

PRESS RELEASE

TUESDAY 6 JANUARY

**CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED PINOCCHIO MUSICAL RETURNS FOR
SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE'S 2026-27 WINTER SEASON**



Shakespeare's Globe is delighted to announce that the critically acclaimed new musical *Pinocchio* will return for the 2026 festive season.

Based on Carlo Collodi's original stories, *Pinocchio* is directed by Associate Artistic Director Sean Holmes (*Romeo and Juliet* 2025), with book and lyrics by Charlie Josephine (*Cowboys*, RSC / Royal Court), and music and lyrics by Jim Fortune (*Mr Gum and the Dancing Bear*).

Premiering in November 2025, *Pinocchio* has been a hit with audiences and critics alike during its current run, with The Telegraph calling it 'the most enchanting show of the season', and WhatsOnStage commenting that the show is 'brimming with enough fun and magic to warm the coldest audience member from their heart to the tips of their toes'.

Over 33,000 audience members have enjoyed the show, calling it a 'spellbinding and wonderful show for all ages' and 'one of the most emotional & refreshing new family musicals this year'.

Director Sean Holmes, Associate Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe, says: "I'm thrilled that our production of *Pinocchio* will live again next year. It's been a labour of love for so many of us and we are thrilled at how warmly audiences have embraced this new family musical - a musical infused with a joyful communal spirit unique to the Globe."

This adaptation follows the restless maverick Geppetto after he makes a magical wooden puppet called Pinocchio as he dreams of a life away from his traditional town. Together, the pair set out to find family and discover the wonder of being human alongside gorgeous original music from Jim Fortune, and magical puppetry, directed and designed by Peter O'Rourke.

The original creative team behind the production included Associate Director **Roberta Zuric**, choreography by **Vicki Igobokwe-Ozoagu**, design by **Grace Smart**, and musical director **Benjamin Holder**. The orchestrator was **Zac Gvi**, with sound design by **Tony Gayle** and voice coaching from **Liz Flint**.

The current production of Pinocchio starred **Lee Braithwaite** as Pinocchio, **Jennifer Caldwell** as Ensemble / Swing, **Michael Elcock** as Carpenter / Rabbit Prince Charming, **Kerry Frampton** as Fox, **Jamal Franklin** as Ensemble / Swing, **Ed Gaughan** as Franzini, **Nick Holder** as Geppetto, **Lizzy Ives** as Ensemble / Swing, **Lucy McCormick** as Blue Fairy / Cat, **Kody Mortimer** as Ensemble / Swing, and **Steven Webb** as Giacomo Cricket / Coachman. **Stan Middleton**, **Aya Nakamura** and **Andrea Sadler** joined the company as Puppeteers. Casting was by **Becky Paris CDG**, Head of Casting at Shakespeare's Globe.

Pinocchio completed its current run on Sunday January 4. It will open at Shakespeare's Globe in winter 2026, with casting and dates yet to be announced.

ENDS

EDITOR'S NOTE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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IMAGES

Pinocchio artwork: [Artwork](#)

Production photography: [Production photos \(c. Johan Persson\)](#)

The Globe: [Globe Theatre](#)

“London’s best-value theatre ticket” – Time Out

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE SOCIALS

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A Midsummer Night's Dream

15 November 2025 - 31 January 2026

Press Night: Thursday 27 November

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

Pinocchio

29 November 2025 - 4 January 2026

Press Night: Saturday 6 December

Globe Theatre

The Tempest

17 January 2026 – 12 April 2026

Press Night: Thursday 29 January

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

Deep Azure

7 February 2026 – 11 April 2026

Press Night: Tuesday 17 February

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse

ASSISTED PERFORMANCES

Patrons who are members of the [free access scheme](#) are eligible for adjusted ticket prices.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Captioned: 11 December 7.30pm & 10 January 2pm

Audio Described: 31 December 2pm & 9 January 7.30pm

BSL: 16 December 7.30pm, 3 January 2pm

Relaxed: 13 December 2pm & 7 January 7.30pm

Pinocchio

Captioned: 23 December 2.30pm & 2 January 6.30pm

Audio Described: 20 December 2.30pm & 28 December 5.30pm

BSL: 21 December 1.30pm & 27 December 6.30pm

Relaxed: 20 December 2.30pm & 30 December 6.30pm

The Tempest

Captioned: 15 February 6.30pm & 18 March 2pm

BSL: 3 March 7.30pm & 15 March 6.30pm

Audio Described: 13 February 2pm, 1 March 6.30pm

Relaxed: 18 February 7.30pm & 8 March 1pm

Deep Azure

Captioned: 9 March 7.30pm, 17 March 7.30pm, 21 March 7.30pm & 4 April 2pm

Audio Described: 14 March 2pm & 31 March 7.30pm

BSL

Relaxed: 4 March 7.30pm & 21 March 2pm

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Website | Shakespearesglobe.com

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Our Cause

We celebrate Shakespeare's transformative impact on the world by conducting a radical theatrical experiment. Inspired and informed by the unique historic playing conditions of two beautiful iconic theatres, our diverse programme of work harnesses the power of performance, cultivates intellectual curiosity, and excites learning to make Shakespeare accessible for all.

'And let us ...on your imaginary forces work' *Henry V, Prologue*

Shop

Our award-winning shop at Shakespeare's Globe features an enticing selection of hand-picked gifts, stationery, posters, books, and more. Both our in-house and online shop are full of Shakespeare and theatre gifts you can't get anywhere else. Over 80% of our clothing, bags, and homeware are exclusive to us! There's also 10% off your first online order when you sign up to the shop newsletter.

Supporting Shakespeare's Globe

Be part of something inspiring with Membership and support our productions, education work and community outreach from £5 a month. Members also enjoy backstage exclusive content, special events and discounts throughout the year as a thank you for their support.

For more information on how to become a Member, or gift a Membership, you can visit our website <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/join-and-support/membership> or call on 020 7902 5970

Swan Bar & Restaurant

Swan Bar is open 7 days a week. Situated at the theatre on London's bustling Bankside, we serve morning coffees to evening cocktails and everything in between, including breakfast and brunch, lunch, afternoon tea, pre-theatre and a la carte dining. From craft beers, local artisan gins and creative cocktails to classic dishes, summery salads, and delightful puddings. Opening times and menus can be viewed here: swanlondon.co.uk

Background Information: Shakespeare's Globe

Shakespeare's Globe strives to make Shakespeare accessible for all. It is a registered charity and has operated independently since opening in 1997.

Shakespeare's Globe is a world-renowned theatre, education centre, and cultural landmark on the bank of the River Thames in London, UK. Founded by the pioneering American actor and director Sam Wanamaker, our site is home to two venues – the iconic open-air Globe Theatre (1997) and the candlelit indoor Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (2014).

The Globe Theatre is a unique full-scale replica of Shakespeare's original 1599 Elizabethan open-air theatre. Our indoor candle-lit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse is an archetype of an indoor Jacobean theatre.

Many of our productions also enjoy an extended life online through our video-on-demand service [Globe Player](https://Player.shakespearesglobe.com), in cinemas across the UK, and on television. We are also a major venue for visiting artists, comedy, concerts, and special events, and over our twenty-eight-year history have produced over 45 world premieres of new plays, several of which have gone on to enjoy success in the West End, on Broadway and beyond.

Our Education department has long been one of the most active in the UK. We offer a hugely diverse programme of workshops, public events, university courses, and community projects.