

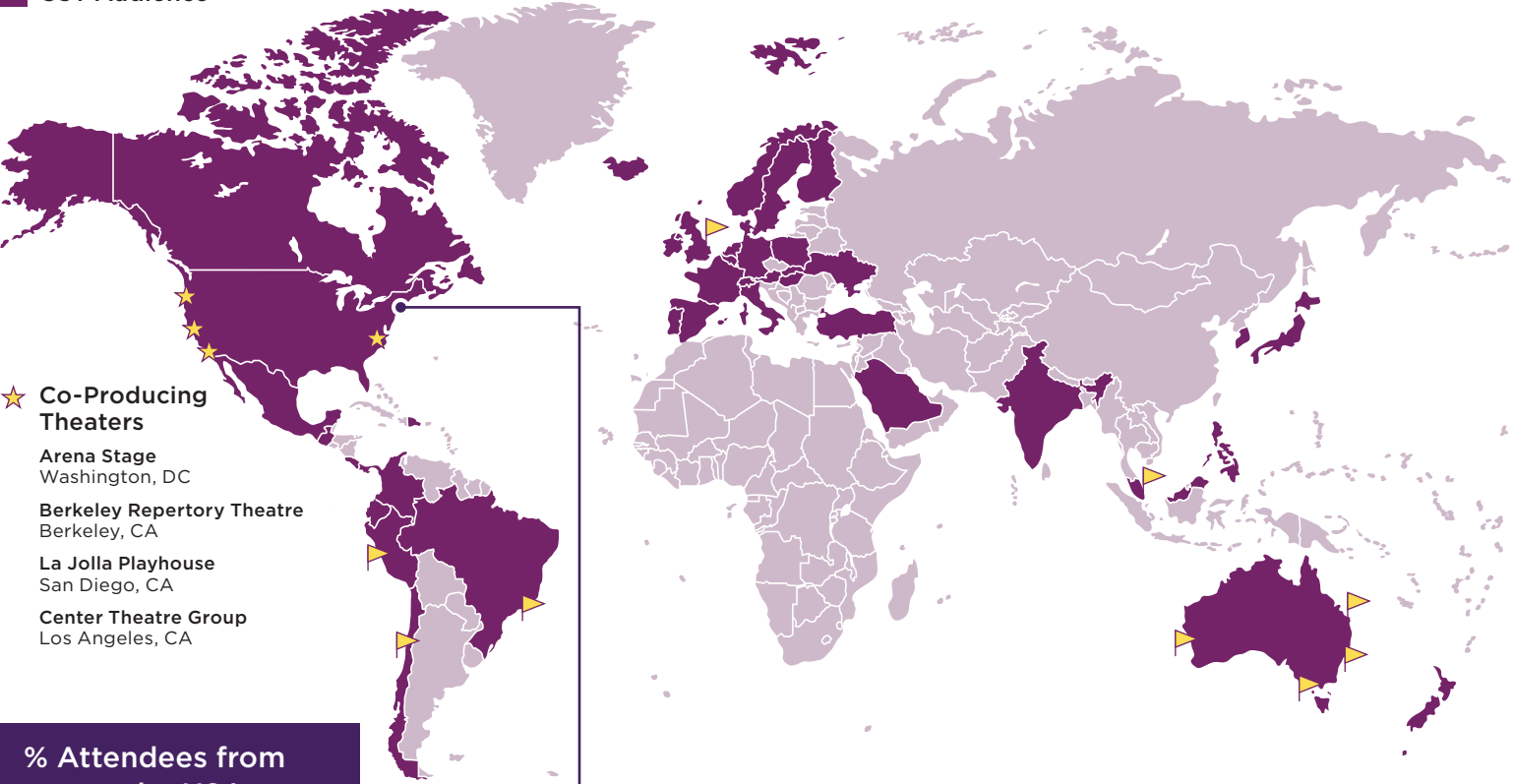
BRINGING THE WORLD TO CHICAGO & SENDING CHICAGO TO THE WORLD

Unforgettable theatrical experiences start here

In the 2024/25 Season, we created a host of large-scale North American premiere productions that activated The Yard as never before—from the sensational *The Lord of the Rings—A Musical Tale* and The Kinks' rocking *Sunny Afternoon* to the exuberant world of *Jaja's African Hair Braiding* and the soaringly original *42 Balloons*. Innovative new producing models united CST's artistic expertise with commercial presenting partners and non-profit co-producers to expand our impact through increasingly ambitious projects with a future life on stages around the world. **CST is THE place to see the world's most exciting theater—first.**

This season, we welcomed **145,000 audience members from all 50 states and 56 countries**, engaged dozens of international artists, and shared our artistry with co-producing partners nationwide and in tours around the globe.

CST Audience



% Attendees from across the USA:

- 81% Illinois
- 4% Indiana & Wisconsin
- 4% Broader Midwest
- 4% South
- 3% West
- 3% Northeast
- <1% Pacific & US Territories

CST Productions on Broadway this season

- Illinoise*
- The Notebook*
- SIX (+National Tour)*

Our profile was raised through international and national coverage:



DEEPENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Chicago Shakespeare Theater strives to reflect the broad shoulders of our city's 77 neighborhoods by forging mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations. Global in scale and local in impact, our programming brings people of all ages and identities together to meet, talk, and share experiences. A few highlights from our 2024/25 Season include:



Inspired by the entrepreneurial characters of ***Jaja's African Hair Braiding***, CST embarked on an extensive engagement campaign to celebrate cultural creativity. We invited 30 local salon owners to a kick-off event with the show's Tony Award-winning wig designer Nikiya Mathis and partnered with them to support the show as official Ambassadors. The Yard lobby was transformed with an immersive installation of hair art showcasing Chicago artists, and several performances featured a market of Black-owned small businesses.



This season featured our 8th collaboration with **A.B.L.E.—Artists Breaking Limits & Expectations**—a Chicago-based nonprofit that creates theater and film with individuals with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. Their punk-inspired re-telling of *Frankenstein* rocked the Upstairs Studio. CST brought together A.B.L.E. performers and the cast of Teatro La Plaza's *Hamlet* to share in community on World Down Syndrome Day.



For the 7th year, CST continued its partnership with the Chicago Latino Theater Alliance's **Destinos: Chicago International Latino Theater Festival** to present two North American premieres: *La Memoria de los Sésiles* from Chile and *Azira'i* from Brazil. A workshop on building and developing theater for families was led in Spanish by director Gabriel Contreras Hernández, playwright and actor Nicolás Cancino Said, and Astillero Teatro for budding creatives to engage more deeply.