



Media Contact:  
Jane Onojafe  
925.931.4855  
[jonojafe@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:jonojafe@cityofpleasantonca.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Calendar Item**

My Son Pinocchio Jr. Delightful live Holiday youth musical theater production. Opens December 12 at Amador Theater in Pleasanton. This new musical, which retells the familiar Disney story from Geppetto's perspective, features the beloved classics songs "When You Wish Upon a Star" and "I've Got No Strings (To Hold Me Down)," as well as a host of new songs. Wonderful, timely lessons about what it means to be "the perfect child." Presented by City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company in partnership with Bay Area Children's Theatre. December 12 – 21. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6-\$18, available at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org), 925-931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are also available at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, 2 hours prior to the performance.

**Press Release**

***My Son Pinocchio Jr. on Stage at Amador Theater  
Musical Theater Production of Disney Favorite opens December 12***

*Pleasanton, Calif.* The wonderful tale of the wooden puppet who turns into a "real boy" is presented live on stage at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton. This new youth musical theater production tells the story from the old puppet-maker Geppetto's perspective, and features the beloved Disney songs including "When You Wish Upon a Star," "I've Got No Strings," plus a host of new songs by Stephen Schwartz, the composer of Disney's *Pocahontas*, Broadway's *Wicked* and many other hit shows. Presented by the City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company in partnership with the award-winning Bay Area Children's Theatre.

Dates: December 12 through 21. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10, \$15, \$18, with child and senior discounts available. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org), by calling 925-931-4848, and in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm, and at the Amador Theater two hours prior to performances.

Much like the Disney movie, *My Son Pinocchio* is a re-telling of the children's book *The Adventures of Pinocchio*. This musical is actually based on the more recent made-for-television movie *Geppetto*, originally broadcast in 2000. As in the TV film, when Pinocchio runs away to become a star in Stromboli's puppet show, his maker/father Geppetto must negotiate through a maze of adventures, trials, and comic encounters to find him.

The musical's composer Stephen Schwartz says that the show "is entertaining while at the same time dealing with such important themes as individuality, self-esteem and the relation of parents and children...I have written several other shows and films that I believe have had a positive impact on young audiences, such as Disney's *Pocahontas*, *Godspell*, *Children of Eden*, and the current hit Broadway show *Wicked*. I believe *Disney's Geppetto & Son* (the original title) is a strong addition to this group."

A whopping seventy-three students between the ages of 8 and 16 are participating in this big production. The two alternating casts, appropriately nicknamed the "Wish Cast" and the "Star Cast," hail from Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, and San Ramon.

"Our two Geppettos, Izzy Fernandez and Matthew Glynn, are both brand new to the program...We were so excited to discover these two very capable and talented actors at auditions!" says Director Rachel Robinson. "Both were recruited by friends who were already Civic Arts participants." She went on to note that the role of Pinocchio is played by Tiare Vasconcellos and Luke Leary, both seasoned Civic Arts actors who are starring in a leading role for the first time.

Why this particular musical? Director Robinson: "*My Son Pinocchio* is an enormous, exciting, and challenging show... (which) gives us a chance to really feature some of our younger students, alongside challenging adult roles for our teenagers." Unique to this production is that there is actually no "ensemble" (meaning actors with "stage business" but with no individual speaking parts)...every performer has a speaking and/or solo singing role.

The professional production team helmed by Robinson includes Megan McGrath (Choreographer), Kevin Roland (Music Director), and Salim Razawi (Assistant Director and Stage Manager). This is the fifth Civic Arts and BACT co-production.

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Available for interviews:

Salim Razawi, (925) 956-3956, [salim@bactheatre.org](mailto:salim@bactheatre.org); Mark Duncanson, 925-931-4828, [mduncanson@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:mduncanson@cityofpleasantonca.gov)