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

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.

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.
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.

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.

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 Ritzekura, 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
Yeshi Samdup (Little Tenzin) Get time to relax
Tenzin Nyechhey (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) Li’l 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

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

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Without you, We are Nothing
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We are endlessly grateful to our countless volunteers who have made this production possible.

Thank You

TigerLion Arts