



PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

PETER BOAL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

Pinocchio

PNB's FAMILY MATINEE SERIES

Featuring performances by students of the Pacific Northwest Ballet School

March 20 & 26, 2011

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall

321 Mercer Street at Seattle Center

Seattle, WA 98109

March 20 at 12:00 pm & 3:30 pm

March 26 at 2:00 pm

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

SEATTLE, WA - Pacific Northwest Ballet is happy to announce the return of its popular Family Matinee Series production of *Pinocchio*. The 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 over 70 students of Pacific Northwest Ballet School in each specially-created, hour-long matinee performance for children and families. (*Pinocchio* does not feature PNB Company dancers.) *Pinocchio* runs March 20 and 26 at Seattle Center's Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. Performances are at 12:00 pm and 3:30 pm on Sunday, March 20, and 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 26. For tickets, 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 Gepetto 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 twelve 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 freelance choreographer, his most recent assignment was as guest teacher for the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam.

TICKET INFORMATION - *Pinocchio* tickets range from \$25 to \$67 (\$22-\$60 for children 12 and under) and may be purchased through the PNB Box Office:

Phone: 206.441.2424 (Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)

In Person: 301 Mercer Street, Seattle (Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm; Sat. 10am-5pm)

Online: www.pnb.org (24/7)

Tickets are also available 90 minutes prior to each performance, subject to availability, at McCaw Hall, located at 321 Mercer Street.

Special Student Matinee of *Pinocchio*

Friday, March 25 - 10:30 am

The *Pinocchio* student matinee is reserved for groups of 15 or more school students in grades Pre-K through 12. For ticket information, contact the PNB Box Office. (For group rates to other *Pinocchio* performances, please contact group sales manager Julie Jamieson at juliej@pnb.org.) PNB also offers pre- or post-performance workshops for school students: Contact Rochelle Rapaszky at 206.441.9411 ext. 4229 or rrapaszky@pnb.org for information.

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Publicity Contact

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

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