

PINOCCHIO

Adapted from the novel by Carlo Collodi
by Bill Robertson

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Bitesize Theatre Co., 8 Green Meadows, New Broughton, Wrexham, LL11 6SG

cast

[f] Pinocchio
[m] Geppetto, Child1, Punchinello, Fox, Polecat1, Donkey-herd, Clown1
[f] Fairy, Child2, Tinker, Columbine, Cat, Polecat2, Ring-master
[m] Mr.Cherry, Comfuego, Farmer, Lampwick, Clown1, Drum-maker
[f/m] Mrs.Geppetto, Child3, Harlequin, Scarecrow, Polecat3, Clown3

PINOCCHIO

Synopsis 1/3/2002
First Draft 7/4/2002
This Draft 7/4/2002

Scene 1 Geppetto's workshop

[*MR.CHERRY, a local wood-cutter, enters carrying a log. Shortly afterwards, GEPETTO enters in the background and starts to work at his bench making cuckoo clocks. Shortly after that MRS.GEPETTO enters bringing Geppetto a snack.*]

CHERRY: Oh, hello boys and girls.[**audience: Hello; feebly**] Oh, come on! You can do better than that. Hello, boys and girls! [**audience: Hello**] That's better. Now my name is Mr. Cherry. This is the home of Geppetto and his wife. In fact there is Geppetto now, hard at work as usual. Geppetto is a wood-carver. A good wood-carver, but unfortunately, not the best wood-carver, not the worst mind you, but not the best either. And so work for Geppetto is sometimes very hard to come by, and at those times, money is scarce and life is hard for poor Geppetto and his wife. And this, my friends, is one of those times. But even when life is hard, Geppetto is never down-hearted... [*GEPETTO and MRS.GEPETTO laugh then both look wistful and sad*].... however, I know, it's at times like these that Geppetto and his wife wish they had a child.....

MRS.G: I wish we had a child...

CHERRY:someone to look after them in their old age.

GEPP: Someone to look after us in our old age.[*sigh*]

CHERRY: I think they have probably always wanted a child. But no matter how hard they have wished and prayed over the years, they have remained childless.

GEPP: Ah, such is life. [*shrugs*]

MRS.G: Che sera, sera.

GEPP: [*sees Mr. Cherry*] Ah! Mr. Cherry. How good to see you my old friend.

CHERRY: Geppetto! Are you well? And you, Mrs. Geppetto. A pleasure to see you as always, dear lady. [*kisses her hand & MRS.GEPETTO gets coy and giggles*]

GEPP: Well you know how it is, some days are good, others not. Such is life. [*shrugs*]

MRS.G: Che sera, sera.

CHERRY: Indeed. Mmmm, now why am I here? Ah, yes! I have come to bring you this.

GEPP: A piece of wood, how kind. [*goes to take the wood*]

CHERRY: [*Pulls the log back and holds tightly onto it*]. No. No. You must be very careful with it Geppetto, this is no ordinary piece of wood.

GEPP: It looks quite ordinary to me.

CHERRY: This piece of wood[*MR.CHERRY & GEPETTO look around Slapstick style & back at each other*] Argh!.... I swear to you Geppetto, this piece of wood talks.

MRS.G: Talks ? This is a joke Mr. Cherry, no?

CHERRY: No. No joke. It talks and laughs and it jumped right out of the fire when I tried to burn it. It gave me quite a turn I can tell you. [*hushed*] I'm sure it's enchanted and I want nothing more to do with it. Anyway, I'm giving it to you, so be careful. [*Thrusts log into GEPETTO's hands*] Perhaps, you can make something.... fitting out of it.

GEPP: [*turning the log over*] Ah...Yes...well ..well I suppose I can. Now, let me see.

[*Conversion of Log to Pinocchio. GEPETTO takes the wood and starts to carve watched/aided by MR.CHERRY and MRS.GEPETTO until the wood becomes PINOCCHIO, who sits motionless on the bench. His eyes follow people as they move.]*

GEPP: There! Finished.

CHERRY: Fantastic! But... why did you make a puppet ?

GEPP: I don't know. It just sort of... turned out that way.

CHERRY: Well I must say it's the best carving I think you've ever done, Geppetto. It's very lifelike. Very lifelike indeed.

GEPP: Yes. Well, I'm pleased it's turned out so well. [*GEPETTO stares curiously at his creation and speaks in a distracted manner. This continues until he exits*]

CHERRY: Well, I shall bid you goodbye. Goodbye boys and girls. [*exits*]

GEPP: Yes. Yes. Good..eh! Goodbye, Mr. Cherry.... and.. and thank you.

MRS.G: It is very lifelike, Geppetto. You can almost imagine that it's eyes are following you as you move around the room.

GEPP: Maybe Mr. Cherry was right. Maybe it is enchanted.

MRS.GP: Well, enchanted or not, we must find someone to buy it. Someone who will give us plenty of money for it.

GEPP: Yes, I suppose.

MRS.G: You suppose? You suppose? In all our days together Geppetto you never could see what was staring you in the face. This is the best piece of carving you've ever done and there are posters all over the village for a Great Puppet show.

GEPP: A puppet show ?

MRS.G: Yes! And that's where we will find someone to buy this wonderful puppet of yours. We shall go there tomorrow.

GEPP: Yes, alright, tomorrow..... What shall we call him ?

MRS.G: Do you think it needs a name?

GEPP: Perhaps?..... Perhaps, we could call him Pinocchio. The name might bring us good fortune.

MRS.G: I knew a whole family of Pinocchios once and the richest of them was a beggar. [GEPPETTO looks disappointed] But what's in a name eh! We'll call him Pinocchio, if that's what you want. Now, come to bed. You look tired. Leave it until the morning. Come on!

GEPP: Yes. Yes. I'm coming. I'm coming. You fuss too much, woman.

MRS.G: Someone has to. Now come along.

[Lights dim as they exit leaving PINOCCHIO alone. FAIRY enters in a puff of smoke.]

FAIRY: Hello boys and girls.[**audience: Hello; feebly**] Oh, come on, now! You can do better than that. Hello, boys and girls! [**audience: Hello**] That's better. Now, my name is Fairy Cenciero. I am a magical creature, a Fairy Godmother. I'm sure you could tell. And I've decided that Geppetto and his wife deserve to have their wish come true, and so here I am. Unfortunately, I can't actually give them a real child. Some things, you see, are beyond even what I can do, but I may be able to do something with this puppet. After all, it is very lifelike, don't you think so children? [**audience: Yes**] And for a very good reason. You see, the wood, Geppetto used, was cut from a tree in which a magical woodland creature, called a Tree Sprite, had been trapped for a hundred years. And with a little magical help, we can make it walk and talk and do everything a little boy would do. Anyway, that's the theory. But, there's always one big problem when using a Tree Sprite. Tree Sprites are very mischievous and naughty and quite often won't do as they're told. But needs must, eh! Now, in order to do this, I will need a little bit of help from you. So will you help me, boys and girls ? [**audience: Yes**] Will you ? [**audience: Yes**] I can't hear you. Will you help me ? [**audience: Yes**] Good! Now, I'm going to teach you a magic spell. So say it after me and do the actions. Now here we go. After three. One. Two. Three.

[with audience] *Sit up straight. Hands on knees.
Give a blink, and then a sneeze. Achoo!
Clap your hands. Clap one. Clap two.
And this will make our wish come true.*

Very good. Now let's do it one more time, all together and this time we'll see if we can bring Pinocchio to life. So here goes. After three. One. Two. Three.

[with audience] *Sit up straight. Hands on knees.
Give a blink, and then a sneeze. Achoo!
Clap your hands. Clap one. Clap two.
And this will make our wish come true.*

[FAIRY waves her magic wand over the puppet and sprinkles him with fairy dust. PINOCCHIO is "born". PINOCCHIO stands and starts to walk, stiffly at first but soon he is running around laughing. He bumps into the FAIRY.]

PINOC: Who are you ?

FAIRY: I am your Fairy Godmother, and with a little help from my friends here, I have given you life, so that you can be the son that Geppetto and his wife have always wished for. A son who will look after them as they get older.

PINOC: Hard luck, now that I've been given life I'm not staying here to be someone's son. Why should I ? I've been stuck in that tree for a hundred years. And now I'm out, I've places to go and things to see. So tomorrow at sunrise I'm leaving and nothing you can say can stop me. *[to audience]* Besides if I stay here, they're bound to send me to school and make me learn things, like reading and writing and numbers, yech! I've seen it happen to other boys and girls.

FAIRY: Oh dear.*[sigh]* I was afraid this might happen. Poor Pinocchio, I do feel very sorry for you. A hundred years old and you're still just a mischievous, naughty Tree Sprite, full of silly ideas..... *[sigh]* But I'm still hopeful that you'll mend your ways, because Geppetto and his wife need a son to help them, so you must be a good little puppet and not a naughty Tree Sprite.

PINOC: No.No.No.No.No. *[covers his ears]* Go away and leave me alone.

FAIRY: Well, boys and girls, I can see we're going to have to change his mind.

PINOC: Get someone else.

FAIRY: No, you'll do. I know you have a good heart.

PINOC: No, I don't.

FAIRY: Now, Pinocchio, if you carry on like this you will end up as a donkey and everyone will laugh at you.

PINOC: No one would dare and when I grow up....

FAIRY: Oh! Puppets never grow up. They are born puppets and they live as puppets, the same size always.

PINOC: In that case I don't want to be a good little puppet. I want to be a real boy.

FAIRY: Well, if that is really your wish you could become a real boy. But only if you deserve it.

PINOC: And what do I have to do... to deserve it ?

FAIRY: Oh! Well, you should start by learning to do as you're told and respect your elders and betters. Then you can go to school and learn to be a useful member of society, work hard and care for others and..... well I suppose really just... be a good person.... Oh and always tell the truth, for you can be sure that a lie keeps growing until it's as plain as the nose on your face.... And, of course, it goes without saying that you need to know the difference between right and wrong....

PINOC: But if I do all that, I could become a real boy.

FAIRY: Yes. I can't see why not..... but, of course, you would have to start by staying here and being a son to Geppetto and his wife.