

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Miller Performing Arts :
PULL BACK THE CURTAIN
Youth Scriptwriting Initiative

**UNEARTHING THE CREATIVE TALENTS OF EMERGING
PLAYWRIGHTS**



High resolution pictures:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3zyii9ckwno4dym/AAB4TPNArSMm7VrDUjvbY2lVa?dl=0>

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation is pleased to announce that 24-year-old Eimear (Mimi) Aislinn Burns' play, *Domestic*, will be transformed into a professional physical theatre production as part of the third *Pull Back the Curtain* youth scriptwriting programme. Taking place at Lan Kwai Fong's Loft 22 in California Tower on 20 and 21 May, the piece will be performed alongside staged readings of *Dear Zachary* by 15-year-old Rachael Lee (Chinese International School) and *Charlie* by 17-year-old Michelle Chan (King George V School).

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation's *Pull Back the Curtain* is a three-month youth scriptwriting initiative. Through a series of six workshops led by professional theatre director and playwright Clare Stearns, twenty-four young people aged 14 to 25 from a range of local and international schools and universities participated in the initiative, to experiment with ideas, develop writing skills, articulate their thoughts on daily lives and social issues in writing, and pen their own 30-minute theatrical plays.

Taking inspiration from the daily lives of the 340,000 foreign domestic helpers that currently work in Hong Kong, Mimi's *Domestic* will be staged as a theatre and movement piece by director **Lindsey McAlister** to bring out the issues of social identity. Mimi says, "Many of the young people here in Hong Kong have grown up with nannies or childminders in their household, and yet how well do they know them? Our nannies run our homes and cook our meals. Seeing them on Sunday with their food and

games made me even more fascinated by them. I was so impressed with how positive they are, even though dealing with being over-worked, disparaged and missing love ones and children back home.” She adds, “At first, I was afraid that my writing wouldn’t successfully communicate the message I wanted to convey. Throughout the course we were provided with endless resources, tips and writing tools which made the daunting task of putting pen to paper that much easier.”

Founder of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and director of the performance **Lindsey McAlister** says, “Hong Kong provides ample opportunities for young people to be involved on stage, but rarely behind the scenes or scriptwriting. Through this initiative, we provide a platform for young people to experiment and write out their ideas. And being able to see one of their plays come to life – it’s a very empowering and important debut for a young scriptwriter.”

Pull back the Curtain is inspired by the New Views programme of London’s National Theatre. Workshop director **Clare Stearns** says, “Scriptwriting is not just about writing literary works but is a powerful tool to raise serious issues in the theatre. We want to encourage young people to explore the things that matter to them – the things that make them mad and the things that make them laugh. Through scriptwriting and theatre performance, they can explore historical, social and personal events so as to make sense of the world around them.”

Following two years of full-house performances, *Pull Back the Curtain* returns with new theatre works written by some of Hong Kong’s very best youth voices on 20 and 21 May! Register now for free seats at www.hkyaf.com/pullbackthecurtain2016

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Pull Back the Curtain 2016 - Sharing Performance

Through a series of six workshops, 24 young people experimented with ideas, developed writing skills, articulated their thoughts on daily lives and social issues in writing, and pen their own 30-minute theatrical plays.

Performances:

20 May, 7:30pm – 8:45pm

21 May, 4:00pm – 5:15pm and 7:30pm – 8:45pm

Venue: LOFT 22 (22/F, California Tower, 30-36 D’Aguilar Street, Lan Kwai Fong, Central)

Admission free, online registration required at www.hkyaf.com/pullbackthecurtain

Enquiries: phoebe@hkyaf.com / 2561 3201

Suitable for ages 12 and above; performance in English, approximately 75 minutes

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive arts experiences for young people aged 5 to 25. Since 1993, YAF has organised inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively created opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year we reach over 800,000 people with our projects, in the form of workshops, exhibitions, performances and more.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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PERFORMACNE DETAILS

Theatre Performance

DOMESTIC

by **Eimear Aislinn Burns**

These women run our homes, walk our dogs and cook our meals. They nurture our children while being heartbreakingly absent from their own. We call them Jeje, Nanny, Aunty, Domestic Helper but do we know their names? Do we know them at all?

Nuha, Zulaiqa, Ayu, Lidia and Hendry arrive in Hong Kong and share Sundays filled with goals and dreams but will they see it through or will it all be too much for them to handle?

Rehearsed Reading

Rehearsed Reading

DEAR ZACHARY

by **Rachael Lee**

In life we only regret the chances we didn't take and the things we didn't say.

Prepared Reading

CHARLIE

by **Michelle Chan**

All Lily wants is to take back her son. But doesn't she know that he's been here all along?