



**BRAVO NIAGARA! ANNOUNCES MAJOR GIFT FROM
THE HILARY AND GALEN WESTON FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT NEW PRODUCTION *KIMIKO'S PEARL***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario – August 22, 2022: Bravo Niagara! is thrilled to announce a major gift from **The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation** to support *Kimiko's Pearl*, a new multidisciplinary production that will honour the resilience of the Japanese Canadian community and shed light on a dark chapter in Canadian history.

Kimiko's Pearl is based on a story by Emmy Award-winning writer Howard Reich inspired by the family history of Bravo Niagara!'s co-founders Christine Mori and Alexis Spieldenner, who serve as co-creators and producers of *Kimiko's Pearl* alongside producer Jeff Herd. Commissioned by Bravo Niagara!, *Kimiko's Pearl* features original music by Kevin Lau and choreography by Yosuke Mino. The production features dancers from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and three generations of Japanese Canadian visual artists and musicians.

"We are deeply grateful for this transformational gift from The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation, which will play an instrumental role in bringing our dream of *Kimiko's Pearl* to the world stage," said Christine Mori, Bravo Niagara! Artistic Director.

Kimiko's Pearl unfurls the bittersweet story of one family – spanning four generations – set against the turbulent backdrop of World War II. The story reflects the tragedies and triumphs of Japanese Canadian families before, during and after the period of internment. Their harsh experiences attest to heroism and hope in the face of racism.

"I am honoured to give voice to my family's story and the Japanese Canadian experience," said Alexis Spieldenner, Bravo Niagara! Executive Director. "The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation's support will significantly enhance the production, presentation, and tour development of this important new work."

More details on the premiere and future touring will be announced at a later date. For more information, please visit www.kimikospearl.com and follow @kimikos_pearl.

About Bravo Niagara! Festival of the Arts

Founded in 2014 by mother-daughter team Christine Mori and Alexis Spieldenner, Bravo Niagara! is a not-for-profit charitable organization based in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario that produces transformative concert experiences and multidisciplinary programming featuring leading and emerging artists from across Canada and around the world.

www.bravoniagara.org

Facebook: @bravoniagarafestival Instagram & Twitter: @bravo_niagara

Bravo Niagara! gratefully acknowledges the following supporters of *Kimiko's Pearl*:

Lead Commissioning Partners: Canada Council for the Arts; Carol and David Appel

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