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presents



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Pinocchio – A Merry Magical Pantomime

Written by **Caroline Smith**

Director **Rob Torr**

Choreographer **Stephanie Graham**

Step Dance Choreographer **Cameron Francis**

Musical Director **Noah MacDougall**

Percussion **Justin Han**

Stage Manager **Kirsti Bruce**

Lighting Designer **Joe Pagnan**

Set Design/Construction **Rob Torr**

Scenic Artist **Eileen Bradley**

Dame Costumes **Sal Figliomeni** of **Creative SALutions**

Pinocchio nose built by **Natalie Kearns, Head of Props**
Grand Theatre, London

Additional Props **Kirsti Bruce**

Producer **Torrent Productions**

Publicity **Jennifer Radford** of **The Publicity Pod**

Web and Print Designer **Tammy Rogers**

www.torrentproductions.com

CAST

(in alphabetical order)

KEVIN AICHELE (Stromboli)

RYAN BROWN (Fox)

GREG CAMPBELL (Geppetto)

STUART DOWLING (Dame Expresso)

CAMERON FRANCIS (Pinocchio)

DANIEL GREENBERG (Cat)

CYNTHIA HICKS (Blue Fairy)

KELSEY VERZOTTI (Chirp)

CAST of PINOCCHIO

Kevin Aichele (Stromboli)

Kevin is very honoured to be a part of the second Holiday Panto, after making his first appearance last season in *Robin Hood* as Little John. Most recently he appeared as Cinderella's Prince/Wolf in Opera on The Avalon's production of *Into The Woods* in beautiful St. John's, Newfoundland. Prior to that he revisited the role of Warden, in the second North American production of Sir. Tim Rice's new musical, *From Here to Eternity*, at the historic Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine. Some past favourites include: Sam in *Mamma Mia*, Javert in *Les Miserables*, Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd*, The Beast in *Beauty and The Beast*, and Johnny Cash in *Million Dollar Quartet*. His Film and TV credits include *Something Beneath*, *Faces in The Crowd*, *True Crime*, *The Pinkertons*, and *Sunnyside*. Kevin is a proud East Ender of Toronto where he lives with his girlfriend Marisa and her dog Evie. Enjoy the show and Happy Holidays!

Ryan Brown (Fox)

Ryan is very excited again this year to be spending his holiday season working with this wonderful group in Pinocchio. Ryan is a proud graduate of Sheridan's Music Theatre Performance program, where he received the Brian Linehan Triple Threat Award. Selected theatre credits include *The Wedding Singer* (Stage West), *Les Miserables* (Drayton), *The Little Mermaid* (Globe), *Spamalot* (Citadel), *Beauty and the Beast*, *Shrek – The Musical*, *The Addams Family* (Neptune). He would like to thank his family and friends for all their love and encouragement, his parents for their support throughout the years, the Talent House Gang, and Teenie.

Greg Campbell (Geppetto)

Greg was in last year's *Robin Hood* as the evil Sheriff of Nottingham. He has appeared in many productions with VideoCabaret, such as *The Confederation Project*, *Trudeau and the FLQ*, *Life and Times of Mackenzie King*, *The Great War*, and *The War of 1812* (co-production at the Stratford Festival), and has been nominated three times for a Dora Award for Best Ensemble.

He recently wrote, produced, and starred in the critically-acclaimed one-man show, *OUT*, at the Fringe Festival, which was picked up by Best of the Fringe and cited by NOW Toronto as a Best New Play of the Fringe. Other theatres: *Heart Of Steel* (Next Stage); *Mary Poppins*, *The Secret Garden*, and the Man In Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Globe Theatre); *Dial "M" For Murder*, *Wait Until Dark*, and *An Inspector Calls* (Classic Theatre Festival); *Firebrand* (Single Thread); *Ballad of Weedy Peetstraw* (Summerworks); *Twelfth Night* (Direct Flight/Gromkat); *Educating Rita* and *Oleanna* (Theatre and Company); *Amadeus* (Theatre Aquarius); *Mesa* and *1949* (Theatre NorthWest). Film and television: *The Beaverton*, *American Gods*, *Cardinal*, *Reign*, *The Strain*, *The Kennedys*.

Stuart Dowling (Dame Espresso)

Stuart is delighted to be returning for more "Panto Fun" having appeared last season as Nurse Tickle in *Robin Hood*. Selected credits include: *Here on the Flight Path*, *Night of the Living Dead* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (Magnus Theatre),

Prom Queen: The Musical (Segal Centre), *Spamalot*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Stephenville Festival), ..*Spelling Bee* (Persephone Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre New Brunswick/Sudbury Theatre Centre), *Hairspray* (Port Hope), *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline*, *On Golden Pond*, *Buddy Holly-The Musical* (Drayton Festival) as well as the International/World Tour of *West Side Story* including London's West End. He also received a Dora Award Nomination for his work as Lenny in *Of Mice and Men* (Tribal Productions). Film and Television credits include: *Imposters*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Mayday* and *Salvation*. Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season and Thank You for supporting this Wonderful Company and Live Theatre!!

Cameron Francis (Pinocchio)

Cameron is very grateful to be returning to the Gerrard and Coxwell Legion to perform in Pinocchio this Christmas! Previous Credits: *Anne & Gilbert* (The Guild Theatre), *Robin Hood- A Merry Magical Pantomime* (Torrent Productions) *Perry Loved Mary* (Old Flame), *West Side Story* (Citadel Theatre), *Hello, Dolly!*, *Brantwood* (Sheridan College) *Les Feux Follets*, *Abegweit- Soul of the Island* (Charlottetown Festival). Training: 2016 Banff Citadel Professional Training Program, Sheridan College-Musical Theatre Program. Merry Christmas to my family on the east coast and to all my loved ones here!

Daniel Greenberg (Cat)

Only steps from his front door, Daniel is very happy and grateful to be working with Rob and Steph in Torrent Productions' second panto, *Pinocchio-A Merry Magical Pantomime*. Performing has taken Daniel across North America to some of Canada's major regional theatres, to some of the USA's most beautiful opera houses, and to some of Mexico's largest auditoriums. Many thanks to Rob and Steph, TH, the whole fam, and to his sweet sweet Ky.

Cynthia Hicks (Blue Fairy)

After playing Maid Marian in *Robin Hood* last year, Cynthia is delighted to be back in "Panto Land" with Torrent Productions! Originally from Edmonton, Cynthia trained at the National Theatre School and is currently based in Toronto. Her favourite recent theatre credit is *Boys, Girls and Other Mythological Creatures* with Carousel Players. Cynthia can be seen this spring in *Girls Like That* at the Tarragon Theatre. Off the stage Cynthia is in Generator's Artist Producer Training Program and she is Studio 180's current RBC Emerging Playwright. Love and thanks to Cameron and her family for supporting Cynthia spending Christmas in Toronto this year. Happy holidays!

Kelsey Verzotti (Chirp)

Kelsey is thrilled to be spending the holiday season working on *Pinocchio-A Merry Magical Pantomime*! She recently played the role of Hannah in the Canadian Premiere of *Life After* (Musical Stage Company/Canadian Stage). Kelsey is a proud graduate of the Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance Program at Sheridan College, where she originated the role of Lucia in the Canadian premiere of *Senza Luce*. Other theatre credits include: *Rumspingra Break! An Am-ish Musical* (Sheridan CMTP), and *Footloose* (Theatre Sheridan). Television: *Top Ten Dorothy* (CBC's Over the Rainbow). Kelsey would like to thank Torrent Productions as well as her parents for their love and support!

CREATIVE TEAM

Rob Torr (Director)

Rob is so thrilled to be back this year after directing *Robin Hood* last year. He started singing at a very young age and then writing songs at the age of seven. He began his professional career singing with Montreal Symphony Orchestra as a chorister and in choirs across the country. Theatre acting credits include: Gomez in *The Addams Family*, Harry Bright in *Mamma Mia*, Hi Pockets in *Buddy Holly*, Bert in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*, Felix in *The Odd Couple*, Hysterium in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Mike in *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, The Genie in *Disney's Aladdin*, Frankie in *Forever Plaid*, Freddie in *My Fair Lady*, Matt in *The Fantasticks*, Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Stephen in *Godspell*, and in the Canadian cast of *Miss Saigon*. Producing credits include *Killer Business-The Musical*, *A Sentimental Christmas, Berlin, Broadway and Beyond*, *Hipcheck-The Musical* and *An Old Fashioned Musical Christmas* for St. James United Church in Montreal.

Rob attended McGill University for music in Voice Performance. He was a member of the first graduating class of Canterbury School of the Arts in Ottawa.

Stephanie Graham (Choreographer)

Stephanie has lived in the Coxwell Ave and Gerrard Street East neighbourhood for twelve years and so excited to share this holiday treat of a show with her community. She is a Dora Award winning choreographer and her credits include: Director/Choreographer for *The Little Mermaid*, *Key Change*, *All Shook Up* (Globe Theatre), Choreographer for: *Crazy For You* (Capitol Theatre), *Grey Gardens*, *The Wild Party* (The Musical Stage Company), *It's A Wonderful Life* (Theatre Aquarius), *Mary Poppins*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Globe Theatre), *Spamalot* (Stephenville Festival), *The Addams Family* (Neptune Theatre), *Back in '59* (Showboat Festival), *Next to Normal* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre), *The Sound of Music* (Cornerstone University), *The Last Resort* (Charlottetown), *Dogfight*, *Godspell*, *Colours in the Storm*, *Oberon* and, *She Loves Me* (Theatre Sheridan) and three seasons as a performer at the Stratford Festival of Canada.

Stephanie is a graduate of the Musical Theatre Performance Program at Sheridan College.

Upcoming: Choreographer for *Kiss Me Kate* (Theatre Sheridan), *Fun Home* (The Musical Stage Company/Mirvish) and Director/Choreographer for *Shrek-The Musical* (Globe Theatre).

www.stephaniegraham.ca

Noah MacDougall (Musical Director)

Noah is a composer/music director originally from PEI who is happy to be back to the Panto this year! Select credits include: *The Little Mermaid* (Globe Theatre) *How To Succeed...'* (Keyboard, Sheridan College) *The Wizard of Oz* (St. Lawrence College), *Mamma Mia!* (Associate MD, Port Hope), *Canada in Love* and *The Legend of Dan McGrew* (Smile Theatre), *Back in 59'* (Stephenville Theatre Festival), *Dogfight* (In-Concert Reading), *Anne & Gilbert* (The Guild). Noah is also the composer of the new Canadian musical *Perry Loved Mary* in Port Perry, ON, which has had sold out runs for the past two summers. Thanks to Rob and Steph and this extraordinary cast for being such a joy to work with. Enjoy the show!

Kirsti Bruce (Stage Manager)

Kirsti is thrilled to be back stage managing the second annual Merry Magical Pantomime with Torrent Productions. Favorite shows she has Stage Managed include; *Robin Hood* (Torrent Productions), *Kindness* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People), *I, Claudia* (Thousand Islands Playhouse-Firehall Theatre) and *The Maritime Way of Life* (Live Bait Theatre). As an Assistant Stage Manager a couple of favorites include *Cabaret* (Neptune Theatre) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Thousand Islands Playhouse).

Joe Pagnan (Lighting Designer)

Joe is thrilled to be returning from last year's *Robin Hood!* He has worked on the Regional North American Premier of *We Will Rock You (Magnus); Candide!* (TIFT); *Senza Luce* (Theatre Sheridan); *Mamma Mia, My Fair Lady, Beauty and the Beast* (Capitol Theatre); *Venus' Daughter* (Obsidian Theatre). Other companies he has had the pleasure to work with include Citadel + Compagnie, Highland Arts Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times, LemonTree, and Theatre by the Bay to name a few. Joe is an Associate Designer of Canada, and would like to thank Stephanie and Rob for this opportunity, and Jeff for their never-ending support. Have a laugh!

Upcoming: *Shrek* (Globe Theatre Regina), and *Crazy for You* (Theatre Sheridan).

More at joepagnan.com.

THANK YOU'S

Anderson Press, William Fallon, Phillip and Kalie Nero, Kirsti Bruce, Pascal Labillois, Michael Gianfrancesco, Furballs Pet Stuff, The Pantry, Pizzeria Via Mercanti, The Swag Sisters Toy Store, Victoria's Whole Foods, Flying Pony Café, Lazy Daisy Café, Sweet Bliss Baking Company, Lake Inez and Home Hardware, Tom Carson and Smile Theatre, Jayne Christopher at Thousand Islands Playhouse, Sheridan College, Craig Oliver at The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 1/42, Alexi Amini, Derek and Cherie Freestone, Eileen Bradley, Mairi Babb, Sal Figliomeni, David Leyshon, Kyla Musselman, Christine McKeon and Amelia and Ryane Charbonneau.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The tale of Pinocchio first emerged in 1881. The Italian writer, Carlo Collodi had been translating French fairy tales so successfully that he was asked to write a story of his own. Pinocchio was the result and he serialized it in a newspaper and then published in 1883.

Pinocchio is a tale that challenges us to take a look at our morals. We shouldn't lie, we should strive to be unselfish, brave and to listen to our conscience to be able to choose right from wrong. Timeless challenges wrapped up in a timeless tale.

Though not a traditional pantomime theme, I think that our Pinocchio hits all the right buttons to bring on a laugh and chuckle with a little cheek, while giving an opportunity for a little reflection when we leave the theatre.

I am so happy that we have the good fortune to show off our gags and bits so that we can share in the laughter that abounds in this wonderful form of theatre, Pantomime.

Last year's pantomime, *Robin Hood*, brought out the best in our community. It is a joy to hear our neighbours and new friends reminiscing about the show.

The Boy Made of Wood is in the 'Hood...at Gerrard and Coxwell.

Rob Torr



ABOUT TORRENT PRODUCTIONS

Torrent Productions is professional theatre company dedicated to creating, developing and producing musical theatre. We strive to bring our community together by:

1. Bringing affordable, professional theatre to the east end of Toronto
2. Developing new musicals
3. Encouraging and nurturing bridges between generations and the diverse demographics in our community

Company History:

Comprised of Rob Torr and Stephanie Graham, long term east enders, Torrent produces an annual holiday pantomime at the Royal Canadian Legion 1/42 at Coxwell and Gerrard Street East for their neighbourhood and community.

Both Stephanie and Rob have extensive performance credits from The Stratford Festival, Charlottetown Festival, Mirvish Productions, The Canadian Opera Company, Opera Ontario and with many regional theatre companies across Canada. Rob is a performer, composer, arranger, writer and director. Stephanie is a director, Dora Award winning choreographer, producer and arts educator. Torrent Productions co-produced *Hipcheck-the Musical* with Joan Jamieson and Shelley M. Hobbs at the 2009 Toronto Fringe Festival. *Hipcheck* was a Patron's Pick and presented as a part of the Best of Fringe. Their show *Canada In Love*, which was originally produced by Smile Theatre has had four productions across Canada. *Killer Business-The Musical* had its world premiere at the Next Stage Festival in 2014.

www.torrentproductions.com



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Stay in touch! info@torrentproductions.com

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SING SONG SING-A-LONG LYRICS

The Grand Ole Duke of York,
he had ten thousand men.

He marched them up to the top of the hill
and marched them down again.

And when they were up they were up.

And when they were down they were down.

And when they were only half way up,
they were neither up nor down.

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