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**COMEDY THAT SPAWNED NETFLIX HIT
KIM'S CONVENIENCE HERALDS THE ARRIVAL OF SUMMER AT
OLNEY THEATRE CENTER**

**Ins Choi's play receives its regional premiere
under the direction of Aria Velz**

OLNEY, MD — May 28, 2025 — Olney Theatre Center's final production of the 24-25 season in the Multz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab, ***Kim's Convenience*** by **Ins Choi**, directed by **Aria Velz**, begins performances **June 25**. Set in a convenience store located in Toronto's gentrifying Rogers Park neighborhood, the titular Kim family personifies classic themes of intergenerational conflict between immigrants and their children through the lens of the Korean experience. If it was this mix of cultural specificity and easy relatability that made *Kim's Convenience* such a phenomenon on television, it is the sharp dialogue and indelible characters of Choi's creation that make it stand out as a play. **Press are invited to attend either Saturday, June 28 at 8:00 pm or Sunday, June 29 at 1:30 pm – pending availability. Interested critics should email wbrown@olneytheatre.org to request press tickets along with their preferred performance date and time.** Tickets are \$56 - \$105 and are available online at olneytheatre.org/kims or at 301-924-3400.

Jason Loewith, Olney Theatre's Artistic Director, says, "Written in the pre-Trump era, and set in Toronto, this tender comedy about an immigrant family feels suddenly so relevant. It's a great reminder of the powerful emotional dynamics at work in an immigrant family and the contributions they make to their communities. And Ins Choi's writing is so funny, it's no wonder TV scooped him up. So I hope people from all parts of the political spectrum come to see *Kim's Convenience* – if they can score a ticket."

The cast is led by veteran DMV actors **Stan Kang** as Appa and **Tuyết Thị Phạm** as Umma; **Justine "Icy" Moral** plays their daughter Janet, and **Zion Jang** is their errant son Jung. **Jonathan Del Palmer** rounds out the cast in multiple roles written to be performed by one actor, including a real estate agent, a police officer, and a convenience store customer. Understudies include: **Morganne Chu, Franklin Dam, Jay Frisby, and Andrew V. Ly.**

Director **Aria Velz**, who co-helmed 2023's **The Brothers Paranormal** at Olney Theatre, is supported by creative team members **Deb Sivigny** (Set Designer), **Julie Cray Leong** (Costume Designer), **Minjoo Kim** (Lighting Designer), **Kevin Alexander** (Sound Designer), and **Amy**

Mihyang Ginther (Dialect Designer). **Kate Kilbane** is the Production Stage Manager, and **Audrey Klosterman** is the Assistant Stage Manager. **Youri Kim** serves as Assistant Director.

DETAILS

Kim's Convenience

By Ins Choi

directed by Aria Velz

Previews June 25, 26, and 27 at 7:30 pm

Invited Press opening Saturday, June 28 at 8:00 pm or Sunday, June 29 at 1:30 pm

Email wbrown@olneytheatre.org to reserve

Runs until: Sunday, July 27, 2025 in Olney Theatre Center's Multz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

Tickets \$56 - \$105. Discounts are available for groups, seniors, teachers, active military, first responders, and students. Visit olneytheatre.org/discounts for details.

Purchase via olneytheatre.org/Kims or 301-924-3400

Performance Times

Regular performances are Wednesday-Saturday at 7:30 pm;

Matinees on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 pm.

Friday matinees at 1:30 pm on July 11, 18, 25.

No Saturday matinee on Saturday, July 28.

See below for special Community Engagement events for *Kim's Convenience*

ACCESSIBILITY

Audio described performance on Wednesday, July 9 at 7:30 pm

Sign interpreted performance on Thursday, July 10 at 7:30 pm

Behind the Scenes and Beyond the Stage

In the community:

Story time at the Olney Library

June 22 at 3:30 pm

Storyteller: Jessica Lee

Behind the Scenes

Panel Discussion - The Legacy of Local Korean American Entrepreneurship in Community and Culture

Date: Saturday, June 28th, 2025, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: Multz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

\$10 / Free for members

Join us for a special panel discussion exploring the profound impact of Korean American entrepreneurship on the cultural and economic landscape of the United States. This

conversation will focus on the essential role of convenience stores and grocery markets as cornerstones of immigrant resilience, innovation, and community-building.

Our panelists are experts, entrepreneurs, and community leaders and will discuss the significance of Korean American-owned businesses in shaping DC and Greater Washington's economies, food culture, and the broader immigrant narrative. This is a unique opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue about heritage, perseverance, and the future of Korean American entrepreneurship in our area.

Panelists: Sojin Kim (Curator at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage), Tae Strain (Chef), Grace Dahye Kwon (University of Maryland graduate student in Asian American Studies).

Onstage Tours:

Experience the Magic of *Kim's Convenience* Up Close!

Location: Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

July 6th & July 20th

Cost: \$10

Join Kirsten Parker, Production Manager, as she guides patrons through the *Kim's Convenience* stage, offering an on-stage look at the beloved "store." Guests will have the rare opportunity to walk through the set and experience the joy of theatre-making in an intimate, hands-on way.

RSVP early; this event tends to sell out fast!

Book Club

Title: *Crying at H Mart*

Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2024, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Olney Library

Beyond the Stage:

Konvenience Festival - Korean Cultural Celebration

Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Outside the Mulitz-Gudelsky Lab Theatre

In celebration of the hit play *Kim's Convenience*, we invite you to join us for Konvenience Festival—an afternoon honoring Korean culture, community, and creativity!

From 4 to 7 PM, the space outside the Lab Theatre will come alive with Korean American vendors, delicious food, and interactive cultural demonstrations showcasing both traditional and contemporary Korean experiences.

Featuring:

- Stepping Stones Drumming Team
- Sound of Korea Drum Ensemble

Beyond the Stage:

Post-show discussion: Mapping Korean American History in DC

Date: Saturday, July 19, 2025, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

Free with tickets to the show or \$10

Join us for a conversation about the recently published First AAPI Historical Context Statement for the city of DC with the team who researched and wrote the Korean American section. The presentation will focus on the impact that Korean Americans have made to the DMV area through foodways, sports and ethnic entrepreneurship.

ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

Mission

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

Vision

We strive to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity of our community.

History

Founded in 1938 as a summer playhouse, Olney Theatre Center (OTC) now produces year-round world and American premieres of plays and musicals, and reimaginings of familiar titles; presents the work of leading companies; tours nationally and locally; teaches students of all ages; and mentors the next generation of theatremakers. For more than 8 decades, OTC has brought impactful theater performance and education to our community, helping to grow the vibrancy and vitality of our home in central Maryland. Over the years, some of the biggest names in theater and film have appeared on our stages, including Tallulah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Bob Fosse, Phillip Bosco, Eve Arden, Eva Gabor, Burl Ives, Jose Ferrer, Carol Channing, Olivia de Havilland, Tony Randall, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Jane Seymour, Anne Revere, Frances Sternhagen, Arthur Treacher, James Broderick, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen, Marica Gay Harden, John Colicos, Uzo Aduba, Alan Cumming, Cheyenne Jackson, Robin de Jesus, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, among many, many others. Olney Theatre is now the cultural anchor of a rapidly changing region and serves one of the most diverse, best educated, and wealthiest counties in the country. Situated on the unceded land of the Piscataway-Conoy people, the Olney area was once a rural farming community with a unique Quaker heritage. Now the area is occupied by every kind of family that makes up 21st Century America, along with major corporations, shopping districts, civic associations, non profit organizations and a diverse collection of houses of worship. Montgomery County's 1 million residents play a dynamic role in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, and is a driving force behind the region's creative economy. As of September 2024, Olney Theatre Center employed 50 full time staff, 20 part-time positions, 13 early career apprentices, and more than 400 professional artists. The Theatre intends to continue expanding to better meet the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit olneytheatre.org.

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