

chicago
shakespeare theater
on navy pier theater

CHICAGO LATINO
THEATER ALLIANCE

PRIETO

written &
performed by
Yosimar Reyes

directed by
Kat Evasco and
Sean San José

produced
by the
**Living Word
Project**



DESTINOS

6TH CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL
LATINO THEATER FESTIVAL

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER MAJOR SEASON SUPPORTERS



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On behalf of the Chicago Latino Theater Alliance (CLATA), I'd like to thank you for being here today. We hope you'll enjoy *Prieto* as much as we did when we first learned about it. Tonight's performance is part of the sixth annual Destinos Chicago International Latino Theater Festival. With seventeen productions at ten different venues throughout Chicago, this is the largest Destinos Festival to date. I invite you to experience the other productions that form part of this year's Festival.

There's something powerful about having a play by an unapologetically undocumented, queer, Mexican artist like Yosimar Reyes, in a venue like Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier, with the skyline of the City of Chicago, a sanctuary city, just outside. What better way to celebrate Latino Heritage Month than with Destinos and supporting Latine theater? We celebrate the many stories that reflect the beauty and diversity of our Latinidad through this Festival.

None of this would have been possible without key partnerships like the one we have with Chicago Shakespeare Theater. A very warm thank you to Paige Whitson-Martini, Director of Producing; Edward Hall, Artistic Director; Kimberly Motes, Executive Director; and the rest of the Chicago Shakespeare staff for seeing the importance of this partnership and the importance of having stories that reflect our narrative with people who look like us on their stages. They have been an incredible partner. Finally, thank you for being here, for your support, for helping make this year's Destinos Festival a success, and for helping contribute to the narrative that Latino theater is thriving.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jorge Valdivia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jorge Valdivia

Executive Director, Chicago Latino Theater Alliance

DESTINOS

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LATINO THEATER FESTIVAL**

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER
and **CHICAGO LATINO THEATER ALLIANCE**

present

PRIETO

written & performed by
YOSIMAR REYES

directed by
KAT EVASCO
and **SEAN SAN JOSÉ**

produced by
**THE LIVING WORD
PROJECT**

Projection Designer/Producer, The Living Word Project
JOAN OSATO

Costume Designer
PABLO LEON

Lighting Designer
MAXIMILIANO URRUZMENDI

Sound Designer/Producer
CHRISTOPHER "SAUCY" SAUCEDA

Scenic Consultant
TANYA ORELLANA

Dramaturg
GAYLE ROMASANTA

Movement Coach
RYAN MARCHAND

Visual Set Art
Graphic Designer
AGANA

Additional
Film and Photos
JEAN MELESAINÉ

Graphic
Designer
LOISSE LEDRES

Production
Stage Manager
PERLA BARRAZA

**PRESENTED AS PART OF 6TH DESTINOS –
CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL LATINO THEATER FESTIVAL**

*The Prieto team would like to give special thanks to Jose Antonio Vargas,
With You Productions, and Olivia Malabuyo, and Stacie Ma'a of the
Gerbode Foundation for their love and support of this project.*

The performance will run 70 minutes with no intermission.

YOSIMAR REYES (*Writer/Performer*) is a nationally-acclaimed poet and public speaker. Born in Guerrero, Mexico, and raised in Eastside San Jose, Reyes explores the themes of migration and sexuality in his work. *The Advocate* named Reyes one of “13 LGBT Latinos Changing the World” and *Remezcla* included Reyes on their list of “10 Up and Coming Latinx Poets You Need to Know.” His first collection of poetry, *For Colored Boys Who Speak Softly...* was self-published after a collaboration with the legendary Carlos Santana. His work has also been published in various online journals and books, including *Mariposas: An Anthology of Queer Modern Latino Poetry* (Floricanto Press), *Queer in Aztlán: Chicano Male Recollections of Consciousness and Coming Out* (Cognella Press), and the forthcoming *Joto: An Anthology of Queer Xicano & Chicano Poetry* (Kórima Press). Reyes was featured in the documentary *2nd Verse: The Rebirth of Poetry*. He is a LAMBDA Literary Fellow as well as the recipient of the UndocuPoets Fellowship. Reyes previously served as Artist-in-Residence at the media and culture organization Define American. Reyes has toured and presented at university campuses across the United States.

KAT EVASCO (*Co-Director*) is an award-winning writer, theater artist, comedian, and cultural strategist committed to honoring and celebrating the experiences of immigrants, women and LGBTQI communities. In 2020, Kat was awarded the Kenneth Rainin New & Experimental Works (NEW) Program Grant towards the premiere of her new play *Be Like Water* produced by Brava Theater in San Francisco. She is a 2018 LAMBDA Literary Fellow in Playwriting and her works have been featured on *Deadline*, *IndieWire*, *Vice*, *Shondaland*, *Bustle*, *The Advocate*, *Out Magazine*, and *NBC News Asian America*. Kat is the founder and CEO of With You Productions and holds a BA in Asian American Studies from San Francisco State University. Evasco served as the Senior Program Director and Director of Artist Leadership at the Center for Cultural Power, leading the design and implementation of the organization's core programs including the Disruptors Fellowship.

SEAN SAN JOSÉ (*Co-Director*) is the Program Director for Campo Santo, a new performances group by and for People of Color since 1996, who are the first Home Resident Company at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco, where Sean is the Lead Director. Honored to work with Yosimar and to collaborate with the Campo Santo crew at Brava.

JOAN OSATO (*Projection Design/Producer*) has played a pivotal role in local and national theater for over two decades and is a committed local and national community organizer. A core member of Youth Speaks since 2001, where she produces live performance events including *Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Festival* annually in rotating cities around the country, she is also Producer for The Living Word Project and the critically acclaimed theater group Campo Santo. As a cultural organizer,

she works on behalf of national networks, and sits on the boards of the National Performance Network and the Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists. She is an awardee of prestigious grants from the MAP Fund, the Wattis Foundation, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, and the Creative Work Fund. She was the inaugural recipient of SFAC's Artist and Communities Partnership Grant, Theater Bay Area's Award for Excellence in Video Design (Tribes by Nina Raine, at Berkeley Rep), and the Surdna Foundation's Artists Engaged in Social Change Award. She has been recognized for her work as a photographer from Artslant, Prix de Photographie, and Laguna Arte Prize and has exhibited throughout the San Francisco Bay Area since 2009. In 2019 she received CalShakes Luminary Award for Community Engagement and was named a recipient of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, YBCA 100.

MAXIMILIANO URRUZMENDI (*Lighting Design*) Born in Atlanta, Georgia to Uruguayan immigrants, Urruzmendi is an actor, teacher, technical director, and lighting designer in the Bay Area. They fell in love with theater at a young age as a way to find allies. They feel incredibly fortunate to conspire within artistic communities that prioritize engagement work centering listening, learning, reflecting and thinking creatively to offer transformative possibilities. Urruzmendi is currently the Technical Director of Production for Youth Speaks, and has had the privilege of working in varying artistic capacities with: Marc Bamuthi Joseph's *Peh/LO/tah* (TD); First Peoples Fund's *We the Peoples Before* (LD); Teada Production's *Masters of the Currents* (TD/LD); Joanna Haigood's *Dying While Black & Brown* (TD); Campo Santo/Ben Fisher's *Candlestick* (LD); Paul Flores' *We Have Iré* (LD); Be Steadwell's *A Letter to my Ex* (LD); Noelle Viñas' *Abuelito* (Father y Abuelito); Contra-Tiempo's *Joy(Us) Just(Us)* (TD/SM); Campo Santo/Star Finch's *Side Effects* (LD); Axis Dance Company (TD); and Kristina Wong's *Sweatshop Overlord* (Broadcasting/SM). Urruzmendi is overjoyed and honored to be a part of *Prieto*.

CHRISTOPHER “SAUCY” SAUCEDA (*Sound Design/Producer*) is a designer, composer, and many multi-hyphenated artist. He is a resident artist of Magic Theatre. Next up, Christopher will be designing an installation in Magic Theater and Brava Theater at the end of October.

TANYA ORELLANA (*Scenic Consultant*) designs performance spaces for theater, opera, and immersive experiences. Collaborations include *Fefu and her Friends* directed by Pam MacKinnon at ACT's Strand Theatre; The Industry's *Sweet Land*, an immersive opera directed by Yuval Sharon and *Cannupa Hanska Luger* at LA State Historic Park; Long Beach Opera's *Voices from a Killing Jar* by Kate Soper, directed by Zoe Aja Moore; *The Winter's Tale* directed by Eric Ting at Cal Shakes; and *The Kind Ones* by Miranda Rose Hall directed by Lisa Peterson at Magic Theatre. She is a core member of the award-winning ensemble Campo Santo, participating in their intimate

new work process by conceptualizing and designing sets alongside the writing process. She is a member of Wingspace Theatrical Design and an organizing member of La Gente: The Latine Theatre Production Network. She received her MFA in Scenic Design from CalArts and is a recipient of the Princess Grace Fabergé Theatre Award.

GAYLE ROMASANTA (*Dramaturg*) is a writer/artist from Stockton, California. Her work has appeared on television, radio, online, and in journals and books, such as *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, Harvard University's *Education Next Journal*, KQED's *The Forum*, *ABS-CBN*, and more. She co-authored the first book about labor leader Larry Itliong titled *Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong* with the late and great historian Dr. Dawn Mabalon. Formerly, she was the artistic director for Bindlestiff Studio, the only Filipino American theater space in the US. Currently, she is an artist-in-residence at Brava! For Women in the Arts, in San Francisco.

RYAN MARCHAND (*Movement Coach*) Marchand loves working with artists on embodying their performance. Ryan served as Movement Director for *Mommy Queerest's* inaugural run and has coached movement in various capacities around San Francisco. He has performed recently with Shotgun Players, Crowded Fire, and New Conservatory Theater Center.

AGANA (*Visual Set Art Graphic Designer*) Known to the world as AGANA (American, b.1982), Vanessa Solari Espinoza is an internationally acclaimed multi-dimensional contemporary artist converging traditional large-scale murals and contemporary street art. Rooted in her Latinx identity of Venezuelan descent, hailing from the San Francisco Bay Area, Agana paints prolific imagery as calls to action encompassing black liberation, women's empowerment, environmental, and racial justice issues. Impactful and intentional to the specific locations they are placed in, Agana's artistry adds color and light to what would be blight. Agana's expertise reflects the Pan American experience, premiering at the intersection of graffiti and fine art praxis, communicating common social threads via monumental vision.

LOISSE LEDRES (*Graphic Designer*) is a Filipina freelance designer and illustrator based in the Southwest of what is colonially known as the United States. She is always experimenting to discover how image, text, and color intersect with culture to empower and mobilize people. Through her skillset in experiential design, she infuses interactivity within creative media and event spaces. She's worked with organizations and creative agencies in New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New Mexico. Ledres is also developing personal projects with like-minded creatives that facilitate creativity and break down obstacles to doing so. As Creative Director of Tagalikha, she helps lead discussions around the intersection of Filipino identity and creation. She hopes to continue creating art that helps people feel seen and inspired to access their own creativity, too. See more of Ledres's work @geezloisse on Instagram.

PERLA VANESA BARRAZA (*Production Stage Manager*) is a Fronteriza and Theater Artist coming from Tucson, Arizona. Perla migrated to the U.S. at three years old and lived here undocumented until 2018. Perla holds a B.A. in Theater Arts from Mills College and has performed in multiple Rolling World Premieres including Richard Montoya's *Nogales*, Milta Ortiz's *MAS*, Hilary Betis' *Ghost of Lote Bravo*, and Paul Flores' *Stockton 21*. Perla is grateful to Kat, Sean, Joan, and Toni, for giving her the space to grow in her new roles and to Yosi for allowing her to help tell their story. A final thank you to her partner and awesome support network who encouraged her to quit her 9-5 job to pursue theater full time.

THE LIVING WORD PROJECT In the past 20 years, the Living Word Project produced some of the most exciting performing and visual arts projects in the country. Amongst these are *red, black and GREEN; a blues, /peh-LO-tah/* by Marc Bamuthi Joseph, directed by Michael John Garces; *Tree City Legends* by Dennis Kim; *The River* by Richard Montoya; *Chasing Mehserle* by Chinaka Hodge; and *Alleluia* by Luis Alfaro, with Cal Shakes and Campo Santo, and *TRIBES* by Nina Raine (for Berkeley Repertory Theatre) - both directed by Jonathan Moscone. Current projects on tour include: *Prieto* by Yosimar Reyes; *Try/Step/Trip* and *Spirituals* by Dahlak Brathwaite; *Plantation Remix* by Cristal Truscott and Progress Theater; *EARTH SEEDS* by Peoples Kitchen Collective; *the boiling* by Sunhui Chang; and *Mommie Queerest* by Kat Evasco. The World Premiere Commission and Production was funded by the Gerbode Foundation, Center for Cultural Innovation, and Living Word's many generous donors.



The Chicago Latino Theater Alliance is a leading advocate organization for Latine theater in Chicago. Supporting the development of emerging and established Latine playwrights, actors, directors and theater professionals is central to our mission. Our goal is to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive theater community, by presenting and producing Latine theater that celebrates and promotes the richness and diversity of our Latinidad. We believe together we can build a stronger and more sustainable Latine theater industry. CLATA has three signature programs: 1) **Destinos**, the Chicago International Latino Theater Festival, an annual, citywide festival showcasing Chicago's Latine theater artists and companies alongside top Latine artists from the U.S. and Latin America. 2) **Destinos al Aire**, a free outdoor family friendly festival that brings performing arts to Chicago Latine communities with the goal of making arts accessible to everyone, and 3) **Inicios: Chicago Latine Playwright Festival**, an annual festival dedicated to showcasing and promoting Chicagoland area Latine playwrights. This year, the Destinos line-up includes 17 productions all new to Chicago, including one North American premiere, three U.S. premieres, and five Midwest premieres. For tickets and information, visit www.destinosfest.org, or follow CLATA on Facebook, Instagram and Threads at @latinotheater.

chicago shakespeare on navy pier theater

Regional Tony Award-recipient Chicago Shakespeare Theater produces a bold and innovative year-round season—plays, musicals, world premieres, family productions, and theatrical presentations from around the globe—alongside nationally recognized education programming for students, teachers, and lifelong learners, and engagement with communities and artists across the city. Founded in 1986, the Theater's onstage

work has expanded to present as many as twenty productions and 650 performances annually. The Theater is dedicated to welcoming the next generation of theatergoers; one in four of its audience members is under the age of eighteen. As a nonprofit organization, the Theater works to embrace diversity, prioritize inclusion, provide equitable opportunities, and offer an accessible experience for all. On the Theater's three stages at its home on Navy Pier, in classrooms and neighborhoods across the city, and in venues around the world, Chicago Shakespeare is a multifaceted cultural hub—inviting audiences, artists, and community members to share powerful stories that connect and inspire.

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20% OFF AT BAR SOL OFFICIAL PRIETO DINING PARTNER



Enjoy vibrant Latin-inspired coastal cuisine after the show at **BAR SOL**, a Latine-owned restaurant with lively music and lakefront views—right here on Navy Pier, just east of the Theater!

Discount not valid on alcoholic beverages