

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



80 of Hong Kong's best youth performers
present one of the world's most beloved classics

Tickets now on sale!

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation's *Oliver!*

27 – 29 November 2014, Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre

This winter, 80 of Hong Kong's most talented and promising young dancers, singers and actors storm onto the stage to present the multiple award-winning musical *Oliver!* Directed by Lindsey McAlister OBE, JP, this musical brings to life Charles Dickens' exhilarating 1830s classic of one boy's survival against the odds.

Escaping from Mr. Bumble's cruel workhouse with no food, no money and nowhere to live, poor orphan Oliver Twist meets the Artful Dodger, a cheeky head pickpocket of

loathsome Mr. Fagin's pint-sized gang. But just as it seems that Oliver is about to embark on a life of petty criminality, he encounters a kind gentleman who might just hold the key to his past and future...



In May this year, more than 800 young people auditioned to secure a coveted spot in the show. Aged between 9 and 25, and from 43 schools and universities across Hong Kong, the cast is now preparing for the opening night alongside five professional adult actors. Director **Lindsey McAlister** says, "We selected *Oliver!* not just because it's a popular classic story, but because of its parallels with modern day life. While the show itself comes across as quite lighthearted and fun, the underlying themes are actually very dark and serious. In rehearsals, we look at everyday subjects like family, greed and hardship, but also focus our discussions on wider concerns such as hunger, children's rights, child exploitation, bullying and domestic violence. It's very encouraging to see how knowledgeable and thoughtful our young cast is, especially when it comes to expressing their concerns about young people who have fallen through the cracks of society."

The role of Oliver is shared by two eleven-year-olds, **Freddie Fawcett** (Chinese International School) and **Sebastian Clifford** (Kellett School). Clifford featured in a professional production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in London last summer.

“The bright costumes we’ve designed for the cast create a dramatic contrast to the dark stage set and bleak setting,” said YAF’s celebrated costume and set 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.

Co-choreographing the production alongside **Giselle Liu** – *Canadian Dancer of the Year* and *Provincial Champion of Modern Dance* – is Ex-Hong Kong Ballet Senior Soloist, **Jun Mabaquiao**, while Musical Director **Scott Gibson** is working with the cast to deliver the Tony Award-winning score and present some of theatre’s best loved songs, including *I’d Do Anything*, *You’ve Got to Pick a Pocket or Two*, *Food Glorious Food*, and *As Long As He Needs Me*.

Tickets now on sale at all URBTIX outlets.



[Download high resolution photos:](#)

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n9hjo8dq0e1o09g/AAaimx3zyH2td8jBUCU8HNZPa?dl=0>

Notes to Editors:

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation’s *Oliver!*

Venue Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre
Dates 27, 28, 29 November 2014, 7:30pm
29 November 2014, 2:30pm
Tickets \$280, \$220*; Concessions \$250, \$200* (*restricted views)
Box Office URBTIX (2111 5999 / www.urbtix.hk)
Enquiries kerryL@hkyaf.com / 2877 2656

Suitable for ages 6+, performed in English with Chinese surtitles, approximately 2 hours 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, YAF 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.

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