

# Pinocchio takes to the stage

*Pinocchio sbarca negli USA! La celebre favola di Collodi è stata adattata al teatro e musicata dai Pooh. Il musical arriva ora da noi! Grazie all'impegno di Compagnia della Rancia, Incanto Productions LLC e The Kaye Playhouse di Hunter College, potremo rivivere le avventure di Pinocchio dal vivo! Botta e risposta tra Maria Pucci e Simona Rodano...*

The leading Italian musical comedy theatrical production company, Compagnia della Rancia, in collaboration with New York City-based Incanto Productions LLC and The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College, will present the American debut of *Pinocchio: The Italian Musical* for one week only October 19-23, 2010.

*Pinocchio: The Italian Musical* is a modern musical based on the most popular worldwide fairytale, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, written in 1881 by Carlo Collodi. With music by I Pooh (Dodi Battaglia, Red Canzian and Roby Facchinetti), the popular Italian rock band with a brilliant 40-year career and over 25 million albums and 23 million singles sold, *Pinocchio* features a great variety of popular music including rock, operetta, canzone, hip-hop and Latin. This large-scale musical extravaganza is ideal entertainment for adults and children of all ages and is great family entertainment.

Lyrics are by Stefano D'Orazio and Valerio Negrini, book by Pierluigi Ronchetti and Saverio Marconi and choreography by Fabrizio Angelini. The production is created and directed by Saverio Marconi. Manuel Frattini, starring as Pinocchio, heads the talented Italian cast of 20 with Pierpaolo Lopatriello as Geppetto and Simona Rodano as Angela.

More than 460,000 people worldwide have fallen in love with *Pinocchio* since its grand premiere in 2003. Performed in New York in the original Italian version presented with English subtitles for all to enjoy.

Simona Rodano, CEO of Incanto Productions LLC (and who plays one of the leading roles in the musical) tells the story about the project, as a magical, musical dream that came true.

**Maria Pucci: Simona, when did you start working on this ambitious project?**

**Simona Rodano:** I started thinking about bringing *Pinocchio* to the US in 2005. While I was still performing *Pinocchio* in Italy, my heart was calling me to New York. It was just a dream, but the dream became stronger every day. So from 2003 until May 2010 I traveled regularly back and forth between Italy and New York City.

*Pinocchio* has toured throughout Italy in the finest and most beautiful venues, from north to south; 450,000 theatergoers thrilled 462 engagements in 7 years. My ambition was to share *Pinocchio* with the world. I knew that one day this wonderful show would come to America. This dream come true will offer my colleagues an opportunity to perform in New York, the land of musicals.

The theatre company, Compagnia della Rancia, has been Italy's main musical production company since 1988. Compagnia della Rancia, first devoted to drama productions and later specializing in spectacular musicals, is directed by Saverio Marconi, who began his career as an actor in cinema, theatre and television. Today he is one of the most popular Italian theatrical and opera directors in Italy.

In addition to debuting

*Pinocchio: Il Grande Musical* in 2003, Compagnia della Rancia successfully staged Italian musical theater productions of many leading Broadway musicals such as *Cats*, *Cabaret*, *A Chorus Line*, *Grease*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *The Producers*, *Sweet Charity* and *West Side Story*, just to name a few. With this great critically acclaimed Broadway theatre experience, we knew that we had all the right ingredients to triumphantly bring the company to America.

In 2007 I received a phone call from a Staten Island cultural center asking if I could help them find a wooden *Pinocchio*. I mentioned our Italian musical. They were very interested. Unfortunately their venue was too small but that was the first step to making our dream a reality.

**MP: When did you realize that *Pinocchio* could actually arrive in America?**

**SR:** When we played to more than 15,000 South Koreans in Seoul, selling out 24 shows at the Opera House, we were assured of the international importance of *Pinocchio*. At the end of each performance crowds waited at the stage door for autographs and to take family pictures with the cast. Although the show was not in their native language, they loved the sound and soul of Italian language and during the performance they fell in love with Italy.

**MP: Is *Pinocchio* a Broadway-style musical?**

**SR:** Broadway is Broadway. *Pinocchio* blends the magic of See PINOCCHIO on page 23 >>

# The world beyond pasta

*Oltre 300 pagine di cucina italiana, storie quotidiane e ricordi di vacanze in Italia. Ogni giorno una nuova ricetta, l'interpretazione dietro la ricetta stessa e una storia che lega il tutto armoniosamente. Oltre 300 pagine d'Italia attraverso la cucina e la cultura: ogni pagina, un'emozione nuova!*

Author Mark Leslie is a combination theater stage manager and self-proclaimed "food junkie" who has a love affair with Italy and its food -- especially meals prepared by a specific family in Viterbo. Every year, author Leslie vacations in Italy and in his book, *Beyond the Pasta*, he shares his Italian experiences and the recipes of an Italian nonna and her daughter Alessandra.

Chicago born but Alabama-anchored for 23 years, Leslie is immersed in cooking for anyone who has an appetite. During his Viterbo stay he learned and prepared the recipes of Nonna but also learned basic Italian.

Along the storylines of 316 pages, Leslie takes the reader through his journey and shares how an Italian looks at the world. Each day is a new experience with Nonna, her

daughter Alessandra, family members and friends and winds down with a recipe. In between the day-to-day adventures are a number of Italian idioms and translations, making the reader an eyewitness to Italian life and the shaping of 29 authentic family recipes.

The delicious recipe lineup in *Beyond the Pasta* includes Pollo al Pomodoro e Olive (Chicken with Tomato and Olives), Penne all'Arrabbiata con Panna (Mad Dog Penne with Cream). Leslie makes it clear that *arrabbiata* means to go mad when applied to dogs and to be angry when applied to people. In the recipe, one adds to the rage by adding pepper sauce to the plate until he screams or howls at the moon.

A nice, light and tasty touch is the Frittata con Zucchini e Cipolla (Zucchini and Onion Frittata). He notes that small-to medium-sized onions should be used rather than large ones. Leslie also makes it clear that the larger the zucchini, the more water and less taste.

*Beyond the Pasta*, \$32.95, hardcover, 330 pages, Gemelli Press. ☼

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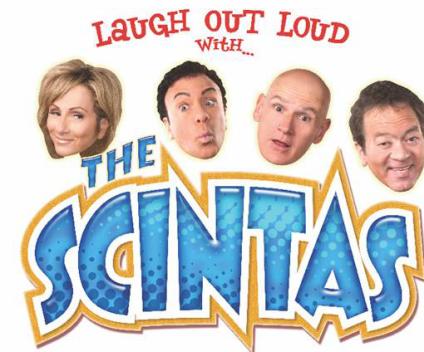
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