



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

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Virginia Repertory Theatre's
Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn Presents
Pinocchio

Book and Lyrics by Bruce Craig Miller
Music by Michael Strong
Based on the Novel by Carlo Collodi
Developed by Virginia Repertory Theatre

Richmond, VA -- Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the company of the third production of the 2018/19 Children's Season, ***Pinocchio***, opening Friday, March 29, 2019, at the Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn. This play tells the classic tale of Geppetto's little wooden puppet whose only wish is to be a real boy.

Imagine Geppetto's surprise when the puppet he carves suddenly springs to life. The wooden boy, named Pinocchio, becomes like a son to the kindly old wood carver who provides him with a loving home. But the mischievous Pinocchio sets off on a series of fantastical adventures that teach him valuable lessons that lead him back home.

The show will be the third show in the newly renovated space at Willow Lawn. Virginia Rep has added lights, new bathrooms, and fresh paint to make the theater even more family-friendly. *Pinocchio* will be onstage through May 5, 2019 at the Children's Theatre at Willow Lawn, 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

Virginia Rep Founding Producer **Bruce Miller**, who adapted this piece for the stage, will be directing this classic children's story. In 1975, former Artistic Director Miller, along with

Managing Director Phil Whiteway, co-founded Theatre IV, a children's theater company. In 2012, Theatre IV merged with Barksdale Theatre to form Virginia Repertory Theatre, Central Virginia's largest professional theater. Miller's recent Virginia Rep directing credits include *Summer and Smoke*, *I Do! I Do!*, and *Tartuffe*.

Bridget Sindelar joins the cast as Pinocchio, after most recently appearing on the Children's Theatre stage as Ginny/Little Blue in *The Little Engine That Could*. **Landon Dufrene**, who recently performed in the holiday smash hit *Sister Act*, will play Geppetto. Also joining the cast will be **Adam Turck** (*The House at Pooh Corner*), and **Renee McGowan** and **Eve Marie Tuck**, who were both featured in last holiday season's children's production, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*.

Jeff Lindquist will serve as Music Director, returning to Virginia Rep after many decades away. His work was last seen in Richmond when he directed the Barksdale Theatre production of *The Woman in Black* in 1997. Set Design is by **Terrie Powers** (*The Game's Afoot: Holmes for the Holidays, Crimes of the Heart*), Costume Design is by **Marcia Miller Hailey** (*Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End, Miracle on South Division Street*), Lighting Design is by Virginia Rep Electrics Apprentice **Matthew Banes** and Sound Design is by Virginia Rep A/V Apprentice **Corbin White** (*Huck and Tom and the Mighty Mississippi*).

The full company is listed below.

Direction & Design

Direction	Bruce Miller
Music Direction	Jeff Lindquist
Set Design	Terrie Powers
Costume Design	Marcia Miller Hailey
Lighting Design	Matthew Banes
Sound Design	Corbin White
Stage Management	Justin Janke

Cast List

Pinocchio	Bridget Sindelar
Geppetto	Landon Dufrene
Fox	Adam Turck
Cat	Eve Marie Tuck
Blue Fairy	Renee McGowan

Sensory Friendly Performances

A Sensory Friendly family performance will be offered on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. Please see the website for more details: http://va-rep.org/sensory_friendly.html

Audio Described Performances

In collaboration with Virginia Voice, Virginia Rep is pleased to offer Audio Described performances, in which actions, expressions and gestures are described during gaps between dialogue throughout the performance for patrons with low vision or blindness. In addition to live audio description during performances, patrons are also invited to participate in a tactile tour before the performance. An Audio Described performance will be offered on Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 2 p.m. Please see the website for more details:

https://va-rep.org/access_for_the_blind.html

Community Tickets Grant

Virginia Rep is thrilled to offer a **free** Community Tickets Grant for nonprofit organizations. We encourage all organizations who have a demonstrated need for complimentary tickets to fill out a short application on our website: bit.ly/CommunityTix

Ticket Information

Box Office: 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Full Price Tickets: \$21

Discounted Group Rates available.

Performance Schedule

Evening performances at 7:00 p.m. on select Fridays

Matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday

Matinee performances at 10:30 a.m. on select Saturdays

Press

Press Kits will be available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Passcode accessible high-res photos will be available to the media on March 29

username = press

password = HiRes121

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is the regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With an operating budget of \$5.5 million, four distinct venues, an educational touring arm, and an annual audience approximately 530,000, Virginia Rep is one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. Virginia Rep stages four seasons annually: the Signature Season at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, Theatre Gym Season in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company, Virginia Rep's Children's Season at Willow Lawn, and the Hanover Tavern Season.

Sponsors

Federal Realty Investment Trust and the Shops at Willow Lawn, The Shubert Foundation,
The Virginia Commission for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, *Richmond Family Magazine*