The cubes are arranged so as to give various characters/narrators high places from which to speak.)

Scenes 6-12 comprise the remaining 21 pages of the script