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### Miller Performing Arts: **Pull Back the Curtain** **2018 Sharing Performance**

An Original Theatre Performance and Scripted Readings  
by Hong Kong's Best Young Playwrights



(Hong Kong – 12 September 2018) Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) proudly announces the return of *Pull Back the Curtain*, this year with brand new scripts written by Eloise Oliver, Rae Lee and Yasmin Subba Hingun as part of our *Pull Back the Curtain 2018* youth scriptwriting programme.

Now in its fifth edition, *Pull Back the Curtain* has seen four years of full-house performances. For this year's sharing programme, HKYAF is delighted to present the youth production ***Healed***, written by 17-year-old Eloise Oliver and transformed into a professional physical theatre production directed by Lindsey McAlister and Eimear Mimi Burns. The programme also includes staged readings of ***A Cup of Coffee***, written by 17-year-old Rae Lee, and ***In the Fishbowl***, by 22-year-old Yasmin Subba Hingun.

*Pull Back the Curtain* is a three-month-long youth scriptwriting initiative led by professional theatre director and playwright Clare Stearns. In a series of five workshops, twenty-four aspiring playwrights from a range of local and international schools and university backgrounds came

together to experiment with ideas and work on their writing skills. The workshops focused on developing and articulating new concepts, exploring experiences from everyday life, and examining local and international social topics through writing and theatre performance. Three resulting scripts were selected for presentation. One as a full production, two as scripted readings.

Selected for full production, Eloise Oliver's script ***Healed*** opens up the intimate world of a young female performer who struggles with insecurities about her chosen profession. The story weaves between her off stage and on stage lives, her internal conflicts and vulnerability. A powerful story of the conflict of wanting to be on stage but the dilemma of fearing judgement and rejection from her audience and mother. Oliver's writing process involved gathering materials from her research in psychology and ideas around her character before scripting.

Rae Lee's ***A Cup of Coffee*** was inspired by a classroom discussion about school shootings in the US. Drawing on the traumatic ordeal of the victims' families, ***A Cup of Coffee*** uses a series of fragmented dialogues to capture the experience of a mother whose daughter dies in a school shooting incident. Lee's script incorporates the perspectives of the characters entwined with pre-recorded voice materials, adding touches of humour between the lines as a deadly serious topic unfolds.

With ***In the Fishbowl***, Yasmin Subba Hingun draws an unlikely but fitting parallel between the lives of two goldfish and the daily struggles of people in Hong Kong faced with compact environments. Charged with humour and incorporating classic tunes from the 1970s, the production tackles the effects of a lack of space to live and dream with a positive message about how to live a happy life and make the most of what we have.

Originally inspired by the *New Views* youth writing programme at London's National Theatre, ***Pull Back the Curtain*** does more than just nurture an interest in scriptwriting. Workshop Director Clare Stearns said, "Through scriptwriting and theatre performance, participants can explore historical, social and personal events so as to make sense of the world around them."

Join us this month at our sharing performance and enjoy original theatre works written by some of Hong Kong's very best youth voices! Register now for free seats at [www.hkyaf.com/events/741!](http://www.hkyaf.com/events/741!)

## NOTES TO EDITOR

### **Full Production**

#### ***Healed***

**By Eloise Oliver**

A play about a young woman who is desperate to be someone else. Someone who is pure, someone who is compassionate, someone who can love. It is a lesson about listening to those around you and taking what they say as the truth. A mother and a dream, two things she can't have but the only thing getting in the way, is herself.

### **Blocked Reading**

#### ***A Cup of Coffee***

**By Rae Lee**

And just like that, everything had changed.

### **Rehearsed Reading**

#### ***In the Fishbowl***

**By Yasmin Subba Hingun**

An absurd, satirical, yet unabashedly feel-good tale of two goldfish stuck in a bad situation. Bubbly wants to get out of the bowl, Maude says it's impossible. Expect singing, silliness and a strange parallel between the worlds of goldfish and humans.

### **Performances**

Dates & Times:	28/09/2018	7:30pm
	29/09/2018	4pm
	29/09/2018	7:30pm
Venue:	McAulay Studio, Hong Kong Arts Centre	
Duration:	Approx. 90 minutes, no intermission	
Tickets:	Register for free seats at <a href="http://www.hkyaf.com/events/741">www.hkyaf.com/events/741</a>	
Remarks:	Performed in English. Suitable for ages 10 and above	
Enquiries:	<a href="mailto:helen@hkyaf.com">helen@hkyaf.com</a> / 2561 3201	

## **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**

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Josephine Leung

Tel: (852) 2877 2625

Email: [josephine@hkyaf.com](mailto:josephine@hkyaf.com)

Ms. Rosata Ching

Tel: (852) 2214 0266

Email: [rosata@hkyaf.com](mailto:rosata@hkyaf.com)

Ms. Jade Yung

Tel: (852) 2877 2207

Email: [jade@hkyaf.com](mailto:jade@hkyaf.com)