

MEET Pinocchio!

A guide to help you prepare to see a play at
Wheelock Family Theatre



A publication of the
Wheelock Family Theatre
Access and Inclusion Program

I am going to see a play called **Pinocchio** at Wheelock Family Theatre. In a play, people on stage tell a story — right in front of us!



These people are called **actors**.

This actor is named Sirena. She plays Pinocchio. Pinocchio is a boy puppet who wants to be a real boy.



This actor is named Steven. He plays Pinocchio's father Geppetto.

When I sit down in the theatre, I will see the set.

A set is an imaginary place built on top of the stage.



This version of Pinocchio happens in the country of Japan. Houses in Japan often have sliding paper walls called screens.



The set for Pinocchio has 9 screens. Actors slide them open and closed. On the right side of the stage, water flows in a well shaped like a barrel.



To tell the story, the actors will wear costumes and talk.



Sometimes they will wear masks with their costumes.

Sometimes they will dance or use puppets.





Just before the play starts, the lights in the room will get darker.

The lights on the stage will get brighter.

The audience will get very quiet.

It is important that I try to be quiet during the show, so I can hear everything.

This play has music in it, but no singing.

The people who play the music sit on a platform above the screens. They play piano, cello, viola, harp, and drums.

One musician plays a special Japanese instrument called a **shamisen**. You might not be able to see it very well from the audience, but it looks like this.

The woman in the picture is the musician who will play the shamisen during the play.



If anything is too loud, I can cover my ears.



I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad or with someone else who came with me to the theatre.



If I need to take a break, I can go into the lobby, or go to a quiet, cozy space nearby.

If I need something to hold onto, I can ask the usher for a squishy toy.



Pinocchio will have many adventures in the play.



He will meet a lot of people, animals, and other creatures.



Some of the characters in the story may be mean or angry or sad.

This is OK.

They are just actors *pretending* to be mean or angry or sad.



Even though I might be scared, I know that these actors are nice people and they will not hurt me.

The policeman in this picture is being mean. But don't worry.

This is Christopher. He's the actor who plays the policeman and he is a very nice person.





At the end of a scene or a song,
some people will clap.
Clapping tells the actors that I liked
their performance.

If I want to clap, I can.
I don't have to clap if I don't want to.

If the clapping is too loud,
I can cover my ears.



I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad or with
someone else who came with me to
the theatre.



If I need something to hold onto, I can ask
the usher for a squishy toy.

In the middle of the play, we will have a break.
The break is called **Intermission**.

During the Intermission, many people will stand up from their seats, and go back to the lobby.

I can go to the lobby, if I want to.
I can also stay in my seat or go to the quiet, cozy space nearby.



I can ask for a snack. I can eat my snack in the lobby or outdoors.
But there is no eating or drinking inside the theatre.



I can ask to use the bathroom
if I need to.

If I am thirsty, I can ask to
use the water fountain.



After Intermission, everyone will come back to the theatre and sit down in their seats again.

It will get darker and quieter again, just like at the beginning of the play.

The actors will come back on stage to finish telling the story.



It is important that I try to be quiet, so I can hear everything.



At the end of the play, all of the actors will come out on stage and bow.



This is called a **curtain call**.

Many people will clap a lot, so the actors will know how much they liked the play. Sometimes people will stand up and clap.

If I want to clap,
I can. I don't
have to clap if I
don't want to.





When the play is over, we will go back to the lobby.

Then we will leave Wheelock Family Theatre.



Going to the theatre is very exciting!
I hope we will have a great time when we go to see **Pinocchio!**

This social story is a publication of the

*Wheelock Family Theatre
Access and Inclusion Program.*

We hope you found it helpful!

