



**blueApple**  
changing lives through  
performing arts

# Pinocchio



Robot graphic created by Sletchřab / Cybergin

**blueApple**  
presents

# Pinocchio



## **Welcome to Blue Apple's winter 2020 production**

What a year. What a challenging and difficult year in which our cast has had to learn new skills and draw on reserves of patience and goodwill like never before. My mantra for 2020 has been 'everything is different, but nothing has changed' as we continued to find new ways to carry on doing what we did before; telling stories and giving our cast chance to step into the limelight.

Very early on in our process the cast and company decided to put the 'classic' tale of the wooden-puppet-boy to one side and to look at

how technology shines a light on what it means to be human (our theme for winter '20 and summer '21). Tablets, PCs & smartphones saved so many from crushing isolation when the pandemic hit that it felt like they were the heroes of the day.

Blue Apple remains undaunted by pandemics; this year has made us more expansive even as our physical limitations shrunk. We have developed and strengthened international links and this piece will be seen by audiences in far flung places. It feels like we'll never quite go back to normal - what we are learning through this and other digital projects will remain and enhance theatrical experiences for the future.

I'm so proud of how our cast have coped over the year which will soon be behind us. They deserve a decent Christmas and, as soon as possible, a vaccine as a present...a real shot in the arm for the coming year.

*Richard Conlon, Blue Apple Artistic Director*

## A message to the audience from Blue Apple's performers



**"Putting together Pinocchia has meant a lot to me. I have loved playing Eva."**

Katy Francis



**"An audience might find it a challenge having a robot instead of a puppet."**

Laurie Morris



**"It's amazing that an audience abroad, such as in America will be able to see how creative we can be."**

Anna Brisbane



**"For me to go live with this will be a huge step up and a huge challenge – it will be very enjoyable and very appealing to the audience. I will miss being on stage, it feels different."**

Ros Davies



**"In a confined space rather than on a big stage, it hinders our ability to move about but on the positive side, what the audience will hopefully get out of this is some understanding of how hard we worked and how much we enjoyed putting together this piece together."**

Sam Dace



**"I think the audience will find it interesting to see that we have been able to put a whole new show together online and hopefully they will enjoy it as much as if it had been in person. It will be a very different experience for them."**

James Benfield

# The Cast

**Frank:** Sam Dace  
**Verity:** Ros Davies  
**Eva (voice):** Katy Francis  
**Eva (moves):** James Elsworth  
**Allotment Holders:** Kym Nash  
Ali Sinclair-Wilson  
Alice Peck  
Paul Smith  
Tom Hatchett  
James Benfield  
James Spencer  
Neil White  
Lucy Parrot  
David Hunt  
Anna Brisbane  
Neil Bennet  
Lawrie Morris  
Tommy Jessop  
**Frank's Neighbours:** Lucy Thomas  
Daniel Austin  
Joseph Guerrier  
Jonny Ling  
George Collingwood

**Frank's Anxiety Dream:** Andy Canning  
Joseph Jeffrey  
Helen Burns  
**Theatre Personal Address:** George Collingwood

**Volunteers:** Michelle Pluck  
Rachel Collins  
Chris Pearce  
Mary Richards  
Clare Talks  
Cat Randall  
Sorcha Young  
Sue Dashper  
Henry Davies  
Arthur Ferencei  
Kai Marshall  
Oscar Vogel  
Harry Wilson  
Henry Chipperfield  
**'Nature Boy':** Sung by Paul Smith  
Danced by Tommy Jessop

**Makaton Interpretation:** Joseph Guerrier

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## The Creative Team

**Art Direction and Eva Puppet:** Polly Perry  
**Technical Creatives:** Samuel Morley  
Django Pinter  
**Video Technician:** Carl Martin  
**Video Editing:** Laura Walton  
**Music:** Kate Mellors

## Thanks to

**Geraldine Janowiak & Debra Guess** for kind permission to use 'Nature Boy'.



## About Blue Apple

### Together we are transforming lives through the arts

Blue Apple makes a huge difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities. We believe people with learning disabilities should be treated equally and fairly both in the arts and beyond. Our mission is to challenge prejudices through high-quality and inclusive artistic practices, enabling learning disabled people to achieve excellence in all levels of their life.

Our performers are coached by professionals to reach their full potential to perform innovative drama, dance, singing and film. Our evidence-based research shows us that through Blue Apple classes and productions, our talented performers gain confidence; increase their fitness levels; develop friendships and their whole mental health and wellbeing is transformed.

Thanks to the generous support of individuals, local organisations, trusts and foundations – we can continue to transform lives through pioneering theatre.



### Blue Apple is recruiting a new chair

Could you help develop an ambitious new strategy for Blue Apple?

We are looking for a new Chair of Trustees to lead the board during an exciting new phase of development. The current Chair, Georgiana Robertson, is retiring after six years leading the board through a period of unprecedented growth. Visit [blueappletheatre.com/news-1#chair](https://blueappletheatre.com/news-1#chair) to find out more.

### I want to help

There are many ways you can get involved with Blue Apple to help make a difference in the lives of people with learning disabilities.

#### Make a difference with a donation

To make a donation or become a regular donor through our Friends scheme, you can visit: [blueappletheatre.com/donate](https://blueappletheatre.com/donate)

#### Leave a legacy

The legacy support of generous individuals will help to ensure Blue Apple can continue to make a difference to some of the most disadvantaged people in our society for a long time. Find out more by emailing [finance@blueappletheatre.com](mailto:finance@blueappletheatre.com)

#### Become a corporate partner

Blue Apple welcomes sponsorship for our productions and for our education programme – please contact us via [admin@blueappletheatre.com](mailto:admin@blueappletheatre.com) if you would like to pledge your support.

#### Volunteer

Volunteers play a crucial role in all that we do at Blue Apple. From helping our members with their lines on and off stage, to providing a friendly face or listening ear at group rehearsals. Please contact us via [admin@blueappletheatre.com](mailto:admin@blueappletheatre.com) if you would like to offer your help.

#### Keep in touch

Receive our monthly ebulletin direct to your inbox for all our latest news. Send your details to [admin@blueappletheatre.com](mailto:admin@blueappletheatre.com)

#### Follow us on socials

Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Linked In. Plus subscribe to our YouTube channel.

# Thank you!

The past year's achievements would not have been possible without the support of our volunteers and friends. The Trustees extend their sincere thanks to our Patrons Alan Lovell and Sally Phillips, and to all those individuals who have supported the charity either financially or by giving their time and expertise over the past year.

A special thank you to the University of Winchester, where Blue Apple resides as Artists in Residence.

**The charity is dependent on the generosity and support of numerous organisations, without which the day to day running of Blue Apple Theatre would not be possible:**



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