

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**An exciting new version of the Tony Award-winning musical**

**starring Hong Kong's best youth performers**

## **Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation's A CHORUS LINE**

12–14 December 2013, Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre

This winter, in celebration of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation's (HKYAF) 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 40 of Hong Kong's most talented and promising young dancers, singers and actors storm onto the stage in a 21st century version of the multiple award-winning musical *A Chorus Line*. Directed by Lindsey McAlister OBE, this provocative and exhilarating musical is a testament to the challenging life of a performer – at times glamorous, at times tough, heartbreaking and even tragic.



*A Chorus Line* takes audiences through the final gruelling audition for a new Broadway musical. While speaking loudly to those in the business, it is also a universal tale of struggle and rejection, of striving to fulfill a dream and making the most of second chances. After opening on Broadway in 1975, the original production won nine Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. A 1985 film version starred Michael Douglas in the role of the imperious director Zach. HKYAF's 2013 production adapts the story for a contemporary audience and promises an unforgettable and moving night at the theatre.

Living out their roles before portraying them on stage, over 600 young people aged 10 to 25 auditioned in May this year to secure a coveted spot in the show. "Auditions are a crucial part of the professional process for performers – in fact for everyone," said Director **Lindsey McAlister**. "Young people in Hong Kong are no strangers to the interviewing culture, but at YAF auditioning is as much about building and celebrating your strengths as it is about overcoming challenges. *A Chorus Line* is perfect for addressing this issue – as well as other issues faced by teenagers today, such as gender stereotypes, homosexuality and STDs. We were thrilled to see a huge increase in the numbers of young people auditioning this year – around 20 percent more than in other years. It shows parents' growing realisation that being involved in the performing arts is not just about perfecting singing and dancing skills. It is equally about nurturing young people to be confident, responsible team players and disciplined time managers – our performers juggle 150 hours of rehearsal time on top of all their other commitments! These skills don't always get picked up in the classroom. The growth in interest also reflects the encouraging fact that a career in Performing Arts is increasingly seen as a serious, professional choice."

Celebrated set and costume designer **Marsha Roddy**, who has worked on a number of award-winning films, children's TV shows (BBC, Discovery Channel) and West End theatre and opera productions added, "For every YAF production, we strive not only to break the mould, but to proudly celebrate that it is a professional production – the cast just so

happens to comprise young people!" About this year's set, she said, "When people think of *A Chorus Line*, they imagine the traditional row of rehearsal studio mirrors and a chalk line down the front of the stage. We are going to change that view – be prepared to be surprised!"

Choreographing and joining the cast in the only adult role is ex-Hong Kong Ballet Senior Soloist **Jun Mabaquiao**, a long-time collaborator on HKYAF's musicals. Jun is joined by co-choreographer **Giselle Liu**, whose merits include *Canadian Dancer of the Year* and *Provincial Champion of Modern Dance*. Musical Director **Scott Gibson** works with the cast to deliver the Tony Award-winning score, presenting some of theatre's best loved songs, including *One, What I Did For Love, Hello Twelve* and *I Hope I Get It*.

Tickets are now available at all URBTIX outlets. Our shows sell out ... so book your tickets soon!

High res photos available here: [http://ftp.hkyaf.com/press@hkyaf.com/2013\\_HKYAF\\_A\\_Chorus\\_Line.zip](http://ftp.hkyaf.com/press@hkyaf.com/2013_HKYAF_A_Chorus_Line.zip)



Notes to Editors:

### **Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation's *A Chorus Line***

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

**Dates:** 12, 13, 14 December 2013, 7:30pm  
14 December 2013, 2:30pm

**Tickets:** \$280, \$250\*; Restricted Viewing \$220, \$200\* \*For students and senior citizens only

**Box Office:** URBTIX (telephone booking: 2111 5999 / online booking: [www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk))

Suitable for ages 12+, performed in English with Chinese surtitles, approximately 2 hours, no intermission.

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### **Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation**

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (YAF) [www.hkyaf.com](http://www.hkyaf.com) is a charity that provides high quality, non-competitive arts experiences for all young people aged 5 to 25. Established in 1993 by Lindsey McAlister, OBE, YAF organises inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to young people of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creates opportunities for disadvantaged and underprivileged young people. Each year we reach over 800,000 young people through our projects, exhibitions and performances.

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