

## Press Release

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Contact: Lorinda Crawford – New Acropolis Toronto  
Tel.: 416-486-7198  
Email: [toronto@newacropolis.ca](mailto:toronto@newacropolis.ca)  
Website: <http://www.events-to.com/hypatia>

### ***Philosophical Theatre Café To Celebrate International Women's Day 2011***

## **Hypatia, a Light in the Face of Ignorance** ***The Mystery of a Woman Philosopher***

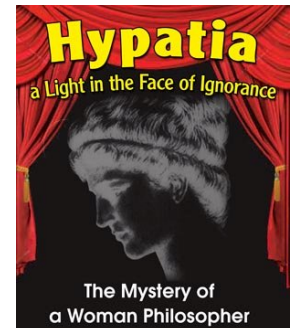
*Hypatia, a philosopher, mathematician and astronomer from the 4th century AD, illuminated the School of Alexandria with her wisdom, intelligence and inquisitive free spirit.*

*Quotes from this exceptional woman in the history of humanity:*

*"All formal, dogmatic religions are fallacious and must never be accepted as absolute by any self-respecting individual."*

*"Reserve your right to think, because it is preferable to think incorrectly than to not think at all."*

*"To teach superstitions as truths is the most terrible of things."*



*Join us as we celebrate International Women's Day 2011 with a presentation on Hypatia, a light in the face of ignorance; a performance of the philosophical theatre café entitled Hypatia, The Power to Change History; and an exchange and philosophical discussion.*

*When: Tuesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.*

*Where: Centre for Social Innovation, located at 215 Spadina Avenue (between Dundas / Queen)*

*Tickets: \$25 / \$15 (full-time students and youth under 25 years old)*

*Reservations: <http://www.events-to.com/hypatia> or 416-486-7198*

## **New Acropolis International Organization - Toronto**

### Background

As the Roman Empire was falling apart at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, Hypatia, figurehead of Neoplatonic philosophy in the city of Alexandria, sought to save Greek heritage from being undermined by fanaticism.

Christianity, which had become the religion of state, fomented popular violence against anything that did not adhere to the institution. Hypatia was put to death in a church.

From a very young age, Hypatia showed a keen interest in knowledge in all its forms, and soon surpassed her master and father. She in turn taught mathematics and geometry and wrote commentaries on Diophantus's *Arithmetica*, Appolonius's *Conics* and Ptolemy's astronomical works. Unfortunately, no trace of her writings can be found today. They are known through the letters she wrote to her disciple Synesius about building an astrolabe and a hydroscope.

### About the play

*Hypatia, The Power to Change History* was written by Céline Bouchard, Philosopher, Poet and Drama Teacher, and translated by Jennifer Bondy. This poetic piece of work has already inspired large audiences in Montreal and Ottawa over the past year. Our actors are all philosophers sharing their passion for knowledge: Duygu Basmaci, Norman Valdez, Shanty Singh, Sean Lai and Anil Persaud.