

Chicago Shakespeare Theater partners with
the Chicago Latino Theater Alliance for

Destinos, 7th Chicago International Latino Theater Festival

Co-presenting two international limited engagements:
Azira'i from Brazil and *La Memoria de los Sésiles* from Chile



Chicago—October 8, 2024—[Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#) (CST) and the [Chicago Latino Theater Alliance](#) (CLATA) present two international limited engagements in partnership as part of [Destinos, 7th Chicago International Latino Theater Festival](#), a cultural high point of our city's Latino Heritage Month showcasing Latine theater artists and companies from Chicago, the US, and Latin America. *Azira'i* from Brazil runs **October 24-27** and *La Memoria de los Sésiles* from Chile runs **October 31-November 3**, both in the **Upstairs Studio**.

"It is a huge pleasure to be partnering with CLATA to bring these two beautiful and thought-provoking pieces of work to CST as part of this year's Destinos," said CST's artistic director **Edward Hall**. "Hearing these voices in our city represents such an important part of experiencing the world from every standpoint possible through the power of live theater. We are proud to continue to be part of this joyful International Festival as Chicago begins a true celebration of Latino Theater."

"CLATA is proud to partner with CST to bring you two equally beautiful and strikingly different musical productions, *La Memoria de los Sésiles* by Astillero Teatro from Chile and *Azira'i* by Sarau Cultura Brasileira from Brazil," shared CLATA's executive director **Jorge Valdivia**. "While *La Memoria de los Sésiles* is visually stunning and makes us reflect on the environment in a way that families, adults, and children can appreciate, *Azira'i* makes us appreciate the strong women in our lives, Indigenous women, who defy the norms that men impose. We hope you'll join us and celebrate Latino history month with us."

From Brazil's Sarau Cultura Brasileira, *Azira'i, Um musical de memórias* is a biographical play by Indigenous performer **Zahy Tentehar**. The play examines her relationship with her mother, Azira'i, the first female shaman from the Cana Brava reserve and supreme shaman of the Tentehar peoples. The relationship between mother and daughter takes place in a culture torn between preserving its ancestral values and absorbing the dynamics and ills of a globalized civilization system. As Zahy is chosen by her mother to inherit the gifts of shamanism, Azira'i unloads the frustrations of existing in an oppressive colonial environment. *Azira'i* is performed in Portuguese and Ze'eng eté with projected English translation.

From Chile's Astillero Teatro, *La Memoria de los Sésiles* takes place in a not-too-distant future where all the trees have been cut down by an uncontrolled real estate expansion. Sacha, an old hermit, will embark on a journey deep underground in the face of the inevitable destruction of his home. Accompanied by Tujo, a rebellious young environmentalist, Sacha goes in search of the last living roots to make the forest emerge again. Created in the key of family theater through songs, light games, and an attractive staging, it reflects on the persistence of memory amid environmental destruction. Directed by **Gabriel Contreras** and written by **Nicolás Cancino-Said**, this is the second installment of the "Territorial Trilogy," a series about the relationships between communities, the territories they inhabit, companies, and the socio-environmental conflicts that arise. *La Memoria de los Sésiles* is performed in Spanish with projected English translation, and in addition to the public performances, there will be one student matinee.

Alongside these performances, CLATA is offering two free workshops as part of *Intercambios*, a new series of workshops and seminars as part of Destinos. "Navigating the Creative Process" will be facilitated by *Azira'i*'s creative team on Saturday, October 26 from 1:30-3:00 p.m., and will explore all the stages of the show's creative and production process, from conceptualization, through

the design and creation, to the artistic updates they continue to make to the work today. In “Building a Framework for the Development of Family Theater,” Astillero Teatro will explore the implementation and development of methodological strategies in the field of theatrical work based on the question, “How can we create family theater plays using contingency as a starting point?” This workshop seeks to propose new perspectives on what, how, and why to create in this type of language and will be held Saturday, November 2 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Registration for these events is available at www.chicagoshakes.com.

This year marks the fifth time Chicago Shakespeare has partnered with CLATA as part of Destinos—in 2017, the festival’s inaugural year, CST presented *Amarillo*, from Mexico’s Teatro Línea de Sombra; in 2018, *Acéleré*, from the celebrated Colombian circus troupe Circolombia; in 2019, *Andares*, from Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral, a company dedicated to creating original works centered on the narratives of Mexico’s Indigenous peoples; and last year, *Prieto*, Yosimar Reyes’ autobiographical one-man show about growing up queer and undocumented.

The press openings for *Azira’i* and *La Memoria de los Sésiles* are scheduled for **Thursday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m.** and **Thursday, October 31 at 7:30 p.m.**, respectively.

More information at www.chicagoshakes.com or on social media at [@chicagoshakes](https://twitter.com/chicagoshakes).

Azira’i

Um musical de memórias

Performed by Zahy Tentehar

Conception & dramaturgy by Zahy Tentehar and Duda Rios

Directed by Denise Stutz and Duda Rios

October 24–27, 2024

Upstairs Studio

PERFORMANCE LISTING

- Thursday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m..
- Sunday, October 27 at 3:00 p.m.

La Memoria de los Sésiles

By Nicolás Cancino-Said

Directed by Gabriel Contreras

Featuring Diego Rivera, Nicolás Cancino-Said, Valentina Mora, Vanessa Apablaza, and Diego Guzmán

October 31–November 3, 2024

Upstairs Studio

PERFORMANCE LISTING

- Thursday, October 31 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 1 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 3 at 3:00 p.m.

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER (CST)

A Regional Tony Award recipient, Chicago Shakespeare Theater produces a bold and innovative year-round season that includes *Shakespeare, original plays, musicals, family programming, and international theatrical events*. CST is committed to serving as a cultural center across its three stages—the 700+ seat Yard, 500 seat Jentes Family Courtyard Theater, and the 200 seat Carl and Marilyn Thoma Theater Upstairs as well as in classrooms, neighborhoods, and venues around the world. CST has a deep commitment to education and lifelong learning with robust programming for students, teachers, and lifelong learners, and engagement with communities across the city. Onstage, in classrooms and neighborhoods across the city, and in venues around the world, Chicago Shakespeare is a multifaceted theater—inviting audiences, artists, and community members to share powerful stories that illuminate the complexities, ambiguities, and wonders of our world. www.chicagoshakes.com

DESTINOS AND THE CHICAGO LATINO THEATER ALLIANCE (CLATA)

The Chicago Latino Theater Alliance (CLATA) is a transformative cultural engine helping drive the city’s local Latine theater community to a more prominent level. CLATA’s signature program is 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. Every fall, Destinos presents a rich, diverse array of bilingual, Latine-themed shows, panels and student performances at marquee venues downtown, as well as storefront theaters and cultural institutions in predominantly Latine neighborhoods throughout the city. This year, the Destinos 2024 line-up includes 22 productions at theaters large and small all over the city, including four world premieres, three North American premieres, three U.S. premieres and five Midwest premieres. For tickets and information, visit www.clata.org, or follow CLATA on Facebook, Instagram and Threads at [@latinotheater](https://twitter.com/latinotheater).