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### WestK x HKYAF: Miller Performing Arts – **Gen Last**

**A chance to change the fate of humankind**  
**7–9.11.2024 | The Box, Freespace, WestK**



**High-resolution photos:** <https://shorturl.at/kYV35>

(24 September 2024, Hong Kong) – In the face of extreme weather conditions and the imminent collapse of civilisation, what would you do if you held the destiny of humanity in your hands?

The original musical *Gen Last* tells a story of climate change, coexistence with nature, empowerment and optimism. Written and directed by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation founder Lindsey McAlister, the production features a talented cast of 64 young Hong Kong performers aged 7 to 25, and is co-presented and co-produced by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and WestK, with Miller Performing Arts as project partner and supported by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

It is the year 2055. On a bleak and desolate post-apocalyptic wasteland, a group of young people with extraordinary psychic powers are drawn together from different corners of the globe. They are the enigmatic Crystal Children of *Gen Last*.

Navigating the world alone, they confront the consequences of our failure to heed the warnings of climate change, hopeful that they can rebuild civilisation from the ashes.

## A theatrical production about a global issue: climate change

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. In 2022, *I'mperfect* explored the problem of body image issues, and in 2023, *24:7:365* looked at the complex nature of obsessive-compulsive disorder.

To develop this year's script around the issue of climate change, Lindsey consulted marine mammal expert Dr Lindsay Porter OBE, former assistant director of HK Observatory Leung Wing-mo, and her own son Sam Inglis, a climate scientist and glaciologist. The information she gleaned was vital for helping her create an engaging theatrical work that accurately reflected the facts and inspired the audience to address an urgent global issue.

Talking about the production, Lindsey said, "Art is a universal language. It transcends barriers, creating immersive experiences that can make climate change tangible. By harnessing our creativity, we can spark crucial conversations and motivate change. Rather than sitting back and doing nothing, we can take the matter into our own hands and play a part in encouraging global governments to take proactive measures in addressing these urgent issues."

## The top-notch production team behind the musical

*Gen Last* is supported by a brilliant creative team, including experienced music director Amuer Calderon and up-and-coming French stage costume designer Lola Clavel. To communicate the musical's core messages effectively, Amuer Calderon produced five original songs. Lola Clavel, a semi-finalist in the 2022 Redress Design Award, proposed partnering with the non-profit fashion organisation Redress. The resulting collaboration integrated upcycling and redesigned recycled materials in the creation of the stage costumes, minimising the use of resources in line with the production's themes.

Each year, the creation and staging of HKYAF's annual flagship musical supports and nurtures local performing talents, offering youngsters the chance to take part in rigorous, professional training and perform in an industry-standard stage production. *Gen Last* marks the second year of the partnership between HKYAF and WestK, reinforcing both parties' long-held belief in the transformative power of the arts and their commitment to nurturing creativity and inspiration in young people.

*Gen Last* is co-presented and co-produced by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and WestK, with Miller Performing Arts as project partner and supported by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. It premieres November 7 to 9 at The Box, Freespace in WestK.

Tickets for *Gen Last* are now available via the official WestK website. For details about the production, visit [www.westk.hk/en/genlast](http://www.westk.hk/en/genlast). For the latest updates, follow @hkyaf on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

## Editor Notes

### WestK x HKYAF: Miller Performing Arts – Gen Last

Date & Time:	07   11   2024	7:30pm
	08   11   2024	7:30pm
	09   11   2024	2:30pm, 7:30pm
Venue:	The Box, Freespace, WestK	
Ticketing:	WestK's official website <a href="http://www.westk.hk/en/genlast">www.westk.hk/en/genlast</a> \$300 (Concessions: \$260)	
Note	Running time approx. 90 minutes without intermission. Performed in English with Chinese and English subtitles. Suitable for ages 8 and above.	
Enquiries:	<a href="mailto:carmen@hkyaf.com">carmen@hkyaf.com</a> / 2561 3201	

### Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hkyaf](http://www.facebook.com/hkyaf)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/hkyaf](http://www.instagram.com/hkyaf)

### West Kowloon Cultural District

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[www.instagram.com/westklearning](http://www.instagram.com/westklearning)

### 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 (WestK)

WestK 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 40 hectares of reclaimed land located alongside Victoria Harbour. With a varied mix of theatres, performance spaces, and museums, WestK produces and hosts world-class exhibitions, performances, and cultural events, providing 23 hectares of public open space, including a two-kilometre waterfront promenade.

## **Freespace**

Freespace is Hong Kong's new centre for contemporary performance. Located in the heart of the Art Park, Freespace presents multi-genre performances and events, produces boundary-pushing collaborations, and promotes new ways of seeing and experiencing performance. Freespace houses The Box, a flexible space for cutting-edge performances and one of the largest black box theatres in Hong Kong, two multi-purpose spaces, The Room and The Studio, designed for creative exchange and artistic collaborations, and Lau Bak Livehouse, an intimate bar cafe presenting live music from Hong Kong and around the world.

### **Media Enquiries**

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