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Celebrating Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation's 25th anniversary

The story that lives forever reimagined

Miller Performing Arts:

FAME

At times glamorous, tough, heartbreaking and tragic



This November, 62 of Hong Kong's most magnetic youth performers light up the stage in the revival of the Oliver Award-winning musical *Fame*. Proudly presented by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) and directed by **Lindsey McAlister**, *Fame* is a provocative coming-of-age testament to the challenging lives of young performers and their pursuit for success.

25 years of arts for all

Following the acclaimed recent productions *Melodia* and *Flood*, HKYAF continues to develop high-quality productions, helping young people gain important life skills through the arts. Each production also brings together a professional creative team that provides youths with a professional environment to work in on and off stage.

Coinciding with its 25th anniversary, HKYAF is thrilled to restage *Fame* with a fresh 21st-century spin. First presented in 2005, the musical celebrates the persistence and resilience of youngsters who strive for careers in the arts. The story and characters resonate with many past and present HKYAF alumni who are passionate about the arts and pursuing higher education and careers in the arts and beyond. This production also honours many young talents that HKYAF has nurtured and inspired over the years, including Hong Kong-based singer and actor

Corina Chamberlain, Canada-based singer/songwriter and actor **Kristina Lao**, and London-based West End performers **Cletus Chan** and **Alistair So**.

From the silver screen to the stage

Adapted from the 1980s pop film and TV series of the same title, *Fame* was originally inspired by real-life students that attended New York City's renowned High School of Performing Arts. The musical follows the lives of a group of talented performing arts students as they learn to become stars through a lot of hard work at school, while grappling with humdrum adolescent issues of homework, first kisses and rejection.

Recreating *Fame* in 2018

This summer, the creative team auditioned 600 talented young performers from Hong Kong for coveted spots in the production. A cast of 62 young performers aged 11 to 25 from a range of local and international schools and university backgrounds and professional artists were selected. The cast will also perform alongside a professional 9-piece live rock band, delivering the award-winning score conducted by Musical Director **Scott Gibson**.

Lindsey McAlister, Director and Founder of HKYAF, has written and directed numerous youth musicals. Her directing credits include *A Chorus Line*, *Oliver*, *Rent* and *Blood Brothers*. Restaging *Fame* brings McAlister back her young adulthood when the 1980s movie became one of her inspirations to pursue a career in the arts.

For McAlister, "*Fame* is a vibrant and inspiring musical that speaks through generations. The story reveals some of the most brutal yet honest moments about growing up, dreaming big and never giving up on your dreams. Even though it was created in the 80s, the characters are still relatable to this day and to young people from all cultures and backgrounds. *Fame* is a celebration of the immensely powerful energy that young people bring to the world."

Marsha Roddy, celebrated costume and set designer for HKYAF, has previously worked on award-winning films, children's TV shows (BBC, Discovery Channel), West End theatre and opera productions. The design for *Fame* will include an interactive and versatile set, reminiscing parts of the original High School of Performing Arts building in New York City. The set will be paired with a palette of flaming red costumes to match the cast's dynamic energy. Choreographer **Giselle Liu** (Studiobanz; *Canadian Dancer of the Year* and *Provincial Champion of Modern Dance*) is working with the cast on unforgettable dance numbers, including *Hard Work*, *There She Goes!* (*Fame*) and the Oscar-winning theme song *Fame* – a number that will have musical lovers and new theatre-goers dancing off their seats!

NOTES TO EDITOR
Miller Performing Arts: Fame

School Performances

22, 23 November 2018 11am

Public Performances

22, 23 November 2018 11am, 7:30pm
24 November 2018 2:30pm

Private Performance

24 November 2018 7:30pm

Venue: Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre
Price: \$280, \$220*; Concessions \$250, \$200* (*restricted views)
Box Office: Tickets on sale now through URBTIX
Duration: Approx. 120-minute without intermission
Language: Performed in English with Chinese subtitles
Suitable For: Ages 9 and above
Enquiries: helen@hkyaf.com / 2561 3201

Visit www.hkyaf.com for more details.

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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