

the
national
ballet of
canada



Relaxed Performance Fact Sheet

Pinocchio, Act II

This fact sheet has key information about the show and theatre that you may find useful and that may help you to fully enjoy your afternoon with us.

Key Information

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

Address: 145 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 4G1

Performance Length: 55 minutes (including the introduction)

Intermission: There is no intermission for this performance.

[Venue Guide](#)

[Website](#)

[Trailer](#)

General Things to Know

- The performance will be at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts (Four Seasons Centre).
- The performance begins at 2:00 pm.
- There is a parking lot underneath the theatre, it costs \$25, but please come prepared to pay more if necessary.
- The parking machine takes credit cards, debit cards and Apple Pay.
- There are many other places to park within walking distance of the theatre.
- There is a lot of construction in the area, especially around the Metrolinx Ontario Line, that is causing many traffic delays. Please be prepared and allow yourself plenty of extra time to get around the area.
- If you are taking the subway, there is an underground entrance to the Four Seasons Centre at Osgoode station.
- If you need to pick up your tickets, the Box Office will open at 12:00 pm.
- The lobby to the Four Seasons Centre will open at 12:45 pm.

- To enter the lobby you will need your ticket.
- The concession will be open for this performance.
- The auditorium will open one hour before the performance begins. At this time, the ushers will open the doors and let people know they can go in and find their seat(s).
- There will be overhead announcements while you wait in the lobby. Please be prepared for these.
- The seating is assigned/ticketed seating, that means that your seat is assigned and you can find the location of your seat printed on your ticket.
- An usher can direct you to your seat(s).
- There are a limited number of booster seats available. Please ask an usher if you need one.
- The Four Seasons Centre has many floors – the street level (Main Floor Lobby) has the lobby, concession and boutique; downstairs (Lower Level Lobby) has the washrooms and coatcheck; and upstairs (the Grand Ring, Rings 3 and 4) has the boxes/balcony seating areas, the Quiet Room and a gender neutral/accessible washroom and washroom stalls. (Please note the accessible washroom does not have a button, so someone may need to open the door for people using this space).
- There are stairs and elevators to help you get from floor to floor.
- Music for the performance will be played by a live Orchestra from the Orchestra pit in front of the stage. Please stay back from the Orchestra pit.
- When you enter the auditorium the Orchestra will be warming up. This may sound loud.
- The lights in the auditorium will be left on at a low level during the performance.
- A Quiet Room has been set up on the Grand Ring floor. Ushers can take you there at any time if needed.
- There is a host for this performance, they will introduce the ballet and give you information on *Pinocchio*.
- The host will speak before the ballet begins and will be joined by actors in the performance.
- There will be an ASL Interpreter on stage while the host speaks.
- There is a page on The National Ballet of Canada's website for *Pinocchio*. This page gives lots of information about the story and can help you to follow what is happening on stage. You can access the page [here](#).
- There will be speaking in this ballet. Actors play characters called the Narrators and they help guide Pinocchio during his many adventures.
- An ASL Interpreter will be available and onsite to interpret throughout the duration of the performance.

About Pinocchio

Inspired by Carlo Collodi's Italian serial for children, *Pinocchio* follows a precocious marionette who dreams of being real. A series of adventures with colourful characters like the wise Blue Fairy and mischievous Fox and Cat shape Pinocchio's experience of the world and teach him valuable lessons about the virtues of honesty, kindness and hard work. Along the way, Pinocchio's bond with the gentle Lumberjack, Geppetto, grows (along with Pinocchio's nose when he lies!) until he becomes human at last.

About the Performance

You will be seeing Act II of the ballet *Pinocchio*.

The ballet is not a movie. It is performed by dancers right in front of you! It has dancers, music and a set.

What is a set?

A set is the background behind and around the dancers. It is also the furniture that the dancers sit, stand or dance on throughout the ballet. Sets help us to know where and when the ballet takes place.

When you enter the auditorium to take your seat the Orchestra will be in the Orchestra pit warming up.

When the performance is about to begin, host Lisa Robinson will introduce the performance and the Orchestra and give some information about the ballet.

The choreographer of this ballet is Will Tuckett.

The music for *Pinocchio* was composed by Paul Englishby.

The costumes and the set were designed by Colin Richmond.

If the music is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or use sound-dampening headphones.

Ballet tells a story through dance – this ballet is the story of *Pinocchio*.

The story includes, but is not limited to finding family, meeting new people, not fitting in, people who are not nice, adventure and becoming confident in who you are.

Music helps to build the emotion in the ballet – it can help us know how to feel and what is happening.

Often the audience will clap after dancers have finished dancing (even though the ballet is still going on), if the clapping is too loud, you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.

When two people dance together in ballet it is called a pas de deux.

Have you noticed that sometimes the ballerinas look like they are dancing on their tiptoes? This is called “en pointe” and their shoes help them to do this, but it still takes many years of training to dance like this.

Please make sure that mobile devices are set to silent for the duration of the ballet.

When you take your seat the curtains on stage will be closed.

When the ballet begins the Orchestra will begin playing music and the curtains will open.

*Although there are people in the ballet that capture and trick many of the other characters (mostly Pinocchio), this is just a story told by dancers and actors. None of what is happening is real, no one is captured and no one is hurt. You are safe in the theatre, even when the lights are dark. The dancers and the music are telling us a story and when we leave the theatre we will go back to our regular lives, and so will the dancers and musicians.

Here are some things about the performance you may find interesting or want to watch/listen for:

- This performance starts at the beginning of the second act of the ballet. That means that some of the story has already happened, but don't worry, the host and a special guest will tell us what has already happened!
- Sometimes audience members clap when the Orchestra begins to play. If the clapping is too loud, you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound- dampening headphones.
- There are projections in this ballet – most times they move and change slowly, but sometimes there are flashing lights or quick movements in the projections. While not all instances of changes in projections are noted below, we have tried to highlight the ones with lots of movement/changes.
- All of the projections will be shown at the back of the stage. This area is called “upstage” and is farthest away from the audience.
- Music begins.
- There is not a lot of light on stage.
- A moon is projected onto the screen at the back of the stage.
- Dancers come on stage as the lights come up a little.
- They are Pinocchio and the Narrators.
- The Narrators update Pinocchio on Geppetto.
- Geppetto has been “swallowed by the sea”
- The sun rises on the projections.
- There is a face in the sun.
- This is the Blue Fairy.
- The dancers leave Pinocchio on stage alone.
- A teacher arrives, followed by students.
- The Blue Fairy tells Pinocchio to follow the students and join the class.
- A classroom appears!
- Desks, benches and a chalkboard arrive on stage.
- Shapes appear on the projection screen.
- The students pick on Pinocchio and hit him.
- The music is quick and light.
- Students hide behind the chalkboard.

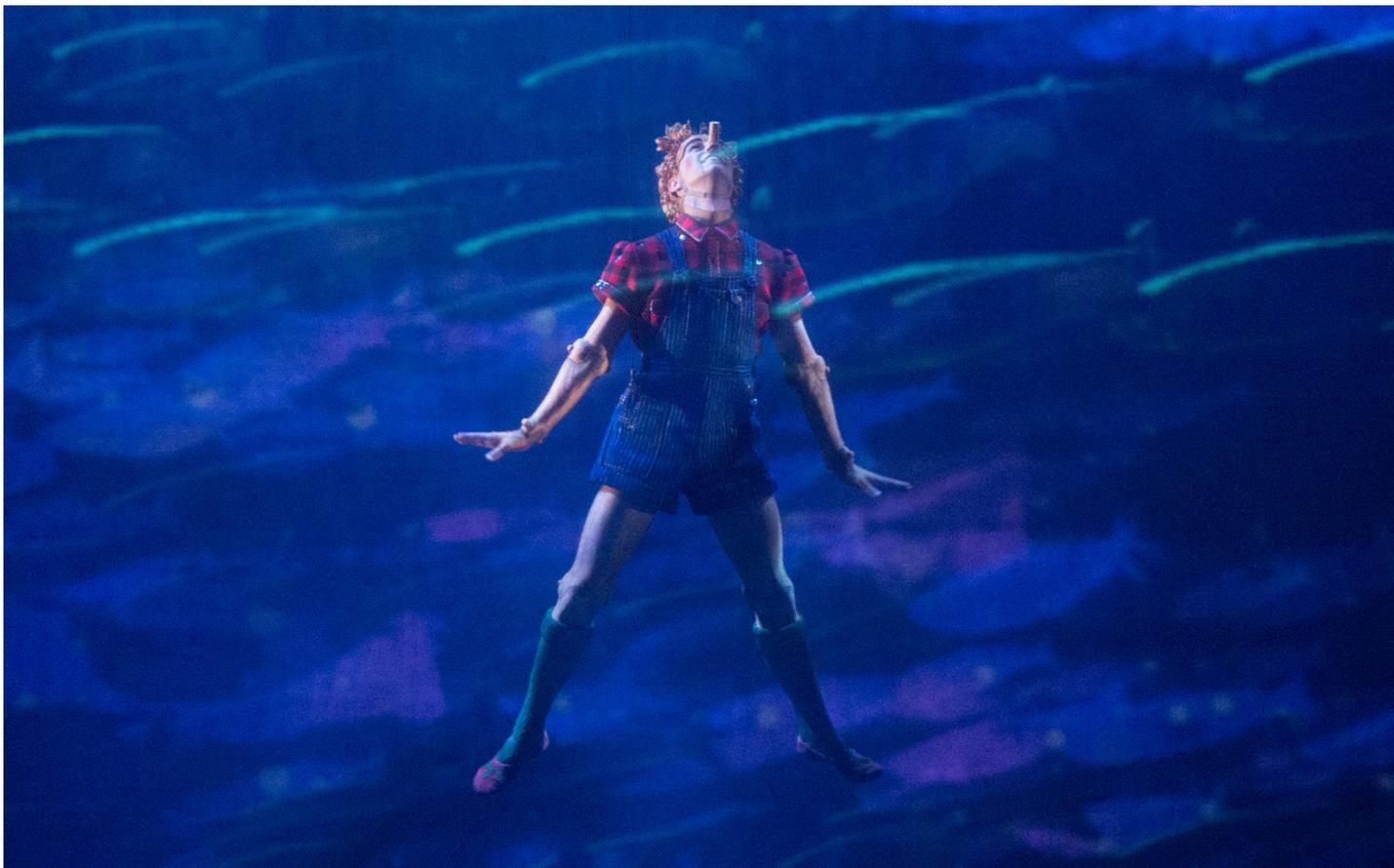
- Some shouting and screaming as the set for the school clears.
- The Ringmaster enters.
- The students huddle.
- The projection is a cloudy red colour.
- The Narrators enter and speak for the Ringmaster.
- The Ringmaster invites the students to go with him to a more “fun land”.
- Pinocchio and the students go with the Ringmaster.
- The projection changes from cloudy to a circus/amusement park with rides and bright lights.
- There are some gentle flashing lights on the projector at this time.
- The students and Pinocchio are excited.
- A large sign that reads “Funland” lowers onto stage.
- Circus performers enter.
- A large clown head with lights enters the stage. It is a huge set piece!
- The Ringmaster gathers the students and Pinocchio.
- The Ringmaster hypnotizes Pinocchio and the students.
- While the Ringmaster is hypnotizing the students, the projections turn into two large circles (side by side). These circles spin and spin (like kaleidoscopes) and get quicker as they spin. If this is too fast for you, you could cover your eyes with your hands or look away until this portion of the scene is over.
- Music is slower and feels heavier during this scene.
- The students enter the clown head.
- Pinocchio does not want to enter!
- The circus performers makes Pinocchio go into the clown head.
- The clown head moves to reveal a tent.
- The students come out of the tent - but they have been turned in to donkeys!
- The donkeys are put into a cage.
- A Circus ring appears.
- The projection looks like a multicoloured curtain.
- The donkeys are made to perform.
- Pinocchio is attached to balloons.

- Pinocchio flies!
- Pinocchio is wearing a safety harness and has practised and rehearsed flying many times. Pinocchio is safe in the harness and will not fall or hurt themselves while flying. Pinocchio is safe.
- There is a loud bang sound.
- Lights go to black on stage.
- The music is light.
- Lights come back on – the stage is very blue.
- Pinocchio flies down towards the stage.
- It is all blue, and Pinocchio looks more like he is swimming than flying. Is Pinocchio underwater?
- Fish swim around Pinocchio. He is underwater!
- There are water ripples on the projection.
- Pinocchio swims!
- The music is light and fast as Pinocchio swims.
- The ripples in the music are meant to sound like water.
- The crashes of the drums and cymbals are meant to sound like waves.
- If it is too loud, you can cover your ears with your hands or wear sound-dampening headphones.
- The lights get darker and the music gets slower and heavier.
- A whale appears on the projection.
- The set changes and now the scene is the inside of the Whale's stomach.
- Geppetto is dancing alone inside the Whale's stomach.
- He dances slowly and the music is light.
- There are many items inside the Whale's stomach!
- Pinocchio crawls onto stage. He has also been swallowed by the Whale.
- Pinocchio and Geppetto are reunited!
- Pinocchio shares the story of his adventures with Geppetto.
- The music picks up tempo. That means it gets faster.
- Pinocchio and Geppetto are happy to be together – even if it is inside the stomach of the Whale!

- Other people and animals that the Whale has swallowed come on to stage.
- There are many people and animals in the Whale's stomach.
- Pinocchio recognizes many of the people and animals from his adventures!
- The lights get brighter.
- Pinocchio has an idea!
- The idea is to use what is in the Whale's stomach to make a raft and escape.
- Everyone works together to make a raft.
- Is that an old car or truck?
- They use the old truck as the base of the raft.
- Can you tell how the raft moves?
- The raft spins on stage!
- Pinocchio jumps as hard as he can. He is trying to get the Whale to burp!
- Everyone gets on the raft.
- Now there will be a solo by the Blue Fairy.
- The Blue Fairy enters as the raft exits the stage.
- The Blue Fairy dances alone and then exits the stage. The lights come up slowly as the sun rises and day breaks.
- There is a dock/pier and a lighthouse on stage.
- The music is light with pipes and drums being played.
- There are people on the dock/pier.
- The people get off the raft.
- Everyone celebrates their return home!
- Pinocchio is celebrated for his great idea.
- The lights dim.
- The Blue Fairy flies towards Pinocchio. The Blue Fairy is wearing a safety harness and has practised and rehearsed flying many times. She is safe in the harness and will not fall or hurt herself while flying. The Blue Fairy is safe.
- There are sparkly lights in the projections.
- There is a starburst in the projection. It appears on the right on the stage. It has a lot of movement in it. If this is too fast for you, you could cover your eyes with your hands or look away until this portion of the scene is over.

- The Blue Fairy will rise above above them as the townspeople surround Pinocchio.
- The Blue Fairy is wearing a safety harness and has practiced and rehearsed flying many times. The Blue Fairy is safe in the harness and will not fall or hurt themselves while flying. The Blue Fairy is safe.
- The Blue Fairy makes Pinocchio's wish comes true – he is a real boy now!
- The Blue Fairy flies off stage.
- The lights get brighter. The sun is shining.
- All the dancers dance together to celebrate his transformation.
- Watch as everyone spins!
- Pinocchio and Geppetto hug.
- Then all the dancers gather around Pinocchio to bless him, but he is just a young boy, and he doesn't want to stay still while everyone looks at him.
- Pinocchio makes everyone give him some room, and he runs off to do whatever small boys do when they are not too busy being what everyone else expects them to be.
- The lights go down except for the twinkling light that was the Blue Fairy.
- The curtain comes down.
- This is the end of the performance.
- The audience may clap at the end, if it is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.
- The curtain comes back up and the lights get bright on stage – this is the curtain call (bows).
- The curtain call is a chance for the audience to tell the dancers and the Orchestra how much they enjoyed the ballet – you can clap, say “bravo”, and even stand up from your seat as the dancers bow. If it is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.
- There are many dancers in the ballet and the curtain call may take a few minutes for them to all have a chance to bow for you.
- After the bows are over, the curtain will go down and stay down and the lights will come up in the auditorium.
- Now is the time to leave the auditorium.

We hope you enjoyed *Pinocchio* with The National Ballet of Canada!



Credits



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Cover: Jack Bertinshaw with Artists of the Ballet in *Pinocchio*.

Page 10: Jack Bertinshaw in *Pinocchio*. Photos by Aleksandar Antonijevic.