

THE OBJECT GROUP
SKY CREATURE PRODUCTIONS
& 7 STAGES PRESENT

PINOCCHIO

PINOCCHIO
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED
BY MICHAEL HAVERTY
AND MARIUM KHALID

MARCH 3-12, 2023
AT 7 STAGES



PINOCCHIO

What does it mean to be a puppet in a world that is obsessed with rules? What makes a human human? These are the questions we face as we plunge into the reimagined world of the age-old story of Pinocchio, written and directed by Michael Haverty and Marium Khalid.

This re-telling of the classic story is brought to life for adult audiences with puppetry, dance, video projections, and sensory experiences by three of Atlanta's most risk-taking companies: The Object Group, Sky Creature Productions, and 7 Stages.

Audiences will embark on an immersive live experience through an unexpected world full of magic, treachery and desire. Incorporating all five senses, we invite you to journey with Pinocchio as he discovers the roots of his identity and comes to accept his truth.

This production of Pinocchio has been in the works for over three years. The first chapters of the tale were manifested in a film by Haverty and Khalid, released virtually in December 2021, and provided to ticket holders before each live performance.

The immersive live experience picks up where the film left off, with Pinocchio venturing away from home, into a curious and chaotic world.

Precautions

Various tastes will be offered as the audience moves throughout the space. These are optional but encouraged! A full list of allergens will be available at the box office in the case of concern but all tastes will be vegetarian, as well as gluten, nut and dairy free.

Scents will be used to create atmospheric shifts throughout the performance. These will be misted away from the audience but will fill the space. A full list of allergens will be available at the box office in the case of concern.

Fog, haze, and flickering projections will be used throughout the performance. There will also be moments of adult language and violent imagery. This performance is recommended for ages 16+ (or for brave kids and adults).

Masks are recommended for this journey, but are not required.

Credits

Director/Writer.....Marium Khalid
Director/Writer.....Michael Haverty
Puppeteer (Harlequino, Fox, Candlewick, Tuna).....Michael Haverty
Performer/Puppeteer (Puppetmaster, Cat, Coachman, Geppetto)....Luis Hernandez
Puppeteer (Pinocchio).....Rachel Wansker
Dancer/Performer (Teacher).....Alejandro Abarca
Production Manager.....Jennifer Kimball
Stage Manager.....Cameryn Richardson
Assistant Stage Manager.....Akeria Gant
Puppet Designer.....Alex Vernon
Pinocchio puppet designer.....Russ Vick
Costume Designer.....Jennifer Schottstaedt
Video Designer.....Jessica Silva
Lighting Designer.....Elisabeth Cooper
Mainstage Set Design and Fabrication Lead.....Joey Swift
Black Box Set Design and Fabrication Lead.....Vii Kelly
Master Electrician.....Ari Shah Conkright

Spelman Production Assistant.....Tai Livingston
Spelman Production Assistant.....Sanaa George
Spelman Production Assistant.....Olivia Piper

7 Stages Production Assistant.....Lucinda Armbrust-Kohler
7 Stages Production Assistant.....Lee Sines
7 Stages Production Assistant.....Abigail Richards

7 Stages Staff

Managing Director.....Mack Headrick
Artistic Director.....Heidi S. Howard
Production & Facilities Manager.....Katherine Neslund
Education Director.....Destiny Renee
Associate Artistic Director.....Marium Khalid
Marketing Coordinator.....Devi Wells
Patron Services Manager.....Jasmine Martinez

Film Credits

Puppeteer.....	Michael Haverty
Puppeteer.....	Jennifer Kimball
Puppeteer.....	Jeffrey Zwartjes
Puppeteer.....	Rachel Wansker
Voice of Cricket.....	Khalid Waheed
Painter and Sculptor.....	Aysha Waheed
Special Effects Makeup.....	Vii Kelly
Gaffer.....	Ryshad Pitts
Script Supervisor.....	Ezra Blaut
Camera operator.....	Kristina Cruz
Editor/colorist of Toyland.....	Brittney Fontus
1st AC.....	Zoe Morgan
2nd AC.....	Valeriia Luhovska

Special Thanks

DPMProps
Java Lords Coffeehouse
Joanie McElroy and Merely Players
Atlanta Green Theatre Alliance
Cloud to Ground
Théâtre du Rêve
Essential Theatre
Synchronicity Theatre
Lyric Theatre
Del Hamilton
Faye Allen
Matt Brohammer
Cassandra Dudley
Render Kotler-Robinson
Nina Kyle
Rachel De Urioste
Lys Green
George Kotler-Wallace
Jim Stacy
Rick Doucette
Josh Coleman

The Object Group serves the spirit of creative engagement, experimentation, and the development of theatrical languages. Through the creation of thought-provoking performances, workshops, and installations blending puppetry and cinema, and their promotion on multiple platforms, The Object Group works to expose the good and ill in human nature, the hidden varieties of perception/reality, and the therapeutic power of performance.

Founded in 2012, The Object Group has engaged with museums, theaters, non-profits, public and digital spaces to create unique performances that provide immersive theatrical environments and critically grounded experiences for all age groups. Producing Artistic Director Michael Haverty has over twenty years of experience as a producer, writer, director, designer, and organizational leader. Previously Artistic Associate with the Center for Puppetry Arts (2002-2011), and Co-Artistic Director with 7 Stages Theater (2012-2018).

Sky Creature Productions is an immersive theatre, installation art and film company that uses anthropological means to develop work ignited by true stories. The next evolution of SAÏAH, founded by Marium Khalid, SC has received over 35 awards, including Best Show for City of Lions and Gods (ArtsATL, 2010) and Rua Wulf (2012), as well as Best Director for Moby Dick and Best Immersive experience for "a multi-path, civil war epic," Terminus, (2014).

Recently, Sky Creature's short film Mazloom has won over 10 awards from film festivals around the world including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Sound Design. With the hope for a greater understanding of the spherical truth of ourselves, Sky Creature aims to develop experiences that linger with you for years to come.

7 Stages is a professional, non-profit theatre company devoted to engaging artists and audiences by focusing on the social, political, and spiritual values of contemporary culture. 7 Stages gives primary emphasis to international work and the support and development of new plays, new playwrights, and new methods of collaboration.

Our theatre will be a global center for the creation of vital conversations through collaborative performance.



Bios

Michael Haverty - As Producing Artistic Director of The Object Group, Michael writes, directs, and produces multidisciplinary collaborations, theatrical and cinematic originals and adaptations blending puppetry and film. Michael was Co-Artistic Director at 7 Stages Theatre from 2012-2017. Michael was Artistic Associate at the Center for Puppetry Arts from 2002-2012, writing and directing puppet theatre for adults, teens, and the very young.

At the CPA, Michael was program director of the Xperimental Puppetry Theater program for nine years, supporting and curating the work of emerging puppetry artists. Michael has created new work for the Alliance Theatre, Georgia Aquarium, High Museum of Art, Dad's Garage Theatre, Kennesaw State University, and the Goat Farm Arts Center. BA in Theatre from Sarah Lawrence College, MA from Georgia State University in Creative and Innovative Education. Current PhD student at GSU in Early Childhood Education, with a focus on critical scholarship and transformative pedagogy in the arts.

Marium Khalid is a Pakistani-Kashmiri American writer, director and creator leading her companies SAiAH Arts and Sky Creature Productions to receive over 25 major awards. Her previous work includes TERMINUS, an award winning immersive multi-layered story, and an experiential retelling of Moby Dick, winning her Best Director and Best Show. She received the CREATIVITY AND ARTS IMPACT AWARD from Emory College Center for Creativity & Arts.

Most recently Marium's short film MAZLOOM was awarded Best Director, Best Film, and Best Actress from major film festivals as well as receiving official selections from others including the Atlanta Women's Film Festival and the Los Angeles Women's International Film Festival.

Rachel Wansker is an actor, puppeteer and clown. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre and Performance Studies from Kennesaw State University. Rachel studied Clown and Body Memory at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo Italy. After returning to the USA, Rachel earned her Professional Training Certificate from Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in California.

For the past ten years, Rachel has performed with 20 professional theatre companies in four different countries. Rachel is so excited and honored to work with the Object Group and its fantastic cast, crew and directors. Look for her next, in the Alliance Theatre's remount of ROOB and NOOB.

Bios

Luis R. Hernandez has previously appeared in 7 Stages productions of The Navigator and Inside I, as well as a puppeteer in The Object Group's film production of L'Etranger, and in a touring show titled Unexpected Encores, serving individuals dealing with memory loss and traumatic brain injury. He has been a puppeteer at the Center for Puppetry Arts since 2005, and has appeared in several professional theatres all around Atlanta.

Alejandro (Alex) Abarca is an artistic alchemist from Houston, TX. He discovered a love for dancing in his grandmother's living room, but he never intended to become a dancer. He originally wanted to become a musical theater actor. That passion led him to graduate from Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts with a concentration in Theater.

Dance found Alejandro once again while in undergrad at the University of Houston, and he quickly found himself dancing professionally while earning his degree. After graduation he moved to Atlanta, GA to dance with Core Performance Company; where he also freelanced with various local choreographers as well as created his own work. He then went on to obtain his MFA in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts after a few years of dancing nationally and internationally. He is currently an Assistant Teaching Professor at Oxford College of Emory University in Atlanta, GA. He continues to dance professionally and make his own work.

Complimentary Events Throughout Pinocchio

Art of Activism - March 6 from 5:30-7 PM at 7 Stages

Complimentary Aperitivo: Join us for an appetizer and dialogue on toxic family dynamics, othering and identity while asking What makes a human human?

Service Saturday - March 11 from 3-6 PM at 7 Stages

In an effort to help our community thrive, 7 Stages regularly hosts these events, providing Food, PPE, clothing, and other resources. At this event, LifeSouth Community Blood Centers provides the opportunity to donate blood, while Planned Parenthood and the New Georgia Project provide voting and reproductive resources, respectively.

Joey Swift is excited to make his scenic design debut in Atlanta as a part of the production crew of Pinocchio. He graduated from Roanoke College in 2019 and currently serves as the TD for the Atlanta Lyric theatre. He has designed lights in the past for various companies in the greater Atlanta area including OutFront Theatre Company, The Horizon Theater, and Found Stages. He would like to thank his parents for their ongoing support and love and the rest of the cast and crew for their dedication and collaborative spirit.

Elisabeth Cooper (Lighting Designer) is a veteran in the Atlanta Theatre community. She has worked as a director, designer, and technician with many companies, such as Actors Express, Synchronicity, Process Theatre, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, 7Stages, Aris, Essential Theatre, and Horizon Theatre to name a few. When she is not behind the scenes she can be found standing in front of students all over the place.

Akeria Gant is a singer, actor and stage manager based in Atlanta, GA. She most recently tour/stage-managed And Then They Came For Me (Georgia Ensemble Theatre). Her stage management credits include: Bob Marley's Three Little Birds and Mirandy and Brother Wind (Synchronicity Theater). Her acting credits include: A Year with Frog and Toad at (Bay Area Children's Theatre), Caroline, or Change (Jennie T. Anderson Theatre), Guys and Dolls (Atlanta Lyric), Bob Marley's Three Little Birds, Mirandy and Brother Wind (Synchronicity Theater), and Black Nativity (Dominion Entertainment). Akeria is a graduate of the University of West Georgia, where she earned a B.A. in Theatre. She is so excited to be joining the 7 Stages family! She gives honor to God, and sends thanks to her friends and family for all of their support. IG @akeriaamariann.

Khalid Waheed is an actor, model and voice actor, who has created theatre and film with SAĪAH Arts, Sky Creature Productions and Interface Theatre to name a few. Early on in his career, Khalid had been named one of the actors to watch in Pakistan for print and film. His most recent work in Sky Creature's award winning short film Mazloom has lead him to fall back in love with film. He is honoured to be the voice of Cricket in Pinocchio, and grateful to be a part of it.

Aysha Waheed - painter and sculptor.

Bios

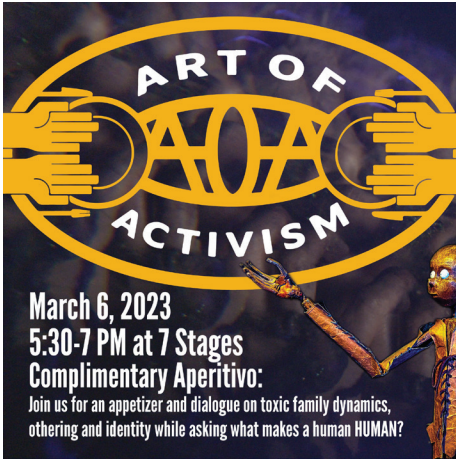
Cameryn Richardson is a stage manager, teaching artist, director, choreographer, and actor working in the Atlanta area since 2015. She's a member of Shakespeare Tavern's Education staff as well as a student of the intersection of arts and mental health practices under the tutelage of the Association of Mental Health Practitioners. Sending love to Chelsea, Bridget, and JBK for their support and to the cast and crew.

Jennifer Kimball (production manager) has been a part of the 7Stages family since the early 2000s and has collaborated with Michael Haverty for almost as long, since the Haverty Marionnettes production of *The Phantom Limb* in 2009. A production and stage manager and general organizer-at-large in the Atlanta area, she has been fortunate to build relationships with a host of other incredible artists, theatres and dance companies as well, many of which began in this very building. She is currently the Managing Director at the Essential Theatre (www.EssentialTheatre.com) and Théâtre du Rêve (www.TheatreduReve.com). Inspired by new creative work and meaningful connection, Jennifer is proud to be part of the 7 Stages family.

Jennifer Schottstaedt (Costume Designer) most recently designed the costumes for *Tesla vs. Edison* (Center for Puppetry Arts), *Vive La Fontaine*, *Code Noir*, *Il était une fois* and *Le petit prince* (Théâtre du Rêve), as well as *Frankenstein's Funeral* and *Frankenstein's Ball* [Found Stages]. She has worked at the Santa Fe Opera (Stitcher), the Chautauqua Opera (Draper) and the Texas Shakespeare Festival (First Hand), and has been seen onstage at Synchronicity Theatre, Actor's Express, Théâtre du Rêve, Georgia Shakespeare, Found Stages and Pinch 'n' Ouch. Jennifer received her BFA in Costume Design & Construction from the University of Evansville and her MFA in Acting from the University of Georgia.

Vii Kelly kills people for a living. A sculptor/ fabricator for film and theater, she got her start on *Attack of the Six Foot Vagina*, later going on to do fx makeup for Adult Swim and set design for bands like Mastodon and the Biters. Most recently, she worked on *Stranger Things* fabricating the Upside-Down and at the Center for Puppetry Arts building puppets for *Tesla vs Edison*. She joined the 7 Stages family with *Dracula* in 2012 and since then has worked on over 15 productions as a special effects/ makeup designer, set designer, costumer and all around badass.

Coming soon to 7 Stages:



**ART OF
ACTIVISM**

March 6, 2023
5:30-7 PM at 7 Stages
Complimentary Aperitivo:
Join us for an appetizer and dialogue on toxic family dynamics, othering and identity while asking what makes a human HUMAN?



SERVICE SATURDAY

March 11, 2023
3-6 PM at 7 Stages

With complimentary resources from
LifeSouth Community Blood Centers,
Planned Parenthood, New GA Project

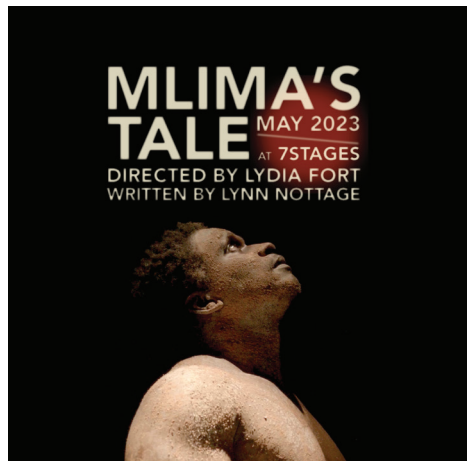


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AT 7STAGES
DIRECTED BY LYDIA FORT
WRITTEN BY LYNN NOTTAGE

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Major funding for this organization is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, and Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts is funded in part through partnerships with the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how NEA grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.