NOTHING SAYS LOVE MORE THAN A HOME-COOKED MEAL.

AUBERGINE

SEP 20–OCT 20

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When I got the job as artistic director at Park Square last year and before I moved to Saint Paul, our wonderful marketing team asked if I minded my picture being put on the sign on the plaza. “Of course,” I said. “Anything you need.”

I have to say that I was very curious what it would look like. So when I got to Saint Paul and walked up from my temporary apartment in Lowertown, my eyes went up to the sign and were amused by my toothy mug (the smile was welcoming, was it not?), but were also very focused on the words above my image: A New Era.

Whoa. Those are big words. What do they mean? How do I fulfill them?

When people I know see the sign they usually exclaim, “That’s crazy.” They say that because they know where I came from and have been present to the amount of work it has taken to be in this position—the decade of a second graduate degree, fellowships, clawing, winning small battles, and taking two steps back while inching forward. They realize, as do I, how fortunate I am to be at Park Square.

But being on the stick outside was really not about me. My picture announced that a new era exists where someone who looks like me can be the artistic director of a regional theater and be a leader. Park Square is living the vision of an organization where everyone has a seat at the table.

So as you leave the theater today, please take a look at the photos on the wall, at the people on stage, at the list of directors that will be helming our productions, at the growing diversity of our staff and board. We want you to see yourself reflected in who we are and the stories that we are telling.

Thank you Park Square for sharing a vision of having a theater that uplifts the whole community. I am excited about the new era we are creating.

Best,

Flordelino Lagundino
John W. Harris Family Artistic Director
lagundino@parksquaretheatre.org
Taking care of his dying Father during the final stages of his life, Ray struggles to reconcile memories and expectations from his past with a direction for his future. Within a framework of evocative food memories, Ray—a professional chef—shares the journey with hospice nurse Lucien, his ex-girlfriend Cornelia, and an Uncle he’s never met. Together they navigate memories, relationships, grief, family roles and ultimately, love.

As a courtesy to our actors and those around you, please DEACTIVATE ALL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

Photography by Richard Fleischman


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Synopsis

Taking care of his dying Father during the final stages of his life, Ray struggles to reconcile memories and expectations from his past with a direction for his future. Within a framework of evocative food memories, Ray—a professional chef—shares the journey with hospice nurse Lucien, his ex-girlfriend Cornelia, and an Uncle he’s never met. Together they navigate memories, relationships, grief, family roles and ultimately, love.

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Playing the role of my father's mother, I was always developing a character, and I was always trying to think about what his life was like. I'm trying to remember how my father ate at home because it was quick, easy, and cheap. It was not his favorite food. For that we would have to go out to eat and the only kind of food we really went out for was Chinese food. At least, growing up, that's what I thought it was. We went to restaurants with words like "Peking" or "Dragon" in the title and they often had paper placemats printed with the Chinese Zodiac, so you can understand why I assumed what we were eating was Chinese. But what my parents actually went out for was not Chinese food—Mandarin, say, or Szechuan. What they went out for was Chinese. But for many Korean Americans, we grew up eating it in all its umami glory, usually with an egg cracked straight into it while boiling.

My mom cooked almost all of our meals from scratch—a heroic endeavor I utterly failed to appreciate or measure up to—so ramen was never, say, dinner. Ramen was something eaten in the off hours, late at night. I’d come downstairs looking for a snack to find my father standing over the stove with the small, steel pot who’s entrance to our family predated mine and whose sole purpose, it seemed, was to make ramen. He’d see me and wordlessly add another block of noodles and a packet of seasonings to the pot. There was something calm and contented about those late night meals. My memory is tricky—as tricky as that of my characters. So I don’t know if there’s a certain wish fulfillment going on. But I’d like to think we had some good meals together in the quiet of our house, slurping soup together late into the night.

But ramen was something my father ate at home because it was quick, easy, and cheap. It was not his favorite food. For that we would have to go out to eat and the only kind of food we really went out for was Chinese food. At least, growing up, that’s what I thought it was. We went to restaurants with words like “Peking” or “Dragon” in the title and they often had paper placemats printed with the Chinese Zodiac, so you can understand why I assumed what we were eating was Chinese. But what my parents actually went out for was not Chinese food—Mandarin, say, or Szechuan. What they went out for was Korean Chinese food.

This is a terribly reductive food history, but what I understand is that the Chinese went to Japan and opened restaurants, which led to ramen. But the Chinese also went to Korea and opened up restaurants, which led to dishes such as jajangmyun and my father’s hands-down favorite dish: jjamppong. It is a red and fiery seafood soup, thick with udon-like noodles and a briny, spicy broth. We kids would order the sweeter, milder jajangmyun and my father would order his jjamppong and all of us were happy and sated.

I bring up these two dishes because when someone dies, one of the harder aspects is that you no longer get to eat with them. There are some religions that construct altars for their dead and leave food for them to have in the afterlife. I know one friend who put a Pepsi and a donut on the altar for his grandmother because those were her favorite foods. For my father, I would put ramen and jjamppong. But being Christian, we have no altars. So instead, I eat ramen, now sharing it with my own children, who lap it up with an almost primal instinct as I have yet to find a child who doesn’t like noodles. And should I be so lucky to be in LA’s Koreatown I go to Young King and order their jjamppong. I think of my father—this man who ate out so rarely, who gave himself so few material luxuries that when he died, he left almost nothing to inherit. He grew up in a time and place when there were no cameras; of his early life, or even his life as a young man, I know virtually nil. But I know what he ate; I know what foods he liked. And so it is a kind of remembrance: I eat these things in communion with him.
No amount of number crunching can calculate the value of the arts.

As proud supporters of the arts, we applaud the effort and dedication it takes to bring creative vision to reality.
Cast

SUN MEE CHOMET *
Cornelia
Park Square Debut
Representative Theatre Theater Mu: Hot Asian Doctor Husband; Two Mile Hollow Ten Thousand Things Theater: The Sins of Sor Juana;
Guthrie Theater: As You Like It; King Lear; Jungle Theater: The Wickhams/ Miss Bennet Training M.F.A., Acting, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University; B.A., Sociology & Anthropology, Earlham College
Accolades 2019 McKnight Theatre Artist Fellowship
Upcoming Projects Guthrie Theater: Twelfth Night;
Ten Thousand Things Theater: The Hatmaker’s Wife

BRIAN KIM *
Understudy for Ray Park
Square Debut
Representative Theatre San Diego Repertory: Aubergine; New York Theatre Workshop: Dinner with Georgette;
Olney Theatre Center: Labour of Love; Pan Asian Repertory: The Emperor’s Nightingale; Full Circle Theatre: Caught; Theatre Mu: The Korean Drama Addict’s Guide to Losing Your Virginity
TV/FILM: Pokémon: Sun and Moon; Regal Academy; Earth Defense Force: Iron Rain; Modern Combat Versus; Mazinger Z: Infinity; The Beach House; The Struggle; We Be Nurses; Mysteries at the Museum
Accolades 2018 Asian American Film Lab Best Actor and Director; 2018 Grove Film Festival Best Actor
Upcoming Projects Theatre Mu at the Dowling Studio: Fast Company, Park Square Theatre: Evita

SONG KIM
Stranger/Uncle
Park Square Debut
Representative Theatre Theatre Coup d’Etat: The Pillowman; nimbus theatre: The Pathetic Life and Remarkable Afterlife of Elmer McCurdy; Theater Mu: Charles Francis Chan, Jr’s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery; History Theatre: The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin

GLENN KUBOTA *
Ray’s Father
Park Square Debut
Representative Theatre

DARRICK MOSLEY *
Lucien
Park Square A Raisin in the Sun
Representative Theatre Dark and Stormy: Dry Powder; Penumbra Theatre: Benevolence, Jitney, The Ballad of Emmett Till; History Theatre: The Great Society, All the Way, Highwaymen; Guthrie Theater: Choir Boy, To Kill a Mockingbird; Mixed Blood Theatre: Pussy Valley, Colossal Training B.A., Speech & Theatre, Grambling State University
time and is currently preparing a feature-length film for festivals. Maxwell also works as an actor and assistant director for theatres in the Twin Cities.

ANNE ENNEKING
Fight Director
Park Square As Fight Director: Cardboard Piano; Of Mice and Men; Cyran: Panic Representative Theatre Guthrie: To Kill a Mockingbird; Dark and Stormy Productions: Extremities; Jungle Theatre: Night Alive; Ten Thousand Things Theater: Henry IV; Theatre Latte Da: The Man of La Mancha; Guthrie/BFA: Boudica TV/Film SS414 Training Associate Instructor with Dueling Arts International; Theatre Arts (Dance), University of Minnesota Accolades/Other Playwright’s Center McKnight Theatre Fellowship; Jerome Foundation Grant; Artist Initiative Grant Upcoming Projects Touring with the rock band Annie and the Bang Bang; Teaching stage combat at the University of Minnesota (BA and BFA departments)

RICHARD LEE
Cultural Advisor
Richard M Lee, PhD is a Distinguished McKnight University Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He is an internationally recognized scholar in Asian American psychology with expertise in parent-child relationships, ethnic identity development, acculturation processes, perceived discrimination, and health disparities. Professor Lee is Past President of the Asian American Psychological Association and current Editor-in-Chief of Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology.

FOSTER JOHNS
Vocal Coach
Park Square Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant, Marjore Prime (with Prime Productions), Cardboard Piano, Dot, Behind the Eye Representative Theatre Guthrie Theater, Playwrights’ Center, Theater Latte Da, Illusion Theater, Old Log Theater, University of Minnesota BFA/Guthrie Theater BFA in Actor Training Program Training M.F.A., Voice Studies, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama; B.A., Theater & English, Boston College Upcoming Projects Guthrie: Christmas Carol; Lyric Arts: Bloomday; Steppingstone: The Real-Life Adventures of Jimmy De Las Rosas Other Certified in Knight Thompson Speechwork; Member of the Voice and Speech Trainers Association; follow at www.fosterjohns.com

KATHY MAXWELL
Video Designer
Park Square The Skin of Our Teeth, Hamlet Representative Theatre Penumbra Theatre: This Bitter Earth; The Jungle Theatre: The Nether; History Theatre: Crack in the Sky; Theatre Latte Da: To Let Go and Fall; Mixed Blood Theatre: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime; Ordway Theatre: Mamma Mia

Training B.A. Theatre and Dance, University of Texas; M.F.A. Theatre and Dance, University of Minnesota Upcoming Projects Jungle Theatre: Ride the Cyclone; Penumbra Theatre: White Card

EDWIGE MUBONZI
Cultural Consultant
Dr. Edwige Mubonzi was born and raised in Bukavu in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo(DRC). She earned her medical doctorate in 2011 at the University Evangelical in Africa and worked at Panzi Hospital in Bukavu with 2018 Nobel Peace recipient Dr. Denis Mukwege to treat women victims of rape. Since 2013, Dr. Mubonzi has lived in Minnesota. She is a founder of the Minnesota non-profit Mwendo Congo and a Board member of Advocates for Human Rights. She has testified at the Minnesota legislature in support of ‘conflict-free from DRC’ legislation. She lives and works in St. Paul and is preparing to take the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam to become a licensed physician in the U.S. Dr. Mubonzi speaks French, English, Swahili and Lingala.

DEB O
Set Designer
Park Square Debut Representative Theater Isabella Rosellini’s Farm: Field and Forest; Reading, PA: This Is Reading; Falconworks, NY: Ready Set Go: Race; I Migration; Black Conference; Humana Festival, KY, Airness; Z Space, CA: Selkie and Lessons From Aloes; El
MATT OTTO
Sound Designer
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre: The Amoralists, NYC: Triggered; Stained, Armed and Entangled; The Barrow Group, NYC: Perp; Abigail’s Party; Muswell Hill; Thing with Feathers; Enemy of the People; Cherry Lane, NYC: Patron of the Arts; Nollywood Dreams; Esai’s Table; King Lear; New York Musical Festival, NYC: Cadaver of Synod; Colt Couer, NYC: Empathitrax; Imagination Stage, DC: Princess & The Pauper; Folger Theater, DC: Macbeth; Neil Gwynn; Timon of Athens; Solas Nua, DC: Johnny Meister and the Stitch, Helen Hayes Award nomination; Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, NY: Our Town; Love’s Labour’s Lost; Alabama Shakespeare Festival, AL: Fly; Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, OK: James and the Giant Peach; Brown/Trinity Rep, RI: Stone Cold Dead Serious; Vibrator Play; Yale Rep, CT: Stones in His Pockets

KARIN OLSON
Lighting Designer

Accolades BroadwayWorld Minneapolis Best Lighting Design 2015 - Stages Theatre Company: Disney’s The Little Mermaid Jr. Upcoming Projects Trademark Theater at Cowles Center: The Hollow; Theater Mu at Guthrie Theater: Fast Company; Children’s Theater Company: Spamtown

AKIEM SCOTT
Park Square Theatre Sound Design Fellow
DJ Kool Akiem Scott is an educator, teaching artist, renowned DJ, composer, sound designer, and producer. Widely recognized as a pioneer of the Twin Cities Hip-Hop community, he’s produced for the legendary Micranots, was DJ for MF Doom’s domestic and European tours, and has performed with artists such as Public Enemy, De La Soul, The Roots, Grandmaster Flash, and Jazzy Jeff. Kool Akiem has produced seven albums, many of which are critically acclaimed that released on Rhymesayers Entertainment, Subversive Records, and Mental Madness Wreckords. He has held DJ residencies in New York and Atlanta, and hosted radio shows including The Panther Power Hour on WRFG (Atlanta) and WEQY (Saint Paul). His expertise and philosophies on Sampling and Hip Hop pedagogy have been featured in several books including Five Percenter Rap by Felicia Miyakawa and Making Beats by Joseph Schlos. He composed original scores for the award-winning stage play Kung Fu Zombies vs Cannibals (Theater Mu), was DJ for Ilyria (Theater Latte Da), a sound designer for The Two Kids That Blow Shit Up (Theater Mu) and was recently commissioned to compose the theme song for Kung Fu Zombies vs Shaman Warrior (Smithsonian). He taught Hip Hop Music History at McNally Smith College of Music and conducts DJ and recording residencies and workshops for all ages as a teaching artist through COMPAS, East Metro Integration District and Intermedia Arts.

RACHEL RHOADES
Stage Manager
Park Square The Language Archive, Sons of the Prophet, Calendar Girls Representative Theatre Ordway Center for Performing Arts (as ASM): 42nd Street; Hennepin Theatre Trust: Buyer & Cellar; The REAL(fish)

KENJI SHOEmaker
Properties Designer/Assistant Stage Manager
Park Square Debut Representative Theatre: Full Circle Theater: Under This Roof; Stages Theatre Company: 20+ productions; Chanhassen Dinner Theaters; Arts’ Nest: Of Milk and Mirrors Training B.A., Theatre and Biology, Macalester College

Upcoming Projects Stages Theatre Co: Elf
and/or developed new work at the University of Texas at Austin MFA program in directing and Theatre Directing Fellowship, the 2017 Drama League New York Directing Fellowship, and acted in the Ivey Award-winning production (Best Ensemble) of Vietgone at Mixed Blood Theatre, MN. He was the recipient of directing fellowships at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center. Flordelino has taught at Brown University, The University of Texas at Austin, The New School, and the University of Alaska-Southeast.

C. MICHAEL-JON PEASE, CFRE
Executive Director
C. Michael-jon Pease, CFRE, started at Park Square as Development Director, then External Relations Director before becoming the company’s second-ever Executive Director in 2012. He represents Park Square as part of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Cohort at Theatre Communications Group (the nonprofit theatre industry’s national professional association). As a survivor, Michael-jon is co-leading a local working group to create an anti-sexual harassment code of conduct and change the culture of the local theatre industry to be free from sexual harassment and more supportive for survivors of sexual abuse. Michael-jon began his career as the first executive director of Cornucopia Art Center in Lanesboro, MN.

Recognized by the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council as its 1999 Arts Administrator of the Year, and by the Minnesota State Arts Board, he worked tirelessly to bring honor to his adopted community, earning Lanesboro national attention as one of the “100 Best Small Art Towns,” the 1998 Great American Main Street Award and multiple designations by Outdoor Magazine as one of America’s “Dream Towns.”

Away from Park Square, Michael-jon serves as the 110th President of the St Paul Rotary (Club #10); and on the Finance Committee for Minnesota Citizens for the Arts. He also serves as adjunct faculty at St. Mary’s University (Twin Cities). Michael-jon earned his M.A. in Arts Administration from St. Mary’s University of Minnesota (Winona), and graduated cum laude from Salve Regina University (Newport, RI) with B.A. degrees in Theatre, English and French.

Production Cast & Crew

Carpenters Ty Waters, Elizabeth Streif, Erin Gustafson, Jorge Rodriguez-Sosa, Becca Kravchenko
Scenic Charge Jeni Tolifson
Master Electrician Laura Berger
Light Programmer Laura Berger
Electrician Jacob White
Sound Supervisor Charlotte Deranek
Video/Sound Operator Jerry Hsiao
Wardrobe Mary Farrell

Special Acknowledgment

Special thanks to Lisa Nilles; Macalester College for use of hospital bed; and Dr. Ellen J Kennedy at World Without Genocide.
Special Thanks to the Historic Hamm Building

Their investment of $12,000,000 in donated rent and use of facilities over our 40-year tenure creates a vibrant cultural life in downtown Saint Paul.

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Ben Cook-Feltz – Ticket Office Manager; Claire Chwalek, Gillian Constable

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Gillian Constable

**Friday Club Coordinator**
Judy Bartlett

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The Founders Society recognizes individuals who have made a future gift to the Theatre through their wills or other estate plans. These gifts literally lay the foundation for the next generation of theatre goers—making each donor a founder of Park Square’s future. You don’t need to be rich to leave a lasting legacy. You can provide for your heirs, gain important tax benefits, and even receive an income now by making a thoughtful planned gift. Planned Gifts include: A Bequest in Your Will; Retained Life Estate; Gift of Retirement Plan Assets; Charitable Remainder Trust; Gift of Life Insurance Policy; Charitable Lead Trust; Charitable Gift Annuity

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**Staff**

**Flordelino Lagundino**
John W. Harris Family, Artistic Director

**C. Michael-jon Pease**
CFRE, Executive Director

**Artistic**
Meghan McLaughlin Production Manager
Alex K Olsen Technical Director
Charlotte Deranek Sound Supervisor
John White Literary Management Volunteer

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Marcia Aubineau Post-show Discussion Moderator

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Tessie Bundick, Shanan Custer, Sha Cage, Annie Ennekeng, Ellen Fenster, H. Adam Harris, Steve Hendrickson, Brian Hesser, Katharine Horowitz, Stephen Houtz, JuCoby Johnson, Mike Kittel, Carson Kreitzer, Kory LaQuess Pullam, Kym Longhi, Katy McEwen, Leslye Orr, Carolyn Pool, Aaron Preusse, T Mychal Rambo, Joel Sass, Doug Scholz-Carlson, Jen Scott, Eric Sharp, Dane Stauffer, Regina Marie Williams, Keely Wolter

**Tom & Gayle Ober**
Corrie Ooms Beck
Kristin & Davis Parker
Ronald Parker
C. Michael-jon Pease
Scott T. & Jennifer Norris Peterson
Mackenzie & Steve Romenesko
Susan Rosikoski
Ken & Nina Rothchild
Berenne Rudolph
Paul & Pat Sackett
Barbara Schmidt & James Persoon
Sarah Stevenson
Doris Swenson
Randall & Cynthia Thoen
Joan & Sandy White
Kate Wolle-Jenson & Ralph Jenson

**Access Services Staff**
**Audio Description** Rick Jacobson, Laurie Pape-Hadley, Elana Centor, Laura Wieters;

**ASL** Sarah Brown, Sara Corliss, Paul Deeming, Linda Gill, Jenae Hanson, Shelly Lehner, Josette Repke, Jonella Titus;

**Open Captioning** Shelia Bland, Elana Centor

**Volunteers Friday Morning Club**
Susan Adix, Doreen Aszmus, Sue Bjerke, Pat Dalluhn, Monica Fritzen, Pat Sackett

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**Mailing Address**
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