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For Immediate Release

Complete Cast and Creative Team Announced for San Diego REP's production of Julia Cho's AUBERGINE

San Diego, CA (December 6, 2018) – San Diego Repertory Theatre announced today the cast and creative team for the fourth production in their 43rd season, **Julia Cho's *Aubergine***. Directed by San Diego REP Associate Artistic Director **Todd Salovey**, *Aubergine* is an unforgettable story of love, family and the healing power of food. Performances run **January 24 – February 17, 2019**, in the Lyceum Space Theatre. Tickets start at \$25 and are currently on sale to the general public. Previews are January 24 – 29, 2019. **Press opening is Wednesday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m.**

Ray believes in the power of food. As a gourmet chef, he's seen a bowl of berries help a woman to fall in love. He's heard stories of a meal prepared by a mother to keep a son from leaving home and moving to the other side of the world. Now with the help of his uncle, who arrives unexpectedly from Korea, Ray is tasked with preparing a family soup recipe to keep his father alive.

When words fail, a home-cooked meal transcends differences in this touching story of intergenerational connectedness, forgiveness and the sweetest spice of life: love. As a Korean family struggles to relate across emotional and cultural divides, it's the ingredients they share in common that lead to understanding. *Aubergine* is a mouthwatering meditation on the beauty of life where hope is no mere ingredient, it's the main course.

"Our favorite foods transport us to special places, loved ones, and memories," shared director and San Diego REP Associate Artistic Director **Todd Salovey**. "Why does a bowl of matzo ball soup bring me right back to my grandmother's kitchen? In *Aubergine*, Ray is a maestro chef who somehow knows the delicacy your heart and soul most needs. This is such a beautifully written, magical play. I love bringing playwright Julia Cho's sparkling voice to The REP."

The cast features **Brian Kim** as Ray (Guthrie Theatre, Pan Asian Rep, Olney Theatre) and veteran actor of the stage and screen, **Dana Lee** as Ray's Father. Lee's extensive credits include roles in "Dr. Ken," "Hawaii Five-O," and "Rambo: First Blood, Part II." They are joined by Minneapolis-based actor **Audrey Park** as Cornelia (Theatre Mu, Penumbra Theatre), San Diego local and Brown University/Trinity Rep graduate, **Terrell Donnell Sledge** as Lucien (Cygnet Theatre's *Wind and the Breeze*), **Yong Kim** as Uncle ("Spa Night" and "Dog Bowl") and San Diego REP favorite **Amanda Sittion** (REP's *The Oldest Boy*, *Road to Mecca*, *Doubt*) as Diane.

The creative team includes **Justin Humphres** (Scenic Design), **Elisa Benzoni** (Costume Design), **Melanie Chen Cole** (Sound Design), **Kristin Swift** (Lighting Design), **Angelica Ynfante** (Properties Design), **Marie Jahelka** (Stage Manager), **Carla Harting** (Assistant Director), **Dr. Elise Kim Prosser** (Dramaturgical Consultant), **Walter Chon** (Dramaturgical Consultant), **Gursimrat Kaur** (Dramaturgical Coordinator), **Chelsea Smith** (Production Manager) and **Kim Heil** (Associate Producer & Casting Director).

Performances for *Aubergine* run **January 24 – February 17, 2019**, in the Lyceum Space Theatre in Horton Plaza. Tickets range from \$25.00 to \$69.00 and can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling the box office at 619-544-1000, or online at sdrep.org.

JULIA CHO (Playwright): Julia's plays include *Durango*, *The Winchester House*, *BFE*, *The Architecture of Loss* and *99 Histories*. Her work has been produced at The Vineyard Theatre, The Public Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, South Coast Repertory, New York Theatre Workshop, East West Players, The Theatre @ Boston Court, Theatre Mu and Silk Road Theatre Project, among others. Honors include the 2005 Barrie Stavis Award, the 2005 Claire Tow Award for Emerging Artists and the 2004 L. Arnold Weissberger Award. She was also a two-time finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award. An alumna of The Julliard School and NYU's Graduate Dramatic Writing Program, Julia also served as a resident playwright at New Dramatists.

TODD SALOVEY (Director & San Diego REP Associate Artistic Director): Todd is in his 29th season at The REP. He is founding Artistic Director of The REP's Lipinsky Family San Diego Jewish Arts Festival and last year was honored for its 25th anniversary. Recent REP directing credits include *Outside Mullingar* and the world premiere of *The Dybbuk for Hannah and Sam's Wedding*, which he also wrote, and Herbert Siguenza's *Steal Heaven*. Other REP work with Siguenza includes the premieres *In the Time of the Butterflies* and *A Weekend with Pablo Picasso*, which has also played at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Denver Center, Arizona Theatre Co, San Jose Stage, Los Angeles Theatre Center and Center Arts REP. Acclaimed REP shows include *A Hammer*, *A Bell and A Song to Sing*, and *The Blessing of a Broken Heart*, which he authored, *The Dybbuk*, *King Lear*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Illusion*, the world premiere of Yehuda Hyman's *The Mad Dancers* and *Hamlet* starring Jefferson Mays. Salovey is on faculty in Theatre and Dance, and the Rady School of University of California, San Diego, where he received a 2018 Distinguished Teaching Award. tsalovey@ucsd.edu.

Season 43 Calendar

Aubergine (1/24-2/17), *Hershey Felder*, *Beethoven* (2/21-3/24) and *Sweat* (4/18-5/2).

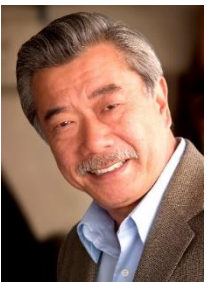
About San Diego Repertory Theatre

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, exotic, provocative theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting a more inclusive community through work that nourishes progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 50 main stage productions by Latino playwrights and more than 40 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award "For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity." San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit www.sdrep.org.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Brian Kim (Ray): As a Korean-American adoptee from Minnesota, the role of “Ray” is a gift, and Brian is forever grateful for Julia Cho’s beautiful writing. Recent credits include: *The Emperor’s Nightingale* (Pan Asian Rep), *Labour of Love* (Olney Theatre Center), *The Korean Drama Addict’s Guide to Losing Your Virginity* (Theatre Mu) and *Dinner with Georgette* (NYTW). Other credits include: NAAP, Prospect Theatre Company, Ordway Center, Guthrie Theatre, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Children’s Theatre Company and Village Theatre. FILM/TV include: “Pokémon,” “Regal Academy,” “We Speak NYC,” “Naughty Nuts,” “Last Man,” “The Beach House” (2018 AAFL Best Actor) and “The Struggle” (2018 GFF Best Actor). Much love to Avalon, my friends and San Diego REP – for mom and dad and 엄마 and 아빠.



Dana Lee (Ray’s Father): Dana is a veteran actor of stage, motion pictures and television for almost 50 years. You may remember him as D. K. (Ken Jeong’s character’s dad) on the TV series “Dr. Ken.” In theatre, he has performed on such prestigious venues as The Public Theatre, The Joyce, Singapore Repertory, The Mark Taper Forum and The Doolittle, in plays by Shakespeare to Albee and notable Asian-American playwrights as Frank Chin, Wakako Yamauchi and Phillip Gotanda. Dana was also a major force in the development of East West Players, the nation’s premiere Asian-American theatre group. Dana’s movie credits include “Rambo: First Blood Part II,” “Lethal Weapon 4,” “Pineapple Express” and “The Honeymooners.” Dana also has over 50 TV credits, going all the way back to “Kung Fu.” Other notable credits include recurring roles on “Hawaii Five-0” (both versions), “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “Dynasty” and the aforementioned “Kung Fu.” Dana is looking forward to his debut performance at San Diego REP and feels honored to be working in a Julia Cho play.



Audrey Park (Cornelia): Audrey is an actor and community organizer from Minneapolis, MN. She is happy to be joining San Diego REP for the first time. Credits include: Penumbra Theatre (*For Colored Girls*), Ten Thousand Things Theatre (*Pericles; Electra*), Theatre Mu (*You For Me For You; Purple Cloud; Twelfth Night; Middle Brother*). She has also worked with Pillsbury House Theatre, Frank Theatre and History Theatre. As a teaching artist, Audrey facilitates workshops with Penumbra Theatre and Theatre Mu. Audrey sees art as a strong tool for social justice, and is committed to working with people to effect social change on a local level.



Terrell Donnell Sledge (Lucien): Terrell is thrilled to make his San Diego REP debut. Regional: Hartford Stage Company; Cincinnati Playhouse; Repertory Theatre of St. Louis; Alabama Shakespeare Festival; Lyric Stage Co.; The Eugene O’Neill Memorial Theatre; Actor’s Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival; Merrimack Repertory Theatre; Pioneer Theatre Co; Trinity Rep Co.; Cygnet Theatre; Commonwealth Shakespeare Co. NYC: Boundless Theatre Company; Lark Theatre; P73; Naked Angels. TV/Film: CBS: “Elementary;” New Millennium Studios: “Blues in the Night,” “Troop 491.” Other Selected Credits: *Much Ado About Nothing, How We Got On, By The Way, Meet Vera Stark, Find and Sign, Dunkfest ’88, Vieux Carre, Blood Knot, The Duchess of Malfi, We Are Proud to Present..., The Piano Lesson, Betrayal* (directed), *The Most Humane Way to Kill a Lobster* (directed), *Sally’s Rape* (directed). Terrell holds an M.F.A. from Brown

University/Trinity Rep and is a Yale University graduate. @thetdsledge.



Yong Kim (Uncle): Yong is a Korean actor raised in 7 countries/5 continents, who regards Seoul, London and Los Angeles as home. He appears in Sundance films “Spa Night” and “Dog Bowl.” As well as such TV shows as “The Last Ship,” “The League” and “Murder in the First.” Yong is excited to be making his debut at San Diego REP!



Amanda Sitton (Diane): Selected theater credits include: *The Oldest Boy*, *Road to Mecca*, *Doubt* (SD Theatre Critics Circle Craig Noel Award for Outstanding Featured Performance) *A Christmas Carol* (San Diego REP), *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Don't Dress For Dinner*, *Voice of the Prairie*, *Collected Stories*, *Amy's View* (North Coast Rep), *Maple and Vine*, *Glass Menagerie*, *It's A Wonderful Life* (Cygnet Theatre, Resident Artist) *Comedy of Errors*, *Golden Boy* (SD Theatre Critics Circle Craig Noel Award for Outstanding Lead Performance), *Sailor's Song* (New Village Arts), *Fair Use*, *Torch Song Trilogy* (Diversionsary Theatre). Ms. Sitton received her BA in Theatre from UCSD.

FACT SHEET

San Diego Repertory Theatre presents

AUBERGINE

By Julia Cho

Directed by Todd Salovey

January 24 – February 17, 2019 | Lyceum Space Theatre

Press Opening: Wednesday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m.

“A combination of theatrical ingredients so fulfilling that a standing ovation is in order.” — San Francisco Chronicle

“This is a rare form of entertainment, closer perhaps to enlightenment...” — Los Angeles Times

Synopsis:

When words fail, a home-cooked meal transcends differences in this touching story of intergenerational connectedness, forgiveness and the sweetest spice of life: love. As a Korean family struggles to relate across emotional and cultural divides, it's the ingredients they share in common that lead to understanding. *Aubergine* is a mouthwatering meditation on the beauty of life where hope is no mere ingredient, it's the main course.

Cast:

Ray: Brian Kim*

Ray's Father: Dana Lee*

Cornelia/Nurse: Audrey Park*

Lucien: Terrell Donnell Sledge*

Uncle/Stranger: Yong Kim

Diane: Amanda Sitton*

Creative Team:

Director: Todd Salovey

Scenic Design: Justin Humphres

Costume Design: Elisa Benzoni

Sound Design: Melanie Chen Cole

Lighting Design: Kristin Swift

Properties Design: Angelica Ynfante

Stage Manager: Marie Jahelka*

Assistant Stage Manager: Kira Vine

Assistant Director: Carla Harting

Dramaturgical Consultant: Dr. Elise Kim Prosser

Dramaturgical Consultant: Walter Chon

Dramaturgical Coordinator: Gursimrat Kaur

Production Manager: Chelsea Smith

Producer & Casting Director: Kim Heil

*Denotes Member of Actors' Equity Association

Performance Schedule:

Previews:

- Thursday, January 24 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 25 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 26 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Night

- Wednesday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular Performances

- Thursday, January 31 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 1 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 2 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 7 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 8 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 15 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket Prices: \$25.00-\$69.00

Ticket Information

Tickets range from \$25.00 to \$69.00 and can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling 619-544-1000, or online at sdrep.org. Active-duty military, teachers, group and senior discounts are available. Student tickets are available for all performances at ½ off regularly priced seats. Prices subject to change.

Location

San Diego Repertory Theatre
79 Horton Plaza
San Diego, CA 92101
Box Office: 619.544.1000
www.sdrep.org

Parking

Parking is available in the Horton Plaza parking garage for \$8 with validation. Enter the garage from Fourth Avenue just south of the Balboa Theatre. Follow entrance lanes, then turn right and continue to the third level to park. Horton Plaza parking tickets (issued from machines at entry) may be validated in the Lyceum Theatres lobby during your show. Validation will allow patrons to pay a flat \$8 rate.

Please note: If you do not validate your ticket at the theatre, the current rate charged at exit is \$2.00 for every 15 minutes (daily maximum charge = \$48.00). Westfield Horton Plaza parking garage rates are subject to change at any time. For any additional ABM Parking information, contact ABM Parking at 619.233.1491.

Engagement Event Calendar

- **Talkin' Theatre with Todd:** Thursday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. before the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Art Gallery Opening: Johnny Nguyen:** Friday, January 25, at 7:00 p.m. before the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Korean Language 101:** Sunday, January 27, at 6:00 p.m. before the 7:00 p.m. show
- **Opening Night Party:** Wednesday, January 30, after the 7:00 p.m. show
- **Sam's Salon:** Thursday, January 31, at 7:00 p.m. before the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Meet the Artists:** Friday, February 1, after the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Cooking with Cathlyn:** Saturday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. before the 8:00 p.m. show
- **Art Gallery Opening: Visually Delicious:** Saturday, February 9, at 1:00 p.m. before the 2:00 p.m. show
- **Free Beer Friday:** Friday, February 15, after the 8:00 p.m. show

For more information about our Engagement Events for *Aubergine* visit www.sdrep.org/engage.

Season 43 Calendar

Aubergine (1/24-2/17), *Hershey Felder*, *Beethoven* (2/21-3/24) and *Sweat* (4/18-5/2)

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