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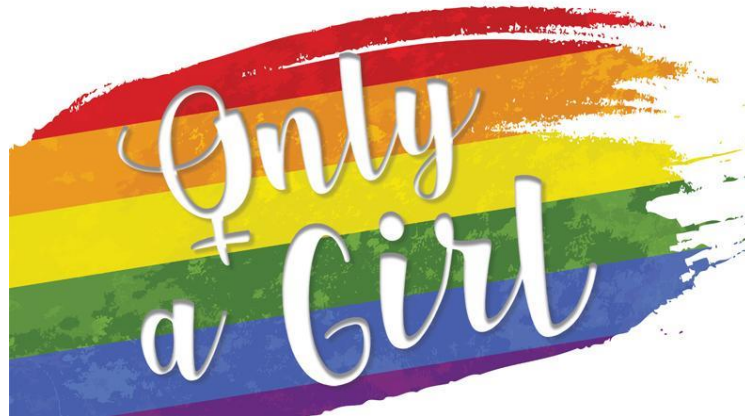
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## PRESS RELEASE

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# HKYAF's Flagship Original Theatre Production **Miller Performing Arts: Only a Girl** This November: Embracing diversity and inclusivity



**Hi-resolution images:** <https://bit.ly/3FKfzFI>

(11 October 2021, Hong Kong) – We often hear the words “be true to yourself”, but what if we’re unsure who our real self is? At some point, most of us have struggled with the question: Who am I and how do I want to live my life?

This November, 50 of Hong Kong’s most talented youth actors and dancers – students and alumni from local and international schools aged 12 to 25 – bring the original theatre production **Only a Girl** to the stage. Proudly presented by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) and written and directed by **Lindsey McAlister**, *Only a Girl* is a bittersweet LGBT+ tale about a girl’s road to self-discovery through theatre, dance, music and video.

**Only a Girl** begins with a chance encounter on the MTR that turns 15-year-old Jazz’s predictable world upside down. As the sparks of first love ignite, she learns how to navigate conservative parents, a nosey sister, curious friends and a new secret life. But will she find a way to live fully and openly?

### Embrace diversity and inclusivity through the arts

In November 2020, Lindsey McAlister presented the powerful theatre production *#hashtag* about the social media dilemma facing teenagers today. The success of the production, and the enthusiastic response it received from younger audiences, motivated Lindsey to tackle other contemporary issues and inspire young people to change through the arts. *Only a Girl*, a work about diversity, inclusivity and acceptance, aims to inspire teenagers to accept themselves and embrace others who are different from them.

### **Months of in-depth preparation**

To ensure the authenticity of the work, Lindsey conducted extensive research, speaking with teachers, reaching out to young people from the LGBT+ community, listening to LGBT+ music and watching LGBT+ TV programmes over a period of six months. The idea for a love story between two teenage girls in an Asian society emerged as Lindsey realised it is still challenging for young people today to discuss intimate relationships with their family and friends.

### **Facilitate communication between parents and children**

“I want to open up a dialogue between parents and children about LGBT+, where young people can feel comfortable to talk openly about gender identity and self-awareness. When the show is over, I hope the audience will think about diversity and inclusivity and be inspired,” said Lindsey.

Cast member Bianca Bautista, who plays the role of Jazz, said: “*Only a Girl* is not only a show but an educational opportunity for everyone to open their eyes, expand their knowledge on the topic of LGBT+, and take away a few new terms and ways to address people. It’s a chance for everyone to be more compassionate and understanding with one another.”

### **HKYAF Youth choreographers work alongside the professional creative team**

Most of the dance segments in *Only a Girl* were choreographed by young choreographers Natalie Hsu, Reina Lim and Valerie Cheung. Nurtured during HKYAF’s *Youth Assistant Choreographers* programme, they worked alongside the professional creative team during the development of the show. “I expect *Only a Girl* to be something refreshing – a necessary reminder that brings a warm sense of community and compassion to anyone who watches it,” shared Natalie.

### **Collaborating with costume and set designer Marsha Roddy**

A good stage production needs a great script and actors – but also a great set and costumes! The costumes and set for *Only a Girl* were designed by the amazingly talented Marsha Roddy, a long-term partner of HKYAF, who has previously worked on award-winning films, children’s TV shows (BBC, Discovery Channel) and theatre and opera productions in London’s West End. Although Marsha is currently in the United Kingdom, she was with the team online throughout the development and rehearsals, offering unflinching enthusiasm and support.

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

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Miller Performing Arts: *Only a Girl*

*Only a Girl* begins with a chance encounter on the MTR that turns 15-year-old Jazz's predictable world upside down. As the sparks of first love ignite, she learns how to navigate conservative parents, a nosey sister, curious friends and a new secret life. But will she find a way to live fully and openly?

#### **Theatre Performance**

**Date & Time:** 25 – 27 | 11 | 2021 7:30pm  
27 | 11 | 2021 2:30pm

**Venue:** Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre

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

**Box Office:** Tickets on sale via [www.popticket.hk/only-a-girl](http://www.popticket.hk/only-a-girl)

**Duration:** Approx. 120 minutes without intermission

**Language:** Performed in English with Chinese subtitles

**Suitable for:** ages 10 and above

**Enquiries:** [mag@hkyaf.com](mailto:mag@hkyaf.com) / 2877 2656

Visit [www.hkyaf.com/onlyagirl](http://www.hkyaf.com/onlyagirl) 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.

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