

S Portland Alumni Club

PAM, PINOCCHIO & A PUB

August 13, 2023



Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio*, a stop-action film, won this year's Oscar for best animation. A group of Syracuse alumni learned why on Aug. 13 when they visited an exhibit about the film at the Portland Art Museum. The exhibit includes dozens of puppets which run the gamut from Pinocchio and Sebastian J. Cricket to, believe it or not, Mussolini (all above). Several sets used to shoot the film at ShadowMachine studios here in Portland were also on display, including Geppetto's workshop (below right).

On Sunday, eight ShadowMachine employees who helped craft the puppets for the film discussed their work (below left) for museum visitors, including the SU alumni. But, much to the pleasant surprise of the alums, one of the eight puppet professionals is herself, an Orange alumna. Jessica Crawford, '05/'07 VPA, (above, holding the Geppetto puppet) was the "puppet wrangler" on the production. She was in charge of making sure the puppets were on the various sets when their scenes were to be shot. She also had to make sure damaged or worn puppets were repaired, either on the set or at the "puppet hospital."



The do-as-much-as-you-want event included the ShadowMachine panel discussion, lunch at nearby Rogue Hall (below left), and perusing of the exhibit with the puppet pros available in the hall for individual discussions. It was a deep dive into the local making of an award-winning film. Thanks to the alumni and their families who attended. If you missed it, the exhibit runs at the Portland Art Museum until Sep. 17, with another visit from ShadowMachine staff occurring on Sep. 10. The film is available for viewing on Netflix.

