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Pinkerton!!!

Adapted by

LINDA DAUGHERTY

Based upon *Pinkerton, Behave!, A Rose for Pinkerton* and
Pinkerton & Friends by author and illustrator

STEVEN KELLOGG

Dramatic Publishing Company

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Based upon *Pinkerton, Behave!*, *A Rose for Pinkerton* and *Pinkerton & Friends*
by STEVEN KELLOGG

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(PINKERTON!!!)

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Pinkerton!!! received its world premiere at Dallas Children's Theater in June 2007.

CAST:

Pinkerton.....Karl Schaeffer
Emily..... Charlet Dupar
Mother..... Taylore Mahogany Scott
Grandmother Phyllis Cicero
Professor Douglass Burks
Dr. Aleasha Kibble/Security Guard..... Anastasia Muñoz
Rover's Owner/Mrs. Gray/Policewoman..... Ashley Jo Burton
Fifi's Owner/Referee/Burglar..... R. Scott Cantrell
Spot's Owner/Mr. Arno/Puppeteer Robert Silva
Museum Assistant/Puppeteer Jennifer Stoneking
Youth Ensemble Keylee Paige Koop,
Andrew McGlothen, Spencer Block,
Mardi Robinson, Patrick Cardona,
Zoé Long, Sarah Spellings, Sean Murphy,
Joel Wood, Nicole Novit, Catherine Ratcliffe,
Morgan Tobey, Vincent Sanchez

PRODUCTION:

Director and Executive Artistic Director Robyn Flatt
Scenic and Video Design Randel Wright
Lighting Design Linda Blase
Music and Music Director B. Wolf
Choreography..... Nancy Schaeffer
Costume Design..... Lyle Huchton
Sound Design Marco Salinas
Puppetry Design and
Construction..... Kathy Burks Puppetry Arts
Properties Design..... Caleb W. Massey
Stage Manager Tish Mussey-Hitt

Pinkerton!!!

CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

THE PROFESSOR

PINKERTON: a Great Dane

EMILY

MOTHER

GRANDMOTHER

DR. ALEASHA KIBBLE

OWNERS (1m., 2w.): for Spot, Rover and Fifi

DOGS

FIFI: a poodle with hot-pink bows

SPOT: a dog

ROVER: a dog

PAPER BOY/GIRL

STUDENTS: at the museum and later in dinosaur costumes

BILLY KIM

JAKE SALLY

RONALD AISHA

JARED DEMI

SAM JANE

BLUE/GOLD FOOTBALL PLAYERS (3)

BLUE/GOLD KICKER

BLUE GOLD CENTER

BLUE/GOLD HOLDER

GREEN/ORANGE FOOTBALL PLAYERS (3)

REFEREE

FANS/CHEERLEADERS

ANNOUNCER

POLICEWOMAN
DR. KIBBLE'S ASSISTANT
MR. ARNO: a neighbor
MRS. GRAY: a piano teacher
DELIVERY PERSON
REPORTERS #1-3
SECURITY GUARD
DINOSAUR EGG STUDENT
BURGLAR
MUSEUM ASSISTANTS #1-3
ADDITIONAL ASSISTANTS

POSSIBLE DOUBLING

Doubled roles for 1m., 2w.:

- DOG OWNERS
- ANNOUNCER, POLICEWOMAN and REFEREE
- MR. ARNO, MRS. GRAY and DELIVERY PERSON
- REPORTER #1, BURGLAR and MUSEUM ASSISTANT #1

DR. ALEASHA KIBBLE / SECURITY GUARD

CHILDREN and TEENS may play the following roles:

- SPOT
- ROVER
- FIFI
- PAPER BOY/GIRL
- STUDENTS AT MUSEUM
- FOOTBALL PLAYERS
- FANS/CHEERLEADERS
- DR. KIBBLE'S ASSISTANT
- REPORTERS #2-3
- STUDENTS IN DINOSAUR COSTUMES
- MUSEUM ASSISTANTS #2-3

Pinkerton!!!

ACT I

SCENE 1

AT RISE: *The Valdoon Museum of Natural History. Lights up on THE PROFESSOR standing at a lectern under a banner that reads “THE VALDOON MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.” THE PROFESSOR clicks a remote control to change slides projected on a screen. A slide of a champion, adult Great Dane appears on the screen.*

THE PROFESSOR. And now we come to that marvelous breed known as the “Apollo of dogs.” That elegant breed. That large, impressive breed. *The Great Dane.* This is a dependable, majestic dog.

(PINKERTON runs on rambunctiously, dragging EMILY by the leash.)

EMILY *(putting on the breaks with all her might).* Whoa, Pinkerton!

(PINKERTON stops suddenly, noticing EMILY’s class—the audience—and stares out intently, cocking head back and forth, inquisitively.)

EMILY *(cont’d, breathlessly to audience).* Hi ... class! Here’s ... what I brought ... for show-and-tell! My Great Dane puppy ... *Pinkerton!*

(She unhooks leash as a slide of a graceful, running Great Dane appears on the screen.)

THE PROFESSOR. The Great Dane is tall, muscular and coordinated.

EMILY *(tossing chew toy downstage)*. Chew toy, Pinkerton!

(PINKERTON goes for the chew toy—tripping over his own feet—retrieves it, scrambles back to EMILY, drops it at her feet and pants expectantly, waiting for the next throw. A close up of a Great Dane's head appears on the screen.)

THE PROFESSOR. The Great Dane has a finely chiseled head and an eagle-like look to his dark, expressive eyes.

(EMILY tosses the chew toy again. PINKERTON “points” and then stalks his “prey,” suddenly flattening it with one paw, which causes the chew toy to squeak, startling PINKERTON. A close up of Great Dane's ears appears on the screen.)

THE PROFESSOR *(cont'd)*. The breed has long, cropped, erect ears.

(PINKERTON listens, rapidly turning ears this way and that, then very slowly and cautiously approaches the chew toy again. A slide of the profile of a Great Dane's entire form appears on the screen.)

THE PROFESSOR *(cont'd)*. The Great Dane has a long and regal yet natural tail.

(Suddenly, PINKERTON senses a “foe” behind him, turns and spies the culprit, his tail. PINKERTON chases his tail, going faster and faster. A slide of a Great Dane posed with several happy people appears on screen.)

THE PROFESSOR (*cont'd*). This affectionate breed interacts well with people.

(EMILY's MOTHER and GRANDMOTHER enter and watch PINKERTON's antics. GRANDMOTHER is wearing a green and orange striped raincoat and a straw hat with a pink rose. PINKERTON catches his tail in his mouth, posing and holding it like a prize.)

MOTHER. Emily, we're here!

GRANDMOTHER. We didn't want to miss show-and-tell!

(In slow motion, PINKERTON bounds toward MOTHER and GRANDMOTHER, who, panicked, backs up. MOTHER places her body between the approaching PINKERTON and GRANDMOTHER.)

As PINKERTON is about to leap on MOTHER and GRANDMOTHER, EMILY stops PINKERTON with a treat.)

EMILY. Doggy treat, Pinkerton!

(PINKERTON snatches the treat and falls to the floor, devouring it. Slow motion sequence ends as a slide of a Great Dane's eyes appears on the screen.)

THE PROFESSOR. As a watch dog, the breed can be extremely intimidating.

EMILY. As a playmate, Pinkerton's the best!

(PINKERTON and EMILY stare at each other, nose to nose, and playfully circle each other, which grows into a game of tag.)

THE PROFESSOR. Ah, the grand Great Dane, gentle giant—so large, so majestic, so regal. And yet so marvelous with children.

(Impulsively, PINKERTON bites EMILY's shirt and spins her in a circle faster and faster as various slides of elegant Great Danes appear on the screen.)

MOTHER. Emily!

GRANDMOTHER. Pinkerton!

THE PROFESSOR. But remember the Great Dane puppy requires firm and strict obedience training.

EMILY *(still spinning)*. Hey, class, isn't Pinkerton the greatest show-and-tell ever?!

THE PROFESSOR. Oh, yes. *Strict ... obedience ... training!*

(As PINKERTON continues to spin the laughing EMILY, lights fade to black.)

SCENE 2

(DR. ALEASHA KIBBLE's Canine University. In blackout, a dog barks. Several dogs join in, barking in different pitches. The barking builds to a crescendo. A whistle blows as lights rise on MOTHER with PINKERTON on a leash standing before DR. KIBBLE, who circles them like a drill sergeant. EMILY peeks out from behind her MOTHER.)

DR. KIBBLE. Welcome to Dr. Aleasha Kibble's Canine University. The pillars upon which our university was founded are pride, obedience, excellence and achievement. An obedient dog is a happy dog. We will now consider your application for admission. And why have you chosen the Great Dane?

MOTHER. Well, uh, Dr. Kibble, um, of course, well, Great Danes are known to be wonderful with children.

DR. KIBBLE. Do you have children?

MOTHER. Well, yes, of course. I have Emily. This is my daughter Emily.

(She pries EMILY from behind her and presents her to DR. KIBBLE, who glares down at her.)

MOTHER *(cont'd)*. Say hello to Dr. Kibble, Emily.

EMILY *(shaking DR. KIBBLE's hand)*. Hello, Dr. Kibble.

MOTHER. We were hoping to train Pinkerton to defend the house if a burglar comes.

DR. KIBBLE *(disdainfully)*. Pinkerton is the creature's name?

MOTHER. Yes, ma'am.

DR. KIBBLE. I see. And does Pinkerton *come* when called?

MOTHER. Uh, well ... no.

DR. KIBBLE. I see. And does Pinkerton *fetch*?

(DR. KIBBLE glares at MOTHER.)

MOTHER. Fetch? Well ... well ...

(DR. KIBBLE focuses her glare on EMILY.)

EMILY. Well ...

DR. KIBBLE. Level one!!!

(DR. KIBBLE blows her whistle.)

EMILY & MOTHER *(saluting)*. Yes, Dr. Kibble!

DR. KIBBLE. I have a level one class beginning right now! Level one students! Places!

(Three OWNERS enter. They accompany their dogs, FIFI, SPOT and ROVER, respectively.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd*). Canines on the right, owners on the left.

(The OWNERS unfurl their very long leashes, leaving FIFI, SPOT and ROVER R while they cross L.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd*). This is the level one class.

(DR. KIBBLE glares at EMILY, her MOTHER and PINKERTON C.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd*). Well?—Canines right, owners left!

(EMILY and her MOTHER try to get the barking PINKERTON in line with the other dogs. EMILY tries pushing from behind, but PINKERTON won't budge.)

MOTHER. Oh dear, I'm so sorry, Dr. Kibble.

DR. KIBBLE. Let us hope that when this poor creature sees how well the other dogs behave it will understand what is expected. *(To FIFI, SPOT, ROVER and their OWNERS.)* Let us learn together. Unit one. We begin with the simple command, "Come!"

(On their leashes the three dogs trot proudly to their OWNERS and receive a pat on the head.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd*). Excellent! And return!

(The three dogs return to their positions R.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd, to PINKERTON and MOTHER*). Remember, an obedient dog is a happy dog. Take charge! Pinkerton will join the other canines.

(Surreptitiously, EMILY, with a dog treat, leads PINKERTON R with the other dogs while MOTHER holds the unfurled leash.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd*). Now altogether! Attention! Come!

(As the three dogs trot to their owners, PINKERTON joins in. After a few steps, PINKERTON breaks into a gallop, running offstage L, dragging MOTHER holding leash. EMILY remains bewildered C.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd*). Dogs, return, immediately!

(The three dogs hurriedly return to their places, leashes crossing the stage. DR. KIBBLE picks up a bullhorn and calls offstage.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd*). Pinkerton, I say! Pinkerton, Come!!!

(PINKERTON returns with MOTHER, running on from offstage L. PINKERTON winds between the leashes, tangling the OWNERS and DOGS together in a pile.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd*). We cannot hold back the entire class for one confused student! On to the next lesson!

(DR. KIBBLE repeatedly blows her whistle, and the three DOGS and their OWNERS untangle themselves while PINKERTON, nonplussed, surveys the scene.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd*). Unit two. Basic retrieving skills. Every dog must fetch the evening paper. Places!

(PAPER BOY/GIRL enters and places four newspapers downstage.)

PAPER BOY/GIRL. Paper! Evening paper! Museum announces new dynamic dinosaur discovery to be displayed with the precious Pepperwill Diamond!

(PAPER BOY/GIRL exits.)

DR. KIBBLE. Attention, canines! The evening paper has arrived. Fetch!

(With leashes off, PINKERTON trots with the three dogs, imitating their focused attitude. As the three DOGS return to their OWNERS with their papers, PINKERTON ferociously attacks the paper. With a loud “grrrr,” he shreds the paper to pieces.)

DR. KIBBLE (cont’d). Fetch, you flea brain! FETCH!!!

(EMILY collects PINKERTON’s shredded paper.)

DR. KIBBLE (cont’d, with teeth clenched). We will move on. Unit three. Strategic home defense.

(PAPER BOY/GIRL rolls on a rack with four stuffed burglar dummies dressed as in the book Pinkerton, Behave!. Rapidly, one after the other, DR. KIBBLE orders the three DOGS to attack.)

DR. KIBBLE (cont’d). Here we have burglars number one, two, three and four. Spot, get the burglar!

(SPOT attacks burglar dummy #1, biting its arm and throwing the dummy to the floor.)

DR. KIBBLE (cont’d). Rover, get the burglar!

(ROVER attacks dummy #2’s leg, dragging it around and around in a circle.)

DR. KIBBLE (cont’d). Fifi, get the burglar!

(FIFI leaps on burglar #3, knocking it flat, ripping off its arms and throwing them in the air.)

DR. KIBBLE *(cont'd, with a sigh)*. And now ... Pinkerton. Pinkerton, attack the burglar!

(PINKERTON bounds toward dummy #4, growls aggressively, knocks it to the floor and affectionately licks its face.)

DR. KIBBLE *(cont'd)*. Owners, you will now receive your grades for today's class.

(DR. KIBBLE hands a report card with a large, red "A" to the three OWNERS.)

DR. KIBBLE *(cont'd)*. "A," "A," "A" ...

(DR. KIBBLE hands a report card with a large, red "F" to MOTHER.)

DR. KIBBLE *(cont'd)*. "F!" Pinkerton failed, flunked, flopped! Pinkerton sets a poor example for the rest of the class. Unless some improvement is shown, Pinkerton will be dismissed! We will now review all that we have learned.

(PINKERTON, EMILY and the three DOGS are all enjoying each other's company.)

DR. KIBBLE *(cont'd)*. Dogs! Pay attention! Come!

(PINKERTON and the DOGS run L and exit.)

DR. KIBBLE *(cont'd, shouting offstage)*. Come, I say!

(PINKERTON and the DOGS run on from L, cross the stage and exit R.)

DR. KIBBLE (*cont'd, blowing the whistle between each command*). Come! ... Come! ... Come!!!

(*PINKERTON and the DOGS enter R in a pack and play affectionately C. DR. KIBBLE is beside herself and speechless.*)

EMILY (*holding newspapers*). Dr. Kibble, how about we give this another try?

(*EMILY places newspapers before PINKERTON and the DOGS, who all line up downstage.*)

EMILY (*cont'd*). Fetch, Pinkerton! Fetch, dogs!

(*PINKERTON and the DOGS attack the newspapers. DR. KIBBLE is in a rage. PAPER BOY/GIRL enters with a single dummy.*)

MOTHER. Oh, dear, Emily. This isn't working. Pinkerton! Dogs! Get the burglar!

(*PINKERTON and the DOGS jump on the dummy and lick it affectionately.*)

DR. KIBBLE. No! No! No! The class is ruined. Out! Out, out, out, I say! (*Swaying, about to swoon.*) An obedient dog ... is a ... happy dog ...

(*DR. KIBBLE faints. The three OWNERS and their DOGS surround DR. KIBBLE as lights fade. EMILY, MOTHER and PINKERTON make their escape. Lights cross fade to EMILY, MOTHER and PINKERTON, apart.*)

EMILY (*taking her MOTHER's hand*). Mom, you look kinda tired.