

THE
WATERMILL
THEATRE
Outreach

PINOCCHIO
BY PINOCCHIO

Access Pack

Introduction

This access pack is designed for visitors to our performance of *Barnum* to help you prepare for your visit.

It contains lots of images along with helpful information about the theatre and the performance itself.

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Would you like a familiarisation visit?

We can arrange for you to come to the theatre to look around the space and find your seat before the day.

To organise this, or for any other questions, please call Matty on **01635 570934** or email **outreach@watermill.org.uk**

Visiting The Watermill Theatre

Welcome to **The Watermill Theatre**.

There is **parking at the theatre** in our gravel car park. Blue badge holders can park in the row closest to the theatre. Please display your Blue Badge.

There are lots of animals that live at The Watermill. You may see ducks, swans, or dogs.

The picture below is what The Watermill Theatre looks like. Going through the doors will take you to the Box Office.



There is a **bar** and a **restaurant** indoors where you can buy drinks, food and programmes.



If you need to go to the **toilet**, look for the signs or ask an **usher** for directions. The **ushers** will all be wearing black with red waistcoats, and have name tags on.



Before the show starts an usher may ring a bell and call out an announcement.

If you need help finding your seat, ushers in the theatre will be available to help you find which seat to sit in.

During the performance

It can be noisy during the play. **You may want to bring ear defenders or ear plugs that you can wear during the show.**



Part way through the show there will be an **interval**. People will clap and the main lights in the theatre will come on.

During the interval, snacks, drinks and ice creams will be on sale.

It's okay if you feel happy or sad during the show. Some people may laugh or cry depending on how they feel.



At the end of the show, everyone will clap their hands to say thank you to the actors and backstage crew.

When the clapping has stopped and the actors have left the stage, this means the play is finished.

Sometimes, different actors have to play different roles than the ones they normally play. This is usually if an actor is ill and can't perform in the show. If this happens, you may see different people than is written in the display in the foyer or in the programme, but the ushers, or pieces of paper in the programme, will tell you this if it happens.

What you will see on stage

To help you prepare for your visit, below we have detailed some things to expect during the performance. If you'd prefer not to know what's going to happen then don't read any further!

Atmosphere

We use a very small amount of mist, called 'haze', to make the lights stand out even more. Haze is safe to breathe and doesn't have a strong smell.

Sound

Pinocchio is a musical so there will be lots of songs throughout the show played by instruments such as a flute, piano and drums.

The actors all have microphones on their costumes or heads, which makes their voices louder and fill the theatre more.

Gepetto shouts 'stop' loudly when he is collecting wood in the first song.

There is a slight echo on the crickets voice during the dark forest scene.

The donkey driver uses a wooden instrument to make a few loud snapping sounds during his scene when the donkeys are pulling his cart. This is meant to sound like a whip.

At the end of the scene with the drum maker, there are some loud storm sound effects.

What you will see on stage

Lights

There are lots of lights on the ceiling pointing at the stage, in different colours.

When Pinocchio is having his feet repaired by Gepetto, a bright lamp is turned on on stage that faces out to the audience.

Key moments

The actors may speak at the audience throughout the play. You do not have to talk to them if you don't want to. They will also walk through the audience sometime to get on to the stage, or to leave.

After meeting Cricket in the forest, Pinocchio hits him, and accidentally squashes him, which kills him. Pinocchio feels bad and guilty after doing this. The puppet that is playing Cricket gets thrown to the floor and stops moving when this happens.

After Pinocchio's feet burn, he gets new feet put on by Gepetto. This is staged to look like he is in hospital and the actor playing Pinocchio pretends to be scared, and in pain.

Pinocchio gets lost in the woods and is lost and worried at one point. The forest is dark.

Fox and Cat hang Pinocchio by his thumbs in the forest to steal his money. The actor will look like he is in pain, but isn't really hanging.

What you will see on stage

At the beginning of act 2, Pinocchio is in prison and the others prisoners are mean to him. They shout at him and push him on to the floor.

When Pinocchio is on the farm, the weasels enter through the audience, making noise. They are noisy, and Pinocchio is also barking like a dog. This scene is very loud. After a conversation, the weasels attack the chicken and Pinocchio barks some more, making more loud noise.

During the scene with the Donkey Driver, he is nasty to the donkeys pulling the cart, and during his song he smacks them with a wooden instrument. This makes a loud bang when he does this.

Do bring ear defenders with you if you would like to, and we have a few available at the Box Office.

Relaxed performance

There will be a relaxed performance on the 30th November. For this performance, the lights around the audience in the theatre will stay on at a low level, some of the loud sounds will have been removed, and some of the lighting will be different.

You can see more information on our relaxed performance on the last page of this information pack.

What you will see on stage

Italian

There are some Italian words in the play. This is what they mean:

Carabiniere - a police officer

Lira - Old Italian currency used between 1861 and 2002

Maestro - Artistic master

Pinocchio - Pine eyes. (Pino = Pine), (occhio = eyes)

Signor - Mr or Sir

Signora - Mrs or Madam

Content Warning

Some of the themes in the play are:

Violence - Cat and Fox string Pinocchio up by his thumbs. The Drum maker threatens to turn Donkey-Pinocchio into a drum.

Death - The cricket is accidentally squashed by Pinocchio. The Farmers chickens are eaten by the weasels and we see all the feathers on the floor after.

Infertility - Gepetto and his wife are unable to have a child, which makes them sad.

Prison - Pinocchio gets put into prison by the Carabiniere.

Some characters are not very nice to others. For example, the Donkey Driver is mean to the Donkeys and the Carabiniere & other prisoners are nasty to Pinocchio.

The characters

Pinocchio

Pinocchio is a puppet carved from Cherry wood with eyes made from Pinewood. He is a naïve boy who's nose grows when he tells a lie - getting him into a lot of trouble!



Signor Gepetto

Referred to as 'Gepetto'.

A poor, elderly woodcarver who carves him and his wife a puppet-son from wood as they are unable to have children. Geppetto is a kind man who sacrifices a lot for his son Pinocchio and is taken for granted a lot of the time.

Signora Penelope Gepetto

Geppetto's wife Penelope has been sad for many years as she couldn't have a child. She is a loving mother to Pinocchio.



The characters

Carabiniere

A member of the police who arrests Pinocchio but lets him off with a warning, but then later chases him again, for being an outcast, and sends him to jail.



Cricket

A wise cricket who gives Pinocchio advice throughout the play but is mostly ignored. After Cricket dies, his ghost comes back and speaks to Pinocchio as his conscience.

Fox and Cat

Two cunning animals that want to steal Pinocchio's gold coins. They pretend to be friendly to him, before coming back at night in disguises and then later tricking him into letting them steal his money.



The characters

Other characters in the play include:

Punch Professor - The manager and owner of the Punch and Judy puppet show.

Punch and **Judy** - Puppets that work for the Punch Professor on his show.

Farmer - A farmer growing grapes who's chickens are being eaten by weasels. He is in need of a new guard dog.

Weasels - Weasels who try to steal chickens from the farmers coop.

Coal Merchant - A labourer in a busy village who offers Pinocchio money in exchange for some help carrying his coal sack.

Good fairy - Transforms from an old lady into a fairy who Pinocchio falls in love with. She gives Pinocchio advice.

Donkey driver - A donkey cart driver who lures Pinocchio into coming to the Land of toys with him.

Drum-Maker - A drum maker who buys Donkey-Pinocchio with plans to use Donkey-Pinocchio's hide (skin) for his drums.

Waiter - A waiter who works in the café inside the whales' belly.

What happens

ACT 1

Act 1 begins with the company on stage singing the first song of the play. This song describes a cherry tree growing, and a storm causing wood to fall from it. Geppetto finds some of the wood and brings it home to show his wife, Penelope Geppetto. It is revealed that the two are unable to conceive a child and how sad this has made them. He promises to carve Penelope a son from the piece of wood. Geppetto and Penelope decide to name their puppet-son 'Pinocchio', meaning 'Pine Eyes' in Italian. Pinocchio comes to life in a song sung by all three characters before he runs off to explore the big world, leaving his new parents behind.

Pinocchio soon meets a cricket who asks him if he is lost. Pinocchio lies that he is not and his nose proceeds to grow. The cricket sees this and tells him he knows Pinocchio is lying. He then gives Pinocchio some advice about his future, which Pinocchio is not happy to hear and swats the cricket, accidentally killing it! Pinocchio is cold and tired so he lights a fire and falls asleep. He is awoken by the smell of smoke and realises his feet have been burnt off from the fire. A Carabinieri bursts onto the scene with a fire extinguisher and fanfare. Pinocchio's nose grows, giving away that it was him who lit the fire in the forest and he is brought home to face his mother and father.

Relieved to have him home and safe, Geppetto repairs Pinocchio's feet in a dramatic scene that is made to look like an operating room in a hospital. Geppetto and Penelope tell Pinocchio he is ready to go to school.

What happens

ACT 1 (continued)

Pinocchio complains about his handmade uniform – and later about his second-hand schoolbook which his father sold his coat to buy. Pinocchio promises to never let his parents down and heads off to school. He is distracted by the sounds of pounding drums at the circus and decides to go there instead of going to school.

Pinocchio meets Punch Professor who is wearing Signor Geppetto's newly sold coat. He is putting on a puppet show and Pinocchio sells his schoolbook so that he can watch. Pinocchio is invited to perform by the puppets Punch and Judy. The Punch Professor stops the show because Pinocchio is rubbish and threatens to use him as firewood to cook his dinner, but Punch and Judy protest that Pinocchio should be spared. Instead of burning Pinocchio, Punch Professor decides to burn Punch and Judy. Pinocchio gives such an emotional display that the professor is moved to tears and spares them all, seeing potential in the puppet-boy. He gives Pinocchio five gold coins as a down payment on the condition that when he is grown-up he will join the professor as the star of his show.

Pinocchio finds himself in the Badlands where he meets the characters Fox and Cat. He tells them about his five gold coins causing them both to erupt into song. They get distracted singing and don't notice Pinocchio slip away! They decide to find him to get their hands on his money.

What happens

ACT 1 (continued)

Pinocchio is now lost in a dark forest. The ghost of the cricket from earlier appears. He tells him that he will have to work for money, and warns that anyone who tells him differently is a swindler.

Suddenly two figures appear in the dark. It is Cat and Fox in masks. They demand his gold coins or his life. Pinocchio quickly eats the coins. They tie Pinocchio by his thumbs hanging him upside down. The cricket ghost appears. Pinocchio lies to the cricket about what happened and his nose grows. When he speaks the coins come falling from his mouth. The cricket warns him that his nose will grow so long he won't be able to walk and talk anymore if he lies anymore. Pinocchio defiantly tells the cricket he is not lying and his nose grows even longer! The cricket promises to fix his nose if he stops lying for good. The woodpeckers enter and sing a song as they peck at his nose to make it smaller. The Carabinieri arrives just as Pinocchio runs off. He is still looking for Pinocchio to arrest him.

Pinocchio bumps into Fox and Cat who aren't wearing masks anymore. They ask about his gold coins. Pinocchio tells them he still has them and Fox tricks him into burying his coins in the field of wonder, saying that they will grow a money tree. Fox sings a lullaby about the coins as Pinocchio falls asleep. Cat and Fox dig up the coins in the night leaving Pinocchio with nothing. He wakes up and realises he has been robbed. The Carabinieri finds Pinocchio who asks him to catch and arrest Cat and Fox. Instead, the Carabinieri sends Pinocchio to prison for being a misfit.

What happens

ACT 2

It has been ten years since Pinocchio was locked up in Prison and he is finally being released. The Carabinieri sings about how wonderful prison is.

Wandering the countryside Pinocchio is alone. He hungrily helps himself to some grapes on a vine. He is unaware that he is being followed by the Farmer who catches him stealing his grapes and as punishment sets him to work as a guard dog. His role is to catch the weasels that are hunting his chickens.

At night the weasels come and attempt to strike a deal with Pinocchio to let them into the chicken coup and Pinocchio agrees, only to slam the gate shut after them, trapping them inside! The chickens in the coop are eaten! The Farmer thanks him for catching the weasels and the two of them dance together. The Farmer offers Pinocchio to stay but he declines as he wants to make his fortune and seek out more opportunities. The weasels make fun of him for not learning from his past mistakes in a song as Pinocchio leaves.

Pinocchio meets a coal merchant and a bricklayer in a busy village who offer him money in exchange for some help with their labour. Pinocchio laughs at them both as he does not want to work for money. He meets an old woman carrying water who offers him a drink and bread for free, but he offers to carry her water anyway. The old woman transforms into a fairy and introduces herself as the Good Fairy.

What happens

ACT 2 (continued)

Pinocchio promises her he will work hard and not get distracted in the future - only to be immediately distracted by the promise of the land of toys from a donkey driver driving by!

The driver sings about how great the land of toys is and begins to convince Pinocchio to come with him. The donkeys pulling his cart warns Pinocchio not to go. He goes anyway. The next morning Pinocchio awakes with a sack on his head, and when he takes it off he has turned into a donkey! The driver has tricked him and now plans to sell him.

The Donkey driver is at the market trying to sell Pinocchio-Donkey. He acts too much like a guard dog for the circus master who is looking for a dancing horse, and isn't recognised by the farmer when he dances.

He is finally bought by The Drum Maker. The Drum Maker sings a song about using skin to make drums. At the end of the song a storm begins to stir and Pinocchio uses this to make a run for freedom. He jumps and lands in the sea causing a big splash. The Carabiniere describes to the audience that Pinocchio turns back to a puppet (and is no longer a donkey), is drowning in the sea and then swallowed by a whale! The audience can see this happen through shadow puppetry. The Carabiniere reports Pinocchio to be missing, presumed dead.

What happens

ACT 2 (continued)

Geppetto is sat in a café inside a whale. He asks the Waiter if he has seen his son. It has been ten years and he is still searching for Pinocchio. Suddenly Pinocchio appears having also been swallowed by the whale. Father and son are reunited after ten years apart! Geppetto tells Pinocchio he went travelling to find him and was swallowed by the whale on his journey. The two of them hatch a plan to make the whale be sick so they can escape.

Their plan works and they travel a long distance to get home, finally reuniting with Penelope. In the final scene Pinocchio speaks to the audience to reflect on his long life.



The base of the set for *Pinocchio* looks like this.

The lights will change a lot throughout the play, and different pieces of set will be brought on and off stage throughout.

Relaxed Performance - 30th November

Chill-out areas

If you want to leave the auditorium at any time, there is a chill-out area you can visit, called the **Lily Pond Conservatory**. You can go there to relax if you need a little break before going back into the theatre. If you ask an usher, they will show you to this area.



Performance time

Our Relaxed Performance will be on the 30th November and will start at 2.30pm. Sometimes theatre plays can start a few minutes late.

The play will last just under 2 hours from beginning to end, with a break (called an interval) partway through.

Changes to the show

Compared to other performances, there will be some changes to the lighting and sound to create a less intense environment. The auditorium lights will stay on at a low level.

Would you like a familiarisation visit?

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