

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation presents

**65 of Hong Kong's best youth performers
in an unforgettable reimagining of the acclaimed musical**

Blood Brothers

26 – 28 November 2015

Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

This winter, 65 of Hong Kong's most talented and promising young dancers, singers and actors storm onto the stage to present the funny, captivating and heartbreakingly sad musical *Blood Brothers*. Directed by Lindsey McAlister OBE, JP, this production is an imaginative and magical retelling of the Olivier Award-winning musical – a theatre piece met with standing ovations time after time.

Twin brothers are separated at birth. One prospers, the other falls on hard times. They grow up to be friends then bitter enemies – living under the prophecy that the day they find out about their true relationship will be the last day of their lives.

Earlier this May, more than 600 young people auditioned to secure a coveted spot in the show. Aged between 10 and 22, and from 30 schools and universities across Hong Kong, the cast is now preparing for the opening night. Director **Lindsey McAlister** says, "We selected *Blood Brothers* because it is a powerfully written piece that moves audiences to laughter and tears, and because its enduring appeal makes it just as relevant today as it was over thirty years ago. On the surface, the show can come across as lighthearted and fun, but its conclusion is a stark reminder that dire situations do not call for desperate measures. In rehearsal, we explore themes that are integral to the piece, such as nature versus nurture. We also tie it to the lives of our young people, discussing how the income gap between wealth and poverty impacts society in Hong Kong. It's been very encouraging to see how knowledgeable and thoughtful our young cast are, especially when it comes to expressing their concerns about young people who have fallen through the cracks of society."





YAF's celebrated costume and set designer **Marsha Roddy**, who has worked on award-winning films, children's TV shows (BBC, Discovery Channel) and West End theatre and opera productions says, "This performance of *Blood Brothers* will be unlike any you've seen before. We've given the production an ethereal feeling, one that brings the magic of theatre to audiences."

The production is co-choreographed by **Giselle Liu** (Studiodanz; *Canadian Dancer of the Year* and *Provincial Champion of Modern Dance*), **Kirsten Ho** (DANCE Kho)

and ex-Hong Kong Ballet Senior Soloist, **Jun Mabaquiao**, with Musical Director **Scott Gibson** working with the cast to deliver the Tony Award-winning score and present some of theatre's best loved songs, including '*Marilyn Monroe*', '*Long Sunday Afternoon*' and '*Tell Me It's Not True*'.

Download high resolution photos:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9a7tha0zk7qangm/AAD74aPZ8Nk7Tgf6W_jvKmuLa?dl=0

Notes to Editors:

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation's *Blood Brothers*

Venue	Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Dates	26, 27, 28 November 2015, 7:30pm 28 November 2015, 2:30pm
Tickets	\$280, \$220; Concessions \$250, \$200
Box Office	Tickets on sale from 15 October through HK Ticketing
Enquiries	kerryL@hkyaf.com / 2877 2656

Suitable for ages 11+, performed in English, duration approximately 1 hour 30 mins

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (YAF), 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, JP, the charity organises inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to young people of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creates opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year we reach over 800,000 people through our projects, exhibitions and performances.

Media Enquiries

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