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Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Presents the World Premiere of
The Heart Sellers
By Lloyd Suh
February 7 – March 19, 2023, in the Stiemke Studio

January 11, 2023 (Milwaukee, WI) - [Milwaukee Rep](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) is proud to present the world premiere of ***The Heart Sellers*** by award-winning playwright **Lloyd Suh** (*The Chinese Lady*, *The Far Country*) in the Stiemke Studio February 7 – March 19, 2023, with opening night set for Friday, February 10 at 8pm.

Lloyd Suh is the recent recipient of the 2022 [Steinberg Playwright Award](#) and the author of *The Chinese Lady* (produced at Milwaukee Rep in 2019 and with Ma-Yi at the Public Theater last spring), *The Far Country* (Atlantic), *Bina's Six Apples* (Alliance / Children's Theatre Co.), *Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery*, *Franklinland*, *American Hwangap*, and more. His work has been produced at theaters across the country, and internationally at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and with PCPA at the Guerilla Theatre in Seoul, Korea. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, the Horton Foote Prize, and the Helen Merrill Award. He was elected in 2016 to the Dramatists Guild Council.

The Heart Sellers features **Narea Kang** (*The Chinese Lady*, Denver Center) as Jane and **Nicole Javier** (*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, South Coast Rep) as Luna, two women who together find direction in the land of opportunity.

The Heart Sellers creative team includes director **Jennifer Chang** (*Vietgone*, East West Players), set designer **Tanya Orellana** (*On Gold Mountain*, LA Opera/Huntington Gardens), costume designer **Anthony Tran** (*Vietgone*, MTC), lighting designer **Noele Stollmack** (*The Chinese Lady*, Milwaukee Rep), sound designer **Sun Hee Kil** (*As You Like It*, Shakespeare in the Park), voice and dialect coach **Joy Lanceta Coronel**, dramaturg **Christine Mok** and stage manager **Jade Bruno**.

"Milwaukee Rep produced the second production of Lloyd Suh's *The Chinese Lady* as part of our 2018/19 Season, and when that play completely caught the imagination of our audiences, we decided shortly thereafter to offer a commission to Lloyd, in order to write a new play of his choosing. His response was to explore his mother's experience as an immigrant, through the dramatic pairing of two women from different Asian cultures, both themselves recent immigrants to America, and who by chance, bond over the purchase of a frozen turkey in a supermarket on Thanksgiving day," said **Artistic Director Mark Clements**. "Our audiences are in for a really beautiful emotional experience with this world premiere. Lloyd has a unique and distinctive voice in how he explores complex and emotionally-charged topics with delicate heart and humor. His plays allow us

to spotlight stories that are relevant to our present day socio-political issues and ones that lift up our mission of staging plays that entertain, provoke and inspire.”

Funny and deeply moving, ***The Heart Sellers*** gives voice to the Asian immigrant experience in the 1970s when the landmark Hart-Celler Act granted thousands of professional workers a new path to citizenship. But for new Americans Jane and Luna, life in the USA with their workaholic husbands has left them feeling isolated and invisible. One Thanksgiving – over sips of wine and a questionable frozen turkey – they reminisce and dream of spreading their wings together in the land of opportunity: disco dancing, learning to drive and even a visit to Disneyland. With grace and dignity, this powerful play asks: “Would you give up your heart to make a new home?”

The world premiere of ***The Heart Sellers*** is a **John (Jack) D. Lewis New Play Development Program Production** with Executive Producers **Rhonda and Greg Oberland, Mara and Craig Swan** and Associate Producer **Krista Kile**. The Stiemke Studio Season is presented by **Four-Four Foundation** with additional support provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts**. ***The Heart Sellers*** is a proud part of World Premiere Wisconsin, a state-wide festival celebrating new plays and musicals from March 1 – June 30, 2023. To learn more visit www.worldpremierewisconsin.com

The Heart Sellers runs February 7 – March 19, 2023, in the Stiemke Studio. Opening night is set for Friday, February 10 at 8pm. To purchase tickets to go to www.MilwaukeeRep.com, call the Ticket Office at **414-224-9490** or visit in person at **108 E Wells Street** in Downtown Milwaukee.

For more information, please visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com.

in the Stiemke Studio
FEBRUARY – MARCH 2023

<i>The Heart Sellers</i> <small>By Lloyd Suh</small>						
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
2/7 7:30pm •	2/8 7:30pm •	2/9 7:30pm •	2/10 8:00pm ▲	2/11 3:00pm 8:00pm	2/12 <small>SUPERBOWL</small> 2:00pm 7:00pm	
<small>VALENTINE'S DAY</small> 2/14 6:30pm EB	2/15 7:30pm	2/16 7:30pm TB	2/17 8:00pm	2/18 3:00pm 8:00pm	2/19 2:00pm 7:00pm	
2/21 7:30pm	2/22 7:30pm	2/23 7:30pm AD/TB	2/24 8:00pm	2/25 3:00pm 8:00pm	2/26 2:00pm 7:00pm	
2/28 7:30pm	3/1 7:30pm	3/2 7:30pm ASL/TB	3/3 8:00pm	3/4 3:00pm 8:00pm	3/5 2:00pm 7:00pm	
<small>PURIM</small> 3/7 7:30pm	3/8 1:30pm 7:30pm	3/9 7:30pm	3/10 8:00pm	3/11 3:00pm 8:00pm	<small>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</small> 3/12 2:00pm 7:00pm	
3/14 7:30pm	3/15 7:30pm	3/16 7:30pm	<small>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</small> 3/17 8:00pm	3/18 3:00pm 8:00pm	3/19 2:00pm 7:00pm ◆	
<small>• Preview ▲ Opening Night EB Early Performance TB TalkBack AD Audio Described ASL American Sign Language ◆ Closing Night</small>						

All performances are subject to change.

::Fact Sheet::

The Heart Sellers

By Lloyd Suh

Directed by Jennifer Chang

February 7 – March 19, 2023 (Opening Night Friday, February 10 at 8:00pm) in the Stiemke Studio

Talks and Events

Early Bird Performance: Tuesday, February 14 at 6:30pm

TalkBacks: Thursday nights after the 7:30pm performance, February 16, 23 and March 2.

Dinner Dialogue Series: Monday, February 27, 5pm – 8pm. For *The Heart Sellers* dinner this intergenerational discussion will pull themes on assimilation and discover what one is willing to 'give their heart away' for in order to build a life in the united states. Cost is \$30 per person. To register visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com/DinnerDialogue

Living History, an audio and visual engagement lobby experience in the Stiemke Studio:

Experience the humor, hopes, fears, and surprises of emigrating from four different AAPI elder storytellers, adapted for and spoken through a youth voice. Audience members will have the opportunity to listen to recordings of monologues adapted from interviews while viewing profiles of the elders in this sensory lobby experience. In collaboration with 88NINE, the audio files are available free of charge and are posted via QR code in the lobby as well as our website.

Live storytelling of select monologues will be performed by youth voices on the following dates prior to the performance in place of Rep-in-Depth

February

February 9	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling
February 11	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling (matinee)
February 16	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling
February 18	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling (matinee)
February 23	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling
February 25	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling (matinee)

March

March 2	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling
March 4	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling (matinee)
March 9	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling
March 11	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling (matinee)
March 16	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling
March 18	<i>The Heart Sellers</i> live community storytelling (matinee)

Access Services

Audio-Described Performance: Thursday, February 23 at 7:30pm – the show will be described for patrons who are blind or have low vision.

ASL Performance: Thursday, March 2 at 7:30pm – the show will be signed for the deaf or hard of hearing.

Information

Tickets: www.MilwaukeeRep.com, by phone at 414-224-9490, or Ticket Office at 108 E Wells Street, Milwaukee.

Hours: 12noon – 6pm; on performance days the Ticket Office remains open until 15 minutes past curtain.

Student Discounts: Students 18 and under can purchase \$20 tickets for select seating areas.

25 & Under: Select \$20 tickets available for patrons 25 & Under. (Select 25 & Under price at checkout online)

Group Sales: Discounted tickets for parties of 10+. Call 414-290-5340.

About Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Milwaukee Rep is the largest performing arts organization in Wisconsin with three unique performance venues in the Associated Bank Theater Center- the Quadracci Powerhouse, Stiemke Studio and Stackner Cabaret. For over six decades, Milwaukee Rep has been a centerpiece of Milwaukee's vibrant arts and cultural scene with productions ranging from Broadway musicals to Shakespeare to American Classics and New Works that are entertaining, inclusive and impactful. Under the leadership of **Artistic Director Mark Clements** and **Executive Director Chad Bauman**, Milwaukee Repertory Theater ignites positive change in the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its community by creating world-class theater experiences that entertain, provoke, and inspire meaningful dialogue among an audience representative of Milwaukee's rich diversity.

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