

Energetic show is great for the kids

Pinocchio: Olympus Theatre, Filton College, Bristol

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Set in a modern building yard, Stroud-based TaurusVoice's Pinocchio is refreshingly creative, innovative and full of surprises.

Director and writer Greg Banks made sure that there are no nuances of the Disney film and made this production unique, earthy and devoid of any glitzy magic.

The cast of four worked hard in creating a variety of characters. Using all the tools, planks and other equipment found at a builder's yard, Adrian Brett, Eleanor Holliday (Pinocchio), Penelope Wildgoose and Gerard Cooke, brought the story of the wooden puppet to life with speed, energy, accents and occasional hallmark acapello music

A large audience of children particularly enjoyed the moments when members of the cast entered into their ranks. Either pretending to jump from the gangway, or simply engaging the children in conversation.

The production's strength was the acting and invention. Scaffolding became a whale, a wheelbarrow a coach and a saw horse a school desk.

Perhaps it was frantic in places and it didn't have a big finish, but this was a play that will give children plenty to discuss.

Harry Mottram