

NEWTON
THEATRE
COMPANY



Newton Theatre Company Presents

Pinocchio

A Commedia Adventure

Adapted by Elena Benazzi and Chiara Durazzini



Saturday, February 29th at 10 AM and 3 PM

Sunday, March 1st at 3 PM

The Union Church in Waban

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Newton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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About Newton Theatre Company

Founded in 2013, Newton Theatre Company is a theatre company based in Newton whose mission is to create excellent works of art in new ways by using talent from around the Greater Boston area. Our productions, performed in and around Newton, include original stagings of contemporary and classical literature, new plays and devised pieces. Our goal is to promote community through artistic expression. Eager to partner with other local non-profit organizations, we choose meaningful material that fosters civically-engaged audiences. We strive to promote accessibility; one production every year is free of charge.

For more information about Newton Theatre Company and our upcoming performances, check out our website and join our mailing list at NewtonTheatreCompany.com



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Cast

Pinocchio – Chiara Durazzini

Liz Adams

Matt Goldstein

Val Goldstein

Creative Team

Melissa Bernstein – Director

Bernie Bernstein – Technical Director

Connor Bonegio – Lighting Designer

Eric Bornstein – Mask Designer

NTC Staff

Melissa Bernstein, Artistic Director and Board President

Paul Walsh, Board Director

Courtney Cole, Board Treasurer

Karen Woodrow, Board Clerk

Abby Lass, Marketing and Social Media Director

Special Thanks

The Union Church of Waban

Leslie Held

Who's Who

Chiara Durazzini (Pinocchio) is a native of Florence, Italy, and has been working as a theater actress both in Italy and in Boston. She is a co-founder and artistic director of the Boston-based Commedia dell'Arte Troupe Pazzi Lazzi (www.pazzilazzitroupe.com) for which she performs, teaches and directs. She is also the artistic director of ImproNati, the only Italian theater company in New England. She obtained her Master's degree in Art, Music and Theatre at the University of Bologna, Italy. Grazie to the Newton Theatre Company for such a wonderful collaboration!

Liz Adams is delighted to be performing in *Pinocchio*. Selected recent performance work: Gertrude in *Noir Hamlet* (Centastage - Norton Award nominee, Best Actress, Small/Fringe), Vivian in *Wit* (Hub Theatre Co. of Boston - IRNE awards, Best Actress & Best Production, Fringe), Zetta in *Dog Act* (Theatre on Fire - IRNE nominee, Best Production, Fringe), Cherry Pie in *A Beautiful Day in November...* (Apollinaire Theatre - Norton Award, Best Production, Fringe). Liz holds a master's degree from Emerson College in Theatre Education. Website: <http://thereallizadams.wixsite.com/mysite>

Matt Goldstein is a father of two teenage girls and is a math teacher in Brookline. He has been in many Newton Theatre Company shows, including *The Song of Achilles Parts I and II*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Would-Be Hipster*, *Women*, and four Junie B. Jones shows.

Valerie Goldstein is thrilled to be returning to the Newton Theatre Company stage for the sixth time. She has loved working with the talented and wonderful people involved in each show. Valerie also participates in South Stage, Newton South's theater program, with such roles as Feste in *Twelfth Night* and Peter in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Melissa Bernstein (Director) is the Founder and Artistic Director of Newton Theatre Company and has directed all of its plays over the past seven seasons, including Newton Theatre Kids productions. She holds a Ph.D. in Theatre from the University of Colorado at Boulder, an MFA in Playwriting/Theatre Education from Emerson College and a BA in Theatre from SUNY-Binghamton.

Eric Bornstein (Mask Design) is an award-winning mask maker, author, and Fulbright Scholar. At his company, Behind The Mask Studio & Theatre, Eric has created masks for a diverse clientele including Boston Ballet, Boston Lyric Opera, Gamm Theatre, Fava Opera, Liars & Believers, and Underground Railway Theater. Eric was also recently featured on the PBS hit show, *Pinkalicious* and *Peteriffic*. He currently teaches classes in making and performing masks, and offers performances and residencies to schools throughout the state through Young Audiences of Massachusetts. Website: www.behindthemask.org.

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About Commedia

Commedia dell'arte is a traditional style of Italian popular theater that started in Italy in the mid-fifteenth hundreds and expanded throughout Europe. Using classic stock characters and masks, performers were able to create inventive new plays using archetypes that audiences already knew and loved. Commedia troupes often performed outdoors in public spaces, making this style popular with people of all backgrounds. With its emphasis on physicality, improvisation, and slapstick comedy, commedia was able to transcend language barriers. Commedia traditions and stock characters have made their way into contemporary popular culture, and can be seen in live performances like Punch & Judy shows and television programs like The Simpsons.

Our Upcoming Season

Schiller's *Mary Stuart*

Translated by Peter Oswald

Union Church in Waban | Friday – Sunday, April 24-26 & May 1-3

Euripides' *Iphigenia in Taurus*

Translated by Anne Carson

Theatre Steps at Newton City Hall | Thursday – Sunday, July 9-12

For more information, visit NewtonTheatreCompany.com

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— Chita Rivera



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innovative and thought-provoking shows.

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