

# SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## Limitless Michael Smuin

September 23-27, 2021

### PINOCCHIO

World Premiere: May 12, 1999

Choreography & Libretto: Michael Smuin

Music: selections from Avison/Scarlatti, Chihara, Coppola,  
Donizetti, Germiniani/Corelli, Rossini, Vivaldi

Costumes: Sandra Woodall

Lighting Design: Sara Linnie Slocum

Décor & Props: Alexander V. Nichols

Sound Design: Richard Beggs

Logo Design: Tony Walton

Animation: Larry Springer

Flying by Foy

*The world premiere of Pinocchio was made possible by a generous grant from The Carol Franc Buck Foundation.*

**Scene 1: Geppetto's Workshop.** In which the kindly old carpenter is astonished when the log he is carving turns into a living wooden puppet. That night, the Blue Fairy releases Pinocchio from his strings, and warns him that he must always be truthful or his nose will grow to monstrous length.

Geppetto	<b>Lee Bell</b>
Figaro the Cat	<b>Allison Jay Baber</b>
Pinocchio	<b>Roberto Cisneros</b>
Blue Fairy	<b>Celia Fushille</b>

**Scene 2: The Street.** In which we meet the Pig and the Fox, two scoundrels fleeing from the outraged victims of their latest swindle.

The Pig	<b>Joral Schmalle</b>
The Fox	<b>Justin Flores</b>

**Scene 3: Geppetto's Workshop.** In which Geppetto, who has spent his last few coins to buy clothes, books, and food for Pinocchio, sends him off to school.

**Scene 4: *The Street*.** In which Pinocchio encounters the Pig and the Fox and loses everything he has, including his freedom.

**Scene 5: *Stromboli's Puppet Theatre*.** In which Stromboli sets his puppets dancing for the crowd, but the Pig and the Fox interrupt the show to demonstrate Pinocchio's amazing talents. Stromboli rewards them lavishly and chains Pinocchio to the puppet stage, where he sings a lament to the uncaring moon.

Stromboli	<b>Easton Smith</b>
Columbine	<b>Rachel Greenwood Chew</b>
Harlequin	<b>Hernán Piquin</b>
Punch	<b>Shannon Hurlburt</b>
Judy	<b>Dalyn Chew</b>

**Scene 6: *The Ocean*.** In which Geppetto and Figaroa search the Seven Seas for their lost Pinocchio. They unwittingly attract the attention of a huge—and hungry—Leviathan.

**Scene 7: *Stromboli's Puppet Theatre*.** In which the Blue Fairy saves Pinocchio from the consequences of his folly.

**Scene 8: *The Donkey Circus*.** In which Pinocchio falls in with a circus troupe, but the cruel Ringmaster abandons him after he injures himself doing tricks. Once again, the Blue Fairy rescues him and sends him off to find Geppetto.

Ringmaster	<b>Rodolphe Cassand</b>
Donkeys	<b>Janine Bryan Kovac, Pamela True</b>
Punch	<b>Shannon Hurlburt</b>
Judy	<b>Dalyn Chew</b>

**Scene 9: *The Ocean/Inside the Whale*.** In which Pinocchio is reunited with his family in a most unexpected way. Pinocchio's ingenuity saves them from the Whale, but at a terrible price.

**Scene 10: *On the Beach*.** In which Pinocchio's grieving friends suddenly find reason to rejoice, thanks to the Blue Fairy.

**Program Note for *Pinocchio*  
by Michael Smuin**

When I chose the story of Pinocchio, I read the original novel by Carlo Collodi, first published in 1883. I love the Disney version, but I wanted to go back to the source. The book has a darker tone than the cartoon: when a cricket gives Pinocchio some good advice in Collodi's book, the puppet smashes it against the wall! I made this ballet with Roberto Cisneros in mind—he's a remarkably gifted young dancer, with a strong technique and the zest of a natural performer. He's ten years old, and has appeared with us in *The Christmas Ballet* for the last two years. He loves to dance, and it shows. My special thanks to Francis Ford Coppola for allowing me to use his song, "Little Moon."

*This recording is an edit of performances from May 1999 and May 2000.*