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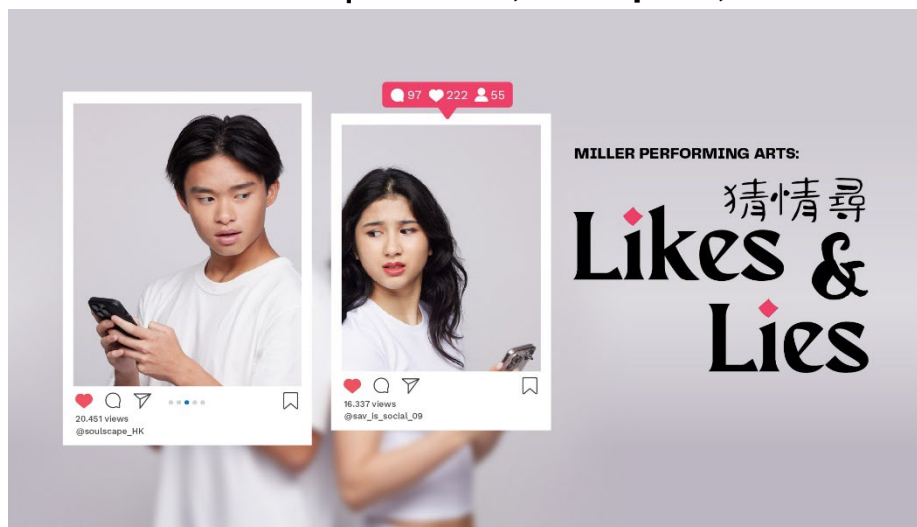


PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WestK Performing Arts x HKYAF: Miller Performing Arts – Likes & Lies

Navigating friendship and romance in the digital age
13–15.11.2025 | The Box, Freespace, WestK



High-resolution photos: <https://bit.ly/4gNVUHe>

(2 October 2025, Hong Kong) – In a digital age shaped by likes, filters, and the influence of friends and online personas, can Savannah and Chun discover what it truly means to be authentic?

This November, *Likes & Lies* explores the complexities of online relationships in spaces where real and virtual contexts collide. Written and directed by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation founder Lindsey McAlister, the production features a talented cast of 57 young performers aged 9 to 25 from local and international schools. The original musical is co-presented and co-produced by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and WestK Performing Arts, with Miller Performing Arts as project partner, AIA Hong Kong as Rethink Healthy Partner, and support from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. Tickets are now available on the official WestK [website](#).

A theatrical production about the problems of online romance

HKYAF's annual flagship musical – co-presented and co-produced with WestK Performing Arts for the third consecutive year – continues to support and nurture local performing talents, offering youngsters the chance to take part in rigorous professional training and perform in an industry-standard stage production. Since 2020, Lindsey McAlister has created theatrical works about social issues affecting young people today. In 2020, *#hashtag* tackled the deceptive world of social media. In 2021, *Only a Girl* presented a bittersweet LGBT+ tale of a girl's road to self-discovery. In 2022, *I'mperfect* explored issues around body image. In 2023, *24:7:365* looked at the complexities of obsessive-compulsive disorder, and in 2024, *Gen Last* confronted the issue of climate change. This year, **Likes & Lies** turns the spotlight on online relationships. Through the arts, it invites young audiences to reflect on the authenticity of the world of social media and the role it plays in their lives.

To ensure that the script accurately reflected the challenges young people face, Lindsey conducted extensive research into relevant reports and data. She said, "I want to explore the contrast between the glamorous, curated online lives teens present to each other and the authentic, often more complicated realities that exist behind the screen. Ultimately, I aim to provoke reflection on what truly matters: genuine human connection beyond likes, shares and filters, and the importance of being real in an increasingly digital world."

Winsome Tam, Head of Learning and Participation (Performing Arts), West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, remarked, "We believe in the power of the performing arts to engage young people in meaningful conversations about the world around them. When the themes reflect their lived experiences, the impact is immediate and far-reaching. That's why WestK Performing Arts has continued our collaboration with HKYAF – to support work that not only nurtures creative talent but also gives voice to the issues that matter most to this generation."

An important issue brought to life by a top-notch creative team

Likes & Lies is supported by a brilliant creative team, including seasoned music director Amuer Calderon and award-winning set designer Jan Wong. The musical features five original songs composed by Calderon, who drew inspiration from the musicals *West Side Story* and *Romeo and Juliet*, and combined elements of pop, electronic, EDM and folk-rock styles to mirror the energy of the youthful cast. Wong's set design includes a stage composed of black and grey geometric blocks, echoing the digital pixels that make up the online images and the tensions created by snap external judgments. This backdrop offers a strong contrast to the bright costumes of the nuanced individuals we see on stage in their everyday lives, with the hope that the characters and audience will ultimately break through the filters and reclaim their true selves.

Tickets for **Likes & Lies** are now available via the official WestK website. For details and updates about the production, visit www.westk.hk/event/likes-lies and @hkyaf on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Editor Notes

WestK x HKYAF: Miller Performing Arts – Likes & Lies

Date & Time:	13 11 2025	7:30pm
	14 11 2025	7:30pm
	15 11 2025	2:30pm, 7:30pm
Venue:	The Box, Freespace, WestK	
Ticketing:	Official WestK website www.westk.hk/event/likes-lies \$300 (Concessions: \$260)	
Note	Running time approx. 90 minutes without intermission. Performed in English with Chinese and English surtitles. Suitable for ages 9 and above.	
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Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hkyaf
Instagram: www.instagram.com/hkyaf

West Kowloon Cultural District

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Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) is a charity that provides access to high quality, noncompetitive 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.

WestK Performing Arts

WestK Performing Arts strives to establish WestK as a focal point for vibrant arts performances from Asia and beyond. Led by the vision of amplifying Hong Kong's creative potential and transcending boundaries in the performing arts, the WestK Performing Arts curates an exciting and innovative annual programme that spans across dance, music, theatre, and Chinese opera in a range of artistic styles and traditions, presented through major arts and music festivals, as well as new, original commissions by local and international artists.

WestK offers a growing portfolio of world-class performing arts venues, including the Xiqu Centre and Freespace, which opened in 2019, and the forthcoming WestK Performing Arts Centre, attracting top artists and arts groups from around the world for cross-cultural and interdisciplinary collaborations that fuel artistic advancements for the city and the region. WestK is one of the largest and most ambitious cultural projects in the world. Its vision is to create a vibrant new cultural quarter for Hong Kong on 40 hectares of reclaimed land located alongside Victoria Harbour. With a varied mix of theatres, performance spaces, and museums, WestK produces and hosts world-class exhibitions, performances, and cultural events, providing 23 hectares of public open space, including a two-kilometre waterfront promenade.

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