

Welcome to Pinocchio at Stratford East

RELAXED PACK & A VISUAL STORY



Relaxed Performance¹ – Saturday 04 January 2025

The performance will start at midday, 12pm. You will be able to enter the building from 11am.

The running time² of PINOCCHIO is 110 minutes with a 20-minute interval³.

Act 1 will last approximately 1 hour

Act 2 will last approximately 50 minutes

This visual story⁴ is for visitors attending the Relaxed Performance of PINOCCHIO.

This relaxed performance has been adapted to suit those who would benefit from a more relaxed theatre environment. This pack also contains a Glossary with definitions at the end. Printed versions of this pack will also be available to collect from the Box Office.

Getting here

Our address is:
Theatre Royal Stratford East
Gerry Raffles Square
London, E15 1BN

The theatre is a short walk via the Great Eastern Road from Stratford railway station and Stratford bus station.

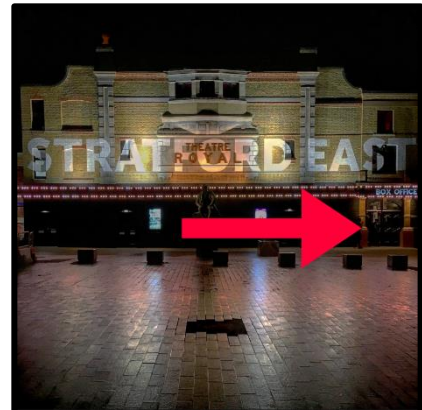
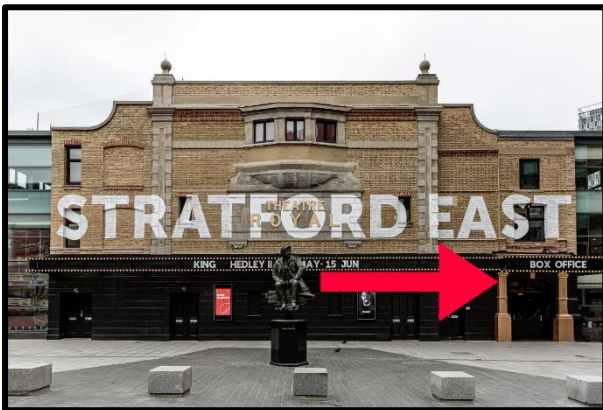
Stratford railway station is served by London Underground, DLR, TfL Rail and London Overground services.

The theatre does not have onsite parking. The nearby multistorey car park at the Stratford Centre is available, as well as limited parking spaces in the Stratford Picturehouse car park.

Entrance

Here is our building. The **red arrow** is pointing to the main entrance. These doors will be open from 10am.

These photos show you what the outside of the building looks like during the day and at night.



The entrance is step free and the doors have an assistance button to open the door if not already open, and there is a ramp.

These doors will lead you into the **Ground Floor Foyer**.

Inside the theatre



Ground Floor Foyer

This is the main Ground Floor Foyer⁵. You may be asked to wait here before entering the **auditorium**⁶.

This area can get rather busy before the show starts.

At this point, the entrance to the **Box Office** will be to your right.



Box Office

This is the **Box Office**⁷. This is where you can collect your **ticket(s)**⁸ from one of our Box Office assistants⁹ and find information about other shows and events, as well as book tickets. To meet accessibility needs, we have a lowered section of the counter. Our amazing Front of House team can also look after any large bags or items during your visit if needed.

If you have an **eTicket**⁹, you will not need to collect your ticket(s) from the Box Office as they would have been emailed to you or can be downloaded from your online account¹⁰ on the Theatre Royal Stratford East website. However, visitors with an eTicket booking are still welcome to stop by the Box Office.

As you leave the Box Office, you'll return to the Foyer. Feel free to take a seat or visit our shop – which can be found on the second right in the Foyer.



Shop

This is our **shop**. You can buy a selection of sweets and merchandise¹¹ to enjoy. There is also a limited seating area available.



Lift

A lift is available to take you to First and Second Floors. The Dress Circle is on the First Floor. The Upper Circle is on the Second Floor.

If you find there is no available seating in the Foyer/Shop areas, you will find seating spaces in our bar.

As you leave the Foyer and turn right, you will be able to see the door that leads to the Ground Floor toilet facilities.



Accessible Toilets

Here is the door to the toilet facilities. We also have an unlocked gender-neutral accessible toilet facility available. If the door to the accessible toilet is locked, please ask a member of staff for the key.

There are gender-neutral accessible toilets located on every level, which you can reach via the lift.

There are also male and female toilets located throughout the building. The male toilets contain a mix of urinals and cubicles. The female toilets contain cubicles. There are also period disposal bins available in female toilets and accessible toilets.



Theatre Bar and Restaurant

Here is the theatre bar and restaurant¹², which is called Island Vibez Kitchen Stratford. The bar will be open from 10am on the day of the relaxed performance.

It has an open and friendly atmosphere with plenty of seating available and dimmed lighting.

This area can also get busy before a performance, and you may hear some loud noises.

The bar sells a range of drinks.

Visitors can take their drinks into the auditorium. However, drinks must be in a plastic cup or bottle, as no glass is allowed inside the auditorium. Hot drinks cannot be taken into the auditorium.



Entrance and Exit from the Bar

The bar and restaurant can also be accessed from Gerry Raffles Square. A button-automated door and accessibility ramp is in place for those who may wish to enter/exit the building via the bar.





The Auditorium

The auditorium is where the audience¹³ sit when watching the performance. The stage¹⁴ is a space in the auditorium where the performance will take place.

The auditorium will open about 30-45 minutes before the show starts. You can find the time the show starts in your confirmation email and on your ticket.

You will need your ticket to enter the auditorium. Your ticket will tell you your seat number¹⁵.

One of our Front of House Assistants¹⁶ will check and scan your ticket. They can help guide you to your seat and assist you during your visit.

Seating

There are three different seating areas within the auditorium.

The Stalls¹⁷

The Dress Circle¹⁸ (also called the Jean Brown Dress Circle)

The Upper Circle¹⁹

There will be plenty of time for you to get comfortable before the show. If you find that you want to be seated in different part of the auditorium, one of our Front of House team will be on hand to help you.

During the performance, the doors will remain open – however they will be covered by a curtain.

Stalls

The Stalls seats can be accessed on the **GROUND FLOOR**. Actors²⁰ may come into this area during the performance. For PINOCCHIO, the cast will come into the audience.

If you are a wheelchair user, one of our Front of House Assistants can help direct you to your seats. The accessible entrance to the Stalls is via the fire exit door situated in Gerry Raffles Square.

ROW G within the Stalls offers a wider seating space to meet accessibility needs. Space is also available at the rear of the Stalls. There are six wheelchair spaces within the Stalls.

Jean Brown Dress Circle

The Jean Brown Dress Circle is a raised seating area, and may not be suitable for audience members with mobility issues. The Jean Brown Dress Circle is on the **FIRST FLOOR** and can be accessed with the use of the stairs or the lift. There are **16** steps from the ground floor foyer to the Jean Brown Dress Circle. There are further **6** stairs to the First Floor foyer where the toilets are located – including an accessible toilet. There are steps inside the Jean Brown Dress Circle.

Upper Circle

The Upper Circle is our second, and highest, raised seating area. This can only be accessed on the **SECOND FLOOR** with the use of the stairs or the lift. Accessible toilets are situated in the **Foyer Area** on this floor. There **14** steps from the Dress Circle to the Upper Circle. There are **4** steps between the Foyer Area and the entrance to the Upper Circle.

Accessibility

We encourage people to feel comfortable with sharing their access requirements with the Box Office team when booking tickets. We have accessible toilets on all levels of the building.

If you find that your designated seat does not meet your accessibility requirements, please raise this with our Box Office team and Front of House team member.

Useful information on the day

Performance time

The show starts at 12pm midday and will finish at about 2:20pm. The show is made up of two halves with a 20-minute break in the middle (called the interval) and is a total of 2 hours and 20 minutes long. You will be able to sit in the auditorium 30-45 minutes before the start of the show.

Show changes

For this Relaxed Performance some aspects of the show have been altered in order to provide a calmer experience. This includes changes to some of the lights and sounds on stage. You are welcome to move freely in and out of the auditorium whenever you like.

The actors will come down into the aisles and interact with the audience. You can talk and interact with the actors, or you can just watch.

There is a relaxed attitude to noise making – especially as this is a pantomime! So, if you would like to clap, cheer, sing along and talk, you are welcome to.

Chill out zone

If you find the theatre experience overstimulating during your visit, everyone is welcome to visit our **CHILL OUT ZONE**.

Chill Out Zones offer a comfortable and spacious environment where you can relax. The chill out zone is on **Level 1** in the **Ken Hill Bar**.

If you are seated in the Stalls and decide to leave the theatre early, you can exit via a back door at the rear of the Stalls. This will lead you to Gerry Raffles Square.

What is the show about?

PINOCCHIO is a Pantomime, which means it is a show based on a fairy tale but has lots of jokes, songs and dances. Pantomimes always welcome the audience to join in by singing, clapping, cheering or boo-ing: you can join in, or you can watch quietly – it's up to you.

This pantomime tells the story of toy-maker Geppetto who lives in Stratty Ash, and makes a little wooden dancing puppet called Pinocchio. But Pinocchio is no ordinary puppet – he can walk and talk! Pinocchio must learn how to be a good boy and goes on a journey of discovery, all whilst trying to avoid the baddies – Sly Fox and Miss Kat - who are trying to make money. Can Pinocchio's trusty friend Krik Krak (the cricket) keep him on the right path?

Meet the Characters

The people who will be performing on stage are known as Actors. As part of the performance, they will be playing characters to tell a story. Before the performance starts, the actors will come on stage and introduce themselves.



Pinocchio
played by Dylan Collymore

Pinocchio is a dancing wooden puppet who is learning about the world. He longs to be a real boy and goes on a journey of discovery.



Geppetto
Played by Tok Morakinyo

Geppetto is a toy maker. He is very friendly and kind, and wants to help everyone. Sadly, his wife passed away and longs to have a child.



Blue Rinse Fairy
Played by Michael Bertenshaw

Blue Rinse Fairy is a fairy-in-training. She is learning how to be a fairy, and has been sent on a mission to keep Pinocchio on the right path.



Krik Krak
Played by Nicole Lewis

Krik Krak is a cricket that lives in the walls of Geppetto's house. She is bold and brave, and wants to help Pinocchio stay on the right path.



Sly Fox
Played by Rushand Chambers

Sly Fox is a baddie! He is manipulative and sneaky, and is on a quest to get money and escape Stratty Ash.



Miss Kat
Played by Jhanaica Van Mook

Miss Kat is Sly Fox's sidekick and fellow baddie! She is also manipulative and sneaky.



Lampwick and Ensemble (various characters)
played by Travis Wood

Lampwick is a naughty student at Pinocchio's school who is friends with Pinocchio.

The actor Travis also plays various characters throughout the show including a market stall seller, a naughty weasel and a student.



Ensemble (various characters)
played by Charlotte Louise Page

The actor Charlotte plays various characters throughout the show including a market stall seller, a naughty weasel and a teacher.

Guide to the lights and sound

- There are many sound effects in the show. If you are sensitive to sound, you may wish to wear ear defenders or sit further back in the auditorium. You can get ear defenders from our Front of House Assistants.
- There are coloured flashes and puffs of smoke during the performance. these are controlled special effects and pose no danger to you.
- We have the main auditorium lights on at a low level to help you move around if you need to.
- Characters in the show may call out to you to join in, you do not have to join in if you do not want to, but feel free to make as much noise as you want!
- Sometimes characters can be cross with one another, but this is just the actors pretending and no one is actually annoyed or upset (in fact, the actors really like each other!).
- During the show, the actors move around the aisles on the sides of the stalls.
- There will be music playing as you enter the auditorium.

What happens? (please note, this contains spoilers)

The show will start with Krik Krak dancing on stage, introducing herself and asking the audience to shout her name – when she says 'Krik' you say 'Krak'! There's a sudden crashing sound and flashing lights and Krik Krak runs away so she doesn't get swatted.



Blue Rince Fairy walks through the auditorium and onto the stage. She is confused about where she is and discovers that she is a fairy. She rummages around in her bag and discovers a piece of wood, which she does not need and so places on the floor. She finds a note that says: 'You must go to Stratty Ash, find the puppy and lead it on the right path'. She finds a dog whistle in her bag, and so sets off to find a puppy.



Krik Krak then re-enters and welcomes everyone to Stratty Ash. The curtain lifts to reveal a market where people are selling things and they all sing a song. We meet Geppetto who is giving away his toys for free. One of the sellers gives Geppetto some pears to eat as a thank you for the free toys. We discover that Geppetto longs to have a child and is very lonely. Geppetto finds a piece of wood on the floor and goes home to make a dancing wooden puppet.



Sly Fox and Miss Kat have been waiting around and are looking to cause trouble by scamming people. They sing a song about rigging the odds in their favour and making lots of money to escape Stratty Ash.



In Geppetto's workshop, he begins to make the puppet, but strange things start happening. Geppetto hears laughing and talking coming from the puppet! Suddenly the puppet moves and calls himself Pinocchio. Geppetto teaches Pinocchio how to walk, which turns into running and then Pinocchio runs away.



Geppetto runs after Pinocchio, but is being very naughty and tells a police officer that Geppetto is trying to chase him. The police officer takes Geppetto away! Suddenly, it starts to rain and Pinocchio is no longer having fun. He runs back to Geppetto's workshop. He's cold and wet, so sits by the fire and falls asleep. His feet then burn off!

Geppetto arrives back at the workshop and sees Pinocchio's feet have burned off, and makes him a new pair of feet. Pinocchio is confused why Geppetto is being so kind and so he explains that he wants to look after him.

Krik Krak appears and asks Pinocchio why he's being so mean, and tells him that he should be kind and that it's good to be nice to people, and to make them happy.

Pinocchio says to Geppetto that he wants to be good and they agree he will be Geppetto's son. Geppetto says that sons must go to school and learn reading, writing and arithmetic, but that Pinocchio will need a learning tablet. In order to send Pinocchio to school, Geppetto sells his coat for a learning tablet.



Blue Rinse Fairy returns and says that she cannot find a puppy anywhere! She asks someone from the audience to come up on stage to help read her note. This is where she realises that the note says, 'find the puppet' not 'find the puppy'! Krik Krak enters and realises that Blue Rinse Fairy has been sent from the High Place and is very important. She says that she will help Blue Rinse Fairy on her quest to find the puppet (Pinocchio) and lead him on the right path.

On Pinocchio's way to school, he is interrupted by Sly Fox and Miss Kat who think that Pinocchio will lead them to some big money. They start out by stealing money from an innocent villager and convincing Pinocchio to watch a puppet show.

At the puppet show, Pinocchio joins the other puppets and dances, but this angers the Puppet Master, who threatens to burn one of the puppets. Pinocchio convinces the Puppet Master not to burn anyone, and in doing so is given five gold coins. With this money, he must return to Geppetto and live happily.



When Pinocchio leaves, Sly Fox and Miss Kat convince Pinocchio that they can turn his five gold coins into much much more – billions and trillions. They take him to a place called 'Miracles' where Pinocchio puts his money in a broken machine, and does not realise that Sly Fox and Miss Kat have actually stolen the five gold coins.



Pinocchio is now really sad and just wants to go to school. He's getting hungry and finds some grapes on a farm. The farmer arrives and accuses Pinocchio of stealing his chickens, explaining that his guard dog Buster died last night and some naughty weasels have been stealing his chickens. As punishment for stealing the grapes, Pinocchio must wear Buster's bow and become the guard dog to stop the weasels from stealing the farmer's chickens. The farmer promises

that if Pinocchio can catch the weasels then he will let him go – he is a man of his word, and what he says is what he'll do.

Two naughty weasels enter the farm and try and convince Pinocchio to join them and steal chickens. Pinocchio doesn't know what to do and asks the audience whether he should help the farmer or join the weasels.



Pinocchio decides to do what is right and alerts the farmer. The farmer is very grateful and releases Pinocchio.

Blue Rinse Fairy and Krik Krak have still not managed to find Pinocchio and are getting very upset. Pinocchio suddenly enters the scene and is asked why he's wearing a bow. Pinocchio is ashamed and starts telling lies. Suddenly his nose starts growing! Each lie he tells, his nose gets longer and longer. He realises that when he tells the truth, his nose gets shorter.



Pinocchio just wants to go home, but a storm has been brewing and the weather is getting very dangerous. There are noises of thunder and some flashes of lightning. Geppetto has been trying to find Pinocchio all over Stratty Ash and gets on a boat to try and find him. His boat gets caught in the storm and his boat starts to sink. Pinocchio has seen Geppetto on his boat and rushes to the clifftops. Pinocchio dives into the sea to try and save Geppetto.



This is the end of Act 1 and there will be a 20-minute interval.

Act 2 starts with Pinocchio explaining how he dived into the water but couldn't swim and couldn't save Geppetto. Pinocchio is now enrolled at school and promises to be a good student and study really hard, and learn how to swim. Pinocchio soon becomes top of the class and is the best at reading, writing and arithmetic. He also learns how to swim.



Blue Rinse Fairy receives an alarm to say that her job is done, she is a full fairy and she must return to the High Place. To celebrate Pinocchio's achievements and Blue Rinse becoming a full fairy, they decide to throw a party.

Pinocchio invites his school friend Lampwick – who is very naughty – but Lampwick says he can't go because he's going to Playland: a place with no adults and only fun! Pinocchio wants to join Lampwick and is convinced to get on the bus to Playland by two people who seem very similar to Sly Fox and Miss Kat.



Once in Playland not all is at it seems and Lampwick and Pinocchio turn into donkeys and become trapped at the Cirque de la Lune where they're forced to dance over and over. Pinocchio tries to break free and hurts his leg. The Ring Master has no use for a damaged donkey and so throws him into the sea.



Pinocchio turns back into a puppet in the sea and is swallowed by a giant shark. At this point, some bubbles are blown into the auditorium. He is very lonely and trapped inside the body of the shark. He then hears someone and discovers that Geppetto is also inside the body of the shark! They have to figure out how to get out of the shark, and discover that the shark only opens her mouth when she laughs. Pinocchio realises he can tickle the shark's lips with his nose and so tells lots of lies. However, the shark's mouth is only open long enough to let Geppetto out and Pinocchio can't escape.



Geppetto washes up on the shore and is joined by Krik Krak and Blue Rinse Fairy. Geppetto and Blue Rinse Fairy realise that they know each other and Blue Rinse Fairy is actually Geppetto's wife Betty!



Geppetto, Blue Rinse Fairy and Krik Krak ask the audience to help them make the shark laugh so that Pinocchio can escape and everyone sings a song – just follow Krik Krak’s instructions!



The shark spits Pinocchio out who must swim to the shore. Pinocchio apologises for being naughty but everyone shows him just how much he’s learned and how far he’s come. In order to become a real boy, Pinocchio just needs to believe in himself.

After Pinocchio becomes real everyone celebrates and sings a song about believing in yourself, and bubbles and blown into the auditorium.

The end.



Glossary

1. **Relaxed Performance:** Relaxed performances are open to all audience members and can be useful for those with an Autistic Spectrum Condition, sensory and communication disorder, learning disability and anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed theatre environment. These performances allow movement in and out of the auditorium and there is less emphasis on the audience being quiet during the performance. Often the show has been slightly adapted in terms of reducing or removing loud sounds and flashing lights. There will also be a separate chill-out room for any audience members that require it.
2. **Running Time:** This is the length of time a performance will last.
3. **Interval:** This is a short break in the middle of a performance where the audience can enjoy a drink, visit the toilets or exit the auditorium for a short while.
4. **Visual Story:** A story that uses images to tell the story of the play and highlight key moments within it.
5. **Foyer:** A waiting area at the entrance of a building.
6. **Auditorium:** A large area where the performance takes place and the audience watch
7. **Box Office:** An area where tickets can be purchased and collected from, as well as ask for more information about the theatre, current productions and upcoming shows.
8. **Ticket/Tickets:** A small piece of card, which has specific details written on it such as names and seating arrangements, and allows the named person to enter the auditorium.
9. **eTicket:** Like a card copy of a ticket, only a contactless version on your phone, tablet or computer. It contains the same information, and would have been sent to you via text or can be access through your Theatre Royal Stratford East online account. You will need to access this in order to gain access to the auditorium.
10. **Online account portal:** This is the section of the website where you can view your details, bookings and eTickets.
11. **Merchandise:** Goods that are sold in the shop.

12. **Theatre Bar & Restaurant:** A service in our theatre that provides a range of drinks and food to be consumed during your visit.
13. **Audience:** A term given to the group of people who have come to watch a performance.
14. **Stage:** This is the area of the auditorium where the performance takes place. Many actors and performers may be on stage at one time.
15. **Seat Number:** Each seat in the theatre has a specific number. You can find the number on the top of each seat.
16. **Front of House Assistant:** Members of staff who are placed throughout the theatre to assist our customers during their visit. They're here to check everyone's tickets, provide access assistance, provide information and guide people through the building.
17. **Stalls:** The name given to the seats on the Ground Floor that are directly in front of the stage. This seating area also provides wheelchair accessibility.
18. **Dress Circle:** The name given to the raised seating area on the First Floor. This is also known as the Jean Brown Dress Circle.
19. **Upper Circle:** The name given to the second raised seating area on the Second Floor.
20. **Actors:** A term given to a person who performs different characters. You will see them appearing on stage.