

"Our Town, Your Town, Koreatown. Improving Quality of Life for Over 35 Years."

**PRESS RELEASE** For Immediate Release Contact: Jennifer Ta at (213) 365-7400 x240 or jta@kyccla.org

## **Traveling Kimchi Chronicles Comes to Koreatown**

(Los Angeles, CA) On July 6th, the host of KIMCHI CHRONICLES Marja Vongerichten and producer Eric Rhee will visit the youth of Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC) to introduce the PBS TV series about Korea and Korean food. There will be a live cooking demonstration followed by a screening of an episode.

"KYCC is delighted to have Marja and Kimchi Chronicles visit our kids," said Children and Family Director, Sam Joo. "Koreatown is very diverse and we applaud the understanding that the show is giving to Korean cuisine and culture so that all may enjoy it."

KIMCHI CHRONICLES is the most anticipated international TV series about Korea that has ever been produced. It will uncover the beauty and richness of Korean food and culture in a way that has never been shown in the US.

Marja's remarkable life story will be told throughout the series. Born on the outskirts of Seoul to a Korean mother and an American GI, Marja was put up for adoption at three and then was lovingly raised in northern Virginia. When she was 19 she reconnected with her birth mother, who had relocated to Brooklyn. In reuniting with her Korean family and taking trips to Korea, Marja's life has come full circle.

Marja believes in the importance of giving back to the Korean American community by being a role model to disadvantaged children and youth. Marja is excited to share her own personal story and inspire KYCC's youth to pursue their hopes and dreams.

<u>Koreatown Youth and Community Center</u> was established in 1975 for recently immigrated, at-risk youth. Since then, it has grown enormously, with children and family services, economic development, environmental, childcare, and affordable housing units. The mission of KYCC is to serve the evolving needs of the Korean American population in the greater Los Angeles Area as well as the multi-ethnic Koreatown community. Today, KYCC serves over 11,000 people each year, most of whom are first-generation immigrants from Latin America and Asia.

Join Marja Vongerichten on <u>KIMCHI CHRONICLES</u>—part travelogue, part food fantasy and part documentary of self-discovery—as she explores and celebrates a cuisine and a culture committed to the age-old practice of taking something ordinary and making it extraordinary.

Main Office

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On **KIMCHI CHRONICLES**, viewers will get to see the country through Marja's incredible and completely distinct lens. In each episode, she will take you to Korea along with Jean-Georges and their daughter Chloe and other friends like renowned actress Heather Graham. Marja will go straight to the source to find the best of Korea from the rolling hills of green tea on Jeju Island to a tiny stall in a sprawling market that serves the most crispy, savory, completely addictive pancakes known as *bindaeddeok* made from mung beans ground just before they hit the pan.

Then Marja and Jean-Georges will invite you back to their kitchen in New York, along with actor Hugh Jackman and his wife Deb, their real life neighbors. Together, they will create the dishes they fell in love with in Korea and Jean-Georges, a true culinary icon and veritable genius, will also prepare new dishes inspired by the Korean pantry coupled with his command of simple, flavorful and delicious combinations.

Broadcast begins July on your local PBS station

KLCS CH 58 on Thursday at 7pm KCET CH 28 on Fridays at 2pm and Saturdays at 12pm

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