

Pinocchio

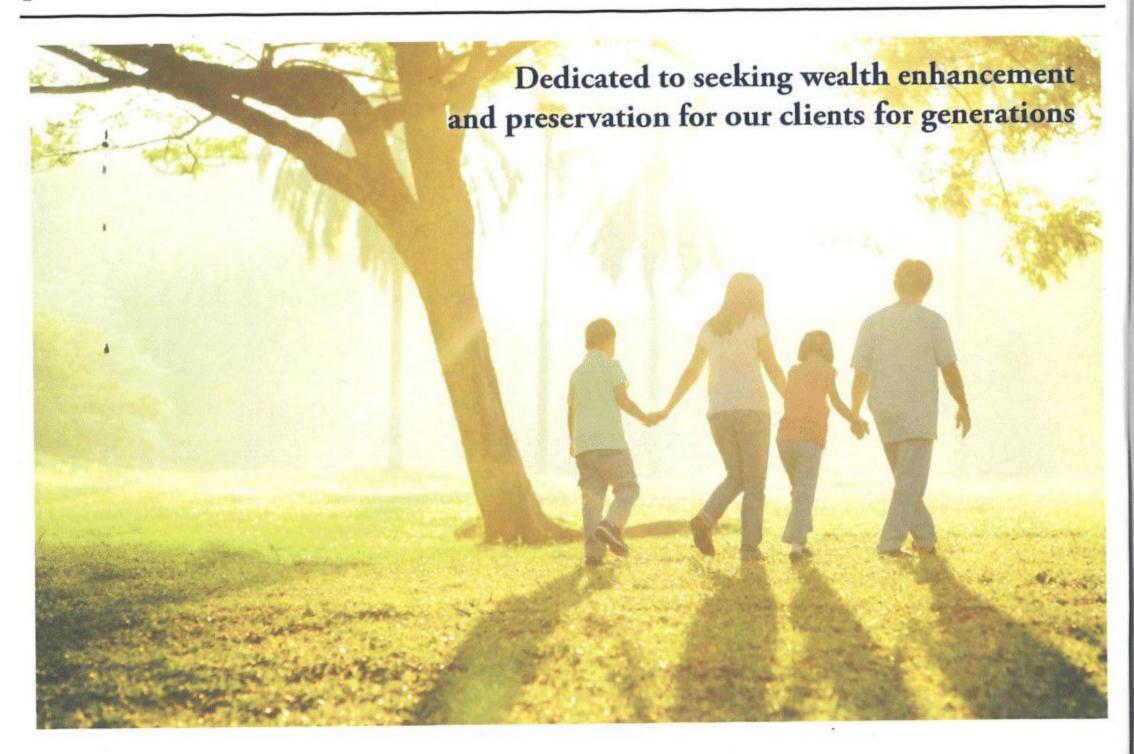
January 30 - February 22

Friday nights at 7:30 Saturday & Sunday matinees at 3:00



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January/February 2015

Now in its 34th season, Wheelock Family Theatre continues to produce professional theatre that is accessible and inclusive. Like the characters in our plays this season, WFT is on an exciting path of transformation and adventure, presenting our original adaption of Carlo Collodi's tale of the puppet who longs to be a real boy. Set in Japan, our production is influenced by traditional theatre, music, puppetry, and dance forms. Our *Pinocchio* has a contemporary edge that will surprise and delight you. True transformation often takes time and determination. As in Collodi's book, it takes Pinocchio the length of the play to become human. Celebrated playwright and director Steven Bogart writes of the puppet's journey:

Pinocchio is an impulsive, strong-willed boy who has a good heart but does not understand the consequences of his behavior on himself or others. Ultimately, by committing to work to help Geppetto heal, he learns that real compassion comes by commitment, that words are not enough, that we show our love through behavior. When he learns this, he is finally rewarded by becoming a real boy. I offer you a quote from Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*, "And he alone is great who turns the voice of the wind into a song made sweeter by his own loving. Work is love made visible."

We hope you are captivated by this imaginative play, which is filled with both humor and pathos. We also invite you to return in March. WFT is proud to be part of the world premiere of the Ware Trilogy (produced for the first time in one city, in collaboration with Emerson Stage and Central Square Theater), written by one of our nation's most renowned playwrights for family audiences, Suzan Zeder. *The Taste of Sunrise* is a bilingual play—performed in American Sign Language and spoken English—that takes place in the mind and memory of Tuc. We follow his journey from childhood and the fever dream that took his hearing, to the language of nature that he shares with his father, to the Deaf school where his horizons expand with the discovery of sign language.

We end our season with the Broadway smash hit *Shrek*, based on the award-winning film by DreamWorks. This irreverent musical examines our culture's perceptions of beauty and celebrates its unforgettable cast of characters for who they are, warts and all.

Join the extended family of WFT as a patron, volunteer, or donor. Become part of our journey, as we present stories—new and old. Experience the power of live theatre that challenges us artistically, intellectually, and emotionally to view the world in fresh and dynamic ways.

Wendy Lement and Shelley Bolman
Co-Artistic Directors



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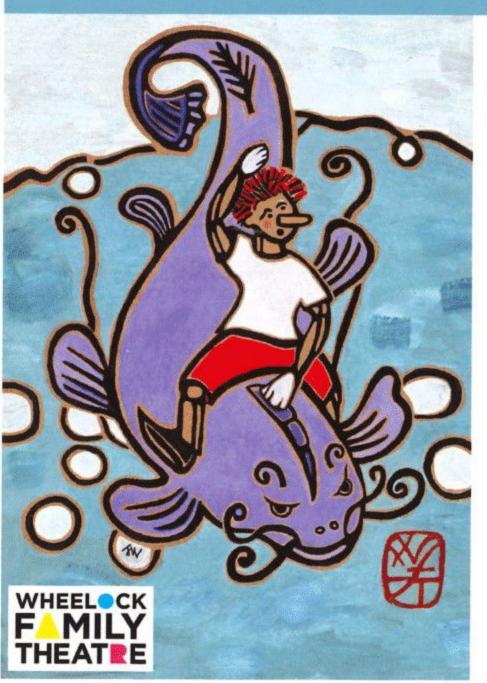
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Sirena Abalian (*Pinocchio*) is delighted to return to WFT, after playing the title role in *Pippi Longstocking*! She has been seen locally as Esther Smith in *Meet Me in St. Louis* and Clara in *Nutcracker the Musical* (Stoneham); Sara Crewe in *A Little Princess* (Fiddlehead); Fredrika in *A Little Night Music* (Arlington Friends); and Jojo in WFT's *Seussical*. Sirena has received two IRNE Awards and four nominations for Best Performance by a Young Actor. Thanks to her supportive family and the talented cast and crew.

Steven Barkhimer (Geppetto) is a resident acting company member of Actors' Shakespeare Project (Phèdre, The Cherry Orchard, Middletown). Other recent appearances include Distracted (Underground Railway), Absurd Person Singular (Nora), Superior Donuts (Lyric Stage), and The Norman Conquests (Gloucester Stage). Steven's play Windowmen had its premiere at Boston Playwrights' last fall, earning the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding New Script.

Aunnesha Bhowmick (*Ensemble*) is passionate about theatre and dance. She has acted since she was eight years old, and has participated in many Applause Academy-adapted plays and in a WFT Advanced Performance Intensive. Aunnesha has also played roles in original works written by the Bengali theatre group Off-Kendrik. She currently dances Kuchipudi, a style of Indian classical dance.

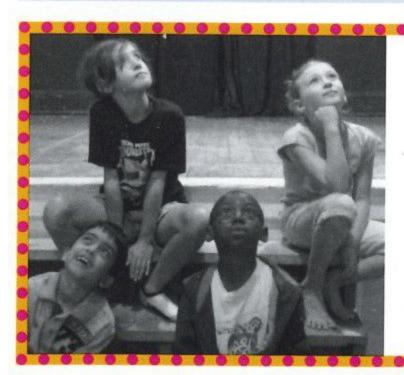
Mary Bichner (Composer, Music Director) is a classical-meets-pop composer with the bizarre musical superpowers of perfect pitch and synesthesia. Her work has appeared everywhere–from MTV to CBS–and she was the recipient of a 2014 Somerville Arts Council Grant for Music. In preparation for composing the *Pinocchio* score, Mary was honored to study Japanese classical music with acclaimed composer and shamisen virtuoso Sumie Kaneko. Mary is thrilled to be collaborating with WFT on this incredible show!

Patricia Manalo Bochnak (Choreographer) holds a BA from Boston College and an MA in Dance Education from Columbia. She has worked with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Paul Taylor Dance Company, and American Ballet Theater to develop education outreach programs. Patricia has taught dance in Boston and NYC. Favorite choreography credits include *Pippin, Cabaret, Seussical, Candide,* and *Shrek.* Patricia currently teaches at Let's Dance, Inc., and is founder and Executive/Artistic Director of North Shore Children's Theatre.

Steven Bogart (Director, Co-Author) is a playwright, stage director, teacher, and visual artist. His directing credits include Shockheaded Peter (Company One); Cabaret and The Boston Abolitionist Project (ART); Burning and Legally (Boston Playwrights'); and Lunar Labyrinth and Interference with Liars and Believers (Oberon). He has collaborated on projects with Neil Gaiman, James Carroll, Kate Snodgrass, and Amanda Palmer. Steven's plays have been performed in Boston, NYC, and Chicago. He was a 2009 MCC grant recipient in playwriting, and a participant in the Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive and the Freedom Art Theatre Retreat. He is an Artist-in-Residence at Southern NH University, and an adjunct professor for the graduate theatre program at Emerson. As a visual artist, Steven has exhibited his work nationally and internationally, in venues including the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo. He taught drama and directed productions at Lexington HS for 22 years.

Shelley Bolman (Cat) is appearing in his ninth show as an actor at WFT, having been seen here previously in The Wizard of Oz, Saint Joan, Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, Holes, Snow White, Inherit the Wind, Pippi Longstocking, and The Witch of Blackbird Pond. He has also worked regionally at Commonwealth Shakespeare, ASP, New Rep, Lyric Stage, Gloucester Stage, Stoneham, and Charles Playhouse, among others. Shelley is a company member of Theatre Espresso.

Jordan Clark (Blue Fairy) is excited to return to WFT! Boston credits include Blue Window (Brown Box); Smile! (New Exhibition Room); Mountain...Moon (WFT); Death of a Salesman (Lyric Stage); and She Kills Monsters and You For Me For You (Company One). She also works with Theatre Espresso, Bok Players, and True to Life Training. Jordan holds a BA in Vocal Performance from the University of the Incarnate Word in her hometown of San Antonio, TX.



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Kai Clifton (Bully) is making his WFT and professional theatre debut. Credits include The Wiz (Scarecrow), Little Shop of Horrors (The Dentist), Annie (Warbucks), and Wicked (The Wizard). Next up in March: The Lion King (Simba). Kai is a 7th grader at Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy in Dorchester.

Charlie Clinton (Ensemble) made his professional theatre debut as Oliver Twist in WFT's Oliver! for which he received an IRNE nomination. Other credits include Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz (Derby Academy), Kili in The Hobbit (WFT), and the Trepak Lead in South Shore Ballet's Nutcracker. A resident of Hull, Charlie hopes to be a professional ballet dancer.

Cori Couture (Audio Describer) has described content for WGBH's Descriptive Video Service, WFT, Huntington, and Open Door. She teaches for WFT and creates "Social Stories" to help patrons on the autism spectrum prepare for coming to the theatre. Also, as the Theatre's Education Support Specialist, she provides individualized attention to WFT students, especially those on the autism spectrum.

Christopher Sherwood Davis (Ensemble) is from Pepperell, MA. He was recently seen here in The Hobbit as Bert the Troll and the puppeteer for Smaug. Other Boston credits include Lt. George in Blackadder Goes Forth with Theatre on Fire and William Roper in A Man for All Seasons with Porpentine Players. Christopher has also done dialect work for a number of local productions.

Michelle Finston (Ensemble), an actor, puppeteer, and visual arts/theatre teacher, is delighted to be making her WFT debut! Her credits include Kultar (Kultar's Mime International Tour); Doralee (9 to 5); Kalonika (Lysistrata); and the National Puppetry Festival Atlanta; she has also been featured in various puppet slams. Michelle trained with the Eugene O'Neill Puppetry Conference, Sandglass Institute, Tufts/SMFA, Emerson, and Puppet Showplace. Love to her family and Tony!

Miranda Hoffman (Costume Designer) has worked locally with the ART (Romance); Huntington (Bus Stop, A Civil War Christmas, Mauritius, and Well); and Brandeis (Cabaret). Her Broadway credits include the revival of Godspell and the premiere of Well. Her NY and regional credits include the Manhattan Theatre Club, the Public, Shakespeare Theatre, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Ruth Celia Kahn (Audio Describer) is thrilled to be back at WFT! Favorite credits include Urban Nutcracker (Ballet Rox), She Loves Me (Huntington), and The Barber of Seville (BLO). When not audio describing, Ruth can be found singing at a church in Newton and with Journey Songs, a hospice choir. She just received her master's in Expressive Therapies from Lesley, and hopes to be working as a music therapist very soon.

Sumie Kaneko (Shamisen) is a Japanese koto/shamisen player and jazz vocalist with degrees from Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music and Berklee. Performance highlights include Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, a TED talk, the MFA, the Getty Center, and touring in many countries hosted by the Embassy of Japan. Sumie has also collaborated with Boston Ballet, Pulitzer winner Paula Vogel (Long Christmas Ride Home), Harvard, Princeton, and many more.

Jola Leary (Sign Performer) is a senior in the Sign Language Interpretation degree program at UNH Manchester. So much gratitude goes to her Mum, Dad, Stepmom, boyfriend, and SLI friends for helping her discover her love for theatrical interpreting and supporting her journey.

Wendy Lement (Co-Author) is WFT's producer and co-artistic director. Her directing credits here include Pippi Longstocking and It's a Wonderful Life. Wendy is also artistic director of Theatre Espresso, which tours with original plays that explore issues of social justice. She was a longtime professor at

Regis College. Her credits as playwright include Woman with the Red Kerchief, Salem's Daughters, King George III vs. Ruth Blay, Remember Last Night, Dolphins: The Myth of Persephone, Legend of the Christmas Rose, and Keri Tarr: Cat Detective, based on her 2004 children's book of the same name. Wendy co-authored And Justice for Some: Exploring American Justice through Drama and Theatre (Heinemann 2005). She wrote "Theatre-in-Education as a Catalyst for Civic Dialogue" for Learning Through Theatre (Routledge 2013). Wendy holds a doctorate in Educational Theatre from NYU.

Marjorie Lusignan (*Props Designer*) is glad to return for a seventh season at WFT. After a 25-year career as a technical illustrator, she is now a visual artist who lives, gardens, and makes art in the woods of RI.

Christopher McClain (Viola) is a vibrant musician who has concertized in venues across the US, including Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall, Disney World, and the Hippodrome in Baltimore. He has attended numerous summer music festivals on full scholarship and maintains a busy chamber music schedule of works from Sainte-Colombe to Reich. Christopher received his Bachelor of Music from the University of NC School of the Arts, where he gained a love for collaboration.

Roger J. Moore (Sound Designer), employed by CBS Radio – Boston for over 25 years, is currently the Assistant Production Director and commercial voice of 98-5 The Sports Hub. He also enjoys a variety of freelance video production projects. Since 2004 Roger has worked as sound designer and stage manager for The Gold Dust Orphans. He has been part of the WFT family since 2008.

Adrianna Kathryn Neefus (Sign Performer) is happy to be back at WFT, where she was last seen in The Hobbit. Other credits include Boston Landmark Orchestra's Summer Concert Series at the Hatch Shell and the Boston production of War Horse. Adrianna earned her Sign Language Interpretation degree from UNH Manchester. Love and thanks to her wonderful family, teachers, and interpreting team.

Gary Thomas Ng (Ensemble) is glad to be back at WFT, where he was last seen in Mountain...Moon. Other WFT credits include Seussical (Mayor), Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse (Baby Julius), Peter Pan (Smee), and Beauty and the Beast (Le Fou). Favorite credits include Miss Saigon (Ogunquit and Foothills), Children of Eden (NSMT), Sideshow (Lyric Stage), and the Far East tour of Cole Porter's Aladdin. Gary is also a photographer whose works include production photos for Ogunquit, Gloucester Stage, and WFT.

Jeremy Oliver Sherry Ornstein (Lampwick) is pumped to be back at WFT, where he appeared in the Summer Intensive productions Once on this Island (Papa Ge) and Flat Stanley (Doctor Dan) and had a great time as a Story Trouper. Regional credits include Action in West Side Story, the cat in Cinderella, and Chef Louis in The Little Mermaid. Jeremy attends Watertown HS and enjoys violin, tennis, and politics.

Jacqueline Scholl (Ensemble), an 8th grader at Wellesley MS, is so excited to be making her WFT debut. The stage is her second home, but she can also be found at Boston Ballet or spending time with friends. Thanks to everyone for their love and support. Jackie dedicates her performance to her Great-Great Aunt Rita who also loved theatre.

Carrie Ruxin Shao (Ensemble), last seen here in Anne of Green Gables and Mountain...Moon, is excited to return to the WFT stage. Credits include Ling in ... It's Superman! (French Woods), Brundibar (Central Square), and Peter in Peter Pan, a play she co-directed with her sister. Carrie recently sang in Britten's War Requiem with the Boston Children's Chorus at Symphony Hall.

Cassie Ruyi Shao (Ensemble) has appeared in WFT's Mountain...Moon and Anne of Green Gables. Other credits include Brundibar (Central Square), Sebastian in The Little Mermaid Jr. (TPAC), and Wendy in Peter Pan, which she also co-directed. Cassie is a district-level trumpet player and a member of several school music ensembles.

Desiree Weems Sheppard (Sign Performer) studied ASL Interpretation and Theatre at UNH. She was last seen here interpreting Alice. Other credits include Once; Hairspray; Pippi Longstocking; Oliver!; War Horse; and The Wizard of Oz. Desiree thanks her family and her friends, and Kristin Johnson for giving her the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful experience.

Eddie Shields (Ensemble) is so excited to be working with WFT! His NY credits include Playwrights Horizons, Everyday Inferno, Rebel, and Mettawee River. Locally, Eddie has been seen in *The Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Ephesus) with ASP and *The Seagull* (Treplev), Cabaret (Emcee), and Romeo & Juliet (Rome) with Brandeis, where he earned an MFA in Acting.

Marsha Smith (Production Stage Manager) is excited to be working with WFT for the first time. She is a graduate of Emerson College, with a degree in Stage Management. Over the last decade, she has worked on many projects with Boston Playwrights' and Gloucester Stage. Other credits include Lyric Stage, Publick, and New Rep. Marsha lives on her family's farm in southern NH.

Kate Snodgrass (*Dramaturg*) is the Artistic Director of Boston Playwrights' Theatre where she runs the MFA Program in Playwriting. The author of the Actors' Theatre of Louisville's Heideman Award-winning play *Haiku*, she was voted a 2001 "Theatre Hero" by StageSource. Kate is the recipient of the 2012 Elliot Norton Award for Sustained Excellence.

Jeff Song (Ensemble, Cello) is honored to make his WFT debut. Acting credits include Gunplay (Emerson), Astro Boy and the God of Comics (Company One), and Wild Swans (ART). A NEFA grant recipient with over a dozen recording credits, Jeff's original music has been featured on radio and TV, in theatre, and at the Children's Museum of Manhattan. Performance credits range from the Montreux Jazz Festival to the Vichy Opera House to the Palermo Festival Di Verdura.

Cristina Todesco (Set Designer) has worked recently on A Future Perfect and Necessary Monsters (SpeakEasy), Phèdre (ASP), Dead Man's Cell Phone (Brandeis), and Twelfth Night (Commonwealth Shakespeare). Other theatre credits include Lyric Stage, Boston Conservatory, Boston Playwrights', Olney, ART Institute, Huntington, Orfeo Group, Harbor Stage, and Williamstown. Cristina is a four-time Eliot Norton Award - winner in design for The Clean House (New Rep), The Aliens and The Flick (Company One), and Twelfth Night (ASP).

Sarah Toubes-Marquis (Ensemble) is thrilled to be in her first production at WFT. Favorite credits include the title role in Annie, Michael Darling in Peter Pan, Genie in Aladdin Jr., and Sonny LaTieri in Grease Jr. Her film work includes the anti-racism documentary What Makes Me White? and In My Mind (2014). Sarah dances competitively at NASD, tumbles, studies voice (April Foley), and plays softball.

Kaitee Tredway (Ensemble) is so excited to return to WFT after Mountain... Moon and Anne of Green Gables. Other credits include Knock! (imaginary beasts); Astroboy and the God of Comics and She Kills Monsters (Company One); The Haberdasher! (Argos); and Brewed (HMT). Kaitee puppet-wrangled for the Elliot Norton and IRNE Award-winning production of Avenue Q (Lyric Stage). Thanks to Mom, Dad, Connor, and Bungee.

Geoff Van Wyck (Ensemble, u/s Cat), glad to be making his WFT debut, is pursuing a BA from Marymount Manhattan. Theatre credits include Much Ado About Nothing (Commonwealth Shakespeare Apprentice Program), Letters to Medford (Two Roads), Love's Labour's Lost (Upstart Crows), and Othello (Roxbury Rep). Among his TV/film credits are The Folklorists (NewTV) and the Run DMC Live Forever video. Geoff also performs with the Murder Mystery Company. Thanks to Mom and Jim for their endless support!

Ciera-Sadé Wade (Ensemble) is an actor, singer, dancer, dramaturg, and playwright/poet from Tuscaloosa, AL, who is thrilled to make her WFT debut. She received a BFA in Acting from BU in 2013. Most recent productions and readings include For Colored Girls... (Lady in Brown), Prudence (Sarah), and Dry Bones Rising (Her). BU productions include The Skin of Our Teeth (Gladys), The Most Massive Woman Wins (Rennie), and The Shakespeare Project (Juliet).

Christopher James Webb (Fox) has appeared with Merrimack Rep, Boston Playwrights', Lyric Stage, Stoneham, ASP, and New Rep among others. He was a three-year member of the Tony Award-winning Denver Center Theatre. Film credits include Shutter Island, The Conservatory, and Meat Me in Plainville. He is a member of the Acting faculty in Boston Conservatory's BFA and MFA Musical Theatre divisions. Christopher holds a BA in Theatre Performance from Western Michigan University and an MFA in Acting from the National Theatre Conservatory. Proud member of AEA.

Karina Wen (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her WFT debut. She was most recently seen in The Magician and the Runaway, an original play written by the cast at Lexington HS, where she is currently a junior. Other recent performances include Spectacular, Spectacular! A Musical Revue (Moonstruck), West Side Story, Kiss Me, Kate, and ... Spelling Bee.

David Wilson (Lighting Designer) has created lighting and sound for over 350 productions. He has designed and taught at Boston College, Boston Conservatory, Bowdoin, Brandeis, Emerson, NE Conservatory, Tufts, Suffolk, and UMASS-Lowell. David has worked with ASP, Boston Playwrights', Central City Opera, Commonwealth Shakespeare, Company One, Dibble Dance, Gloucester Stage, Harwich Junior Theatre, Lyric Stage, Merrimack Rep, Moonbox, New Rep, Nora, NSMT, Reagle, Stoneham, Shakespeare and Co, and WHAT. dw-design.com

Adam Wintzer (Ensemble) is thrilled to be part of this cast. He was seen here previously in Oliver! and The Hobbit, and played the doctor in Brundibar at Central Square. Adam is in the 8th grade at Cambridge Friends School. He sends a big shout out to his family and friends!

Caroline Workman (Blue Fairy Child) made her first appearance in a professional production in WFT's Annie. At age 11 she was a ballet girl/swing in the Broadway company of Billy Elliot the Musical. Other credits include Mountain...Moon (Minli), Oliver! (Bet), and The Wizard of Oz (Coroner) at WFT, as well as many productions with the Cambridge Youth Dance Co. Thanks to teachers and directors Jane Staab, Susan Kosoff, Fran Weinberg, Steve Bogart (acting), Doug Jabara (voice), and Deborah Mason School of Dance, and to everyone on stage and behind the scenes.

Molly Zenobia (Percussion) is a versatile multi-instrumentalist and composer with a passion for music both onstage and off. Her four albums and three film scores surround the listener in vivid musical imagery conjured by her unique brand of synesthesia. Molly has co-billed with such noted acts as the Foo Fighters and the Dresden Dolls, and she has collaborated in the studio with such industry luminaries as John Philip Shenale (Tracy Chapman, Billy Idol) and John Chamberlain (Tori Amos, Michael Jackson).

Pinocchio

adaptation by Steven Bogart and Wendy Lement based on the book *The Adventures of Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi

DIRECTOR Steven Bogart MUSICAL DIRECTOR/COMPOSER

Mary Bichner

SET DESIGNER
Cristina Todesco

CHOREOGRAPHER
Patricia Manalo Bochnak

LIGHTING DESIGNER

David Wilson

COSTUME DESIGNER
Miranda Hoffman

PROPS DESIGNER
Marjorie Lusignan

SOUND DESIGNER Roger J. Moore

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
Marsha Smith*

SIGN PERFORMERS

Jola Leary, Adrianna Kathryn Neefus,

Desiree Weems Sheppard

AUDIO DESCRIBERS
Cori Couture,
Ruth Celia Kahn

THE CAST

Pinocchio Sirena Abalian

Geppetto Steven Barkhimer*

Cat Shelley Bolman*

Blue Fairy Jordan Clark

Bully Kai Clifton

Lampwick Jeremy Oliver Sherry Ornstein

Cricket Geoff Van Wyck

Fox Christopher James Webb*

Blue Fairy Child Caroline Workman*

ENSEMBLE

Aunnesha Bhowmick, Charlie Clinton, Michelle Finston, Gary Thomas Ng*, Jacqueline Scholl, Carrie Ruxin Shao, Cassie Ruyi Shao, Eddie Shields*, Jeff Song, Sarah Toubes-Marquis, Kaitee Tredway, Ciera-Sadé Wade, Karina Wen, Adam Wintzer

MUSICIANS

Mary Bichner, Conductor, Harp, and Piano
Sumie Kaneko, Shamisen Christopher McClain, Viola
Jeff Song, Cello Molly Zenobia, Percussion

There will be one 15-minute intermission between the acts.

Ask the House Manager for individual sound enhancement devices.

The taking of photographs and use of recording devices is strictly forbidden.

Please turn off all electronic devices. Please, no eating or drinking in the theatre.

Open captioning provided in collaboration with c2 (caption coalition) inc, www.c2net.org.



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.



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SPECIAL THANKS

Masaru Aniya and Sumiko Otsuka of the Consulate General of Japan in Boston; Shawn P. Cotter; Katherine Leigh Doherty, Ricardo Engermann, Steve Markarian, Cheryl McMahon, Mark Linehan, and Lisa Simpson for contributing their talents to the Wizard of Oz Family FUNdraiser; Kippy Goldfarb; Sanjeev Joshi; Andrew Katz; Joe Khirallah; Meena Kumar; Joni Levy Liberman for poster design; Helene Mayer; Gary Ng; Laura Parkin; Mary ElizaBeth Peters and The Accessible Theatre; Paul Rivenberg for the study guide; Frank Romero and members of the Wheelock College Facilities staff; Alane Shanks, Nancy Viall Shoemaker; Roy Schifilliti, Jerry Wheelock; Arthur Wheelock-Wood; Ezra and Jodi Leduc Zemsky

We wish to thank all the people who have joined with us since the program went to press.

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WFT's Advisory Board is a group of dedicated individuals from broad and diverse segments of the community who provide support and expertise to WFT's staff and artists on an ongoing basis. We are grateful for their insights and their enthusiasm.

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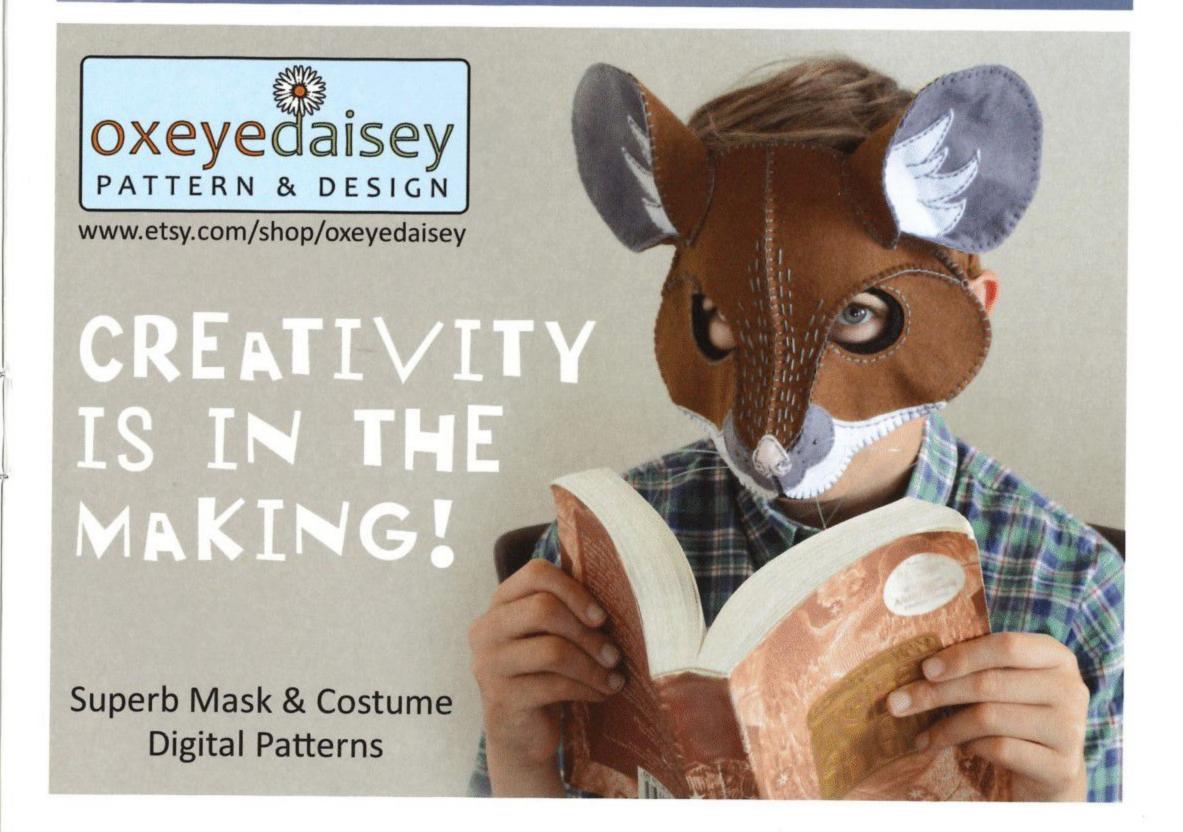
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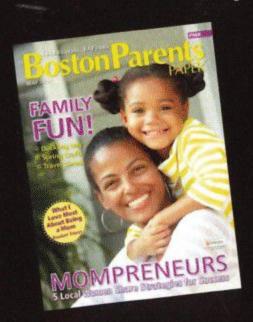
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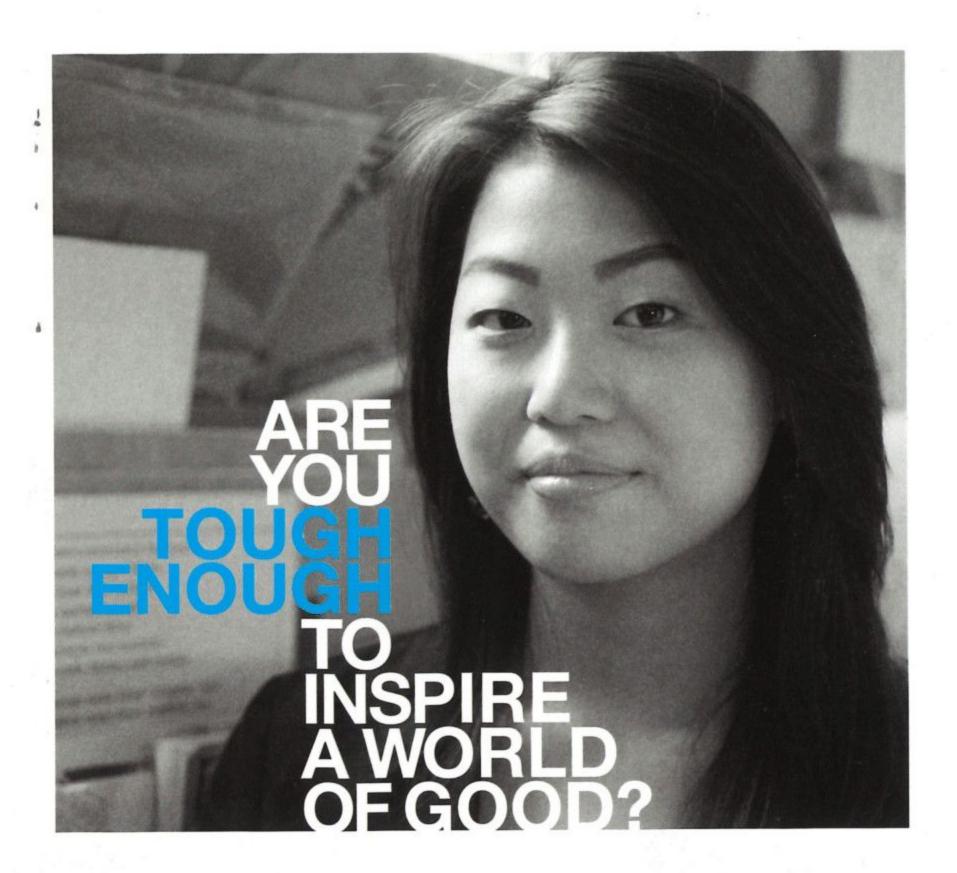






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