



TigerLion Arts  
Presents

# KIPO!

*A Circus of Spirit, Song and Dance from Tibet,  
the Land of Snow*

## **Director**

Markell Kiefer

## **Movement Director**

Tyson Forbes

## **Music and Dance Director**

Tenzin Ngawang

## **Choreographer**

Lobsang Samten

**Created by TigerLion Arts,  
Tenzin Ngawang and the  
Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts**

Featuring the world-renowned Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts and starring Tenzin Ngawang, **KIPO!** is a spirited play of music, singing, dance and humor. **KIPO!** means “happy” and celebrates the essential spirit of Tibet; the basic goodness that is so deeply rooted in us all.

## Note from the Directors

Our goal with **KIPO!** has always been to create a powerful and accessible way to express and share traditional Tibetan arts and culture with the rest of the world. This production is truly a cross cultural collaboration that unites Western theatrical styles of story and dramatic creation with the ancient traditions of the Tibetan performing arts. We want to bring to life the culture of Tibet through her songs and dances in a way that can inspire and touch the hearts of many people. With **KIPO!** we hope to open a window onto this world of color, robust life, laughter and basic human goodness and feeling.

The three of us have worked together for years and with **KIPO!** our creative collaboration is now an actuality and a dream come true. Ever since our first production of **KIPO!** in 2007 we have dreamed of joining forces with the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) to create a fabulous interweaving of story, music and dance.

And now, we have spent weeks rehearsing with our friends from TIPA who have come all the way from India to work with us. We feel honored to have them here and have had the great pleasure of directing and collaborating with this talented and dedicated group of performers.

**Markell Kiefer**  
**Tyson Forbes**  
**Tenzin Ngawang**

## About KIPO! Partners



**TigerLion Arts**

**About TigerLion Arts:** TigerLion Arts is a Minneapolis-based production company that celebrates human wisdom and the spirit of nature through

creative works that awaken, inform, and delight. It intends for **KIPO!** to tour the world celebrating basic goodness, showcasing the unique Tibetan culture, and fostering harmony within communities of all ages and backgrounds. For more information, visit [www.tigerlion.org](http://www.tigerlion.org).



**About the Center for Spirituality & Healing:**

Recognized nationally as a resource and leader in integrated health, the University of Minnesota's Center for Spirituality & Healing's goal is to transform healthcare by educating health professionals and students about complementary therapies and healing practices, conduct rigorous scientific research into complementary and non-pharmacological interventions, provide meaningful outreach programs, and work with partners to develop integrative clinical services. The inspiration behind the Center's work is the knowledge that health and well-being are enhanced when the best of complementary and conventional care are integrated. For more information, visit [www.csh.umn.edu](http://www.csh.umn.edu).



#### **About the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota:**

The Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota is dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Tibetan Community in Minnesota, and to preserving Tibetan cultural, educational and religious traditions and to preserving and promoting the values of the unique Tibetan cultural heritage under the auspices of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. TAFM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1992 to aid in the resettlement of Tibetans in Minnesota. Under the 1990 Immigration Act, Congress granted immigrant visas to 1000 Tibetan living in India and Nepal. Under this project, and with the help of volunteers and host families, 160 Tibetans were settled in the Twin Cities area in 1992-93. For more information, visit [www.tafm.org](http://www.tafm.org).



#### **About the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts:**

TIPA founded by the 14th Dalai Lama, was created to preserve the rich cultural heritage of Tibet. When the Communist Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959 attacked every aspect of Tibetan culture and civilization, forcing the Dalai Lama and some 100,000 Tibetans to flee to India, His Holiness felt the need to take immediate steps to preserve the traditional performing arts before they were lost forever. Thus, TIPA was established August 1959, four months after the Dalai Lama's arrival in India. For more information, visit [www.tibetanarts.org](http://www.tibetanarts.org).

## **The Production Staff**

**Executive Producer** Markell Kiefer

**Technical Producer** Tyson Forbes

**Co-Producer** Tenzin Ngawang

**Co-Producer** Maggie McKenna

**Production Manager** Tenzing Jigme

**Stage Manager** Samantha Lavell

**Co-Producer/Scenic Artist/Prop Master** Sky Brooks

**Set Design** Erica Zaffarano

**Lighting Design** Wu Chen Khoo

**Sound Design** Ryan Richards

**Movement & Staging Consultants**

Shannon Cristie, Ellen Fenster

**Publicist** Carol Schuler

**Graphic and Web Designer** Phong Tran

**Stage Management Supervisor** Christine Swartwout

**KIPO! Assistant Directors**

Tendor Norbu, Jigme Ritsekura, Tenzin Tsetan, Tenzin Choerap

# The Company

**Company Member** (Role) What Makes Us **KIPO!**

**Markell Kiefer** (Director) Space, breath and peace...  
**Tyson Forbes** (Movement Director) Deep connection with others  
**Tenzin Ngawang** (Movement and Dance Director, Big Tenzin) Deep connection  
**Sonam Choephel Shosur** (Director of TIPA, Head Monk) Hard work  
**Lobsang Samten** (Artistic Director of TIPA, choreographer, Pala, Pola)  
When I get an audience with HH the Dalai Lama  
**Tsering Paldon** (Amala, Mola) Going to temple  
**Yeshe Samdup** (Little Tenzin) Get time to relax  
**Tenzin Nyenchey** (Kipo, Tenzin's Dri) Reading books  
**Ngawang Tenzin** (Skeleton) Seeing smile on peoples faces  
**Tenzin Norbu** (Musician) Happy to be in TIPA  
**Pema Tenzin** (Leader of Wanderers, Oracle) When people treat me equally  
**Ugyen Norbu** (Kipo, Tenzin's Dri) Roaming freely...wandering  
**Tashi Tsering** (Husband to Be) Hanging out with friends  
**Tenzin Jampa** (Oracle's Secretary) Listening to music  
**Lharik Dhakpa** (ensemble) Playing basketball  
**Phurbu Tsering** (ensemble) When I ride my bike  
**Tenzin Choenyi** (Tenzin's Love, Musician) Lil' brother Tsewang calls my name  
**Tenzin Yangzom** (ensemble) Hang out with my boyfriend  
**Tenzin Donsel** (Wife to Be) Close ones near to me  
**Tsering Dolker** (ensemble) Shopping  
**Tsering Palmo** (ensemble) Having family around you  
**Tenzin Tsomo** (ensemble) With family and younger sister  
**Tenzin Woubum** (ensemble) Meeting lots of new friends



# Contributors

Thanks to the following:

## Drumming Dragon

Marney and Conley Brooks, Sr.  
Markell "Binky" Brooks

## Laughing Lion

Marlow Brooks  
Marbrook Foundation  
Muffy MacMillan  
Mary Lee Dayton

## Twanging Tiger

Sky Brooks  
Julie Steiner  
Elly Grace  
Sarah Root  
Markell and Rick Hapka  
Pamela and Marty Krasney

## Yodeling Yak

Bill and Susan Sands  
Julie Corty  
Dan Pennie  
Steve and Rachel Brooks  
Shelter Corporation

## Other Contributions

Carol and Conley Brooks, Jr.  
Sage and John Cowles  
Paula DeCrosse  
Jason and Jennifer Kiefer  
Sharon Franquemont  
Kate Nielsen  
Joan Mitchell  
Johanna Miller  
Elizabeth Heefner  
Catherine Johnson  
Jennifer Martin  
Raye Birk  
Cecilia Wendler  
Nina Utne  
Jeannine Roufs  
Lucy Mitchell  
Pamela Percy  
Ann Cathcart  
Julie Andrus  
John Andrus III  
Ann Warner  
Julie Oswald  
Tom and Betsy Kiefer  
Karen Alseth  
Sharon Franquemont

*Without you, We are Nothing*

# Special Thanks

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**We are endlessly grateful to our countless volunteers who have made this production possible.**

**Thank You**



TigerLion Arts