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An Original Theatre Production
Miller Performing Arts: #hashtag
Brings Gen Z social media culture to life this November



Hi-resolution images: <https://bit.ly/37qrQzM>

(23 October 2020, Hong Kong) – Many people look to Instagram, Facebook and other social media platforms as a source of news, entertainment and other information every day. But anyone can share anything on social media – so how do you tell if the content is real or fake?

This November, 25 of Hong Kong's most talented youth actors and dancers aged 12 to 25 bring the original theatre production **#hashtag** to the stage. Proudly presented by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) and written and directed by **Lindsey McAlister**, **#hashtag** is a gripping show that dives into the powerful and sometimes deceptive world of social media through theatre, dance, music and video.

#hashtag follows five social-media-savvy teenagers as they join an exclusive online chatroom. They click. They swipe. They post. They laugh. But soon they realise that not everything is quite what it seems.

Rehearsing While Social Distancing

The concept for *#hashtag* was developed as Hong Kong came to a standstill during the first and second wave of COVID-19, and as many Gen Z users quickly shifted to social media to stay connected with their community. To safeguard the health of the cast and creative team, HKYAF began planning for the production this summer via Zoom – at the same time as the city faced the harshest set of social distancing restrictions to date. As restrictions relaxed, face-to-face real-life rehearsals gradually resumed with extra precautions like temperature checks and hand-sanitising stations. A “grid” floor pattern, which also features in the production’s set design, was installed in the rehearsal studio to help cast members maintain safe physical distancing.

Youth Choreographers Join Professional Creative Team

Most of the dialogue in *#hashtag* is driven by trending emoji and hashtags. The team responsible for pairing the dialogue with meme-worthy Gen Z dance moves, and bringing social media to the stage, are five youth choreographers from HKYAF’s *Youth Assistant Choreographers* programme – Tia Carrett, Valerie Cheung, Natalie Hsu, Reina Lim, Jacqueline Lo and Isabella Wei – who worked alongside the professional creative team.

Tickets for *#hashtag* are now on sale via [Popticket](#). For details about the production visit www.hkyaf.com/hashtag. For latest updates follow us @hkyaf on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS

Miller Performing Arts: #hashtag

Theatre Performance

19 – 21 | 11 | 2020 7:30pm

21 | 11 | 2020 2:30pm

Venue: Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre

Ticketing: \$300, \$250* (Concessions \$260, \$220*) *Restricted Views

Box Office: Tickets on sale via [Popticket](#)

Duration: Approx. 90 minutes without intermission

Language: Performed in English with Chinese subtitles

Enquiries: anca@hkyaf.com / 2511 6256

Suitable for ages 10 and above

Visit hkyaf.com/hashtag for more details.

HKYAF Social Media @hkyaf

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hkyaf/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hkyaf/>

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive free-of-charge arts experiences for young people aged 5 to 25. Established in 1993 by Lindsey McAlister OBE, JP, HKYAF organises inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creates opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year, HKYAF reaches over 800,000 people through its projects, exhibitions and performances.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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