

## *Pinocchio* For the children and the children within

*Pinocchio* by British playwright John Morley is an enthusiastic and heartwarming family play. The Wimberley Players production of Carlo Collodi's nineteenth century classic story opens November 19 at the Playhouse.

Gepetto, an Italian woodcarver, creates the marionette to be his substitute son, and a benevolent fairy brings the toy to life. Pinocchio is not yet human, but he wishes earnestly to become one. He must earn that right by proving he is truthful, brave and unselfish. As we all know, his nose grows longer each time he tells a lie.

In Morley's production, Pinocchio is lured away to Funland, where he becomes a donkey. He later goes to a circus and then is rescued from the inside of a whale. Scenes change rapidly from the 1800s to modern-day Italy through clever uses of costumes, sets and masks. Although not technically a musical production, there are lots of songs throughout the play as well as the wizardry of character and time period changes.

The set, designed by **Dan Terry**, has a familiar bay-side "quaint and friendly" feel. But as the action proceeds -- well, let's just say the set may seem to have a mind of its own.

A critical element of any fantasy play is intricate use of specialty lighting instruments to play upon scenes as an addition to the set and not just an illumination. Lighting designed by **Jason Jones** will lend an "old world" charm of starlit nights, a seaside sunrise, an undersea world of mysterious creatures, the Field of Miracles, and a dizzying carousel.

"Pinocchio" is directed by **Robert FitzGerald**, seen most recently in *The 1940s Radio Hour*. He has served in numerous roles in over 60 theatre productions. Producer is **Sharon Drobeck**, Players treasurer when she isn't working behind the scenes pulling productions together. **Jennifer Fielding** (see PlayMakers) is the stage manager and **Kitty Nichols** is the choreographer.

"You'll 'give a little whistle' as you fondly remember popular tunes, revisit the enduring story of a father and son, and enjoy the wacky characters that inhabit a world of whales, puppets, and good and evil," says FitzGerald.

**Cody Claussen** (again, see PlayMakers) plays the leading role, mimicking a wooden boy until Pinocchio comes to life. Gepetto is played by **Guy Ben-Moshe**, seen in Wimberley in *Inspecting Carol* and *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off*. Other actors include **Celeste Coburn, Korbin Evans, Jason Foreman, Jennie LaBuhn, Tyler Nestorek, Kendra Patch, Mattie Patterson, Lareyna Plescher, James Springer** and **Arik Yates**. Playing multiple village parts are **Butch Ahl, Dixie Ahl, Johnny Ahl, Kelly Bourke, Linda Gooding, Layla Hutchinson, Jacob Neiswender, Meribeth Patterson, Sawyer Patterson, Emily Robertson** and **Hallie Strange**.



*Pinocchio* will run November 19 – December 12. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 8:00 pm and Sunday shows are at 2:30. Tickets are \$18 except opening night (\$25, with a reception at 7:00). They may be purchased online at [www.wimberleyplayers.org](http://www.wimberleyplayers.org) or by calling (512) 847-0575.



## The Wimberley Players 2011 Season

**Five great shows to entertain you next year!**

***The Heiress*** (Feb. 18-Mar. 13)—A compelling drama by Ruth Ann and Augustus Goetz suggested by William James' *Washington Square*, set in an elegant drawing room in 1850s New York. When Catherine Sloper, a plain, sheltered young woman of privilege falls in love with a charming suitor, her father insists he is a fortune hunter and forbids the marriage. Has she been deceived?

***Night Watch*** (Apr. 29-May 22)—An ingenious thriller by Lucille Fletcher set in a 1970s Manhattan apartment. A terrified Elaine Wheeler tells her husband she just saw a dead man in the apartment across the way. But the police find no body. When she claims to have seen another body, no one believes her, not her husband, nor her houseguest, nor her neighbor, nor even her maid. Is Elaine insane, or is a murderer waiting to strike?

***Hay Fever*** (July 29-Aug. 21)—A delightful comedy by Noel Coward set in a 1920s English country home. All four of the Bliss family are thoroughly and comfortably self-absorbed: the mother a retired actress, the father a novelist, and their two handsome, ill-mannered children. Each invites a weekend guest without telling the others. Soon after the unsuspecting parties arrive, they find themselves in bewildering—and hilarious—situations.

***Arsenic & Old Lace*** (Sept. 23-Oct. 16)—An uproarious comedy by Joseph Kesselring set in a 1930s Brooklyn boarding house. The irresistible Brewster family includes two charming spinsters who have been poisoning their boarders and burying them in the cellar for decades, their murderous brother with a new face, another brother who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt. The police, whether detecting or obscuring clues, are no less engaging.

***She Loves Me*** (Nov. 18-Dec. 11)—A romantic musical written by Joe Masteroff, music by Jerry Bock, and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, set in 1930s Hungary. Georg and Amalia are feuding clerks in a parfumerie. After every tense workday, each finds solace in letters from a secret pen pal. As Christmas draws near, they discover they have been writing lovingly to one another for months, and everyone at the parfumerie shares their joy.

## Starlight Symphony Orchestra *A Starlight Christmas*

**Saturday, December 5, 2010**

Old Blanco High School  
814 Eleventh St.  
Blanco, Texas 78606  
7:30 PM

**Sunday, December 6, 2010**

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
6000 A FM 3237  
Wimberley, Texas 78676  
4:00 PM

**Special Christmas Performance:**

**Handel's MESSIAH**

**Community Sing-along**

One performance only

**Sunday, December 20, 2010**

Wimberley Community Center  
14068 Ranch Road 12  
Wimberley, TX 78676  
4:00 PM

More information on the concerts is available on the new SSO web site at <http://skipperweb.org/starlightsymphony.org>



*Oh say can you sing? Nathan Villarreal showed us his talents once again at the 2010 Wimberley Arts Fest. Not all the fun of hamming it up is done in the five plays presented each year. There are many opportunities for you to perform, including the July 4th parade, the Wimberley Arts Fest, and the parties at the Playhouse, where a dose of courage and a bit of talent are always welcome.*



## Lots of ways to give or get tickets

### Season Tickets

Have you looked at the fantastic season line-up for 2011? The offering includes a drama, a thriller, a romantic musical and two comedies. The schedule of productions is on page 2.

Season tickets are an exclusive benefit to members of the Wimberley Players. You must be a member in good standing at the time you purchase your season tickets. The price is \$72 per season ticket, or \$80 for season opening night seats. See five shows for the price of four and be sure you have good seats at each one.

Members who purchase season tickets will not be charged the \$1 per ticket service fee that will begin in the new season. The deadline for purchasing season tickets is November 30. The tickets will be mailed to subscribers in January 2011.

Opening night tickets will be \$20 in the 2011 season; this includes a wine and cheese reception before the show.

To order Season Tickets, use the form you were sent in the mail or download a form from the Players web site at [www.wimberleyplayers.org/2011season.html](http://www.wimberleyplayers.org/2011season.html). If you have any questions about season tickets for 2011 or your membership, phone the Players box office at 512-847-0575. Leave a message and a volunteer will return your call as soon as possible.

### Group Sales

Bring a group of 10 or more to a show and save \$2 per ticket. Just get a group of friends together who want to see a production on the same day and call the box office at 847-0575 or you can buy group tickets online and choose your own seats. Remember, only one person makes payment in order to get the discount. The online ticketing service automatically calculates the discount. The box office is always happy to help you with this process, so don't hesitate to call. Please make sure to check with your group

*(Continued in next column)*

about their seating needs and report that to the box office when making your reservation. Call early for the best seats.

### Gift Certificates

Looking for an ideal Christmas present? Order personalized Gift Certificates from the Wimberley Players. What an easy way to treat a friend, business associate or family member to fabulous entertainment right here in Wimberley!

The lucky recipient of your Gift Certificate selects the play he or she wants to see, as well as the date and time. Call the box office for more information.

## SPECIAL NOTES

### Annual Wimberley Players Meeting

*January 16, 6:00 PM  
at the Playhouse*

### Patsy! Boots & BBQ! Fundraiser

*\$20 of each ticket purchase is  
tax deductible*



*Volunteers are essential to the operation of the Wimberley Players. Shown here are three of our members (l to r, Annanette Harper, JoAnne Ross and Anne Tyrrell) who prepare Curtain Call for mailing five times a year. What would you like to do to help? There are many possibilities shown on our website, [www.wimberleyplayers.org](http://www.wimberleyplayers.org), by clicking on the "Volunteer" tab. Come join the fun, make new friends, and contribute to the presentation of our productions!*



**November 19-December 12 (See More Details On Page 1)**

# Membership Update

Vivian McDonald, Membership Director

We are fast approaching the end of 2010 and the beginning of an exciting new year for the Wimberley Players. Membership renewal letters for 2011 will be mailed in early December. Your membership dollars are the backbone of the Players' finances, allowing us to continue providing our community with top notch entertainment.

Please take a moment when your renewal letter arrives to fill out the enclosed form and drop your check in the mail. We would appreciate your consideration of an increase in your level of support. As a 501(c)3 organization, any donation made before

December 31 is a legitimate tax deduction for the current year.

Many of you renewed your membership early this year, enclosing your 2011 membership contribution at the same time you purchased season tickets. If you did so, you will not receive a membership renewal letter.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the theatre in the New Year!

## Annual Members/Volunteers "Facelook"



Behind  
the  
curtain  
with

PLAYMAKERS

It's about all  
the people who  
magically transform a  
starkly empty stage into a  
wonderfully  
performed and  
produced play.

Proudly Published by The Wimberley Players

## Cody Claussen A real boy with a regular nose - no lie

### He wished upon a star

"Pinocchio, in order to be a real boy you must be good, brave, and truthful," said the Blue Fairy. Cody Claussen, the 12-year-old Wimberley boy who plays Pinocchio in the play, is all of that and more. He is a very articulate young man who looks you in the eye and answers your questions in complete sentences, not "I guess" or "whatever." His smile and polite ways actually charm you into thinking he might just really be the "real boy" who did wish upon that star and became Mister Geppetto's first boy puppet.

Cody was born in California and soon moved to Wimberley, where he started first grade. Cody's father, Bill Claussen, was a very good actor in high school, so when Cody wanted to try out for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade play, his father encouraged him to go for it. He got the part of Ed, a lazy guy who slept during most of the play, so learning his lines was quick and easy. Cody loved acting because the play was funny and he had a "good time." That success set the scene for his audition in the school's spring show and, of course, Cody got the part.

He says he likes acting because on stage he can be somebody else and it's fun for him. He also likes the feeling of knowing he did a good job, so he decided to get more experience and took a workshop at the Emily Ann Theatre. While there he auditioned for a part in Peter Pan and - guess what? He got the lead!

Cody is truly a real boy in every sense of the word. He turned down a role in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* because he was playing baseball for ACR, Wimberley Little League. He plays short stop, pitcher, second base and the outfield. Priorities, please!

When *Pinocchio* started auditions, his Dad encouraged him again to try out. The



day after his audition, Cody was sitting in the school cafeteria when his Mom came in with his lunch and screamed, "You're Pinocchio!" Of course he was thrilled. He says the hardest part is learning to walk like a puppet. You have to use your joints and pretend you have no muscles. With Jiminy Cricket and the Blue Fairy on your side, Cody will have no trouble with

that or any other role he sets his cap for. And using our own magic wand, we will pronounce him a "Real Actor."



*Cody learns how a puppet moves from choreographer Kitty Nichols and how a puppet acts from director Robert FitzGerald.*



*Written by Judith Driscoll*

## Jennifer Fielding Tech support, acting, lighting, you name it... she can do it!

The first time Jennifer Fielding, stage manager for *Pinocchio*, was in Wimberley for a production meeting she met Jason Foreman and he immediately recruited her for the lighting tech on *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. This seems to be a pattern for Jennifer's theatre life. She is actually very good at technical support and is often drafted into her theatre jobs.



Even though *Pinocchio* is her first production here in Wimberley, except for being drafted for the *Seven Brides* lighting tech at the last minute, I don't think this will be her last time at the Playhouse. Remember, she loves the theatre and in her words, "she is very good at what she does" and aren't we glad. When you see the light, everything gets better.

Jennifer was born in Washington. Her mother was in the Air Force and was stationed in Austin, then Germany and then, thankfully, back to Austin where she lives and works as an Administrative Assistant for IBM.

Jennifer became interested in theatre while in high school when she saw her counselor perform in a play called *The Diviners*. Jennifer fell in love with acting and anything "theatre". The counselor suggested this is something she should do. Jennifer says after seeing that play she knew she wanted to be in that theatre "light" one way or another.

She has learned everything she knows about tech support with hands on training by trial and error. Obviously more successes than mistakes because she was contacted by the Austin Drama Club and worked for them for three years. She was asked by the director to take the stage manager task for *Pinocchio*.

Jennifer is a very busy young lady. She danced with the Tropical Productions Dance Company for two years and was motivated during this time to audition for some acting parts also. She is in a touring company as the stage manager and light person and just about anything else they need and because they perform in various places with no real stages, she has learned to rig the lighting in just about any setting. This is a non profit group called Teatro Vivo and she has been with them for three years now.



*As stage manager for Pinocchio, Jennifer attends practically every rehearsal and has to know the script in detail from cover to cover.*



*Written by Judith Driscoll*