



Fron Terra

Astra Theatre Company

Synopsis

Borders span the Earth, drawing boundaries between nations. Sometimes these boundaries go beyond the physical borders dividing lands. Where do we find our boundaries? The national boundaries, cultural boundaries, or personal boundaries that define us.

What happens when we cross a boundary?

FronTerra is a physical theatre piece that invites us to reflect on the role that borders play in our lives, at both the social and personal level. The Oxford English Dictionary defines a border as: “a line separating two political or geographical areas, especially countries.” The Royal Academy of Spanish Language in its definition of the Spanish word for border, frontera, notes that this “line or limit” can be “real or imaginary.” In crossing a border, one encounters multiple barriers, both internal and external, and faces the challenge of overcoming them.

Through dance, poetry and a visual world of strings and cloth overflowing from an antique suitcase, we explore that which ties us down and that which sets us free. What does it mean to cross a border?

Sarah, an American, was born in a country built by immigrants but increasingly closed off to the world. Anna, from the Ukraine, was born in the Soviet Union, a country that no longer exists, and has lived through war in her region. They found each other in the European Union, a region constructed on the idea of open borders, at a moment when nationalism is resurging across our globalized world.

Departing from folk traditions of our very different cultural backgrounds, we interweave these with stories of immigration in our two countries and the European Union. From the journeys of migratory birds to the greatest walls of history, through movement we investigate the drawing of borders over the face of the Earth and how humans interact with them.



Artistic team

Created and performed by Anna Tereshchenko and Sarah Stearns.

Anna Tereshchenko

Anna Tereshchenko began her trajectory as an actor in the Ukraine, at the Academy of Arts and Culture studying acting for theater, film, and television.

Anna was trained at Estudis Berté Tóvias – International Theatre School (2015-2017, Barcelona) where she studied the pedagogy of Jacques Lecoq. She continued her training at the Bobina – School of Acting for theatre, film, and television (2017-2019, Barcelona). In parallel, she participated in various theater pieces and creative projects.

Since 2019 she has been an actor in the company Teatraccio and a teacher at the Teatraccio International Theatre School.



Sarah Stearns

Sarah Stearns, originally from Boston, completed a BA in theater from Temple University and a certificate in dance and contemporary performance at the Headlong Institute in Philadelphia.

In 2015, Sarah came to Barcelona for the two-year training program in the Jacques Lecoq method of physical theatre at Estudis Berté Tóvias International Theatre School. Ever since she has worked as an actor touring educational theatre with IPA Productions, as well as creating original pieces and performing in cabarets and festivals in Europe and the US.



Artistic Trajectory of the Company

Astra Theatre Company is made up of Sarah Stearns (USA) and Anna Tereshchenko (Ukraine), who met in Barcelona in 2015 while studying at the Estudis Berté Tòvias International Theatre School.

Journeying through the dramatic territories of Jacques Lecoq pedagogy, they found themselves portraying sisters in more than one performance piece. From opposite sides of the world, Sarah and Anna discovered a profound shared interest in the poetic dimensions of theatrical creation. In 2020 they came together to create Astra.



With a mutual passion for exploring the world and for human history, they fill the stage with captivating images. Battered suitcases full of surprises, dances with shadows, and lengths of fabric that take flight transport the spectator to imaginary worlds and open the door to rendezvous with fantasy and dreams.

Astra

Technical Rider

Audience: Appropriate for all audiences.

Duration: 45 minutes.

Set up / Break down: 15 minutes.

Minimum Stage Dimensions: 5m x 4m

Materials: Entrance upstage center, lateral wings on either side.

Lights: General lighting, at least 1 floor light.

Sound: Sound system

