

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Musical
Billy & The Dreamerz
First ever public showcase performances July 7th - 17th at
the Toronto Fringe Festival, Ada Slight Hall, Daniels
Spectrum

Toronto, ON, Canada - *Billy & The Dreamerz*, a new original musical with book & music by **Neil Coombs & Grace Kosaka**, starring **Ma-Anne Dionisio** (lead of *Miss Saigon*, Toronto, London West End), will have 7 showcase performances at the Toronto Fringe Festival. “The depth of emotion that Ma-Anne brings to the character of Elsie, named after my Mum, is incredible. I can’t wait to share this moving story with audiences in Toronto” said Author Neil Coombs.

Set in the UK of the 1980s, four young immigrants try to find their way in a white, working class town. These tropical fish out of water, find their purpose in music. When they win a national music contest, they are awarded the ultimate prize - a tour of the USA. When tragedy strikes, they must navigate between opportunity & obligation.

The musical has also been selected for the Toronto Fringe Cabaret July 9th, 10:45 to 11pm at the Tranzac Club Mainstage, Postscript Patio Busking July 14th 7:30 to 8:30pm and was recently selected for the National Alliance of Musical Theatre Songwriter’s Showcase. “As a female, AAPI producer and writer, I am very proud that in our talented cast of seven, five are people of colour” said Grace Kosaka.

Billy & the Dreamerz is produced by Kosaka, Executive Produced by Cody Lassen, and General Managed by KGM Theatricals.

Performance Times: Thurs Jul 7th - 4pm preview, Fri Jul 8th – 6:45pm, Mon Jul 11th - 9:30pm
Thurs Jul 14th - 1:30pm ASL performance, Fri Jul 15th - 3:00pm, Sat Jul 16th - 8:00pm
Sun Jul 17th - 5pm

Tickets available at <https://fringetoronto.com/fringe/show/billy-dreamerz>

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<https://www.billyandthedreamerz.com>

Neil Coombs, born in the UK, raised in Australia has written & directed a number of feature films, most notably 'A Broken Life' (Tom Sizemore, Ving Rhames). Coombs describes his directing style as 'Filmed Theatre'. Neil's first original Musical 'Billy & the Dreamerz' is based on elements of his life. www.billyandthedreamerz.com

Grace Kosaka is a Japanese-Canadian producer committed to diversity and inclusion in all aspects of theatre. She has a background in music and dance. Grace has raised millions of dollars for films including A Broken Life & The Last Hit. Kosaka is the Lead Producer of 'Billy & the Dreamerz' and founding member of the not-for-profit Convergent Stage. www.convergentstage.org

Ma-Anne Dionisio is a Philippine-born Canadian actress, best known for her role as Kim in the Canadian Premiere production of Miss Saigon (Mirvish) for which Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre was built. She has since reprised the role in London West End & Sydney. Ma-Anne has performed around the world and has been nominated twice as best actress in a musical.

Cody Lassen is a Tony Award-winning and Grammy-nominated theatre producer, most recently represented on Broadway by Paula Vogel's *How I Learned To Drive*, *Indecent*, which transferred from Off-Broadway to Broadway in just 11 months, and the Deaf West Theatre revival of *Spring Awakening*, which transferred from a 99 seat production in Los Angeles to Broadway in just 366 days. His most recent Off-Broadway production was the first new musical to open in New York since the pandemic began, *A Commercial Jingle for Regina Comet*. www.codylassen.com

Photo Links:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BZRJ-kJOEnuj8QVTd33AifFg3fSBjCuO?usp=sharing>

Photo Credit: Billy & The Dreamerz