

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

For Immediate Release:

Alberta Theatre Projects invites audiences to the beloved neighbourhood store in their presentation of the Canadian comedy phenomenon *Kim's Convenience* by Ins Choi

Calgary, April 5, 2022 – Set in a family-run corner store in the heart of Toronto's Regent Park, Mr. Kim, also known as "Appa" (James Yi), is a Korean shopkeeper grappling with a changing neighbourhood landscape, and struggling to connect with his grown second-generation children. Mr. Kim is proud of his store and the legacy he has built. After thirty years of selling lottery tickets, catching petty thieves, and reporting illegally parked cars, he tries desperately—and hilariously—to convince his artist daughter, Janet (Brianna Kim), to take over the store.

People worldwide have tuned in to watch the adventures of these adored characters on the award-winning television series, which ran for five years on network television, and is still available on the streaming network Netflix. Many don't realize that *Kim's Convenience* started as a stage play, originally produced as part of the 2011 Toronto Fringe Festival. Ins Choi wrote the script when he wasn't finding the acting roles he wanted for himself, and he later went on to become a co-writer of the hit TV show. While devotees of the television show will be familiar with the story's premise, the play promises to entertain existing fans and new audiences alike by providing big laughs while digging deeper into themes such as familial legacy and misunderstood expectations across generations.

"*Kim's Convenience* is one of those special plays that surprises the audience by hitting them on so many levels emotionally," said star James Yi, who has played the part of Appa in several different productions. "One minute, you're laughing hysterically, and the next minute you're fighting back tears and wondering why you haven't called your dad. It's special because it hits home with every person in the audience, no matter their race, gender, or age."

At its core, *Kim's Convenience* is a journey of fractured but loving characters confronting the future and forgiving the past. It's a relatable story about love - told through laughter, and maybe a few tears. It's the kind of story audiences need right now. Says creator Ins Choi: "Through stories, we are entertained as a group and comforted to know we're not alone both in our struggles and what we find funny. Through stories, chasms can be bridged, truths can be heard, and reconciliation is possible, strengthening our country for the next generation to surpass our dreams and efforts."

"*Kim's Convenience* brilliantly uses comedy to see into the lives of one another and help us understand that we aren't all that different," says ATP's Artistic and Executive Director Rohit Chokhani. "It is a universal story about family and its inter-generational perspectives. It will appeal to Calgarians and Albertans from all walks of life and promises to entertain them in unique ways."

***Kim's Convenience* by Ins Choi is An Arts Club Theatre Company (Vancouver) production, based on the 2018 production by Pacific Theatre, presented by Alberta Theatre Projects.**

The show runs from April 13th – May 1st, 2022, in the Martha Cohen Theatre at Arts Commons (215 8 Ave. SE). Tickets are available at www.albertatheatreprojects.com or 403-294-7402.

Audience Considerations: Recommended for ages 12+ for mature themes and some strong language

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Cast:

Appa: James Yi

Umma: Maki Yi

Janet: Brianna Kim

Jung: Howie Lai

Rich/Mr.Lee/Mike/Alex: Devon Alexander

Creative Team:

Director: Kaitlin Williams

Assistant Director: Soran Nakai

Set Design: Carolyn Rapanos

Costume Design: Jessica Oostergo

Lighting Design: Jonathan Kim

Sound Design: Chengyan Boon

Fight Director: Mike Kovac

Stage Manager: Peter Jotkus

Assistant Stage Manager: Kennedy Greene

- 30 -

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Save the Date: Media Call - Thursday, April 14th, 12:30 – 1:30 pm.

Actors will perform an onstage preview for photography and video opportunity. James Yi (Appa) and Brianna Kim (Janet) will be available for interviews after the presentation. An email invitation will follow closer to the date.

About Alberta Theatre Projects:

We create world-class contemporary theatre in Calgary from our home in the Martha Cohen Theatre. We are a national leader in new play development. Programming is selected from the finest Canadian and international plays driven by the collision of diverging ideas, points of view, class, gender or cultural perspectives. Our productions radically explore our space, blurring the line between the audience and the artist through multiple seating configurations each season.

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