FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PLEASE

**CONTACT: Nancy Richards – 917-873-6389 (cell) /nancy@northcoastrep.org**

**MEDIA PAGE:** [**www.northcoastrep.org/press**](http://www.northcoastrep.org/press)

**NEWLY ARRIVED IMMIGRANTS OFFER HUMOROUS,**

**TOUCHING PERSPECTIVE OF AMERICA IN**

***THE HEART SELLERS* AT NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE**

**Written by Lloyd Suh**

**A San Diego Premiere Directed by Kat Yen**

**January 8 – February 2, 2025**

Solana Beach, Calif. – ***THE HEART SELLERS*** is making its San Diego debut at North Coast Rep. Playwright Lloyd Suh creates a captivating portrayal of intelligent, curious and creative women navigating the challenges of a new country. A reflection on the Asian immigrant experience, the play explores complex, emotionally charged themes withing the human condition. Relationships, desires, and the intricacies of the heart are scrutinized with a blend of drama and humor that keeps audiences engaged. With strong character development and sharp dialogue, this appealing play invites compassion and insight into their unique experiences. Reserve your tickets now for this often hilarious, thought-provoking play.

Kat Yen directs Jin Park and Marielle Young\* in ***THE HEART SELLERS***. Kailey Agpaoa is the understudy. The Design Team includes Marty Burnett (Scenic Designer), Matthew Novotny (Lighting Designer), Grace Wong (Costume Designer), Daniella Hart Uptownworks (Sound Designer), Audrey Casteris (Props) and Peter Herman (Hair & Wigs). Matthew Bantock\* is the Stage Manager and Victoria Hua is the Production Assistant.

\*The actor or stage manager appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity

Association.

***THE HEART SELLERS*** previews begin on Wednesday, Jan. 8. Opening Night is set for Saturday, Jan. 11, at 8 pm. The play runs Wednesday, Jan. 8, to Sunday, Feb. 2, with performances on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 pm and Sundays at 7 pm. Added matinee performances at 2pm on Friday, Jan. 10, and Wednesday, Jan. 29. A talkback session with the director and cast is scheduled for Jan. 17.

North Coast Rep is located at 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075.

Tickets: Previews - $52 (including Friday preview at 2pm), Weeknights - $62, Wed. & Sat. Matinees/Sat. Eve. - $74; Sun. Night - $60. For ticket information and to secure

your seats for ***THE HEART SELLERS,*** call 858-481-1055, or visit ww.northcoastrep.org. Join us for an evening of unexpected laughter and perhaps a few tears with these indomitable women.

**BIOS:**

**LLOYD SUH** (Playwright) is the author of *The Chinese Lady, Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery, American Hwangap, The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra Go!, Jesus in India*, and others, produced with Ma-Yi, Magic Theatre, EST, NAATCO, PlayCo, Denver Center, Milwaukee Rep, ArtsEmerson, Children's Theatre Co, and more, including internationally at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and with PCPA in Seoul, Korea. He has received support from the NEA Arena Stage New Play Development program, Mellon Foundation, NYFA, NYSCA, Jerome, TCG, Dramatists Guild, and residencies including NYS&F and Ojai. He is an alum of Youngblood and the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, and was a recipient of a 2016 Helen Merrill Award and the 2019 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts. From 2005-2010 he served as Artistic Director of Second Generation and Co-Director of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, and has served since 2011 as the Director of Artistic Programs at The Lark, and since 2015 as a member of the Dramatists Guild Council.

**KAT YEN** (Director) is a Taiwanese-American theater director, born and raised in NYC. Recent productions include *Pipe Dream* by Rodgers and Hammerstein at Berkshire Theatre Group, *Heart Strings* by Lee Cataluna at Atlantic Theater for Kids, and *Happy Life* by Kathy Ng at Walker Space/ The Hearth. Recent associate directing credits include *Redwood* written and directed by Tina Landau and conceived with Idina Menzel, *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical* by Joe Iconis and directed by Christopher Ashley, and *The Comeuppance* by Branden Jacobs- Jenkins and directed by Eric Ting. Upcoming productions include *The Weather Busters of Beachcastle* by Christin Eve Cato at La Jolla Playhouse: POP TOUR and *All The Men Who’ve Frightened Me* by Noah Diaz at La Jolla Playhouse. Kat is the inaugural Directing Fellow at La Jolla Playhouse, a former Resident Director at The Flea Theater, a Van Lier Directing Fellow at Second Stage Theater and the co-founder and former Artistic Director of Spookfish Theatre Company. MFA in Directing: Yale School of Drama. www.katyen.com

**JIN PARK** (Jane) (she/her) is grateful to make her North Coast Rep debut. Other Regional credits include: *Aubergine* (Theatreworks Colorado Springs). Chicago credits include: *In Quietness* (A Red Orchid Theatre), *Dory Fantasmagory* (Young People’s Theatre of Chicago), *Among The Dead* (Jackalope Theatre), *First Love Is The Revolution, Red Rex* (Steep Theatre); *Spirits To Enforce* (The Passage Theatre); *You For Me For You* (Sideshow Theatre); *Don’t Look Back/Must Look Back* (Pivot Arts); and *Really Really* (Interrobang Theatre). TV/Film credits include: “Chicago PD” (NBC),

“Waiting For The Light To Change,” and “Sun King.”

**MARIELLE YOUNG\* (Luna) (she/her)** is a Filipina-American actor from Queens. She has worked at theaters all over the U.S. including Portland Center Stage, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, The Acting Company, Chester Theatre Company, Capital Repertory Theatre, Kitchen Theatre Company, and more. She has developed new work with or been part of world premieres by Lauren Yee, Kate Hamill, Will Arbery, Lauren Gunderson, Nightdrive, Clubbed Thumb, Ensemble Studio Theater, Ars Nova, and more. TV includes “Blue Bloods” (CBS), “Major Crimes” (TNT), “The Blacklist” (NBC), “The Equalizer” (CBS), and “Bonding” (Netflix). SUNY Purchase and Fiorello H. LaGuardia Performing Arts High School alum. She teaches acting and Shakespeare in NYC. This one’s for mom. marielleyoung.org

**MATTHEW BANTOCK\*** (Stage Manager) North Coast Rep debut! Regional Credits: *The Rocky Horror Show, tick, tick... BOOM!, Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812; Cabaret, La Cage aux Folles, Marie and Rosetta, Spamalot, A Little Night Music, A Christmas Carol* (Cygnet Theatre); *Babbitt, Is It Thursday Yet?, The Outsiders, As You Like It,* WOW Festival (2019-2024), *Bhangin’ It, Hoopla!, Escape To Margaritaville, #SuperShinySara, Miss You Like Hell, Tiger Style!* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Knots* (The Old Globe); *Young Frankenstein, Miracle On 34th Street* (‘17, ‘16), *Pump Up the Volume* (SDMT); *An Octoroon* (The Wilma); *Estuary: an artist/mother story* (Kimmel Center). Graduate of the University of the Arts. theaterworkersforaceasefire.com

**KAILEY AGPAOA** (Understudy — Luna) (she/they) is a multi-hyphenate theatre-maker based out of San Diego! She is a Miranda Family Fellow. Kailey is passionate about
telling important stories, being a proud representative of the LGBTQ+ and global majority communities in her work, accessibility and EDIB, collective liberation, and all around, spreading joy and truth through creation. She has done work at various theatres around San Diego (including La Jolla Playhouse, Moxie Theatre, New Village Arts, Blindspot Collective, Bocón Arts, and Coronado Playhouse) and is represented by Shamon Freitas Model and Talent Agency. Her most recent role was Lucy Cratchit u/s in Your Local Theater Presents: *A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, Again* at La Jolla Playhouse. She’d love to send love to her family and friends, and gratitude to Kat and David for having her for this incredible show!

**JEE KANG** (Understudy — Jane) is thrilled to be a part of *The Heart Sellers* at the North Coast Repertory Theatre. Her recent credits include *Barry, Dave, It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia,* and *Seal Team*. Jee is Meisner-trained and fluent in Korean with a background in biology, data analysis, and marketing. When not on set or on stage, Jee enjoys going to the movies with a bucket of popcorn and a soft drink, writing novels and screenplays, cross-stitching, and playing with her three adorable dogs: Merry, Rocket, and Skipper.

**DESIGN TEAM**

**MARTY BURNETT** (Set Design) Resident Designer at North Coast Rep since 1992. Scenic designed more than 250 productions at the theatre. Resident Designer at Coronado Playhouse 1981-84 and Fiesta Dinner Theater 1984-87. Co-owner Props and Drops 1987-91, Designing for Union Plaza, Hacienda and Sahara Hotels and Casinos, Las Vegas; Harrah’s, South Lake Tahoe and Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City; Drury Lane Theater, Chicago. At Laguna Playhouse designed *Chapatti, Alexandros*, and transfer designed *Murder on the Links, The Angel Next Door, Tartuffe* and *Camelot* from North Coast Rep. Marty has a B.A. from Creighton University, Omaha, NE.

**MATTHEW NOVOTNY** (Light Design) is pleased to be designing another show for
North Coast Rep, where he has designed close to 40 shows over the past seven years. Matthew is currently the Lighting Designer in Residence for San Diego Musical Theatre
as well as North Coast Rep, and his work can be seen at a wide variety of theatres across San Diego. Matthew holds a B.A. in Technical Theatre from San Diego State and a master’s degree in Lighting Design from Boston University. Matthew is married to his beautiful wife Amanda, with five AMAZING children: Ragan, Harper, Heston, Maddex, and Harrison.

**GRACE WONG** (Costume Design) (she/her) Design credits include *The Lightning Thief, Finding Nemo* (JCompany), *The 39 Steps* (New Village Arts), *Kagitignan* (Blindspot Collective), *blu, Hells Canyon, Peerless, Trojan Women: A Version, Epicene, Exotic Deadly, Mojada,* and *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (UCSD). Associate Design credits include 900 Years (UCSD). Assistant Design credits include *Henry VIII* (The Old Globe), *Camelot, Tartuffe, Intimate Apparel* (North Coast Rep), *Everybody*, and *The Underground* (UCSD).

**DANIELA HART UPTOWNWORKS — Daniela Hart/Noel Nichols/Bailey Trierweiler** (Sound Design) is a collaborative design team specializing in theater, film, podcasts installations and other media. Select sound design highlights include *I’m Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* (DCPA); *Tiny Father* (Geffen Playhouse, Barrington Stage/Chautauqua); *Problems Between Sisters* (Studio Theatre DC); *Dangerous Days* (Miami New Drama); *Las Borinqueñas* (EST); *Murder on the Orient Express* (Syracuse Stage); *FIVE The Parody Musical* (Visceral Entertainment); *Lady Day* (Baltimore Center Stage); *Bloodwork* (NBT); *Avaaz* (South Coast Rep); *Singularity Play* (HarvardTDM); *Black Odyssey* (Classic Stage); *Chicken & Biscuits* (Asolo Rep); *Espejos:Clean* (Hartford Stage/Syracuse Stage); *the ripple, the wave...*(Berkeley Rep/Goodman); *Blues Clues & You!* (Round Room Live); *Fires in the Mirror* (Baltimore Center Stage); *already there* (The REACH, Kennedy Center). This design was led by Daniela Hart (uptownworksnyc.com), Bailey Trierweiler (btsounddesign.com) and Noel Nichols (noelnicholsdesign.com). Daniela, Noel & Bailey received their MFAs in Sound Design from Yale School of Drama.

**AUDREY CASTERIS** (Props Design) is a San Diego based scenic designer and fabricator. Recent North Coast Rep credits include props design for *Sense of Decency* and *Camelot.* Recent design credits include *All Bark No Bite* (Coronado Playhouse), *We Begin in a Tavern* (Orlando Fringe Festival 2023), *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Theatre UCF), *The Interference* (Theatre UCF). Audrey is also the Resident Set Design Assistant at The Old Globe. @audreycasterisdesign

**PETER HERMAN** (Hair & Wigs Design) has previously designed wigs for more than 30 North Coast Rep productions. Peter teaches wig and makeup design at San Diego State University. He is glad to be part of the creative team.

**VICTORIA HUA** (Production Assistant) has worked in various shows over 5 years in production and stage management positions. She is currently working in the San Diego and North County area. Previous productions include: *The Little Fellow* (Cygnet); *On Her Shoulders We Stand* (TuYo); *Beehive - The 60’s Musical* (New Village Arts); *Tartuffe* (North Coast Rep); *Camelot* (North Coast Rep).

North Coast Repertory Theatre, under the artistic leadership of David Ellenstein since

2003, is a professional Equity theatre, currently celebrating its 43rd Season. North

Coast Rep has received critical acclaim from media and audiences alike, and has

evolved into one of the area’s leading performing arts organizations. North Coast Rep

prides itself on employing the majority of its actors from Actors’ Equity Association for its

high quality, award‐winning productions, and staging works by established and

emerging playwrights. Throughout its history, North Coast Rep has created a platform

where artist and audience thrive through the intimacy of live theatre, recognizing the

power of theatre to challenge complacency, revitalize the imagination, nurture the

unexpected and embrace the variety and diversity in our lives.

###