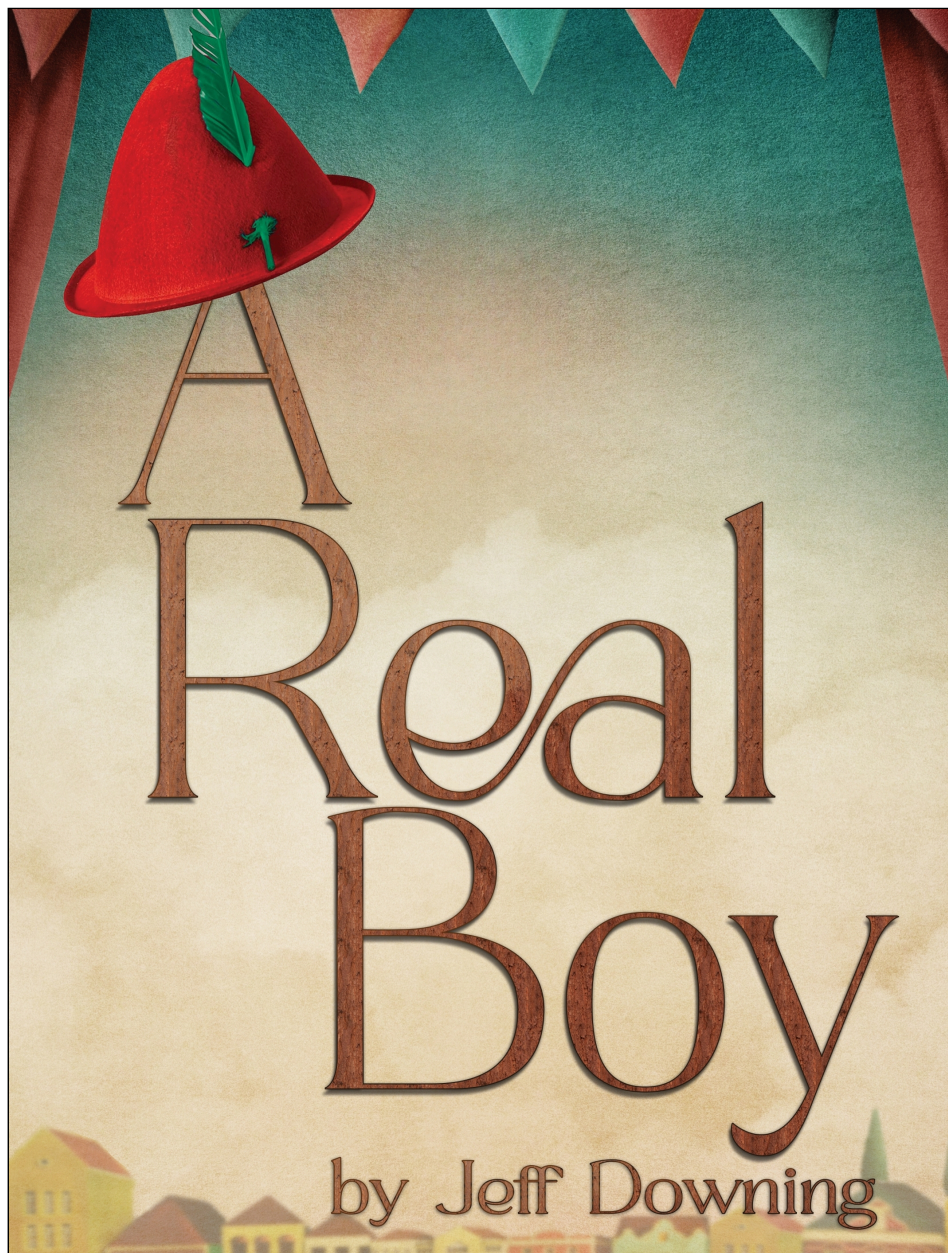


PLAYBILL®

Evolution Theatre Company
in association with the Abbey Theater of Dublin



Evolution Theatre Company
in association with the Abbey Theater of Dublin

PRESENTS

A REAL BOY

by
Jeff Downing

with

Patrick Doss
Leland McCandless
Claire Richey

Zach Shafer
Shawn Brown
Samuel Nckoloff
Ellie Haenick
Mark Phillips Schwamberger *

Reina Watson
Nic Brunet
Leslie Robinson

Sound Engineer
Ethan Cain

Set / Costume
Jonathan Collura

Lighting Designer
Iz Nichols

Stage Manager
Emily English **
Directed by
Jonathan Collura

* Member of Actor's Equity Association

** Working under an agreement with Actor's Equity Association



Production Sponsor
Terry Douglas Etling

CAST

Cast Members

Pinocchio	Zach Shafer
Eugene	Patrick Doss
Geppetto	Shaun Brown
Blue Fairy	Reina Watson
Villager / Father One / Ticket Taker	Leland McCandess
Villager / Father Two / Police	Samuel Nickoloff
Lampwick / Others	Nic Brunet
Cat / Others	Claire Richey
Fox / Others	Ellie Haenick
Miss Dankworth / Coach Woman	Leslie Robinson
The Narrator / Producer	Mark Phillips Schwamberger

Production / Creative

Director	Jonathan Collura
Stage Manager	Emily English
Sound Engineer	Ethan Cain
Lighting Designer	Iz Nichols
Set / Costume Designer	Jonathan Collura

The show is approximately 90 minutes and is performed without an intermission.

The taking of photography or the recording of any kind is strickly prohibited.

A REAL BOY

By Jeff Downing

Created in Collaboration with Retta Leaphart

Originally Produced by Grandstreet Theatre in Helena, Montana in January, 2022

WHO'S WHO

Zach Shafer

as Pinocchio

Zach Shafer is very excited to make his Evolution Theatre debut! He is an alumni of The Ohio State University with degrees in Theatre and Communication. Recent credits include Madlab's Normies (Queen) and Curtain Players' Red Herring (James). Zach would like to thank his family and friends for their constant support of his theatrical endeavors!

Patrick Doss

as Eugene

Patrick Doss is excited to be performing in their first show with Evolution! A co-producer of both the CAMPY NYC and CAMPY Columbus companies, they have also appeared in their parody musicals of *Can't Hardly Wait*, *Buffy*, *Saved!*, *13 Going On 30*, *Hocus Pocus*, *The Breakfast Club*, *The Craft*, *Spice World*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, and *Jumanji*. Ohio credits include *Beautiful*, *Joseph and the ATD* (Gallery Players); *Newsies*, *The Happy Elf*, *School of Rock*, *Mr. Scrooge* (CCT); *Spring Awakening* (WCT/Madlab). Past credits include *Reefer Madness* (NYC), *High School Musical* (Bucks County Playhouse), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Pocono Playhouse), *Charlotte's Web* (national tour). TV/Film: *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Gossip Girl*, *The Good Wife*, *Hot Ones: The Game Show*, *Arthur*, *Smash*, *The Night Before*, and many others. @patrickdoss

Shaun Brown

as Geppetto

Shaun is elated to inhabit the life of Geppetto, a role near and dear to his heart. As well as being an actor, Shaun is a retired computer engineer and recently published a book about personal finance for teens and young adults. Shaun is thrilled to work with Evolution Theatre Company for the first time. He would like to thank his wife, Jennifer, and son, Will, for their love and support.

Reina Watson

as Blue Fairy

Reina is thrilled to be part of this production. Previous credits include Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Jane in *Nine Girls* with the Aethereal Arts Council, as well as various roles in *Umbrella on a Rainy, Rainy Day*. She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her.

WHO'S WHO

Leland McCandess

as Villager / Father One / Ticket Taker

Leland is excited to be joining this cast in his first production with Evolution. By day, he is a part time cleaning guru and is a stay at home dad. He lives in Hilliard with his wife and two sons. He was most recently seen in Avenue Q (Bad Idea Bear) and The Passion of Dracula (Jonathan Harker) at Little Theater Off Broadway in Grove City. He is thrilled you are here and hopes you enjoy the show!

Samuel Nickoloff

as Villager / Father Two / Police

Samuel has been performing for over a decade. He graduated from Bowling Green State University in the spring of 2024, having pursued an education in film production and theatre. *A Real Boy* is Samuel's first show with Evolution, and he looks forward to more. Samuel is extremely grateful for his family, friends, mentors, and all others who have helped him pursue his career as a performer.

Nic Brunet

as Lampwick / Others

Nicolas Brunet (Lampwick/Others) He/They Is thrilled to be a part of yet another Evolution Theater production. He is a rising Junior at the Webster University Sargent Conservatory of the Arts earning a BFA in musical theater and a minor dance. Working in all fascists; stage manager, actor, fight choreographer, technician, and more, favorite past credits include *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Thom Pain*, and *Spring Awakening* . He would like to thank the incredible production team and actors, as well as his family and friends for their incredible support. With a special shout out to his partner! Enjoy a retelling of a classic tale!

WHO'S WHO

Claire Richey

as Cat / Others

Claire is a rising Junior at UAHS and this is her first production with Evolution. She is an intern at the Abbey Theater as well as Short North Stage. Recent Abbey credits include Stage Manager (School House Rock Jr) and Trunchbull U/S (Matilda Jr). She is soon to be featured as Ensemble (Hadestown) with the Abbey later this summer. She would like to thank Joe and her family for supporting her!

She/They

"Are you letting yourself be led by fear or by love?" - tick, tick... BOOM!

Ellie Haenick

as Fox / Others

Ellie Haenick is excited to be playing Fox in *A Real Boy* at Evolution Theater Company! This is Ellie's second time working with Evolution, having recently played Medium Alison in *Fun Home*. Other favorite roles include Cheryl in *Evil Dead: The Musical* and Amy March in *Little Women*. By day, Ellie is a student at the Ohio State University studying electrical engineering. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Leslie Robinson

as Miss Dankworth / Coach Woman

Leslie Robinson (Miss Dankworth, Coach Woman, Villager, Mother One.) is excited to be back on stage at Evolution Theatre Company. She was last seen in *THE CANTERVILLE GHOST* (Mrs. Umney). Some of her favorite performances at Evolution Theatre Company were *THE BODY POLITIC* (Polly Sue) and *SONS OF THE PROPHET* (Gloria). Other favorite performances were *INTO THE BREECHES* (Winifred) at The Tipping Point Theatre Company and *WHITE GUY ON THE BUS*(Roz) at State of the Arts Productions.

WHO'S WHO

Mark Phillips Schwamberger

as The Narrator / Producer

Mark's theatrical career spans over forty years. His passion for theatre began during his undergraduate studies at The University of Louisville and continues to this day. He has performed in productions at both Off and Off – Off Broadway venues as well as producing and directing cabaret shows at The Top of the Gate in NYC. Besides working and performing in New York and Michigan, he has also been in various musicals, comedies and dramas in Kentucky, Florida and Ohio. He is the Founder and Executive / Artistic Director of Evolution Theatre Company, an Actors' Equity Association Small Professional Theatre Company and the only professional LGBTQ+ Theatre Company in Central Ohio. He received his B.A. in Theatre for The Ohio State University. Mark is also an award-winning playwright. He is a member of Actors' Equity Association, the Dramatist Guild and the recipient of the 2024 Harold Award.

Jonathan Collura

Director

Jonathan Collura is part of the adjunct voice faculty, as well as an accompanist, in the theatre department at Wright State University. He also performs and directs with several groups around the Columbus area, including the Abbey Theatre of Dublin, New Albany Youth Theatre, and Short North Stage. Previous Evolution Theatre Company credits include playing Jon in "tick, Tick...Boom", Wes in "The View UpStairs" and music directing and accompanying "The Story of My Life" and "Musical of Musicals".

Emily English

Stage Manager

Emily English (Stage Manager) is excited to make her Evolution debut with *The Real Boy!* Other local theatre credits include *Grease* (ASM), *Godspell* (SM), *First Date* (SM), *Assassins* (SM), *Disaster! The Musical* (SM), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (SM), *The Producers* (Production SM), *Ordinary Days* (SM), and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (ASM). By day (and sometimes by night), she is a marketing coordinator at BHDP Architecture in downtown Columbus and shares her heart and home with her hot-mess of a pup, Ziga.

WHO'S WHO

Ethan Cain

Sound Engineer

Ethan is on staff at the Abbey Theater of Dublin and is pleased to be working on his first Evolution Theatre production.

Iz Nichols

Lighting Designer

Iz is on the staff of the Abbey Theater of Dublin and is please to be once again working on an Evolution Theatre production.

Jonathan Collura

Set / Costume Designer

In Regional Theatre we wear many hats.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Evolution Theatre Company
extends a very special
THANK YOU
to

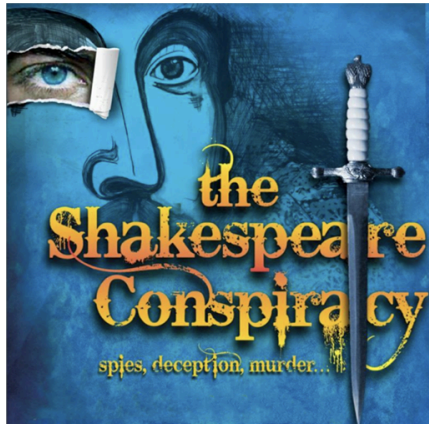
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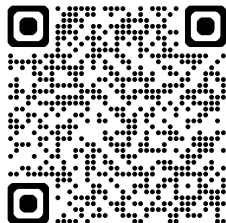
OUR NEXT SHOWS



September 4 - 13, 2025



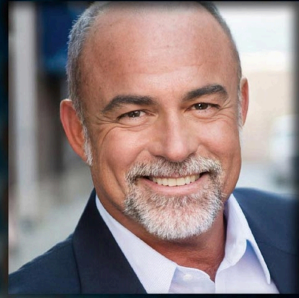
October 16 - 25, 2025
www.evolutiontheatre.org



PLAYWRIGHT

Jeff Downing (Playwright) Jeff Downing (he/him) is originally from Chillicothe, Ohio and received a BFA from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. After ten years of directing, designing and teaching in New York City, he moved to Helena, Montana in 2012 to become the Artistic Director at Grandstreet Theatre. He has directed and designed many shows at Grandstreet, most recently *A Christmas Carol* (for which he also wrote the adaptation), *tick, tick ... BOOM!*, *Bright Star*, *The Mousetrap*, *Matilda*, *Admissions*, and *Murder on the Orient Express*. He wrote and performed the role of Pinocchio in *A Real Boy*, which premiered at Grandstreet in 2022. Some of his favorite roles include Marvin in *Falsettos*, Tateh in *Ragtime*, and the Baker in *Into the Woods*. jeffdowning.net





audible 

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