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WestK x HKYAF: Miller Performing Arts – **24:7:365**

A mesmerising exploration
into the inner world of a young girl with OCD



High-resolution photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/v818h9phhkge5m90zdf21/h?rlkey=d8udxnrs9k0hwig1j4nff0948&dl=0>

(19 September 2023, Hong Kong) – Some of the symptoms of OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder) are well known – compulsive hand washing and fear of germs, repeated checking of doors and windows to ensure they are locked, obsessively performing tasks a certain number of times. But how many of us can imagine the inner world of those living with OCD?

Between 2 and 4 November, over 40 of Hong Kong's most talented young actors and dancers storm the stage with **24:7:365** – an original musical about a young girl with OCD. Written and directed by HKYAF founder Lindsey McAlister, **24:7:365** is a multifaceted exploration of a complex condition whose nature is often misunderstood, co-presented and co-produced by the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and WestK, with Miller Performing Arts as project partner and supported by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Celebrate HKYAF's 30th anniversary and join us at our flagship production – this year taking place for the very first time at The Box, Freespace in the West Kowloon Cultural District. Tickets are on sale now via West Kowloon Cultural District's official website.

Harper only wears blue on Tuesdays. Her books have to be arranged by colour. Light switches and door locks must be checked nine times – her magic number.

Harper hasn't left her bedroom since the pandemic began three years ago. Her days are filled with counting, sorting, ordering and obeying the voices in her head. Through Instagram,

she watches her contemporaries start going back to school, to parties, enjoying holidays and hanging out. She knows her actions are irrational, but the voices in her head are relentless – 24:7:365 they tell her what to do, making Harper a prisoner of her own mind.

A theatrical production about the mental health issues facing young people today

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 the bittersweet LGBT+ tale of a girl's road to self-discovery, and in 2022, *I'mperfect* explored the problem of body image issues. This year, Lindsey has worked with health experts and the mental health charity Mind HK, to create a work that draws attention to mental health and wellbeing.

24:7:365 was created in partnership with an award-winning professional team, including set designer Jan Wong and costume designer Ainsley So. Talking about his work, Jan said: "The design includes several stylised eyes – a reminder of how people see us and how we see ourselves. OCD is an emotional difficulty that focuses on seeking a balance in repetitive behaviours, so I used a lot of white to expose the traits that someone with OCD patient finds it hard to handle." In Ainsley's words: "**24:7:365** includes more than 40 performers with the same mindset but different features. To create a sense of individuality within the group, I've chosen tie-dye for the costume design to present the same colours in a variety of patterns. Design elements are also echoed across the costumes."

24:7:365 is co-presented and co-produced by the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and WestK, with Miller Performing Arts as project partner and supported by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. To nurture local performing talents, the programme offers youngsters the chance to take part in rigorous, professional training and perform in an industry-standard stage production.

Tickets for **24:7:365** are now on sale via the official West Kowloon Cultural District website. For details about the production, visit www.westkowloon.hk/en/247365musical. For the latest updates, follow @hkyaf on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Editor Notes

WestK x HKYAF: Miller Performing Arts – 24:7:365

Date & Time:	02 11 2023	7:30pm
	03 11 2023	7:30pm
	04 11 2023	2:30pm, 7:30pm
Venue:	The Box, Freespace, West Kowloon Cultural District	
Ticketing:	West Kowloon Cultural District's official website www.westkowloon.hk/en/247365musical \$300 (Concessions: \$260)	
Note	Running time approx. 90 minutes without intermission. Performed in English with Chinese and English subtitles. Suitable for ages 11 and above. The show includes depictions of individuals struggling with mental health issues that may be challenging for some viewers.	
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Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

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

West Kowloon Cultural District

Facebook : www.facebook.com/westkowloon
www.facebook.com/freespacewestkowloon
Instagram : www.instagram.com/westkowloon
www.instagram.com/freespace_wk
www.instagram.com/westkowloonlearning

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.

West Kowloon Cultural District

The West Kowloon Cultural District 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 forty hectares of reclaimed land located alongside Victoria Harbour. With a varied mix of theatres, performance spaces, and museums, the West Kowloon Cultural District will produce and host world-class exhibitions, performances and cultural events, providing twenty-three hectares of public open space, including a two-kilometre waterfront promenade.

Freespace

Freespace – Hong Kong’s new centre for contemporary performance in the heart of the West Kowloon Art Park – presents multi-genre performances and events, produces boundary-pushing collaborations, and promotes new ways of seeing and experiencing performance. Partnering with emerging and established artists from Hong Kong and around the world, we nurture diverse creative voices and bring works that challenge and redefine the role of performing arts for our age.

Media Enquiries

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