

— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

ARTS CLUB THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR INS CHOI'S [KIM'S CONVENIENCE](#)

February 24–March 27, 2022 (Media opening: March 2)

IN BRIEF Ins Choi's *Kim's Convenience* runs **February 24 to March 27** at the [Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage](#), 2750 Granville Street, Vancouver. Tickets from \$35. More info at [artsclub.com](#)

VANCOUVER, B.C. (Jan. 26, 2022)—*Kim's Convenience*, Ins Choi's hit debut play, is back at the Arts Club, running February 24 to March 27 on the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage. Set in a family-run corner store in the heart of Toronto's Regent Park, Mr. Kim (**James Yi**), or Appa, a Korean shopkeeper, grapples with both a changing neighbourhood landscape and the chasm between him and his 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. At its core, *Kim's Convenience* is the journey of a fractured but loving family confronting the future and forgiving the past, and it has quickly become a new Canadian classic.

Kim's Convenience was originally produced as part of the 2011 Toronto Fringe Festival. The critically acclaimed play has since been published and adapted into an award-winning television series for CBC and Netflix. The Arts Club first staged *Kim's Convenience* in 2014. In 2020, a new touring version of the show, based on Pacific Theatre's 2018 production, was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. The upcoming run at the Stanley will revive this cancelled production.

Star **James Yi** said, "*Kim's Convenience* is one of those special plays that surprises the audience by hitting them on so many levels emotionally. 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 single person in the audience, no matter what race, gender, or age."

Director **Kaitlin Williams** and Assistant Director **Soran Nakai** jointly stated, "After experiencing the cancellation of our production in March 2020, we are overjoyed to be opening the store once again. For us, this is a story about reconciliation, sacrifice, and deep family love. We know that these themes will resonate even deeper with audiences after the last two years. This play means so much to our cast and creative team, and we look forward to sharing it with audiences again."

The Arts Club's run of *Kim's Convenience* will feature several accessible offerings, including two VocalEye live description shows; a relaxed performance, designed for people who may not be comfortable in a traditional theatre setting; and an ASL performance in consultation with members of the d/Deaf Community. These and other ongoing accessibility initiatives are made possible by the support of the Arts Club's Council of Governors, the Beech Foundation, the Lohn Foundation, and the Disability Alliance of BC.



All performances of *Kim's Convenience* will be produced and presented in adherence with the most current safety guidelines established by the B.C. government. [Patrons born in 2009 or earlier will be required to present their B.C. Vaccine Card](#), along with a picture ID, for entrance to Arts Club venues. The health and safety of all patrons, staff, and artists remain the Arts Club's top priority.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Ins Choi is a Korean-Canadian actor, playwright, and director known for his plays *Kim's Convenience* and *Subway Stations of the Cross*. Born in South Korea, Choi grew up in Scarborough, Ontario, and now resides in Toronto with his family. A graduate of York University's Theatre Program, Choi has performed with Fu-GEN, Canadian Stage, the Stratford Festival, and Soulpepper Theatre Company. Drawing on his experiences, *Kim's Convenience* was inspired by memories of his family's business, Kim's Grocer, and the writing process was supported by a contribution from the local Korean church where Choi grew up.

CAST

Andrew Creightney (Rich/Mr. Lee/Mike/Alex), **Brianna Kim** (Janet), **Howie Lai** (Jung), **James Yi** (Appa), **Maki Yi** (Umma)

CREATIVE TEAM

Kaitlin Williams (Director), **Soran Nakai** (Assistant Director), **Carolyn Rapanos** (Set Designer), **Jessica Oostergo** (Costume Designer), **Jonathan Kim** (Lighting Designer), **Chengyan Boon** (Sound Designer), **Mike Kovac** (Fight Director), **Peter Jotkus** (Stage Manager), **Victoria Snashall** (Assistant Stage Manager)

SHOWTIMES + SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Tue–Thu at 7:30 PM, Fri & Sat at 8 PM, Wed at 1:30 PM, and Sat & Sun at 2 PM

[Sunday Salon](#): March 6, 2 PM

[Tuesday Talkback](#): March 15, 7:30 PM

[VocalEye Performances](#): Sun, March 20, 2 PM & Fri, March 25, 8 PM

[Relaxed Performance](#): Sun, March 20, 7 PM

[ASL Performance](#): Wed, March 23, 7:30 PM

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ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique venues across Vancouver, the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.

The Arts Club is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and Selil̓wiltulh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

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