



# MINORU

## Scrape the Sky

A New Musical by Momo Akashi & Ben Ginsberg

**Los Angeles City College Caminito Theatre**

Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 3pm

Book and Lyrics by **Momo Akashi** Music by **Ben Ginsberg** Directed by **Daniel Nakawatase**  
**Special Thanks**

Eddie Blescoe, Nicholas Kauffman, Christopher Brown, LACC Theatre Department, Elise Dewsberry, Academy for New Musicals, David Fraley, Shün Kanazawa, Makiko Shibuya, Sara Cooper, Avi Amon, Kirsten Childs, Sarah Schlesinger, NYU Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, The Wayne State University Yamasaki Legacy, Alex York and all previous donors

## The Cast

Minoru Yamasaki .....	Nirvan Patnaik
Toki Izumi / Ensemble .....	Yu Tsutsumi
Theo Albert / Hawkins / Ensemble .....	Nicholas Brian Kauffman
Norm Cohen/ Ensemble .....	Kenneth Loren Johnson
Katsuji Izumi/ Ensemble.....	Sam Sooin Yang
Claire Yamasaki / Ensemble.....	Sophia Brisco
Oba- Tsune / Kimi Yamasaki/Ensemble.....	Mika Dyo
Marie Lambert / Ensemble .....	Lisel Juliet

## Musical Number

1. Skyline .....	Minoru, Company
2. Not Ready Yet .....	Theo
3. Photo Book .....	Minoru
4. Take Your Steps .....	Minoru, Toki, Company
5. Twilight Chorus.....	Toki, Company
6. Mother .....	Toki, Katsuji
7. Cannery .....	Minoru, Company
8. Serenity and Delight.....	Minoru, Toki
9. Just One Dream.....	Minoru, Toki, Theo, Company
10. New New York .....	Minoru, Company
11. Making Life Alright .....	Norm
12. Line in the Sand .....	Minoru, Norm
13. Take Your Steps .....	Toki, Claire
14. Lotus Flower .....	Minoru, Toki
15. Finale .....	Minoru, Company

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**Nirvan Patnaik** is an actor and singer of South Asian descent. Growing up in La Crosse Wisconsin, Nirvan studied acting at the University of Southern California and the British American Drama Academy in London. Now residing in Los Angeles, Nirvan works on stage, screen and new media and is part of the Improv troupe The Pasadonuts, which live-streams Improv sets every weekend. You can watch his feature film debut *Four Samosas* on Hulu, and see him in the web-series *The Plaza*, and the independent feature *Curry Scent*. He is super excited to be a part of *Minoru: Scrape the Sky* the musical and bring light to such an influential Asian American Architect.

**Yu Tsutsumi** is from Tokyo, Japan. Graduate of Musashino Academy of Music in The Department of Musical Performance in Vocal Major, and the AOS Musical Theatre Program at AMDA-LA. Her credits include: *Urinetown*(Hope Cladwell), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*(Hermia), and *Anne of Green Gables*(Muriel Stacy).

**Nicholas Brian Kauffman** is BFA Musical Theatre, University of Michigan. MFA Acting, University of California, Irvine. Proud LACC professor. Thankful to work on a musical for the first time in a minute. Much thanks to Ben and Momo for sharing their work with us!!

**Kenneth Loren Johnson** is very excited to make his debut in *Minoru Scrape The Sky* after a decade long hiatus from performing on the stage. He loves all things musical theater and R&B music. When he's not performing, Kenneth enjoys working out and continuing to improve upon his craft. He would like to especially thank Benny and Desha for pushing him out of his comfort zone, encouraging him to grab life by the reigns, and to enjoy all life has to offer. He's very thankful to have such amazing and supportive friends.

**Sam Sooin Yang** is a 2nd-year student in the LACC Acting Academy. He was introduced to MINORU by Ben Ginsberg who was the music director in the Spring 2023 LACC production of *KINKY BOOTS: THE MUSICAL*. He thanks his parents, friends, and teachers for giving him life, love, and learning. If God appears to the hungry in the form of food, then our beloved are like spiritual manna for the soul.

**Sophia Brisco** is a Filipino-American college student in her final semester at California State University Long Beach. Although she'll be graduating with a bachelor's in speech-language pathology, she'll always be a theater kid at heart! Her favorite past roles include Olive (25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee), Wednesday (The Addams Family), and Little Red Riding Hood (Into the Woods). She is thrilled to dip her toes into the world of theater again with this amazing show!

**Mika Dyo** (she/her/theirs) is a theatre artist dedicated to amplifying the voices of silenced communities. She recently played Sue Hasegawa in the 2022 film, *No No Girl* and hopes to continue to share stories of the Japanese American community. They recently received a BA in Theatre Arts from CSULB and are grateful for the love and support of her family.

**Lisel Juliet** is stoked to be working on *Minoru: Scrape The Sky!* Her favorite past roles are Bakers wife (*Into the Woods*), Janet Van DeGraf (*The Drowsy Chaperone*), and Philomene (*Amelie*). Lisel is currently majoring in Theatre at El Camino College, where she is additionally working on an advanced dance showcase. When not dancing or acting you can find Lisel writing songs and poems. She hopes to continue her burning passion in performing arts. She dedicates her performance to her Dad.

**Daniel Nakawatase** is a director, producer, and educator whose work centers primarily around musical theatre, developing new work, and the impact of theatre as a tool for education and social change. Notably, he produced 5 productions for the Pasadena Playhouse's nationally acclaimed Stephen Sondheim Celebration during its Tony Award-winning 2022-2023 season. In November, he will step into a new role as a Show Director at Universal Studios Hollywood. Other positions held include Artistic Producer at Encore Theatre Group, Director of Theatre Arts at St. Anthony High School, Adjunct Theatre Faculty at El Camino College, and Board Member for LA Chamber Music Company. He has had the honor of working with celebrated artists in the Los Angeles and Broadway communities including Alexandra Billings, Renée O'Connor, Gary Anthony Williams, Nicole Parker, Eleri Ward, and Larry Owens. Daniel received his BA in Theatre Arts with an Emphasis in Directing and Performance from California State University, Long Beach and his MA in Educational Theatre in Colleges and Communities from the internationally regarded Program in Educational Theatre at New York University Steinhardt. Additionally, he is an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and a member of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE).

**Momo Akashi** is a book writer and lyricist. She completed her master's degree in Musical Theatre Writing at NYU Tisch. Momo recently wrote a full-length musical, *MINORU: Scrape the Sky*, which was previewed at the Tank in New York City, and some songs were presented at New York City's Feinstein'/54 Below. She is honored to present *MINORU* on the West Coast for the first time.

**Ben Ginsberg** is a Los Angeles-based pianist, composer-songwriter and music director. His songs "The Color of You" (lyrics by Jordan Toopes) and "Teach Me To Dance" (lyrics by Thalia Ranjbar) have been performed at monthly The Composers' Showcase in Las Vegas (produced by Keith Thompson). He has written music, book and/or lyrics for multiple original works at both N.Y.U. Tisch's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program and the Academy for New Musicals in North Hollywood, including *CITY OF HOPE* (with Zoe Ray Prawda), *RAMIN* (with Thalia Ranjbar), *MINORU: Scrape the Sky* (with Momo Akashi), *VIEW FROM THE MOON* (with Stacey Weingarten and Richard Holland), and *CHESSICA'S ADVENTURES IN BUTTFISHLAND* (with Brian Morales). He was a songwriting fellow at the Johnny Mercer Foundation Songwriters Project in 2022. His original song "Heaven," co-written with and sung by Jorgie, premiered on *American Idol* Season 17 in March 2019.

English Consultant: **Alex York**