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ADELAIDE FESTIVAL

2026

ANTON CHEKHOV / SIMON STONE

LG ARTS CENTER

The Cherry Orchard

Image: Seunghee Lee, LG Arts Center

27 FEB - 1 MAR / FESTIVAL THEATRE



Credits

CAST

Doyeon Jeon as Doyoung Song
Haesoo Park as Doosik Hwang
Sangkyu Son as Jaeyoung Song
Moon Choi as Hyunsook Kang
Jihye Lee as Haena Kang
Yunho Nam as Donglim Byun
Byunghoon Yoo as Youngho Kim
Sejun Lee as Yebin Shin
Juwon Lee as Joodong Lee
Heejung Park as Doona Jung

CREATIVE TEAM

Produced by LG Arts Center

Co-commissioned with Adelaide Festival

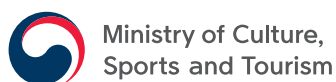
Written and directed by **Simon Stone**
Executive Producer: **Tency H.J. Lee**
Producer: **Min K. Shin**
Associate Creative Producer: **Wouter Van Ransbeek**
Associate Director: **Hayoun Sim**
Dramaturg & Script Translator: **Danbi Yi**
Set Designer: **Saul Kim**
Costume and Associate Set Designer: **Mel Page**
Lighting Designer: **James Farncombe**
Music & Sound Designer: **Youngkyu Jang**
Hair & Make-up Designer: **Jiyoung Baek**

TOURING TEAM

Touring Producer: **Ju Kim**
Technical Director: **Kyoungjun Eo**
Touring Manager: **Hoyeon Kim**
Assistant Director: **Yumin Oh**
Stage Manager: **Kyunggeun Song**
Deputy Stage Manager: **Hunseop Lee**
Head Carpenter: **Kwanyang Kim**
Set Builders: **Byungro An, Dongjun Lee, Teuin Kwak**
Lighting Supervisor: **Hankyung Ryu**
Lighting Practical: **Junhyun Lee**
Sound Supervisor: **Junseok Eom**
Sound RF: **Wonshim Kim**
Prop Supervisor: **Jungsuk Lim**
Costume Supervisor: **Seree Cho**
Hair & Make-up: **Jiyoung Baek, Yiyeon Lim**

The Cherry Orchard is generously supported by the Adelaide Festival Chairman's Circle and Principal Donors – Girgensohn Foundation, Playking Foundation.

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Geoffrey Walsh

Tracey Whiting AM & Michael Whiting

Anonymous (2)



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INTERCONTINENTAL
ADELAIDE



Image: Studio AL, LG Arts Center

Summary

Doyoung Song does not recognise this version of Seoul—tumultuous, free and unafraid of authority. Having left the country years ago after the death of her son, she returns to a city that is significantly unfamiliar, and a difficult situation: her family's business is on the verge of bankruptcy, and her family home, gifted to her by her grandfather, is in danger of being lost.

Helmed by highly acclaimed director Simon Stone, this reinterpretation of Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* is set in modern-day Seoul, South Korea. In a time of rapid and brutal change, a Chaebol family struggles to adapt to a world that has moved on without them, suffocated by a rising middle class and wealthy self-made entrepreneurs. Generational tensions erupt, and caught between hope and despair, tradition and innovation, the family is forced to eventually confront the cost of inaction.

Equal parts tragedy and comedy, *The Cherry Orchard* was Chekhov's final play, and considered one of his masterpieces. This adaptation by Stone premiered in June 2024 and marked the return of actress Doyeon Jeon to the theatre stage after 27 years. Well-known for her roles in *You Are My Sunshine* (2005) and *Secret Sunshine* (2007), for which she was awarded Best Actress at the 60th Cannes Film Festival, Jeon brings her acting prowess to the role of protagonist Doyoung Song. She stars alongside actor Haesoo Park of *Squid Game* fame, and a stellar all-Korean ensemble cast. The story unfolds on a masterfully designed set by celebrated architectural designer Saul Kim.

An intimate, bittersweet portrait that is deeply South Korean and yet universally moving, this must-watch take on *The Cherry Orchard* is a timely reflection of loss, change and social transformation.

Act Summary

ACT 1

Doyoung has returned to Seoul after five years. She reunites with her family at the outbuilding her father gave her as a sixteenth birthday present. While catching up with her older sister Hyunsook, second daughter Haena, who has returned from the United States with Doyoung, learns that things aren't going well at the company.

On the same day, Doosik, who was the son of the chauffeur of this house, comes to see Doyoung. The kindness Doyoung showed him in his childhood remains an unforgettable moment for him, but ironically Doyoung doesn't remember the words she once said. Unlike his humble past, Doosik has become wealthy and is currently in a relationship with Hyunsook. He continues to try to convey to the Song family the fact that there are problems with the company's operation, but no one pays attention to his words. Doyoung's older brother, Jaeyoung, has put his college friend in the position of CEO and remains indifferent to running the company, indulging in golf and classical music instead. In this situation, their cousin Youngho keeps coming to borrow money, and Doyoung eventually sends him a large sum of money.

As the day fades, Doyoung recognises someone standing in the cherry orchard and feeling possessed, approaches him. She initially thinks of him as the apparition of her late father, but he turns out to be Donglim, the private tutor who once taught Doyoung's youngest son, Haejun, in this house. Through her encounter with Donglim, Doyoung is tormented by memories of Haejun. Meanwhile, the housemaid, Doona, is in a relationship with the chauffeur, Yebin, but falls for Joodong Lee, Doyoung's personal secretary.

ACT 2

Time passes and it's a peaceful summer day. Doona finds herself torn between Yebin and Joodong, but her heart leans towards Joodong as she dreams of a future with him. Meanwhile, the company's situation worsens, and despite Doosik's best efforts to persuade the Song family, they remain indifferent and unyielding. Suddenly, Hyunsook rushes in, announcing that a protest is unfolding in front of the company, with workers demanding job security. Amid the escalating crisis, Doyoung suddenly confronts the traumas of the past. She is tormented by guilt for neglecting her husband's death and blaming herself for not preventing the death of her youngest son, Haejun. This agony is also the reason why Doyoung can't go a single day without alcohol. Feeling a sense of warmth towards Doosik, who sincerely listened to her story, Doyoung finds comfort in him.

Suddenly, Youngho appears, causing a small commotion with his expression of unknown pain. As Youngho calms down, Donglim and Haena, engrossed in conversation, appear. When Doosik intervenes in their conversation, it escalates into a debate between Donglim and Doosik, where societal moral ideals clash with corporate ethics. As the debate subsides, the sky is tinged with red, captivating everyone with its beauty. Inside the house, as the family eats dinner and dances, the conversation between Donglim and Haena deepens outside. Inspired by Donglim's pure, passionate ideals, Haena is moved, and the two of them pledge to do whatever it takes to bring about change in the world.

ACT 3

It's winter. Everyone celebrates Haena's birthday joyfully, singing and dancing, thoroughly intoxicated. Outside the house, Yebin spots Doona with Joodong. Doona tries to break up with Yebin on this occasion, but Joodong persuades her not to. Yebin walks away calling his mother. Meanwhile, as the corporate bankruptcy proceedings unfold, the family members are waiting only for Jaeyoung without knowing the outcome. Amidst the drunken atmosphere, conflicts arise between Doyoung and her two daughters. Hyunsook agonises over feeling unloved as an adopted child. Haena yearns for her mother's approval of her art project, but all she receives from Doyoung upon her return is her disapproval, deeming her work terrible and unworthy.

Eventually, driven by a sudden surge of emotions, Doyoung impulsively kisses Donglim, Haena's boyfriend. As a result, Haena is triggered due to her past trauma. She cries out, expressing the difficulty of losing her father, her brother Haejun, and possibly her mother as well. Just when it seems that Doyoung and Haena are dramatically reconciling and the situation is calming down, Jaeyoung returns home, and everyone is curious who bought out the family's debt. Right at this moment, the new owner of the house appears: none other than Doosik. He plans to build a luxury hotel on this land. Beside the despairing Doyoung, Haena comforts her mother and encourages her with newfound courage.

ACT 4

Doyoung's small house is now empty. As everyone prepares to leave, Doosik arrives with top-tier champagne, raising a toast to the last moments of the Song family in the house. Yebin has become Doosik's new chauffeur, and Youngho hands Doyoung a bag full of cash as she prepares to leave for the United States, attempting to repay the money he borrowed earlier. It turns out that the money was lent by Doosik. While cleaning the cluttered house, Doona informs Joodong that she might be pregnant, but he callously rejects her, stating he doesn't know how to love, leaving Doona devastated. Yebin silently observes the scene. Following this, Doona approaches Yebin and requests to meet, but this time, Yebin also rejects her. Amidst this turmoil, Doosik declares that he will demolish the house today. Doosik then reveals his plans for the luxury hotel and his determination to revive the company on his own. Haena, who had planned to go to the United States with Doyoung, decides to stay in Seoul with Donglim. Subsequently, Hyunsook confides in Doyoung her plan to walk the Santiago pilgrimage route. Then, in a private moment with Doosik, Hyunsook bids him a sincere farewell.

Doyoung bids farewell to the house and all the memories it holds. In the now-empty space, only the intoxicated Youngho remains. As he reminisces about the past, he collapses in agony from an unknown chest pain. Doosik brings in a bulldozer, starting the demolition of the house. He heralds the beginning of a new era.

Image: Studio AL, LG Arts Center

