



**stuff and
nonsense**
theatre company

Pinocchio - Casting Call **for Autumn/Xmas touring 2024**

Pinocchio was commissioned by Theatre Royal Plymouth, Lighthouse Poole's Centre for the Arts and supported by Arts Council England and the Lyric Theatre, Bridport.

The production has had significant runs at Theatre Royal Plymouth, MAST, Lighthouse Poole, The Octagon, Barnsley Civic and this year will tour to Oxford Playhouse and Norden Farm.

We are seeking to re-cast two of the existing performers for autumn touring and a 4 week Xmas run, with future touring opportunities in the UK and internationally.

We seek: **Two exceptional, experienced physical performers** to play lead multi-role characters.

Geppetto: Pinocchio's aged father
Male Role - Playing age around 60.

Skills required:

- We are looking for a playful musician who can play a chordal instrument live, to accompany singing
- A musician who feels comfortable playing and singing in character whilst also moving around
- Be able to play one of the following to a high skill level: accordion, mandolin, banjo, melodeon, bazouki, mandola or blues/jazz style guitar
- Folk or jazz style musician able to duet and improvise
- A strong vocal range and ability to sing very high
- Ability to work physically and be happy to climb on and interact with the set.
- (NB that parts of the set are moved during the performance by the performers.)
- Happy to work at height on the set.
- Physical fitness and resilience
- Ability to be funny and engage with an audience.



Pinocchio, grown up son of Gepetto and father of Sonny who is a young man now.

A male performer playing age 35-45.

Skills:

- An experienced, engaging performer, for a highly physical role to play lead character, multi role some smaller roles and to puppeteer a range of puppets.
- Must be happy to lift others and be lifted, happy working at height and to interact with a set that moves and changes.
- Must be physically strong and resilient, as the role is very physical; performers move set elements as part of the onstage action.
- Must have worked physically with other performers as an ensemble.
- You will need a confident singing voice to sing duets.
- The role requires you to be funny and tragic, so experience of comedy or clowning is essential.



This production is fast paced, with performers onstage for 65 minutes with no interval. Our productions are creative adaptations of traditional stories. We use inventive set design where all transitions are done in front of the audience, with props and set transforming into other things. Our work suits performers who have done circus, dance, street theatre and physical theatre. They are not simply acting roles. The movement language is what tells the story.

The company was mentored by Paul Hunter (Told by an Idiot) and the set designer was mentored by Julian Crouch (Improbable). The show reflects both these styles, so performers who are used to working in an ensemble will enjoy this physical process of complicity.

The existing cast are:

Tim Dalling – Kneehigh

Jenny Harrold – Stuff and Nonsense Associate Artist (who is staying in the show)

Dani Rejano – Gandini.

Performers are required to assist venue techs with Get In and Get Out and they will be responsible for general care of props and costumes. This will include lifting of some scenic elements and props.

We generally have a 4 hour get in followed by one show on day 1 and then two shows per day on other days, with a get out after the final performance.

Shows are usually morning and early afternoon.

Travel is in company van or by train depending on location.

We tour as a small team with a Technical Manager.

The team are supported by our Producer.

Fees are ITC rates, including holiday pay and per diems.

Accommodation will be provided by the company.



What a brilliant, fabulous show. Playful, poignant, theatrical, beautiful, so engaging- can't recommend this company enough

Audience Member on Pinocchio

Stuff and Nonsense's Pinocchio-a BIG story beautifully told with wit, verve and great skill! Contemporary Commedia for family audiences

Mike Shepherd, Kneehigh

Stuff and Nonsense at the top of their game in the creative and downright entertaining Pinocchio

David Prescott, former associate producer TRP

Stuff and Nonsense's Pinocchio! It's like Complicite for kids!

Jonathan McGrath, Producer, FutureEverything

Company Background

Stuff and Nonsense is an inclusive, female led, established company based in their own theatre, the Lyric in Bridport, Dorset, with a reputation for quality touring work and strong relationships with many venues, especially in the SW.

Niki McCretton, Artistic Director uses a devising process based on play.

Her background is theatre, circus, choreography and working with the minds of brilliantly creative children who offer abstract and strange ideas to the creative exploration. Niki is our permanent director who also directs for other companies, working with comedy, outdoor arts, solo performance, circus companies and puppetry.

[of Niki McCretton] *“She encourages audiences of all ages to bring their imaginations to the theatre, and revels in surprising and challenging them.”*

Paul Hunter, Founder member & Artistic Director, **Told by an Idiot**

“I have watched Niki’s creative process for more than a decade. She is prolific, hugely resourceful and one of our treasured British theatre-makers. She creates with passion with a stunning team of artists supported via her very own building The Lyric Theatre, Bridport.”

Chris Chibnall, Head Writer/Show Runner **Dr Who**, Writer/Producer **Broadchurch**, Head Writer **Torchwood**. Patron Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company

“Working with Niki McCretton and Stuff and Nonsense opened my eyes to just how thrilling and creative making good quality work for families and children can be. The attention to detail and nuance is staggering. I have rarely been in a workplace that felt so much like an actors’ playground. It will stretch, challenge and satisfy you.”

Helen Day, Performer **Cirque Du Soleil**, Tim Burton

“Niki creates an atmosphere in the rehearsal room that enables you to become your most playful, adventurous and mischievous self. She creates an environment where the best, most challenging, physically demanding work you could ever imagine yourself creating -suddenly seems very easy to access. Being in a Stuff and Nonsense rehearsal room is the most joyful and creative place you could find yourself.”

Jenny Harrold, **Senior Artist** Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company

“The qualities of play, production and storytelling coalesce into something very exciting. A packed house of young people was treated to a skilful, generous and imaginative journey.”

Amit Lahav, Artistic Director of **Gecko Theatre** on Niki McCretton’s adaptation of The Emperor’s New Clothes.

REHEARSAL DATES:

28th Aug - 1st Sept Oxford Playhouse run, existing cast, new performers to see one/two shows

31st Aug - New cast to see the show at Oxford Playhouse

9th - 13th Sept - rehearsals at the Lyric, Bridport supported by existing cast members.

23rd - 25th Oct - Rehearsals with new cast, dress run on 25th ahead of HT touring

TOUR DATES:

26th Oct - 3rd Nov Half term touring to 2/3 venues with tech & dress run at first venue

21st & 22nd Nov - Rehearsals at the Lyric ahead of Norden Farm

23rd Nov -Travel Day

24th & 25th Nov - Get in & Tech at Norden Farm

26th Nov - 28th Dec - 4 week show run at Norden Farm

Further dates may be added for 2025



We look for like-minded, playful and thirsty creative, who would ideally want an on-going relationship with Stuff and Nonsense, to become a core member for other projects, devising and outreach. The company is a registered Charity; our patron is Chris Chibnall, writer of Doctor Who/Broadchurch.

Stuff and Nonsense is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all persons with appropriate skills for these roles. As a company we are committed to supporting artists. We work with artists who have big families, young children, disability and those who identify as different. We believe in kindness, respect, friendship and community.

We have a mental health first aider as part of our core team.

For further information on the company's work please go to www.aloadofstuffandnonsense.co.uk

Please send CV, headshot and covering letter to:

ben.vleminckx@aloadofstuffandnonsense.com

Please put **Pinocchio Auditions** in the subject line of your email.

Please do not apply unless you are available for all dates in the schedule of work and tour dates.

(Please note that links to spotlight will only be viewed as part of a full application with covering letter).

Try outs are by invitation only and will be held in Bridport in June (date TBC).



[**www.aloadofstuffandnonsense.co.uk**](http://www.aloadofstuffandnonsense.co.uk)