

PINOCCHIO

BY

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## NOTE FROM PLAYWRIGHT:

In researching the blues, I found several themes that run consistently through the lyrics. There are the mistreated blues, the broke and hungry blues, the loveless blues and the evil-hearted blues. A form of Jazz, the blues has been treated with great respect. Traditional blues singers slide all around the notes, adding soulful expression to the lyric. "Perfect!", I thought. Pinocchio's adventures were many and he was often "singing the blues" as he slid from episode to episode, trying to make sense of this world to which he so yearned to belong. The original **Pinocchio** written by Carlo Collodi lends itself quite amiably to this music and movement, as there is always a lesson to be learned from our mistakes. Sometimes we must "sing the blues" awhile before we "see the light". My hope is that the liberties I have taken in style will shed new perspective on this old and wonderful classic story. Enjoy!

SET NOTES - \*see act I scene I

**PINOCCHIO** was first performed at the University of Texas at Dallas as part of the Richardson Children's Summer Art Series by the RCT Children's Theatre. Artistic Director was Debra Carter. Musical Director was Kitty Beletic. The Choreographer was Melva Smith. Lights were designed by Keith Buresh and Set was designed by Mike Carter, Debra Carter and Kitty Beletic. The original cast was as follows:

GEPPETTO	JOHN BENTHAM
PINOCCHIO	MIKE FEDERICO
VENDOR	KEVIN MOORE
FALCONE	NATHAN ALBERS
BLUES FAIRY	CELEST VILLANEUVA
THE FOX	BONNIE BARBER
THE CAT	LOREE BETH MORRIS
CANDLEWICK	KEVIN MOORE
THE INDUSTRIOUS BEES	7 - 10 WORKSHOP
PUPPETS	5 - 6 WORKSHOP
LAZY SCHOOLFELLOWS	11 - 16 WORKSHOP

**DEDICATION** - In memory of my friend, Debbie Kaberly, who was such an inspiration to her family and friends. Her life was a testimony to the essence of this story which illustrates that it is the every day choices we make that strengthen and prepare us for our future. To Debbie, one of the strongest people I ever met.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

- GEPPETTO:** An elderly shoemaker; alone for much of his life, Geppetto is dedicated to his work. He is kind and loving and personifies honesty and unselfishness.
- PINOCCHIO:** Created out of wood, he symbolizes the naivete of all children, young and old. Through his adventures and the influences of those both good and evil, Pinocchio learns the value of truth and unselfishness. His transformation is one from selfish and ignorant to one of humility and generosity. His growth is symbolized in his desire to dance and the ultimate ability to do so because of his perseverance.
- FALCONE:** A very intimidating figure... Puppetmaster. On the outside, he is loud and blustering. He is somewhat self-centered, but his heart is good. He respects Geppetto for his craft and truly loves his work. Playful and laughs easily.
- VENDOR:** Merchant who sells tickets to Falcone's Puppet Show; Flamboyant and shrewd; crooked; played by Same character who plays Candlewick.
- BLUES FAIRY:** Hip, soulful, wise and exotic looking. Cryptic at times; Acts as Pinocchio's conscience throughout the play. She has a mission of her own, but it is not clear whether her quest is a ploy to involve herself in Pinocchio's salvation, or if it is indeed an honest attempt to restore her wing. You decide.
- THE FOX:** Slick, smart, devious, money is everything especially when it is stolen. Flamboyant in costume, extravagant in style...never lifts a finger to do anything if possible. Has an answer for everything, super salesperson. Conveniently limps for sympathy.
- THE CAT:** Beautiful and dumb. Loves extravagant clothing. Thinks whatever the Fox thinks, says whatever the Fox says, does whatever the Fox does. Constantly primping. Conveniently blind for sympathy. Changes eyepatch from one eye to another.

**CANDLEWICK:** School friend of Pinocchio. He is lazy and very mischievous; would do ANYTHING to get out of work. Winning and fun and very irresponsible.

**PUPPETS:** Puppets in the traveling puppet show of Falcone, the Puppetmaster. Colorful costumes, dancers and singers who participate in a production number with Falcone and Pinocchio. Song and dance - "Sing and Dance with Me!"

**BEES:** A hive of bumblebees who work, work, work....no play is involved in their schedule. They try to inform Pinocchio about the merit of hard work. Dialogue consists of platitudes and warnings. Production number with Pinocchio. Song and dance - "Busy Bee Boogie".

**SCHOOLFELLOWS:** Schoolage boys who do not like to work. Dialogue consists of bad attitudes about work, in general, and schoolwork in particular. They, along with Candlewick, convince Pinocchio to come with them to Donkey Island, where there is nothing to do but play all day and all night. Song and dance - "East of the Setting Sun".

**PINOCCHIO AND GEPETTO SILHOUETTE:**

Poseurs who freeze behind scrim, creating a silhouette to depict upcoming scene action.

**BLUES SINGER:** Voiceover or actor who sings transition.

## ACT I

### SCENE I - GEPPETTO'S WORKSHOP

SETTING: Florence, Italy and the surrounding countryside: 1882

AT RISE: Music sounds. Spotlight on scrim. A silhouette of Geppetto and Pinocchio is seen. Geppetto is just finishing the making of Pinocchio.

### **BLUES SINGER**

OLD GEPPETTO JUST SINGS THE BLUES  
MAKES HIS LIVING IN WOODEN SHOES  
OLD GEPPETTO JUST SINGS THE BLUES  
HE'S SO LONELY AND SO CONFUSED  
NEEDS A SON TO BE KIND TO  
NEED I SAY TO REMIND YOU  
OLD GEPPETTO JUST SINGS THE BLUES  
OLD GEPPETTO GEPPETTO JUST SINGS THE BLUES

(Fade silhouette as lights come up center stage on Geppetto and Pinocchio. Set consists of workbench with a few tools on it and a coat rack with a tattered coat. Pinocchio sits atop the workbench. Geppetto puts on the finishing touches.)

<Using a scrim, silhouettes are used to abstractly describe upcoming scenes and create ambiance during transitions and scene changes. Set pieces are few and simple. In Act II, Scene I, the Dogfish teeth are necessary to depict an interior of fish. This allows maximum room for movement and dancing. The focus of this play is movement and music. Set is abstract to match the rhythm of the play.>

### **GEPPETTO**

There! He is finished!

**(Turns PINOCCHIO carefully around to face audience.  
Steps back to admire)**

**GEPETTO (Continued)**

Why he is positively a work of art! I wonder if he can hear me. Hello Puppet.

**(No answer. GEPETTO cups his hand and speaks louder)**

**GEPETTO (Continued)**

I say, hello Puppet!

**(No answer)**

How odd.

**(Thinks)**

Ah! He does not answer because he has no name. Name...a name.....Antonio? Yes, that is a good name!

**(To PINOCCHIO)**

Antonio!

**(No answer)**

No, that must not be right. Let me see, now. What could it be? Polendina! Polendina, I bid you a fine good afternoon!

**(No answer)**

No Polendina, eh? What could it be? What could it be? I think I need some help...now who can help me....

**(Walks to audience)**

Can you help me? What is his name?

**GEPETTO**

Pinocchio!

**(At this, PINOCCHIO comes alive. HE begins to look around, brush himself off. Action behind\_Geppetto's back)**

**GEPETTO**

Ah, Pinocchio...

**(Starts back to bench. Not looking at  
PINOCCHIO. Turns back to audience)**

You are certain?

**AUDIENCE**

Yes!

**GEPETTO**

Pinocchio is such an odd sounding name. You are sure that his name is Pinocchio?

**AUDIENCE**

Yes!

**GEPETTO**

All right then.

**(Turns to PINOCCHIO)**

Pinocchio....

**PINOCCHIO**

Father!

**GEPETTO**

Pinocchio!

**PINOCCHIO**

Father!

**GEPETTO**

Pinocchio!

**PINOCCHIO**

Father!

**(GEPETTO starts to say "Pinocchio", but PINOCCHIO interrupts).**

**PINOCCHIO**

No! Please Father. Now that you know my name, I would like to ask for some dinner. I am very hungry!

**GEPETTO**

**(Cannot believe his eyes and ears)**

My son! Pinocchio.

**(Flustered)**

Uh, of course I will fix you something. Straightaway, my boy. Hee hee!

**(Finds an apple in his apron)**

Here you are! A fine snack for such a fine boy.

**PINOCCHIO**

I do not eat apples.

**GEPETTO**

You do not eat apples.

**(Looks in his apron. Finds a carrot)**

Well, then I have a fine firm carrot to munch. Good for your eyesight!

**PINOCCHIO**

I do not eat carrots!

**GEPETTO**

**(Beginning to get irritated)**

You do not eat carrots. I suppose I might have something else....

(Digs once more into his apron)

Here is just the thing! A ripe juicy plum! Yessir, just the thing!

**PINOCCHIO**

You are a silly old man! I most certainly would never eat a plum!

**GEPETTO**

**(Loses his temper)**

You have it wrong, my son. Not only would you eat a plum, you will ALSO eat the APPLE AND THE CARROT! AND YOU WILL NOT TALK TO YOUR FATHER IN SUCH A TONE!

**(PINOCCHIO looks surprised)**

**PINOCCHIO**

Father! I am not your servant. I have a mind of my own and I shall do what I like!

**GEPETTO**

You do indeed, my son. But your mind is clearly underdeveloped and overstated. You will not be my servant, it is true. But you will do as you are asked, as it is I who provides the dinner with the money from my hard work with wood! .... or would you prefer to work with me in the shop all day to earn your own money for dinner!?

**PINOCCHIO**

**(Thinks about this)**

I suppose you are right, Father. I shall eat the apple.....

**(Looks at GEPETTO sheepishly)**

And the carrot and the plum.

**(Starts to eat apple)**

**GEPETTO**

I think you have a lot to learn about life, my son. Jump down from that table and we shall begin our lesson.

**PINOCCHIO**

**(Jumps down. Nearly falls. Tries to run a few steps. Is very unsteady)**

What is wrong with my legs, Father? I cannot run! I cannot even seem to walk a step!

**GEPETTO**

Your legs are not used to life's travels as yet.

**PINOCCHIO**

What do you mean?

**GEPETTO**

I mean that you must learn to walk first, before you run. Learn to greet life, one step at a time.

**SONG - ONE STEP CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE -GEPETTO & PINOCCHIO****GEPETTO**

ALL MY LIFE I WAITED FOR YOU NOW YOU'RE HERE I MUST IMPLORE YOU  
 AS YOUR FATHER I ADVISE THAT LIFE IS MEANT TO SYMBOLIZE  
 LISTEN WELL, SON....LIFE HAS BEGUN  
 TAKE A TIP FROM ME....

ONE STEP CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
 YES ONE STEP CAN SHOW THE WAY, JUST TAKE  
 TWO STEPS FORWARD AND ONE STEP BACK LEARN TOMORROW FROM  
 YESTERDAY

EVERYBODY WANTS TO LEARN TO DANCE BEFORE THEY LEARN TO WALK  
 YOU MUST LEARN TO LISTEN ... THEN YOU WILL LEARN TO TALK  
 ONE STEP CAN PAVE THE WAY CHOOSE THE RIGHT PATH TODAY, SON!

**(Repeat entire verse instrumentally as GEPETTO  
 teaches PINOCCHIO to dance)**

**BOTH**

ONE STEP CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE YES, ONE STEP CAN SHOW THE WAY  
 JUST TAKE TWO STEPS FORWARD AND ONE STEP BACK LEARN TOMORROW  
 FROM YESTERDAY

EVERYBODY WANTS TO LEARN TO DANCE BEFORE THEY LEARN TO WALK  
 YOU (I) MUST LEARN TO LISTEN... THEN YOU (I) WILL LEARN TO TALK MY SON  
 (OH DAD)  
 ONE STEP WILL PAVE THE WAY YOU (I) START YOUR LIFE TODAY, SON! (DAD!)

**PINOCCHIO**

What fun life is! I shall be running and dancing before you know it! Oh Father! I think  
 dancing is the most fun there is. I shall be the greatest dancer of all...possibly by  
 tomorrow afternoon!

**GEPETTO**

(Laughing)

Hold on! Hold on, now! Such enthusiasm is to be admired, but let's not get carried away. As you just learned, one step at a time. Besides, it is now that we must talk about your days at school.

**PINOCCHIO**

School? I will not go to school. School is work and no fun at all. No! I shall be a great dancer and make you a rich man so that you will no longer have to work!

**GEPETTO**

No. You will go to school, my son. And you will learn something new each day. Then you will return home and tell me what you have learned. We will learn together.

**PINOCCHIO**

If I am to go to school, I must have something very important.

**GEPETTO**

What is that?

**PINOCCHIO**

A spelling book!

**GEPETTO**

A spelling book. A spelling book costs money.....

(Thinks. Sees his coat on the rack)

If it is a spelling book you need, it is a spelling book you shall have!

(Picks up the coat. Starts to walk away.)

PINOCCHIO

Where are you going, Father?

**GEPETTO**

(Holds up the tattered coat)

To buy you a spelling book.

**PINOCCHIO**

But what will you use for money?

**GEPETTO**

I can sell this coat for a pretty penny.

**PINOCCHIO**

But you will need your coat.

**GEPETTO**

I will be warmed by the times we spend reading together....from your new spelling book.  
Think of it as one step...

(Dances the step)

... toward your future!

**BLACKOUT**