



Peter Boal
Artistic Director

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE:

PINOCCHIO

PNB'S FAMILY MATINEE SERIES

February 7-8, 2009

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall
321 Mercer Street, Seattle Center
Seattle, WA 98109

January 7 at 1:00 p.m.
January 8 at 12:00 noon and 3:30 p.m.

Music by Nicola Piovani and Amilcare Ponchielli
Conceived and Choreographed by Bruce Wells
Scenic Design by Edith Whitsett
Costume Design by the Pacific Northwest Ballet Costume Shop
Lighting Design by Randall G. Chiarelli
Running time: 1 hour

SEATTLE, WA - Pacific Northwest Ballet presents *Pinocchio*, the third installment in PNB's Special Family Matinee Series. This classic tale of a puppet who yearns to be a real boy will be presented as a narrated one-act ballet for family audiences. Like PNB's previous Family Matinee productions of *Snow White* and *Hansel & Gretel*, *Pinocchio* is conceived and choreographed by Bruce Wells and will feature nearly 60 students of Pacific Northwest Ballet School in each specially-created, hour-long matinee performance for children and parents. (*Pinocchio* does not feature PNB Company dancers.) *Pinocchio* runs February 7 and 8 at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Performances are at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 7 and 12:00 noon and 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 8. For tickets and more information, visit www.pnb.org or call 206.441.2424.

SYNOPSIS - Pacific Northwest Ballet's production of *Pinocchio*, conceived and choreographed by Bruce Wells, is based on author Carlo Collodi's original book. The story begins when Pinocchio, as a real boy, sees his puppet image reflected in a mirror. The puppet Pinocchio steps out of the mirror and the real boy steps in and starts to remember how he became a real boy. First, Geppetto the carpenter created Pinocchio as a puppet. And when Pinocchio goes to the Puppet Circus he dances with Harlequin and Columbine and meets Cricket, his conscience. Two untrustworthy characters, Cat and Fox, steal Pinocchio's money. Then the Blue Fairy appears and consoles Pinocchio. She tells him that his father Geppetto is looking for him over the seas. To find Geppetto, Pinocchio dives into the ocean only to find that a whale has swallowed his father. Pinocchio saves his father from the whale and the Blue Fairy rewards him for saving Geppetto by turning him into a real boy.

ABOUT THE ARTIST - Choreographer **Bruce Wells** has created over 50 ballets. A native of Tacoma, Washington, Mr. Wells' dance career began as a student at the School of American Ballet. He joined New York City Ballet, under the direction of George Balanchine, in 1967 and was promoted to soloist in 1969. His choreographic career began in workshops that Mr. Balanchine coached in the early 1970's. From there he became resident choreographer for the Connecticut Ballet from 1975 to 1979, choreographing his first full length ballet, *Coppelia* in 1976. From 1979 to 1989 Mr. Wells was resident choreographer for the Boston Ballet, where he created over 20 works which included *The Nutcracker*, *La Fee Mal Gardee*, *Swan Lake*, and his highly acclaimed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. (From 1984 to 1989 he was also Associate Artistic Director for the company.) He then joined Pittsburgh Ballet Theater for six seasons as resident choreographer, creating new productions of *Romeo & Juliet*, *Firebird* and *The Great Gatsby* among others. Mr. Wells has choreographed works for The Australian Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Ballet Chicago, Cincinnati Ballet, The Nashville Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theater, Jacob's Pillow, and many more. For the past eleven years Mr. Wells has been on the faculty of Pacific Northwest Ballet School. Mr. Wells' first children's ballet for PNBS was *Snow White* in 2001, followed by *Hansel & Gretel* in 2006. A frequent guest teacher and free lance choreographer, his most recent assignment was as guest teacher for the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam.

TICKET INFORMATION:

Ticket range: \$22-\$60 (children), \$25-\$67 (adults)
Box Office Phone: 206.441.2424 (Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)
Box Office Location: 301 Mercer Street, Seattle (Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)
Tickets are also available online at www.pnb.org and 90 minutes prior to each performance at McCaw Hall, located at 321 Mercer Street.

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Pinocchio is made possible in part thanks to presenting sponsor The Norcliffe Foundation.

Publicity Contact

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Programming subject to change. For further information, please visit: www.pnb.org.

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