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# Pinocchio

## Introducing the show...

In this package you have everything you need to stage a production of *PINOCCHIO*. Please read these notes through first, as they will help you to get the most out of the show.

## What is the play about?

The play is loosely based on the famous children's story by Carlo Collodi, retaining many of the best loved characters and situations; Pinocchio's kind and generous father Geppetto, the mischievous Cat and Fox, the Fairy who makes Pinocchio's nose grow longer, the Whale who swallows Pinocchio, and the puppet theatre with its fearsome owners and captive puppets where Pinocchio performs. However, lots of new characters have been added, and we think children will thoroughly enjoy meeting them!

## Who is the play for?

*THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO* was written to be performed as a Key Stage 2 or Lower Secondary school musical. The cast of characters is a large one, but the script has been deliberately written so that it could easily be condensed, with correspondingly fewer characters.

## How long is the play?

The play runs for approximately seventy five minutes and has five songs and two dances. It is therefore ideal for a major end of term production.

## What is on the CD?

You don't have to read music, or know anything about music, to put on this show. The CD has everything you'll need! On all our CDs there is a vocal version, an instrumental version, any sound effects that are needed, and quite often a piano version too. A full musical score has also been provided in the booklet, for teachers who are musically accomplished.

## How many parts are there in the play?

There are parts for fifty four children in the play, and this can easily be expanded with Poppino's Dancers and the Sea Creatures. The main characters are naturally the most challenging roles, though straightforward enough for reasonably able children to cope with, but there are plenty of parts for children who are very keen to be in the show but only have average acting abilities. Pinocchio is most successful when played by a younger child, as he or she quickly gains the empathy of the audience.

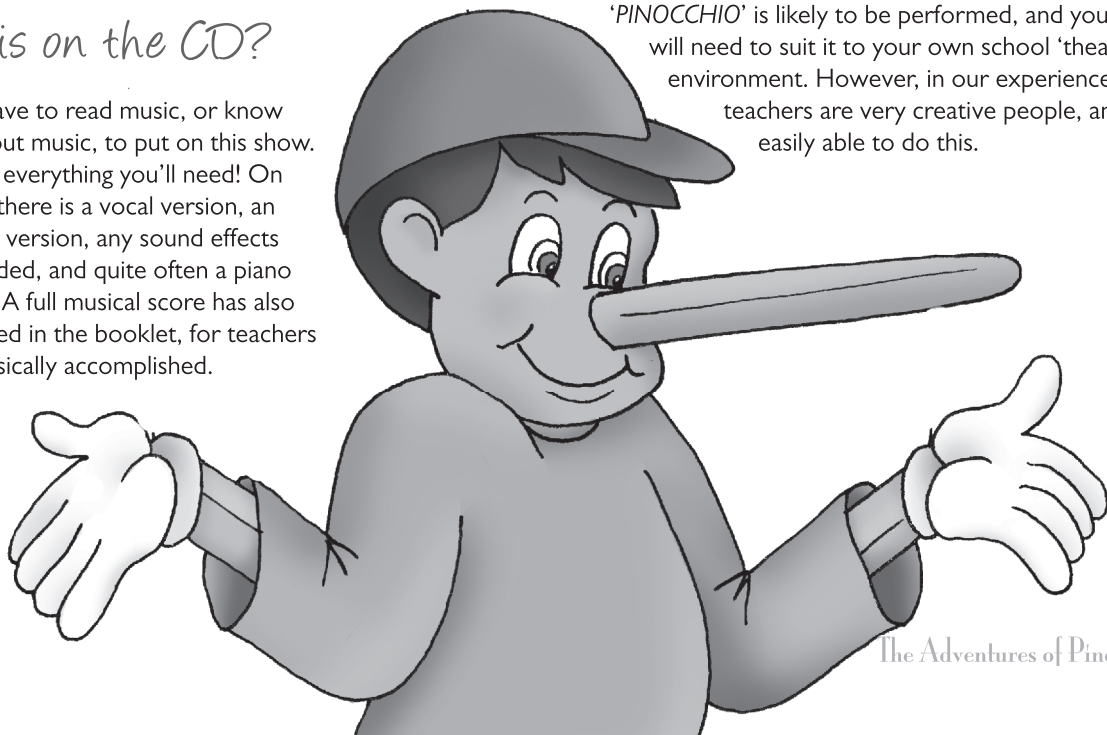
## What should I do next?

Read through the play first, and get a feel for the story and the setting of each scene. Even after reading it once, you'll probably know which children will be ideal for the main parts.

Then, play through the music on the CD, but as you do this, follow the words to the songs in the script. Remember, we haven't used 'professional singers'. The children you hear are children actually performing the show... that's why we know our plays work so well!

Next, read the section below called 'PEOPLE, PROPS AND SCENERY' This will tell you about stage arrangements, props, how important pieces of scenery might be made and any characters who need special attention

Finally... off you go... and don't worry if you want to change, adapt, shorten, or extend the play. It isn't, of course, possible to know all the situations in which '*PINOCCHIO*' is likely to be performed, and you will need to suit it to your own school 'theatre' environment. However, in our experience teachers are very creative people, and easily able to do this.



## The performance licence

An application form for a performance licence and details of the fee, are on page 8 of this book. This will cover public performances of the play to an invited audience of parents and other guests. For any other kind of public performance, the producers should contact Hopscotch.

## People, props and scenery

If the play is going to be a 'whole school' production, there are ample opportunities for both younger or older children. The '*DANCE OF THE SEA CREATURES*' for example, is particularly attractive if the younger children perform it, whereas '*POP IN TO POPPINO'S*' needs to be a slick piece of syncopated dance performed by the older children.

All children love humorous situations, whether they are performing in them or just watching and enjoying them. There is plenty of humour in this show, and children should have lots of fun with Captain Cutlass and his bumbling pirates, the outrageous Poppino Brothers, the slightly incompetent Fairy, the two seagulls who rescue Pinocchio and the sly idiocy of the Cat and the Fox. It is likely that they will want to improvise a few extra comical actions for these characters too! Meanwhile, Pinocchio and his father, Geppetto, are characters all children should empathise with.

Since there are a number of scenes in this play, details of the scenery have been provided at the start of each scene, so that what needs to be done will be readily apparent on a first reading of the script. Naturally, people creating the scenery can then interpret it as they wish once they set about making it. Nothing is particularly difficult... indeed, we have kept everything reasonably simple for those schools who do not have an abundance of resources.

The props are all self-explanatory, though a brief note about the magical mirrors might be helpful at this point; In Scene 3, Pinocchio holds the mirror up to his face and when he takes it away, his nose has changed in size. The mirror must be large enough to hide Pinocchio's face completely. The false nose is 'stored' on a small hook at the back of the mirror. It has a thin piece of elastic attached to it, and Pinocchio slips the elastic over his head as soon as the mirror covers his face. Similarly, he puts it back when his nose 'returns to normal'. The same technique is used in the last scene, with the four characters and the long magic mirror.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy producing and performing *PINOCCHIO*.

Mike Kent & Terry O'Brien

# Scene 2. The field of miracles

*At the left front of the stage is a cut-out showing part of Geppetto's house. The backdrop shows trees and a field, but this isn't revealed yet. Light goes up at the front of the stage, to show Pinocchio and Geppetto at the door of their house.*

**Geppetto.** Well, Pinocchio my boy, this is your first day at school.

**Pinocchio.** I promise I'll be good. Father, why are you shivering?

**Geppetto.** I'm a little cold, my boy. I sold my coat to give you schoolbook money. Here, take it. And here's some sandwiches too; my favourite, cheese and pickle!

**Pinocchio.** Oh father, you're such a kind man. I'll be back in a few hours and then we'll have supper together by the fire.

*They hug each other. Geppetto goes back into the 'house' and Pinocchio crosses the stage whistling cheerfully, stopping occasionally to count his money. The 'blind' Cat and the 'lame' Fox enter stealthily.*

**Fox.** Good morning to you, young sir. Could you spare my poor dear friend a few coins, do you think?

**Pinocchio.** I'm afraid I can't think. I'm only made of wood. But I'm learning all the time.

*Cat lifts blindfold and drags Fox to one side.*

**Cat.** You hear that? He's made of wood! He'll be as thick as two short planks. We can take him for every penny he's got.

**Fox.** Sssh! He'll hear you! Besides, I have a plan. Now then, dear Mr.....

**Pinocchio.** My name is Pinocchio.

**Fox.** Is it indeed? A delightful name. Well now, Mr Pistachio, my poor dear friend here has never been able to see properly, ever since his mother dropped a saucepan of macaroni on his head.

**Cat.** Right on my head, she dropped it.

**Fox.** And I became lame helping my poor friend find his way around town. Could you spare just one teeny coin so that he can eat tonight?

**Pinocchio.** Oh dear. I do feel sorry for him. I'll look in my satchel.

**Fox.** Allow us to help you, Mr Potato.

*Cat drags Fox to other side of stage and pulls the blindfold off again.*

**Cat.** Did you see? In his bag? He's got twenty coins. Twenty!

- Fox.** Then we must do something about that, mustn't we! Mr Picnickio, my dear friend and I couldn't help noticing a few coins...
- Pinocchio.** That's right. My father sold his coat so that I could buy some school books.
- Cat.** What an idiot! (*Fox silences him*). I mean, what a kind, kind, man.
- Fox.** Think how proud your father would be if you came home with hundreds of coins.
- Pinocchio.** But that's impossible. And anyway, I must go to school.
- Cat.** School? What a waste of... (*Fox silences him*).
- Fox.** And to school you shall indeed go, Mr Pancakeio. However, my poor dear friend and I are such caring people, we just thought we'd like to share our little secret with you, that's all.
- Pinocchio.** What little secret?
- Fox and Cat.** The field of miracles. The most amazing place on earth. And nobody knows about it except me.
- Cat.** And me.
- Pinocchio.** But what is it?
- Fox and Cat.** Listen carefully and we'll tell you.....

## Song 2. The money-making song

Would you like to be told  
How to make a pile of gold?  
There's a fortune for you not too far away...

### **Cat:**

Listen carefully, sonny  
And we'll shower you with money  
But you must do exactly what we say.....

### **Fox and Cat:**

Instead of seeds a coin you sow.  
A money tree will start to grow,  
A single coin dropped in this field  
Can give the most amazing yield!  
In a moment, in a flash  
You can multiply your cash  
Just sleep a little while, and then  
Where there was one coin you'll have ten!



# Carpenters' Song

Music by Terry O'Brien

Lyrics by Mike Kent

*Lively*

$E^b$   $C^m$   $E^b$   $C^{m7}$   $E^b$   $C^m$

$\text{♩} = 120$

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with lyrics: Ta le tel lo's the place that's re

$E^b$   $C^m$   $E^b$   $C^m$

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with lyrics: nowned for its wood If you've ne ver been here then we

$E^b$   $F^m$   $E^b$   $C^m$   $F$   $D^m$   $F$   $D^m$

Musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves with lyrics: think that you should Ta le tel lo's our vil lage a fine place to be And to

$F$   $D^m$   $F$   $G^m$   $F$   $C$   $F$   $D$

Musical notation for the fourth system, including treble and bass staves with lyrics: day's ve ry spe cial as you'll short ly see My Just

# Song of the Pirates

Music by Terry O'Brien

Lyrics by Mike Kent

*Raucous*

♩ = 160

Verse

D<sup>7</sup>

G<sup>m</sup>

I'm Slit eye and I've been a pi rate for  
 I'm Red neck I'm built with these mu scles of  
 Now I'm known as Eye patch it's on me right  
 I'm Long beard named at ter this hair on me

D<sup>7</sup>

G

years Must be at least four score and ten  
 iron No one stands up to me ve ry long  
 eye And that's where it real ly should be  
 chin It's use I am sure you can see

G<sup>7</sup>

F

B<sup>b</sup>

'Tis no won der that all of my teeth 'ave gorn  
 I'm as hard as they come and I'm built like a  
 But some times it slips right a cross to the  
 When I'm eat in' me grub some gets caught in me

F

B<sup>b</sup>

*Captain*  
 black 'Cos 'e ain't seen a den tist since then  
 brick You ain't tough you just SMELL pre tty strong  
 left And that's when he falls in the sea  
 beard And 'e saves it to eat for 'is tea