

# Pinocchio



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# PINOCCHIO

the musical

by Andie Browne



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# PRODUCTION NOTES

## SYNOPSIS

### **A little background**

*The Adventures of Pinocchio* was written by Italian author, Carlo Collodi, in 1883. It follows the story of a wooden puppet, carved from a piece of pine by village woodcarver Geppetto. This puppet dreams of becoming a real boy. The name *Pinocchio* is a Tuscan word meaning ‘pine nut’.

### **The Story**

GEPETTO is a village woodcarver who makes puppets. One day, MASTER CHERRY arrives with a piece of pine he has found. This wood has spoken to him and it unnerves him. He gives it to GEPETTO, telling him that it is ‘special’ wood. So GEPETTO decides to do something special with it. He has always wanted a son, so he turns the wood into the most lifelike little puppet boy he has ever made ... to be his son. When the puppet is finished, GEPETTO is surprised to find that it talks to him – like a real son. PINOCCHIO is rude and obnoxious, but GEPETTO doesn’t care – he has a son!

Another strange character has also entered the workshop. He is CONSCIENCE and tries to guide PINOCCHIO and temper his rudeness.

So, PINOCCHIO is sent off to school, but on the way he stops at a puppet theatre to see his old friends. He trades his schoolbook for a ticket. During the show, HARLEQUIN and PUNCHINELLO, who recognise PINOCCHIO, invite him onto stage and a ruckus ensues with the audience. FIRE-EATER enters and takes PINOCCHIO to the furnace for fuel. PINOCCHIO pleads that it would make his poor father sad and FIRE-EATER, moved by his tale, gives him a small bag of gold and sends him on his way.

PINOCCHIO decides to give school a chance and is heading there when he meets FOX and CAT, who persuade him to bury his gold coins in the ‘Field of Miracles’, where they will be magically doubled in number. Next day, when he finds he has been conned, CONSCIENCE consoles and instructs him and introduces him to the BLUE FAIRY. He begs the FAIRY to turn him into a real boy, but she tells him that only he has the power to change himself – if, in fact, he really wants to change. PINOCCHIO begins to lie about his desire to be good, obedient, embrace hard work and go to school ... but finds that with each lie his nose begins to grow.

Finally at school, PINOCCHIO meets CANDLEWICK and his friends. They persuade him to leave the school at lunchtime and go to ‘Toyland’. Against the advice of CONSCIENCE and the BLUE FAIRY, he joins the boys. Once there, he meets a DONKEY, who was once a boy but stayed too long in Toyland.

Five months later, PINOCCHIO wakes one day to find that he has grown donkey ears. CONSCIENCE and the BLUE FAIRY remind him that he is responsible for his own decisions and will have to work at losing the donkey ears by himself.

Leaving Toyland, PINOCCHIO is wandering about, tired and hungry. He comes across a circus, where the RINGMASTER takes him in as a performing DONKEY. He has a bad experience with a hoop and decides to leave and go in search of his father GEPETTO who is somewhere out in the world looking for him.

PINOCCHIO comes to a beach and decides to take a swim. Under the water, swimming with the SEA CREATURES, he finds that his donkey ears have gone and he is a puppet once more. His joy is short-lived, however, as they are all suddenly swallowed by a whale.

Inside the whale, PINOCCHIO hears the voice of GEPETTO, who was swallowed some months ago when he fell out of his boat while searching for his son. Together, they tickle the whale’s throat and exit on a large whale sneeze.

Back home in GEPETTO’s workshop PINOCCHIO is remorseful at his foolishness and concerned that he has let everyone down and ruined his chances of becoming a real boy. CONSCIENCE and the BLUE FAIRY appear and tell him that his remorse has changed him already. Tapping his chest they find not the hollow sound of wood but ... a beating heart. With a final sprinkle of fairy dust PINOCCHIO becomes a boy.

## CAST

**PINOCCHIO:** A very mischievous puppet who wants to become a real boy

**MASTER CHERRY:** Elderly carpenter

**GEPETTO:** Elderly and kind puppet maker who is devoted to Pinocchio

**CONSCIENCE:** Classy and sophisticated “voice of reason”

**BLUE FAIRY:** Concerned and gentle fairy who loves Pinocchio

**BOY:** Sarcastic ticket collector at puppet theatre

**HARLEQUIN &**

**PUNCHINELLO:** Performing puppets, totally terrified by their boss, the Fire-Eater

**FIRE-EATER:** Villainous tyrant in charge of all the puppets

**FOX:** Sleazy, smooth-talking con-artist

**CAT:** Sly and nasty partner-in-crime of Fox

**TEACHER:** Cheerful, caring and sharing type

**CANDLEWICK:** Class bully and chief thug

**CRONIES 1, 2 & 3:** Not overly-bright thugs who are easily led by Candlewick

**DONKEY:** Melancholic with droopy ears

**RINGMASTER:** Showy, unpleasant character with whip and hoop

**PLUS**

WORKSHOP PUPPETS, PUPPET THEATRE PUPPETS, PUPPET THEATRE AUDIENCE MEMBERS, FIELD OF MIRACLES FOLK, FOREST FOLK, SCHOOL CHILDREN, TOYLAND FOLK, CIRCUS FOLK, UNDERWATER CREATURES, CREWS STATIONED O.P. AND P.S.

## SCENES

- I GEPETTO’S WORKSHOP
- II PUPPET THEATRE
- III FIELD OF MIRACLES
- IV BLUE FAIRY’S FOREST
- V SCHOOL
- VI TOYLAND
- VII THE CIRCUS
- VIII INSIDE THE WHALE
- IX GEPETTO’S WORKSHOP

## TIME

Present day ...

## PROPERTIES (PROPS)

- SCENE I Large “block of wood” (as tall as child playing Pinocchio), chairs and tables for however many seated puppets, chair for Pinocchio, schoolbook
- SCENE II Signpost with sign “PUPPET THEATRE”, mock up of ticket box. Fire-Eater’s small bag of coins
- SCENE IV Small pouch of “magic dust” (glitter), telescopic nose, schoolbook
- SCENE V Signpost with sign “TO SCHOOL”
- SCENE VI Signpost with sign “TO TOYLAND
- SCENE VII Signpost with sign “TO CIRCUS” Sign : “5 MONTHS LATER”, donkey ears on headband
- SCENE VIII Signpost with sign “TO THE BEACH - BEWARE OF WHALES!”

## SONGS, MUSIC AND F.X.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| SCENE I    | Song: Parents Are Great  |
| SCENE II   | Song: I've Got My Head In the Clouds<br>F.X.: Sinister effects for Fire-Eater's entrance   |
| SCENE III  | Song: Field of Miracles  |
| SCENE IV   | F.X.: Sprinkling for Magic Dust<br>Song: So You Wanna Be A Boy!  |
| SCENE V    | Song: School Rap   |
| SCENE VI   | Song: This Is the Place To Be<br>F.X.: Donkeys   |
| SCENE VII  | Song: Come To The Circus<br>F.X.: Fanfare  |
| SCENE VIII | F.X.: Splash<br>F.X.: Whale approaching<br>Song: We're In a Whale<br>F.X.: Whale sneezing and rushing wind<br>F.X.: Cans, glass breaking, falling wood |
| SCENE IX   | F.X.: Sprinkling of Magic Dust<br>Song: Finale: This Is the Place To Be Reprise  |

All songs and music and F.X. are in order on the performance backing CD. A piano score is in the back of the master book.

## COSTUMING

As basic or as complex as you like. Here are a few simple suggestions:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PINOCCHIO:</b>                             | Brightly coloured shorts, shirt braces, socks, ankle boots, hat with feather   |
| <b>MASTER CHERRY:</b>                         | Flannel shirt, carpenter's overalls, cap   |
| <b>GEPETTO:</b>                               | Old baggy pants, baggy coat, "granny" glasses made from wire, white hair   |
| <b>CONSCIENCE:</b>                            | Top hat and tails or other "classy" outfit   |
| <b>BLUE FAIRY:</b>                            | Traditional or zany fairy garb (in blue!), magic wand, small blue pouch of "magic dust" (glitter)  |
| <b>BOY AT PUPPET THEATRE:</b>                 | Striped blazer, boater, cane (spruiker style)  |
| <b>HARLEQUIN:</b>                             | Traditional "harlequin" - brightly coloured tights with each leg a different colour (two pairs of tights with one leg removed from each pair), leotard, big collar, 3-pointed hat with bells |
| <b>PUNCHINELLO:</b>                           | Over-sized clown garb with large collar, pointy hat and pom poms   |
| <b>FIRE-EATER:</b>                            | Coloured tights, leotard with thick belt and buckle, glitzy cape, boots, evil black mustache   |
| <b>FOX:</b>                                   | Brown tracksuit with hood, brown mittens, socks, bushy tail  |
| <b>CAT:</b>                                   | Black long-sleeved leotard, tights   |
| <b>FIELD OF MIRACLES FOLK:</b>                | All in black with black/silver streamers dangling from arms for eerie movement   |
| <b>FOREST FOLK:</b>                           | Dressed as trees, flowers, forest creatures etc  |
| <b>TEACHER:</b>                               | Bright shirt, jeans, white sneakers (a la Playschool)  |
| <b>SCHOOL CHILDREN:</b>                       | Brightly coloured clothes, caps etc.   |
| <b>CANDLEWICK &amp; CRONIES 1, 2 &amp; 3:</b> | Black T-shirts, jeans or tracksuit pants, jackets ("thug" wear), sunglasses  |
| <b>TOYLAND FOLK:</b>                          | Any sort of toy - dolls, jack-in-the-box, soldiers etc.  |
| <b>DONKEY:</b>                                | Grey tracksuit, socks, mittens, long tail, ears  |
| <b>RINGMASTER:</b>                            | Coloured "tails", top hat, breeches, black boots,  |

# PINOCCHIO

## SCENE I - GEPETTO'S WORKROOM

**CURTAIN CLOSED. FRONT OF CURTAIN. THERE IS A BLOCK OF WOOD P.S. MASTER CHERRY ENTERS O.P. AND WALKS ACROSS STAGE. HE NOTICES BLOCK OF WOOD AND EXAMINES IT CLOSELY. THE BLOCK OF WOOD'S "VOICE" (PINOCCHIO'S VOICE) WILL COME FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN**

**M.CHERRY:** *(pleasantly surprised)* Well, well well ...what's this? A LOVELY piece of wood just waiting for me to carve it! It's just as well I'm the BEST carpenter in town.

**WOOD:** *(rudely)* Yeah? Says who?!

**M.CHERRY:** *(jumping back in shock)* What? Who said that?

**WOOD:** I did, DUMMY!

**M.CHERRY:** *(incredulous)* YOU? This can't be happening! You're only a piece of WOOD!

**WOOD:** *(angrily)* There's NO need to be insulting!

**M. CHERRY:** *(shaking head in disbelief)* I must be dreaming ....I've been sniffing too much sawdust again....I can't believe this piece of wood is talking to ME!

**WOOD:** Get REAL! I AM! Now, are you gonna stand here all day wasting my time, or WHAT?!

**M. CHERRY:** I can't handle this - a talking piece of wood! But I can't just leave it here either. *(snaps fingers)* I know! I'll give it to GEPETTO THE PUPPETMAKER! He can sort it out! *(he picks up wood and his knees buckle. He staggers towards O.P.)*

**WOOD:** Watch it! You're hands are COLD!

**M. CHERRY:** *(calling to offstage O.P.)* Gepetto! Gepetto! *(enthusiastically)* Come and see what I've brought you!

**WOOD:** Boy! Are your hands ROUGH!

**M. CHERRY:** *(still staggering)* GEPETTO!

**GEPETTO COMES OUT FROM BEHIND CURTAIN O.P.**

**GEPETTO:** Who's that calling me? *(sees Master Cherry)* Oh, it's you, Master Cherry. *(He notices block of wood and looks most interested)* What have you got there?

**M.CHERRY:** (*uncertain*) It's ...um ...er...um...(suddenly gets bright idea) a gift for you Gepetto.

**WOOD:** BIG DEAL! How generous can you get!

**GEPETTO:** I beg your pardon, Master Cherry?

**M.CHERRY:** (*anxiously*) Er...nothing...nothing at all...Here, take it! (*trying to sound convincing*) It's a VERY special piece of wood!

**WOOD:** You better believe it!

**GEPETTO:** (*puzzled*) Excuse me?

**M.CHERRY:** (*still staggering*) Nothing...nothing ...would you like to TAKE IT OFF MY HANDS? I mean, would you like to make something special with it?

**HE PUTS WOOD DOWN AND WIPES BROW IN RELIEF. HE KEEPS LOOKING SUSPICIOUSLY AT THE PIECE OF WOOD AS IF HE EXPECTS IT TO BITE HIM**

**GEPETTO:** (*looking all dreamy*) I certainly would...I've always dreamed of making a very special puppet ...so special that it would be like a SON to me. (*sadly*) Things have been so bad lately in the puppet-making business that I haven't been able to afford any new wood. (*brightening*) Thank you Master Cherry. I will gladly accept your gift and I'll create the most marvellous puppet who will sing and dance and who'll love me as his father! (*goes to pick up wood but stops as Master Cherry speaks*)

**M.CHERRY:** (*looking very doubtful and backing away*) Er...yeah...er...good luck...

**GEPETTO:** (*stops and looks at Master Cherry*) Pardon?

**M.CHERRY:** Er...I said "What GOOD NEWS!" Goodbye Gepetto!

**BACKS OFF TOWARDS P.S., TURNS AND RUNS. GEPETTO WATCHES M. CHERRY DISAPPEAR AND SCRATCHES HIS HEAD IN SURPRISE. THEN HE REMEMBERS THE WOOD, LOOKS AT IT FONDLY AND PATS IT**

**GEPETTO:** Well my friend, let's go home - I can't wait to start making you into the most wonderful puppet in the world. It will be like having my own son!

**HE PICKS IT UP AND CARRIES IT OFFSTAGE O.P.**

**CURTAIN OPENS**

**LIGHTS UP. GEPETTO'S WORKSHOP IS FULL OF PUPPETS OF ALL TYPES. SOME ARE SITTING, SOME LYING DOWN OR LEANING AGAINST EACH OTHER. PINOCCHIO WALKS IN VERY STIFFLY O.P.**

**HE'S BEING HELD BY GEPETTO WHO PUTS HIM ON A CHAIR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STAGE. PINOCCHIO FLOPS OVER AND SITS BENT DOUBLE**

- GEPETTO:** *(looking pleased)* There you are... How handsome you are my little puppet! Just let me finish tying up your shoelace. *(bends down in front of PIN to tie the puppet's shoelace and Pinocchio kicks him with other foot)* Ouch! *(rubs his rump, looks around and then bends over again to tie laces. PIN kicks him again. Gepetto jumps up to O.P. side of PIN, still rubbing his behind)* WHO did that?
- PIN:** I did, STUPID!
- GEPETTO:** WHAT? YOU? You couldn't have! You're only a PUPPET!
- PIN:** *(very sarcastically)* No I'm not! I'm SPECIAL, remember? You made me so I could be your very own son! You said so yourself!
- GEPETTO:** *(looking closely at PIN)* Can it really be? My puppet has come to life? My Pinocchio?
- PIN:** *(horrificed)* WHAT? Run that name by me again?
- GEPETTO:** *(very proud and pleased)* Pinocchio! It's the special name I chose a long time ago in case I ever had a son!
- PIN:** *(rudely)* Aw, GREAT! First of all I'm made of wood with splinters in my shorts and then I get landed with a name like PINOCCHIO! *(sarcastically)* Boy! Is THIS my LUCKY day! *(jumps up from chair)*
- GEPETTO:** *(suddenly excited)* Oh Pinocchio! This is MARVELLOUS! I'll treat you so well! You'll be like my son and we'll live together here and you'll go to school and...
- PIN:** *(shocked)* Hang on! SCHOOL!?
- GEPETTO:** *(surprised)* But of COURSE! You'll love school and...
- PIN:** *(holding up hands in protest)* WRONG! No way! Uh uh! NO school for me!
- GEPETTO:** Yes! Yes! I wouldn't be a good father if I didn't encourage you to go to school and learn things and do the BEST that you can! *(looking disappointed)* Oh...you will need a school-book...and I have no money... *(excited again, snaps fingers)* I know! I'll sell my coat! Yes! That's what I'll do! I'll sell my coat to get the money! You shall have your school-book Pinocchio! *(rushes out of workshop to O.P.)*
- PIN:** *(calling after Gepetto)* Hang on! There's NO way I'm going to SCHOOL!

Don't waste your time OR your coat! (*looks around quickly*) I'm getting outta here before the old weirdo comes back!

**PIN STARTS TO RUSH OFF P.S. AND BUMPS STRAIGHT INTO CONSCIENCE WHO HAS ENTERED P.S.**

**PIN:** (*looking surprised*) Who on earth are you! (*admiringly, looking at Conscience's clothes*) Hey, nice outfit...

**CONSCIENCE:** (*I'm your conscience, Pinocchio*) I try and help you to work out what is RIGHT and what is WRONG.

**PIN:** Yeah, well, the right thing for ME (*thumps his own chest*) at the moment is to get out of HERE! (*goes to move*)

**CONSCIENCE:** (*gently stopping PIN by putting up his hand*) No Pinocchio. Your father has gone out into the cold to sell his coat so that you may have a school-book and go to school to learn. He's trying to do the best thing for you. Parents only want what's BEST for their children. You OUGHT to be grateful to him...

**WORKSHOP PUPPETS COME TO LIFE AND SING WITH CONSCIENCE**

## SONG: PARENTS ARE GREAT

**SONG ENDS AND PUPPETS GO BACK TO ORIGINAL STATIONARY POSITIONS**

**PIN:** (*impatiently*) Look...I understand that you're only trying to do your job but I don't need ANY parents, I don't need ANY school and I certainly DON'T need you (*pointing to Conscience*) to tell me what to do! I'm off! (*walks determinedly to front of curtain and walks off O.P.*)

**CONSCIENCE:** Oh Pinocchio, you'll learn. (*shaking head*) And I'm afraid it WILL be the hard way.

**CURTAIN CLOSES**

**GEPETTO HURRIEDLY ENTERS O.P. WITHOUT COAT AND CARRYING SCHOOLBOOK. HE BUMPS INTO PIN**

**GEPETTO:** (*happily*) Oh Pinocchio, my son! I managed to get you a school-book...Here, my boy. Take the book and off you go to school so that you may learn.

**PIN NOTICES THAT GEPETTO IS NO LONGER WEARING HIS COAT**

**PIN:**                   *(looking guilty)* Where's your coat?

**GEPETTO:**       *(trying not to shiver)* Oh, I didn't need it - I was too hot anyway. Here, take the book, Son. *(hands PIN the book)*

**PIN:**                   *(looking even more guilty and uncomfortable)* Well...okay...I'll give it a go *(ungraciously)* but don't expect too much...

**GEPETTO:**       *(nodding and smiling)* Just try your BEST, my son...that's good enough for me.

**PIN:**                   *(grumpily)* Yeah, all right...

**GEPETTO WALKS OFF TO P.S., STILL SHIVERING, AND PIN TRUDGES RELUCTANTLY OFF O.P. WITH SCHOOLBOOK UNDER HIS ARM**

**END SCENE I**

## SCENE II - THE PUPPET THEATRE

### FRONT OF CURTAIN

**P.S. CREW BRING IN PUPPET THEATRE SIGN AND PLACE WITH ARROW POINTING TO OPENING IN CURTAIN. A BOY IS SITTING AT A TICKET BOX ON O.P. SIDE OF SIGN, PIN ENTERS CARRYING SCHOOLBOOK AND MUTTERING ANGRILY**

**PIN:** (*sarcastically*) Great! Here I am! Free at last from being a rotten block of wood and what am I doing? Going to SCHOOL! (*disgusted*) What a WASTE! There's so much of the world I want to see - places to go, people to meet, things to do!! IT'S NOT FAIR! (*sees Puppet Theatre sign*) I wonder what this is...(*stops at O.P. side of sign and notices boy*) What's happening? (*pointing to sign*) What's all THIS?

**BOY:** (*yawning*) Can't you read?! (*looks up at PIN and sneers*)

**PIN:** (*embarrassed*) Well...no...actually...I...

**BOY:** (*impatiently*) It's a puppet theatre. (*sarcastically*) It's where puppets perform!

**PIN:** (*insulted*) I may not be able to READ, my friend, but I'm not a TOTAL idiot!

**BOY:** (*trying not to laugh*) Sorry, I guess the wooden head fooled me.

**PIN:** (*looking at sign again, very excited*) This is GREAT! I can't wait to meet some other puppets!

**PIN CROSSES IN FRONT OF BOY AND STARTS TO GO THROUGH CURTAIN**

**BOY:** (*jumping up and stopping PIN*) WAIT! You can't just go in! You've got to buy a ticket from ME! It'll cost you fifty cents!

**PIN:** (*very upset*) But I don't have any MONEY....

**BOY:** (*shrugging his shoulders, sitting down again*) Hey, that's your problem...

**PIN:** (*snapping fingers*) Wait on! I DO have a schoolbook!

**BOY:** (*looks up at PIN, very sarcastically*) WOW! A SCHOOL book! I'm just BUSTING to read a SCHOOLbook!!

**PIN:** (*hopefully*) Would you like to buy it from me for fifty cents?

**BOY:** (*disgusted*) Aw, get real!

**PIN:** (*desperately*) Oh PLEASE! I'd really love to go in and see my friends! (looking away miserably) I'm terribly lonely...

**PIN PRETENDS TO LOOK DOWNCAST AND TRIES TO SEE IF THIS ACT IS HAVING ANY EFFECT ON THE BOY**

**BOY:** (*smirking*) Hey, dressed like that I don't wonder! (*PIN starts to sniff and pretends to walk away. Boy feels sorry for PIN*) Oh all right...here...give me the book and in you go.

**IN DISGUST BOY HOLDS OUT HAND FOR THE BOOK. PIN SUDDENLY RECOVERS FROM HIS "MISERY"**

**PIN:** (*brightly*) Great! Thanks! (*tosses book to Boy*) Seeya!

**BOY EXITS O.P., WITH BOOK AND SHAKING HEAD. O.P.CREW REMOVE TICKET BOOTH. P.S.CREW REMOVE SIGNPOST AND SIGN**

**CURTAIN OPENS**

**PUPPET THEATRE PUPPETS SING**

## **SONG: I'VE GOT MY HEAD IN THE CLOUDS**

**PUPPETS ON STAGE SING THEIR SONG AND DANCE AS THE CHILDREN WHO ARE THE "AUDIENCE" AT THE PUPPET SHOW ARE SITTING WITH THEIR BACKS TO THE REAL AUDIENCE. "AUDIENCE" AND PIN CLAP AND CHEER ENTHUSIASTICALLY AT CONCLUSION OF SONG.**

**SONG ENDS**

**PIN:** (*jumping up and clapping enthusiastically*) That was GREAT! BRAVO! TERRIFIC!

**WHILE PIN IS APPLAUDING, HARLEQUIN AND PUNCHINELLO COME ONTO STAGE FROM P.S. AS IF TO PERFORM A ROUTINE. THEY RECOGNISE PIN AND ARE DELIGHTED**

**HARL:** (*pointing excitedly*) LOOK! It's our brother PINOCCHIO!

**PUNCH:** HEY! Pinocchio! How ya doing?

**ALL PUPPETS START CALLING OUT THEIR WELCOME TO PIN EG. "PINOCCHIO! HI! WELCOME! GREAT TO SEE YOU!" ETC. HARLEQUIN AND PUNCHINELLO DRAG PIN ONTO "STAGE"**

- HARL:** (*very pleased*) What are YOU doing here, Pinocchio? ;
- PUPPET THEATRE “AUDIENCE” MEMBERS ARE VERY ANNOYED AND START TO CALL OUT EG. “COME ON! GET ON WITH THE SHOW! WHAT’S THE HOLD UP?!” ETC.**
- PUNCH:** (*rudely to “audience”*) AW KEEP YA SHIRT ON!
- HARL:** (*also rudely*) YEAH! SIT DOWN AND KEEP QUIET YOU LOT!
- F.X.:** **SINISTER, IMPENDING DOOM MUSIC**
- ALL PUPPETS TURN TO P.S. AND GASP IN HORROR AS FIRE-EATER APPEARS EG. “IT’S FIRE-EATER!!!!!”**
- FIRE-EATER:** (*angrily*) WHAT’S GOING ON HERE?! Are my puppets being RUDE to the paying audience?!
- HARL & PUNCH:** (*in unison, panicking and pointing to each other*) It wasn’t ME! It was HIM! (*remembering PIN*) It wasn’t US, (pointing at PIN) It was HIM! (*PIN looks terrified*)
- FIRE-EATER:** (*looking menacingly at PIN*) Well, well, well ... a TROUBLE MAKER eh? Bring him to my dressing-room! I have a SPECIAL way of dealing with troublesome puppets! HARLEQUIN! PUNCHINELLO! Seize him and take him to my room for PUNISHMENT!
- HARL:** (*horrified*) Oh, but Fire-eater!
- PUNCH:** (*distressed*) Oh you can’t harm him Sir!
- FIRE-EATER:** (*angrily*) DO IT! Or it’ll be the WORSE for you! (*Harlequin and Punchinello look in panic at each other and nod*)
- HARLEQUIN GRABS PIN’S LEFT ARM AND PUNCHINELLO GRABS PIN’S RIGHT ARM. THEY START TO LEAD THE CONFUSED PIN DOWNSTAGE P.S.**
- HARL:** (*soothingly*) Come along Pinocchio. We’re going to visit Fire-Eater’s NICE dressing-room!
- PUNCH:** (*trying to be calm*) Won’t it be LOVELY to see the nice Fire-Eater’s dressing-room, Pinocchio?
- PIN REALISES SUDDENLY WHAT IS HAPPENING AND STARTS TO STRUGGLE AS CURTAINS SLOWLY BEGIN TO CLOSE**
- PIN:** (*panicking*) NO! NO! PLEASE don’t make me go!

**HARLEQUIN AND PUNCHINELLO DRAG PIN THROUGH SHUTTING CURTAINS TO DOWNSTAGE AND FIRE-EATER FOLLOWS****CURTAIN CLOSES****PIN, HARLEQUIN, PUNCHINELLO AND FIRE-EATER STANDING IN FRONT OF CURTAIN, WITH FIRE-EATER ON O.P. PIN IS STILL STRUGGLING**

**FIRE-EATER:** *(looking closely at PIN)* RIGHT! Any puppet making trouble around here gets thrown onto my FIRE! You look like a nice piece of wood! YOU should burn well!

**PIN:** *(breaking free and falling to his knees to beg)* Oh PLEASE Mr.Fire-Eater! PLEASE don't burn me! Have mercy on a poor puppet!

**FIRE-EATER:** *(twirling moustache villainously)* Why should I? *(rubbing hands together menacingly)* I need some more WOOD for my fire!

**PIN:** *(pleading)* Oh PLEASE spare me! My Papa would NEVER recover if anything awful happened to me!

**FIRE-EATER:** *(stops twirling suddenly, surprised)* Your PAPA?

**PIN:** *(scrambling to his feet)* Yes! Yes! My poor old Papa! I am his only child and without me he would have no reason to live!

**FIRE-EATER:** *(starting to sniff and wiping his eyes)* Oh, stop! I can't bear to hear a sad story...*(Harlequin and Punchinello nudge PIN to encourage him to continue)*

**PIN:** *(clasping hands in front of his chest)* And he's COLD and all ALONE and wondering where I am and WORRYING about me and...

**FIRE-EATER:** *(holding up hands)* Enough! I can't bear it! All right...I've decided to spare you...

**PIN:** *(relieved)* Oh THANK you, Great Fire-eater!

**FIRE-EATER:** *(interrupting)* ...and so HARLEQUIN can be thrown onto the fire instead!

**HARL:** *(almost fainting from shock)* WHAT????

**HARLEQUIN AND PUNCHINELLO GRAB HOLD OF EACH OTHER AND BEGIN TO TREMBLE**

**PIN:** *(falling to his knees again)* Oh PLEASE, Sir! Spare him *(looking down sadly)* If...if you must burn someone..*(trying to look humble)* take ME and spare my dear friend...*(sobs dramatically)*

**FIRE-EATER:** *(also starting to sob)* Oh, I can't take this! The boy is so noble! *(patting PIN. on head)* I won't burn anyone today, little Pinocchio. Your Papa would be so proud of you. He is indeed a rich man to have a son like you...

**PIN:** *(looking up slyly)* Well, actually Sir, he ISN'T wealthy. We have NO money at all. Nothing, in fact. My poor dear Papa sold his ONLY COAT so that he could buy me a schoolbook...

**FIRE-EATER:** *(sobbing again, uncontrollably)* Oh STOP! STOP! It's so sad! Here, Pinocchio *(fumbles in his pocket and hands PIN a bag of coins)* Take these five gold coins to your Papa with my blessings!

**PIN:** *(grabbing bag)* EXCELLENT! *(remembers that he's meant to be humble)* Er...I mean...THANK you Sir! I'll take them straight home to my poor old Papa. Farewell!

**PIN. RUNS OFF O.P. HARLEQUIN AND PUNCHINELLO WIPE THEIR BROWS IN RELIEF. FIRE-EATER WAVES HIS HANDKERCHIEF UNTIL PIN. IS OFFSTAGE AND THEN TURNS TO HARLEQUIN AND PUNCHINELLO WHO CRINGE IN TERROR AS HE RUBS HIS HANDS**

**FIRE-EATER:** So! Who's feels like a barbeque????

**HARLEQUIN AND PUNCHINELLO SHRIEK IN HORROR AND RUN OFF O.P. WHILE FIRE-EATER LAUGHS AND SWAGGERS AFTER THEM, TWIRLING MOUSTACHE.**

**END SCENE II**