

The New York Children's Theater Festival Presents *Viva Pinocho! A Mexican Pinocchio!* May 2 to 4

New York, NY, March 28, 2014 – [The New York Children's Theater Festival](#) is proud to present *Viva Pinocho! A Mexican Pinocchio!* from Teatro SEA, a not-for-profit arts-in-education and community arts organization dedicated to serving Latino children and their families. The show will have four performances at the Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater, 10 West 64th St. at Central Park West, NYC (*Friday May 2, 5:30 PM; Saturday May 3, 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM; and Sunday May 4, 2:00 PM*).

Viva Pinocho! A Mexican Pinocchio! is a musical, one-man puppet show featuring award-winning puppeteer and performer Dr. Manuel Morán. It tells the classic story in a new and exciting way, employing masks, black light, marionettes, shadow puppets, animation, direct manipulation puppets, and object puppetry. The production captures the charm of the original folktale and conveys a message of hope, family and love, using Mexican rhythms and styles of music. The show is produced by Teatro SEA, and was written by Dr. Moran.

Michael Shawn Lewis, co-founder of **The New York Children's Theater Festival** said, "With the style of this piece being so distinct, I think Pinocchio is a fantastic addition to the festival's line up this season -- really strong choices and strong storytelling. This show brings up issues of awareness and racial/cultural equality that are direct parallels to the very issues we are dealing with today as a country, but are told in a way that opens up these conversations on a family level."

Chelsey Shannon, co-founder of The Festival added, "This piece was so appealing for our Festival because of the bi-lingual aspect mixed with the storytelling. We love the twist on the Pinocchio story from a Mexican cultural point of view, and the fact that it is a one man show mixed with puppetry is also amazing! Manuel does such a beautiful job of portraying each character."

Viva Pinocho! A Mexican Pinocchio! is for ages 6 and up with performances at Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater, 10 West 64th St. at Central Park West, NYC. Tickets are \$18 (\$15 YMCA members) at Ovationtix, (866) 811-4111 or at www.newyorkchildrenstheaterfestival.org

Dr. Moran is the founder and executive/artistic director of Sociedad Educativa de las Artes, Inc./ Society of the Educational Arts, Inc. (SEA), an award winning arts-in-education organization that operates in Puerto Rico, Florida and New York. He holds a B.A. in Humanities and Drama from the University of Puerto Rico, an M.A. in Educational and Musical Theatre from New York University, and a Ph.D. in Educational Theatre from New York University. He has received many prestigious awards and citations for his work, among them: multiple ACE Awards and HOLA Awards for Best Musicals and Best Director; Grand Marshall of the National Puerto Rican Day Parade"; Cultural Awards by the New York City Council and Queens Borough President; "Puerto Rican of the Year" (APQ); and was chosen as one of the nation's top 15 young adults Latino Leaders, to participate in the prestigious program - Programa para Jóvenes Líderes Hispanos, sponsored by the Embassy of Spain.

He has appeared on stage in: *West Side Story*; *Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac*; *Verdi's Nabucco*; *Lorca's The Billy Club Puppets*; *The Toothache of King Farfán*; and his one man show *Viva Pinocho! A Mexican Pinocchio!* for which he won Best Actor HOLA and ACE awards. His TV and film credits include: *Aventurera*; *La Charca*; *ContactArte* (Host); *Deception*; *Planeta SEA* (Host); and *Acceso Total*. www.manuelmoran.com.

The 3rd Annual New York Children's Theater Festival is Friday April 25, 2014 to Sunday May 18, 2014 with four productions: *Rescue Rue*; *Viva Pinocho! A Mexican Pinocchio!*; *Cinderella*, *The Fairy God Mother's Tale*; and *MYTHOS*. The Festival provides a birthplace in New York City for new live children's entertainment from around the globe, and serves as a platform for writers and producers who are passionate about developing innovative theatrical experiences for children. **The New York Children's Theater Festival** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

More at www.newyorkchildrenstheaterfestival.org and www.facebook.com/NYCTFest.

Media contact: Rodi Rosensweig, 203/270-8929, Rodicompany@earthlink.net