



Visionary Biographies



Jyl Bonaguro (Playwright) Jyl is a multi-media artist. Her debut as a playwright is due to her B.A. in Creative Writing from Loyola University Chicago, a love of the theatre and her deep commitment to generating awareness about Emilie Du Châtelet.

Arica Hilton (Artist & Poet) Arica lives and works in Chicago. Until recently, she was the president of the board of the Poetry Center of Chicago and was voted one of the LIT 50: Who Really Books in Chicago 2011 by New City. Her works have been seen in Fine Art Magazine, Michigan Avenue Magazine, Huffington Post, ASTRONOMY Magazine, ART WORLD NEWS, THE EXAMINER, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, CHICAGO SUN TIMES.

Eileen Tull (Director) Eileen's work has been seen with Theatre Seven of Chicago, Prologue Theatre, Dream Theatre, 20% Theatre Company, Innate Volution Theatre Productions, The Abbie Hoffman Festival, Casa Duno, Open Source Theatre Project, and Pride Films and Plays. She also performs stand-up comedy and one woman shows throughout the country, most recently in New York City at the United Solo Festival and in Tampa at the New Seeds Festival.

Amber Lee Olivier (Asst Director) Amber is an actress, dancer, and singer as well as fitting into technical roles including set and costume design, fight choreography, and directing. She is a company member with New American Folk Theatre and an associate company member with Quest Theatre Ensemble.

Judith Zinsser (Professor Emerita & Author) Judith P. Zinsser is an international authority on European Women's history. She has been a professor, published books and articles, won NEH Fellowships, but is important to this production because she wrote Emilie Du Chatelet: Daring Genius of the Enlightenment, the biography on which the play, "Urania" is based.

3 Crazy Ladies, Inc is a non-profits arts organization with the mission of creating art while giving back to the greater community - thus generating authentic social change. All donations are tax deductible.



Francisco Arcaute (Photographer) Francisco loves capturing the Chicago scene with his Leica lens and he is an advocate of the baroque period. A fitting person to capture still shots of Urania. Email him at leicahooligan@gmail.com

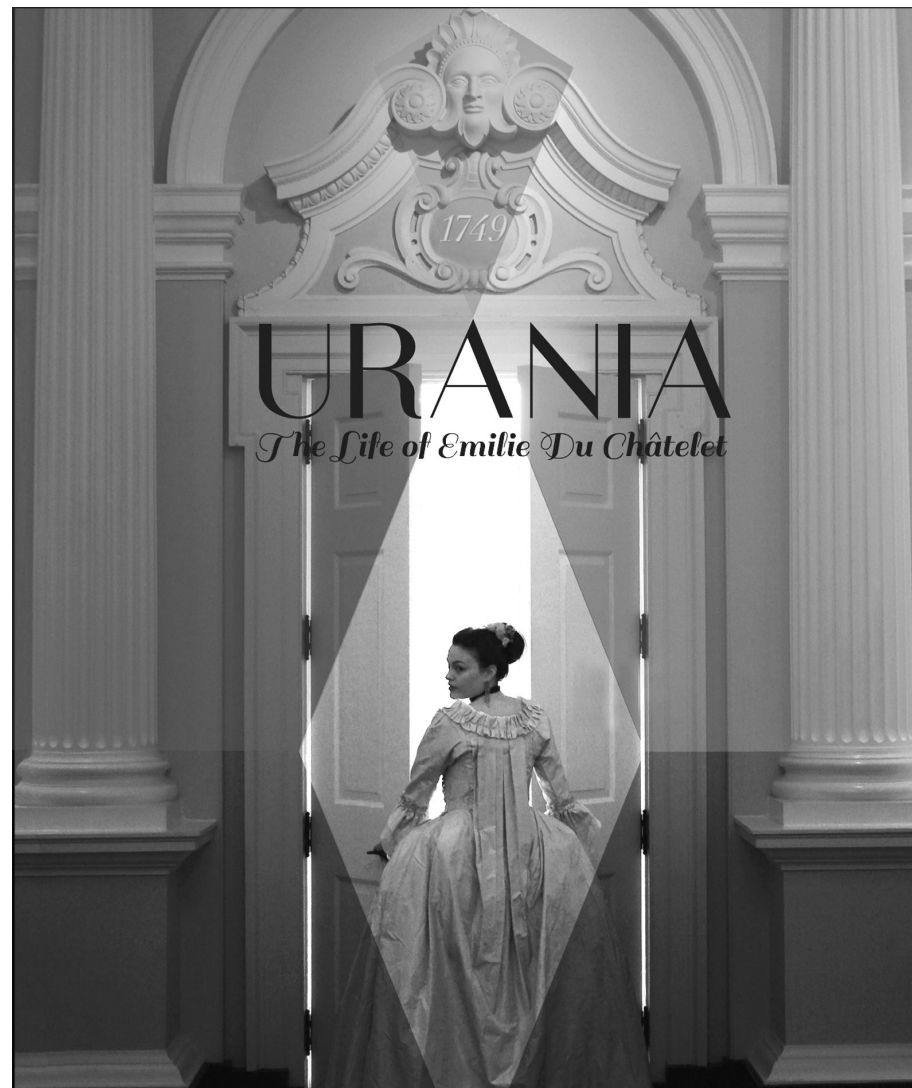
Tuan H. Bui (Photographer) Tuan has been published in People, Food & Wine, Front Desk, Michigan Avenue, and Chicago Social Brides magazines, among others. His favorite subject is photographing people in love.

Tamairis Dixon (Videographer) Tamairis is 19 years old and lives on the west side of Chicago. He is a college student at Columbia, studying Graphic Design and Game Arts and he put together our talented videography team of Andre Payne Guillory, Chris McCray, and Joel Torres.

Shea Waffles Johns (Graphic Design & Photography) Shea is a mixed media artist and animator living in Chicago. She designed our iconic poster image.

Special Thanks

To Arica Hilton, Our Magnificent Cast of Actors, Eileen Tull - Director, Amber Lee Olivier - Assistant Director, Dr. Judith Zinsser - Biographer, Katy Werlin - Costume Design & Dramaturgy, Francisco Arcaute - Photographer, Tuan H. Bui - Photographer, Tamairis Dixon, Andre Payne Guillory, Chris McCray, and Joel Torres - Videographers, Shea Waffles Johns - Graphic Design, Naomi Mine - Intern, Dana Macel - Volunteer, Street Level Youth Media, my parents John & Marilyn Bonaguro, my sisters Jeanne, Jacki and Joy and the rest of my dear family and friends who listened patiently to me for over 4 years.



URANIA

The Life of Emilie Du Châtelet

Friday, July 25 7:30pm

Saturday, July 26 7:30pm

Produced by Arica Hilton

A PLAY BY JYL BONAGURO

DIRECTOR EILEEN TULL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AMBER LEE OLIVIER

JUDITH ZINSSER, BIOGRAPHER

starring

ELLEN DUNPHY as EMILIE
NATHAN DUCKER as VOLTAIRE

uraniatheplay.com HILTON | ASMUS CONTEMPORARY

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The Story

Act I begins in Paris 1713 with Emilie, her husband Florent-Claude and her introduction to Voltaire. Act II opens at her Chateau de Cirey. She & Voltaire are now living and writing together in their self made academy with many distinguished visitors and fêtes. Act III is set in a variety of locations and over 10 years have passed, but opens at the Palace of Versailles where the intricacies of court prevail and their relationship becomes increasingly complicated.

Please note: This is a workshop production so there will be few lighting transitions and no musical accompaniment. Donations will be accepted through the generous support of 3 Crazy Ladies, Inc. and Art sales from performance evenings will benefit future productions of Urania.

The Players

Gabrielle Emilie le Tonnelier de Breteuil, Marquise Du Châtelet.....Ellen Dunphy

Voltaire.....Nathan Ducker

Florent-Claude, Marquis Du Châtelet-Lomont.....Jeff Dolecek

Pierre Robert Le Cornier de Cideville.....Matt Huston

Jean-Francois de Saint-Lambert..... Matt Huston

Alexis Claude de Clairaut.....Jesse Hutson

Gossips Man..... Jesse Hutson

Pierre-Louis Moreau de Maupertuis.....August Lysy

Sébastien Longchamps..... August Lysy

Louis Francois Armand Du Plessis, Duc de Richelieu..... David Smith

Thérèse.....Elise Soeder

Gossips Lady 2..... Elise Soeder

Marie-Louis Denis.....Elise Soeder

Gossips Lady 1.....Katy Werlin

Françoise DeGraffigny.....Katy Werlin

Marguerite-Thérèse Colbert de Croisey.....Andrea Young

Player Biographies

Ellen Dunphy (Emilie) Ellen Dunphy is thrilled and honored to help bring Emelie's story to life in this production. Previous credits include: The Sellout (Amazing Sammo Productions), The Three Musketeers (Theatre-Hikes), The Taming of the Shrew (Blunt Objects Theatre); The Hothouse and Dead Man's Cell Phone (Pink Banana Theatre); In My Mind's Eye and Medea (Fools for Tragedy); and Arcadia, The Imaginary Invalid, and Anatomy of Gray (Ripon College).

Nathan Ducker (Voltaire) Nathan Ducker is elated to be a part of such a rich and immersive process as Urania. Equal thanks to both Jyl and Voltaire for bringing to life one of my favorite roles I have ever played. Other faves: Shakespeare's r&j (Jeff nom 2012), Othello, Biloxi Blues, Taming of the Shrew, Cabaret, King Lear, Into the Woods, Kiss me, Kate and Tartuffe.

Jeff Dolecek (Florent-Claude) Jeff is very excited to help bring this history to life. Most recently Jeff was in Collaboraction's Sketchbook. Previous to that he understudied several shows at Profiles Theatre (Bobby – In a Forest Dark and Deep; Carmichael – Behanding in Spokane; Joe Cooper – Killer Joe). Additionally, he was seen in Premiere Theatre & Performance's production of Seven Doors.

Matt Huston (Cideville & St. Lambert) Matthew Huston is excited to work on this production and help keep the story of Emilie alive and well! Matt has worked at a number of theaters around Chicago since moving from Wisconsin in 2013. Some of his recent roles include Tempura in Adrift in Macao (Towle Theatre), Peter U/S in Diary of Anne Frank (MPAC), Brad Majors in Rocky Horror Show (Underscore Theatre), and Scarecrow in Marvelous Land of Oz (New American Folk Theatre).

Jesse Hutson (Clairaut & Gossip Man): Jesse is thrilled to return to such a beautiful piece of theatre, after taking part in the original stage reading in January. A Florida native, Jesse has been performing and teaching across Chicago for two years. Recent credits include Cave Painting Theatre Company's As You Like It, and The Rubenstein Kiss with Coriolis Theatre. Special thanks as always to Chep, Nika, and Alexis for their loving support.

August Lysy (Maupertuis & Longchamps) August is both excited and grateful to be working with such a talented group of artists to bring Jyl Bonaguro's work to life on the stage. His previous acting credits include Jean-Paul Sartre's No Exit and Sarah Ruhl's Eurydice, both performed at Shimer College, a Great Books school here in Chicago. He also co-authored The Last Hand, performed this past fall at the Athenaeum Theatre, and he is a published poet who has been recognized by the Academy of American Poets. August is currently completing his final year at Shimer College and intends to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in the Humanities in the upcoming spring.

David Smith (Duc Richelieu) David Edward Smith is thrilled to be a part of this production and the retelling of such an amazing woman's story. Past credits include The Wizard of Oz (Compass Creative Dramatics), 12th Night, Antigone (The Framework), Bare: A Pop Opera (The Art Spot), Jesus Christ Superstar, Charlotte's Web, 1776 (American Eagle Productions). "Never stop playing."

Elise Soeder (Thérèse, Gossip Lady 2, Denis) A graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design and an alumna of the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's apprenticeship, Elise has worked in short film, radio, and theatre since moving to Chicago. Her most recent credits include TITUS: Apokalypse (Bare Knuckle Productions) and using Romeo and Juliet (Chicpeare) as a teaching tool in area high schools.

Katy Werlin (Gossip Lady 1 & Graffigny + Dramaturgy & Costume Design) Katy is very excited to be making her Chicago theater debut in this production. Previous credits include Sunday in the Park with George, Comedy of Errors, and Titus Andronicus (Burning Coal Theatre Company), The Magic Flute and Scenes From Verdi Operas (UNC-CH Opera Workshop), You're A Good Man Charlie Brown (Hoof n' Horn), and Alice in Wonderland (Company Carolina). She has a BA in dramatic arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MA in Visual Culture: Costume Studies from New York University.

Andrea Young (Maguerite) Andrea Young received her BFA in acting from Wright State University in Dayton, OH where she also worked with The Human Race Theatre Company in Rabbit Hole and Zoot Theatre Company in Hansel and Gretel and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Chicago credits include Emma (Dead Writer's Theatre Collective), Macbeth (New Rock Productions), Six More Scary Tales (National Pastime Theatre), and student shows at The Second City Conservatory. Andrea can also be seen later this fall in Dead Writer's House of Mirth as Gerty Farish, as well as Maria in Twelfth Night with Lefthand Productions.