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A Caribbean Musical, a Wooden Puppet Boy, and a Shakespearean Comedy Coming this Winter to Studio East & StoryBook Theater

Once On This Island January 26–February 10, 2018 – Kirkland (best for ages 6+)
Pinocchio January 27–March 10, 2018 – Renton, Kirkland, Fremont, Everett,
and Shoreline (best for ages 3+)
A Midsummer Night's Dream March 2 & 3, 2018 – Kirkland (best for ages 9+)

KIRKLAND, WA– Studio East and **StoryBook Theater** are bringing three fantastic shows to theatergoers this winter. The youngest audiences and their families will enjoy StoryBook Theater's 55-minute, musical adaptation of everyone's favorite wooden puppet, *Pinocchio*. Studio East will present the non-stop Caribbean song and dance, *Once On This Island*, and its annual Shakespeare show, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, for older audiences.

Studio East is delighted to bring back ***Once On This Island*** as its winter musical. This show is essentially the story of the Little Mermaid, but on land. With themes of dance, travel, love and family, this musical centers around Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. When she returns Daniel to his people, the fantastical gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest to test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice and hate.

Once On This Island has a stellar directorial team of Faith Bennett Russell as director, David Duvall as musical director, and Andrew Coopman as choreographer.

Once On This Island is recommended for ages 6+ and has a running time of 90 minutes, plus an intermission. Adult tickets are \$19, while students and seniors are \$17. Tickets can be purchased at www.studio-east.org. All performances are at the Studio East Mainstage Theater located at 11730 118th Ave NE in Kirkland. Performances run Jan. 26 – Feb. 10, with performances on Fridays at 7:30pm and Saturdays at 2:30pm and 7:30pm. Please note there will be a special gala show that starts at 6:30pm on Jan. 26, and there will be no 2:30pm show on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Studio East is also excited to welcome back the Shakespeare master himself, Simon Pringle, as he directs the annual Shakespeare show, ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***. This comedy is fraught with confusion, mystery, passion and magic. It tells the story of four young friends who stumble into a haunted wood. They wrestle with their own passions and troubles, all while the powerful spirits of the wood play havoc with their hearts and minds.

This show is recommended for ages 9+ and has a running time of approximately 2 hours with intermission. Adult tickets are \$19, while students and seniors are \$17. Tickets can be purchased at www.studio-east.org. All performances are at the Studio East Mainstage Theater located at 11730 118th Ave NE in Kirkland. Performances run March 2-3, with the following show times: March 2 @ 7:30pm and March 3 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm.

Finally, StoryBook Theater is bringing audiences ***Pinocchio*** as its winter musical. With colorful characters and creative songs comes the classic tale of the wooden puppet boy and his father, Gepetto. Pinocchio yearns to be a real boy so he can read, run, and make friends like other children. But his new friends, the clever Cat and Fox, have other plans for this eager-to-please talking puppet. In this show, young audience members will learn the valuable lesson of telling the truth.

Pinocchio is recommended for ages 3+ and has a running time of 55 minutes. Tickets are \$15 (including service fees) and can be purchased at www.storybooktheater.org or (425) 820-1800. Kirkland performances can be purchased at kpcenter.org or (425) 893-9900. The local, professional cast will perform at the following venues:

Renton Carco Theatre: Saturday, January 27 @ 11am, January 28 @ 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Kirkland Performance Center: February 3, 10, 11* @ 11am, 1pm, 3pm and February 4 @ 11am. *February 11 shows will be ASL interpreted.

Hales Palladium in Seattle-Fremont: February 25 @ 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Everett PUD Auditorium: March 4 @ 11am, 1pm

Shoreline Conference Center: March 10 @ 11am

About Studio East and StoryBook Theater

Studio East Training for the Performing Arts was founded in 1992 to provide theater arts education for young people on the Eastside. It was founded on the belief that through the performing arts children can build confidence, and acquire leadership and teamwork skills while learning discipline, dedication and responsibility. Starting with one theater program for teens, Studio East has become one of the largest children's theater training programs in the Seattle area. Studio East also produces StoryBook Theater, an adult professional touring troupe that introduces young children to live theater at venues throughout the Puget Sound area.

Today, Studio East serves over 70,000 people annually with a comprehensive program of drama classes, theater arts camps, Mainstage productions and live performances for children from ages 3 through 19.