



Audio Description Notes for *The Heart Sellers*

WELCOME

Welcome to the Guthrie Theater's production of *The Heart Sellers*. The play was written by Lloyd Suh. This production is directed by May Adrales.

My name is Laura Wiebers, and I will be your audio describer for this performance, which is approximately 1 hour and 25 minutes with no intermission.

The creative team for this production includes:

- Scenic Designer: Wilson Chin
- Costume Designer: Junghyun Georgia Lee
- Lighting Designer: Kat C. Zhou
- Sound Designer/Composer: Fabian Obispo
- Dramaturg: Christine Mok
- Vocal Coach: Keely Wolter
- Dialect Coach: Joy Lanceta Coronel
- Resident Casting Director: Jennifer Liestman
- Stage Manager: Lori Lundquist
- Assistant Stage Manager: Olivia Louise Tree Plath
- Assistant Director: Jake Sung-Guk Sullivan

SYNOPSIS

When Luna and Jane run into each other at the supermarket on Thanksgiving Day, they discover they have much in common — they're both new to America and spending the holiday alone while their medical-resident husbands work the night away. Longing for connection, the two homesick women return to Luna's apartment for the evening. Over a bottle of wine (or two), they attempt to make a traditional Thanksgiving meal while sharing their stories and dreams. Set eight years after the Hart-Celler Act of 1965 overhauled the U.S. immigration system, this poignant comedy illuminates the Asian immigrant experience and asks, "Would you give up your heart to make a new home?"

STAGING AND PROPS

Located behind the main apartment set is an urban apartment complex with several floors of apartments. These apartments in the background have windows, air conditioning units and balconies. Visible inside some of the windows are curtains or stacks of books. Strings of holiday lights are strung across some balconies, while others contain inflatable Santas, snowmen decorations or potted plants. An American flag is draped across one of the upper balconies.

A narrow space separates the background and the apartment unit that makes up the main part of the set. Characters walk through this space and through a freestanding door frame containing a working door. Once they're through the doorway, they've entered Luna's studio apartment, where most of the play takes place.



STAGING AND PROPS (continued)

At the left side of the apartment is a small kitchen with yellow cupboards and appliances. (Some members of the audience may remember this particular color as Harvest Gold, a popular decorating color in the 1970s.) It includes a cart with some kitchen items, an oven, a sink and a rounded kitchen island. A pendant light hangs over the kitchen. Just behind the kitchen is a small door that leads to the bathroom.

To the right of the kitchen, along the back of the apartment, is a small dresser with a radio and a bed with a suitcase tucked under it. The floor in the kitchen area is a patterned tile. The floor in the rest of the apartment is covered with plain brown carpet.

The main part of the apartment is the living room area. It includes an upholstered chair with striped cushions. A round footstool is in front of the chair, and a small wooden table is beside the chair. The living room also contains a green couch with an oval-shaped coffee table in front of it. (Some members of the audience may remember the couch color as Avocado Green, another popular 1970s decorating color.) The couch is draped with a colorful crocheted afghan and orange and green pillows. The living room furniture pieces have thin wooden legs that narrow at the bottom. Behind the couch is a small table that holds a green rotary phone.

Close to the door are a standing lamp and a coat rack where Luna and Jane hang their coats.

CAST, CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES

Luna, played by **Jenna Agbayani**, is a young Filipina woman with shoulder-length dark hair styled off her face with a barrette. She wears a denim vest over a shirt with a blue print and purple corduroy pants. She is gregarious, speaking loudly and using big gestures.

Jane, played by **Juyeon Song**, is a young Korean woman with long dark hair tied back in a ponytail. She wears large white earmuffs over her ears, and a cardigan sweater over a dark print dress. She is often quiet, looking downward or off into the distance.

They happen to have colorful matching winter coats they bought at Kmart, which they hang on the coat rack when they're indoors. Both women wear slip-on sandals when they're indoors. Midway through the play, Luna and Jane each change into colorful nightgowns with floral patterns.



THINGS TO KNOW

- Playwright Lloyd Suh was inspired to write *The Heart Sellers* based on conversations he and Director May Adrales had about their mothers' experiences immigrating to the U.S.
- The play's title is drawn from the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, also known as the Hart-Celler Act, which eliminated restrictive, nationality-based immigration quotas and granted new paths to U.S. citizenship for people from Asia, Africa and other non-European nations.
- *The Heart Sellers* had its world premiere at the Milwaukee Rep in 2023 and was heralded as "a stunning comedy" (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*) and "a love letter to friendship" (BroadwayWorld).