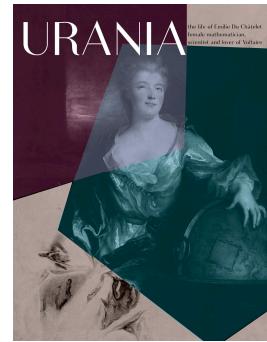


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hilton Asmus Contemporary presents a 2 night production of *Urania* by Jyl Bonaguro. A tragicomedy of the life of Emilie du Châtelet, female mathematician, scientist and lover of Voltaire.



Chicago - The life of a female intellectual largely forgotten by history emerges in a new play based upon the book, *Emilie Du Châtelet: Daring Genius of the Enlightenment* by biographer Judith Zinsser. *Urania* plunges us back into 18th-century France, where courtly manners were strict and scientific reasoning was the new vogue. It portrays how, after falling in love with Voltaire, *Du Châtelet* transformed from a social dilettante into one of Europe's leading scientific and philosophic minds.

Brushed aside by history, Du Châtelet is only recently being recognized as contributing to famous formulas like E=mc². Unlike the generally more light-hearted dramatic adaptations of her story to date, *Urania* takes a modern approach that balances her unsung achievements with the nuances of her relationships and the constraints of 18th century attitudes towards women.

The performances will be held at the Hilton Asmus Contemporary Gallery, owned by artist and visionary, Arica Hilton, who will be creating an original painting for the stage backdrop from her Luminism series. On Friday, there will be a pre-show book signing with author Judith Zinsser and playwright Jyl Bonaguro. On Saturday following the show, a brief Q & A will follow with Arica Hilton, Director Eileen Tull, Assistant Director Amber Lee Olivier, and Jyl Bonaguro.

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*. Costumes provided through Chicago History Museum's Katy Werlin, Curatorial Assistant & Dramaturge.

“During the past 40 years, study after study has addressed why more women do not become scientists. The question is most apt for physics.... Zinsser debunks legends about the life and loves of the vivacious and unorthodox 18th-century French noblewoman Marquise du Châtelet and analyzes her contribution to physics.” ~ Scientific American

Free with RSVP ** 2 Nights Only
Friday, July 25 - 6pm Pre-show Book Signing 7:30pm Performance
Saturday July 26 - 7:30pm Performance
Hilton Asmus Contemporary 716 N Wells St. Chicago, IL
<http://uraniatheplay.com/>

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