

## Keep Calm and Watch a Show

*ArtisTree Selects: Theatre Bites* Presents  
Five Quintessentially British Fringe Shows



High-resolution images: <https://bit.ly/2Qh0lc1>

Still trying to budget your summer trip to Edinburgh for a theatre run? This June, save a few quid by joining us at **ArtisTree Selects: Theatre Bites**, a theatre festival that celebrates the best British fringe theatre shows in Hong Kong.

Presented by ArtisTree, and curated by Lindsey McAlister, Founder of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF), and two-time Tony award-winning producer Brian Zeilinger, *ArtisTree Selects: Theatre Bites* samples the best bite-sized British theatre pieces hand-picked by the curators at *Edinburgh Festival Fringe* last year, including *Tobacco Road*, *Our Man in Havana*, *No Kids* and *Sitting*. What's more, the festival also features an original production written and directed by McAlister. Running from 10 to 22 June at ArtisTree in Taikoo Place, all productions are debuting in Asia at the festival, and tickets are now on sale via Taikoo Social app.

### Five of the Best British Fringe Shows in Hong Kong

- Travel to 1950s Cuba in ***Our Man in Havana*** by Spies Like Us with just a vacuum cleaner.
- Unravel moving tales of love, longing and loss at ***Sitting***, written by BAFTA TV award-winning actress Katherine Parkinson.
- In ***Tobacco Road*** by Incognito Theatre Company, come and experience the murky London underworld with Peaky Blinders-like characters inspired by real-life historical figures.
- Explore veganism, fast fashion, climate change and first world problems through comedy, song and dance in Lindsey McAlister's new eco-theatre production ***If Not Me, Who?***, featuring original music by Violaine Corradi – best known for her work with Cirque du Soleil.

- Join a same-sex couple as they debate the “Should we have kids, or not?” question set to a lively Madonna soundtrack at **No Kids** by Ad Infinitum.

### **Theatre that Goes Back to Basics**

Following the tradition of fringe theatre, each show is packed with simple, barely there set design and props, relying on the actors’ highly energetic performance skills to bring stories to life. Expect thoughtfully staged monologues, songs that touch the soul and physically demanding movement sequences that will have audiences’ pulse racing. What’s more, each production features some of Britain’s edgiest, most obscure and unusual scriptwriting that stylishly pokes at today’s hottest topics with a punch of British humour and amusingly playful use of British cynicism. Be prepared to laugh, cry and ponder during these bite-sized shows, each lasting no longer than an hour – the perfect way for the Hong Kong crowd to sample the best of British fringe theatre without cutting into precious happy hour time!

### **Youth Power in Theatre**

For those with a bigger appetite for all things theatre, stay tuned as HKYAF returns later this year to present two exciting youth productions. In September, join us and celebrate Hong Kong’s freshest young scriptwriting talents in a sharing performance from the city’s most innovative youth scriptwriting initiative – ***Pull Back the Curtain***. In November, HKYAF is delighted to present its annual flagship production – **1984** – a bold and visceral retelling of George Orwell’s timeless classic in an unforgettable production that combines physical theatre, music, movement and video imagery.

For more information, please visit [www.hkyaf.com](http://www.hkyaf.com).

### **Notes to Editors**

Presenter:	ArtisTree
Partner:	Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation
Festival Artistic Directors:	Lindsey McAlister and Brian Zeilinger
Date:	10 – 22   06   2019
Venue:	ArtisTree, 1/F Cambridge House, Taikoo Place, Quarry Bay
Tickets:	On sale via <a href="#">Taikoo Social app</a>
Price:	\$200 and up
Language:	Performed in English
High-resolution images:	<a href="https://bit.ly/2Qh0lc1">https://bit.ly/2Qh0lc1</a>

## ArtisTree Selects: Theatre Bites Programme

### ***Our Man in Havana***

By Spies Like Us

Performance Dates: 13 | 06 | 2019 (7pm)  
14 | 06 | 2019 (9pm)  
15 | 06 | 2019 (7pm)

*"There was always another side to a joke, the side of the victim."* — *Graham Greene, Our Man in Havana*



What can you do with five actors and a vacuum cleaner? You can end up as a spy while selling vacuum cleaners in Havana and fake intelligence reports for the MI6! Physical theatre company Spies Like Us brings their award-winning production of *Our Man in Havana* to Hong Kong, and dissects the piercingly relevant themes of misinformation and corruption in this smart and witty adaptation from the classic novel by Graham Greene. Get ready to laugh, gasp and sweat your way through to Cuba in this physically explosive and hilarious production.

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### ***Sitting***

Written by Katherine Parkinson

Performance Dates: 13 | 06 | 2019 (9pm)  
14 | 06 | 2019 (7pm)  
15 | 06 | 2019 (5pm)

*"...A finely crafted story infused with sadness but balanced by some lovely comic writing."* — *BritishTheatre.com*



Written by Olivier nominee and BAFTA TV Award winner Katherine Parkinson and produced by two-time Tony Award winner Brian Zeilinger, *Sitting* presents three very different characters sitting for weekly portrait painting sessions by a mysterious painter called John. What started as mundane conversations during these sessions gradually began to unravel moving tales of love, longing and loss, with John slowly revealing moving truths and unexpected interconnections.

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## **Tobacco Road**

By Incognito Theatre Company

Performance Dates:   19 | 06 | 2019 (7:30pm)  
                              20 | 06 | 2019 (7pm)  
                              22 | 06 | 2019 (7pm)

*“This piece of physical theatre tells a more important story than perhaps any of us dare to imagine” — Theatre Weekly*



If you think gangsters are a men-only thing, think again! The award-winning theatre company Incognito Theatre Company comes to Hong Kong for the first time and presents *Tobacco Road*, a cutthroat story of five young men and women who pickpocketed and boxed their way for survival along the murky streets of 1920s London. With compelling characters based on real-life historical criminal figures, including Annie Diamond and the all-female Forty Elephants gang, this unique gangster story explores the day-to-day struggles of being a female gangster in a male-dominated world and the impossible standards of masculinity.

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## **If Not Me, Who?**

By Lindsey McAlister and Violaine Corradi

Performance Dates:   14 | 06 | 2019 (12:30pm)  
                              15 | 06 | 2019 (9pm)  
                              17 | 06 | 2019 (12:30pm)  
                              19 | 06 | 2019 (12:30pm)  
                              21 | 06 | 2019 (12:30pm; 7pm)  
                              22 | 06 | 2019 (2:30pm)



*“We are the last generation with a real opportunity to save the world” – Laurence Overmire (poet, environmentalist)*

Premiering at *Artistree Selects: Theatre Bites* this June, *If Not Me, Who?* is an urgent piece of eco-theatre written and directed by HKYAF’s Founder Lindsey McAlister, and features original music by Violaine Corradi – best known for her work with Cirque du Soleil. More than just a drama about environmental issues, join the talented cast on a roller-coaster ride that explores veganism, fast fashion, climate change and first world problems interspersed with powerful emotional moments and unforgettable comedic lines. Funny yet serious, *If Not Me, Who?* looks at the effects of climate disruption and how we can be motivated to change our way of life.

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## **No Kids**

By Ad Infinitum

Performance Dates: 20 | 06 | 2019 (9pm)  
21 | 06 | 2019 (9pm)  
22 | 06 | 2019 (4:30pm; 9pm)

*"It's no surprise that the show is constantly compelling"*  
— *The Stage*



"Should we have kids, or not?" – that's a question that every couple has to talk about at some point! George Mann and Nir Paldi are co-artistic directors of Ad Infinitum and a real-life couple. This June, they are bringing their award-winning show *No Kids* to Hong Kong, a staged discussion of the couple's questions related to having children, from adoption to surrogacy, co-parenting and the environmental impact of childbirth. Set to a lively Madonna soundtrack, be prepared to laugh, cry and ponder in this energetic and provoking production.

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## **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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