

HOPSCOTCH THEATRE COMPANY

Pinocchio, 2024 - 2025

Our annual touring pantomime for young audiences

HOPSCOTCH THEATRE COMPANY

Hopscotch Theatre Company is Scotland's leading producer of touring theatre for young audiences in schools in operation for over thirty-six years our mission has been to create bold, inventive and joyous theatre that nurtures and empowers children and young people to thrive and succeed.

Renowned for our annual pantomime productions, we commission original stories that draw from the abundant wealth of talent in Scotland's creative communities to reach thirty-thousand children and young people each year through touring.

'PINOCCHIO' by ROBBIE ANNDRA MACLEÒID

Hopscotch Theatre Company is happy to announce auditions for their upcoming community tour of "Pinocchio". This adaptation reimagines the story of Pinocchio (Pin) with a contemporary twist, focusing on themes of self-identity, kindness and what it means to be a "real boy". The Fairy, a kind yet mischievous guide, narrates the story, challenging the malevolent Mr. Sleekit, who embodies deception with his digital mask concealing his true intentions. Mr. Sleekit seeks to mislead young Pin, a rebellious and spirited puppet, into a life of irresponsibility and selfishness, but Pin's journey is one of self-discovery and understanding of what it truly means to be "real".

The story is told across vibrant settings such as Gepetto's quaint cottage, the scary circus and the fantastical island of toys, culminating in the escape from the belly of a whale! Along the way, Pin encounters a varied cast of characters, including his beloved creator Gepetto and Arlecchino, a fellow puppet. The production will be a dynamic blend of music, dance and storytelling for schools and community groups. We are seeking talented actors of all genders and backgrounds to help us bring the production to life.

If you have any questions, please contact thomas@hopscotchtheatre.com for more information.

TOUR DETAILS

Pinocchio will tour to schools, community venues across Scotland from November 2024 until January 2024. Our touring:

TEAM ONE

Rehearsals: Monday 29th October 2024 until Tuesday 13th November 2024.

Tour Begins: Wednesday 13th November 2024.

Tour Ends: Saturday 21st December 2024.

(Sundays off).

TEAM TWO

Rehearsals: Wednesday 13th November 2024 until Tuesday 26th November 2024.

Tour 1 Begins: Wednesday 27th November 2024 until Saturday 21st December 2024.

Tour 2 Begins: Monday 6th January 2025 until Friday 17th January 2025.

(This tour is split with the period over Christmas and New Year Off. Touring weeks will have Sundays off).

TEAM THREE

Rehearsals: Wednesday 13th November 2024 until Wednesday 27th November 2024.

Tour Begins: Thursday 28th November 2024.

Tour Ends: Saturday 21st December 2024.

(Sundays off).

Rates of Pay and Remuneration

Touring team members will be paid a minimum of £573.00 (five hundred and seventy three pounds) per week with an additional 12.07% holiday pay based on the final total contract.

Team leaders will be paid a minimum £633 (six hundred and thirty three pounds) per week with an additional 12.07% holiday pay based on the final total contract.

Where overnight stays are required, all accommodation and subsistence will be provided. Hopscotch Theatre Company will provide transport in a company vehicle to travel to and from production locations.

AUDITIONS

We are delighted to be welcoming open auditions for our 2024-25 touring pantomime Pinocchio. We are keen to connect with versatile performers who may or may not have previously connected with Hopscotch previously to audition for the following roles:

1. [PINOCCHIO \(PIN\)](#)

A principal role. Non-binary/ Female-identifying performer *

Pin is a bright spark of energy and mischief. Though ostensibly Gepetto's son, closer in sensibilities to the Fairy. Goes on a journey of learning both self-belief (him believing he is a real boy is what's important, rather than others believing it of him), and responsibility.

For audition, please read **side 1**.

2. [MR SLEEKIT/ THE POLICEMAN/ GEPETTO](#)

A villain role. Non-binary/ Male-identifying performer*

Mr Sleekit - Toxic masculinity. Wears a digital mask. A MRA-type, men should be men, influencers and the one who will mislead Pin. Amalgamation of figures from Pinocchio, most clearly the Fox. He wants to trick all the boys into behaving like asses so they turn into donkeys, his favourite snack. Pretends to be a real boy with his digital mask. This role will also play supporting roles of the Policeman and Gepetto.

For audition, please **read side 2**.

3. [THE FAIRY](#)

A Dame role. Non-binary/ Male-identifying performer*

The Dame. Kind, but mischievous in her own right. The guide through the story, very fond of Pin and Gepetto. Sees immediately through Mr Sleekit.

For audition, please **read side 3**.

4. [ARLECCHIN/INO/INA - DONKEY'S ASS](#)

Multi role. Any Gender*

Another puppet, friend to Pin, a companion on his journey to the island of toys who begins turning into a donkey.

For audition, please **read side 4**.

***Please note** that Hopscotch Theatre operates an open casting policy and encourages actors of any gender to apply for any role which they feel is suitable, regardless of gender, age or any or all protected characteristics.

AUDITION PROCESS

Hopscotch Theatre Company are casting 12 performers for our upcoming tour of Pinocchio in 2024/25. The following phases and processes will be followed. They are outlined below:

Open Audition

Actors will be invited to submit a self-tape corresponding to the role they wish to be considered for. The deadline for submission can be found below. Following the deadline, all self-tapes will be considered by at least two panel members.

Self-tape Deadline: Friday 12th July 2024 at 5pm.

Shortlisting: No later than Friday 2nd August 2024.

All shortlisted applicants will be notified of their outcome and limited feedback will be provided.

Recall Auditions

Shortlisted actors will be invited to a recall audition held at Hopscotch Theatre Company's studio in Govan. The provisional dates for recall auditions are outlined below. If you are unable to attend any of the dates, please detail your availability in your initial submission.

All applicants informed of Recall: No later than Friday 2nd August 2024.

In-person Auditions: Thursday 8th August & Friday 9th August 2024.

All Applicants Informed of Outcomes: No later than Friday 23rd August 2024.

All shortlisted applicants will be notified of the outcome and feedback provided.

How To Apply

Please submit a self-tape audition including a reading of the **corresponding side to the character** you wish to express your interest in **and a supporting song**.

Your supporting song must be an acapella version of a contemporary song no longer than 1 minute. Please submit your self-tape as a downloadable or viewable link (Vimeo, Youtube or Tagmin) in our online form.

Our online form can be found here: [Pinocchio Audition Form](#).

All submissions must be received no later than 5 pm on Friday 12th July 2024. If you have any questions or would like to submit your application in an alternative format, please email thomas@hopscotchtheatre.com who can support.

SIDE 1 - PINOCCHIO (PIN)

But Papa Gepetto said he had to make these pencils himself.
You're sure I have to swap them if I want to go to the circus?
It does sound like a lot of fun, it's true.
Oh, I don't know what to do.
What do you think? Should I go?

There's a wee voice, like a bug inside me,
and its telling me it would be naughty...
But a circus sounds like so much fun,
with songs and shows and lights.
And I know I'm meant to go to school
but how much could go wrong
if just this one time
I chose fun instead?
Should I go to the circus?
No? Are you sure?

But...
I want to have fun...
Why should I be good?
I want to play all day.
And I don't have to listen to what you say!

Okay, Mr Stranger, take the pencils,
I'll take a ticket to the circus please.
It sounds too fun to pass that up.

SIDE 2 - MR SLEEKIT/ THE POLICEMAN/ GEPETTO

Oh what a bunch of nonsense,
boys and boys and boys.
Fairies and puppets? Pah!
Ignore that. Listen up.
I am Mr Sleekit, and I am quite the fox,
if I do say so myself.
I'm a real man.

You might have heard of me.
I own a whole island,
and let me tell you boys,
it is full to the brim with toys,
doesn't that sound good?
And I pinkie promise
these toys don't have any kind of spell on them,
oh no they don't" I know some people say
if you play with Mr Sleekit's toys too much
you turn into a donkey,
what a load of rubbish.
Just people trying to cancel me.

Why would I want to turn people into donkeys?
Yes, it's true, I have a house to build,
and donkeys are very good at carrying things
like wood and bricks from place to place,
but still! Forget all that.

But remember me,
Mr Sleekit, a real man, like you could be!

Listen.
They'll tell you you need to be kind,
they'll tell you you need to be nice,
you want my advice? They're wrong!
The only thing you need to be is strong.
And do you know who's strong?
A donkey. I mean, a man.
A real man, like me. Like you could be!

SIDE 3 - THE FAIRY

Welcome! Fàilte! Benvenuto!
Boys and girls and children, welcome!
Welcome to the show,
About a sweet old man, Gepetto,
And his wooden boy, Pinocchio!

I'm the Fairy, here to help,
I've got some magic wait and see.
I'm not just stunning, quick as a whip,
Cheeky as a wee monkey,

So listen close and listen well,
For I'll tell you all a story:
Like pizza, pasta, and ice cream,
This tale, it comes from Italy!
But here we stand and sit in soggy Scotland,
so we'll tell it like it happened here.
That's the thing about a good story, wee folks,
you can tell them just about anywhere.

So here I'm standing, and here you are,
and I'm thinking you might be ready
to hear this bizarre wee tale told.
Am I right, children?
Performers, rrrrrready?
Audience, rrrrrready?
3, 2, 1...!

SIDE 4 - ARLECCHIN/INO/INA - DONKEY'S ASS

I am Arlecchín the puppet
here to entertain you all,
and I can spy wi ma wee peepers
someone standing near the front
looking like a fan of fun!
Come on, come up,
we'll soon be best buds!
Don't be shy wee man,
don't be a feartie,
you look like me,
and I know I'm a lot of fun
so up you come. No strings, eh?
Lucky for some. Odd for a dorrity,
a fantoosh fantoccino, I mean,
a **puppet**, though.

Oh you're *real* are you?
Well, let's see. Can you do...this?
How about that? Clever bean.
Let's see if you can keep up
with the dervish, daring
Arlecchín.