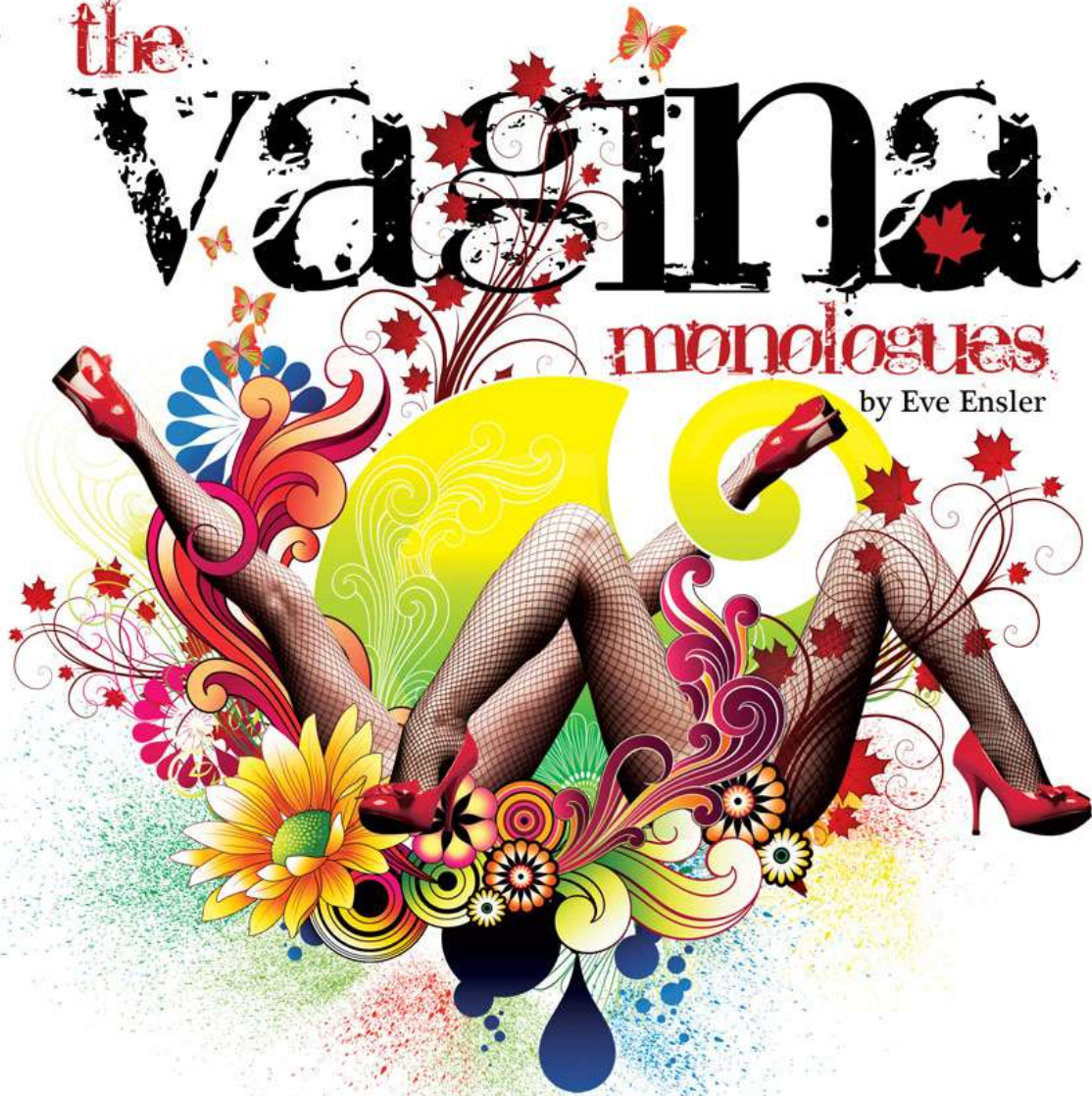


the vagina

monologues

by Eve Ensler





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES**  
by  
**Eve Ensler**

Produced Off-Broadway by David Stone, Willa Shalit, Nina Essman,  
Dan Markley/Mike Skipper, and The Araca Group.

Originally produced by HOME for Contemporary Theatre and Art at HERE  
Randy Rollison, Artistic Director; Barbara Busackino, Producing Director  
in association with Wendy Evans Joseph.

**Executive Producer**  
Jennifer Phillips

**Creative Director**  
Loretta Chen, PhD

**Music Composer**  
Iskandar Ismail

**Multi Media Designer**  
Chia-Meng Koo

**Presented by University of Toronto, Centre for Women's  
Studies and Education (CWSE)**

**A 360 PRODUCTION**



**Starring (in alphabetical order)**

<b>Melanie Adamsons</b>	<b>Kaitlyn Alexander</b>	<b>Sharise Alonto</b>
<b>Iva Berlekovic</b>	<b>Rebecca Boyce</b>	<b>Loretta Chen</b>
<b>Josephine Cox</b>	<b>Christine D'Angelo</b>	<b>El Nina</b>
<b>Linda Ham</b>	<b>Gloria Er-Chua</b>	<b>Tanya Filipopoulos</b>
<b>Rebecca Gail</b>	<b>Safia Gahayr</b>	<b>Lorena Gajardo</b>
<b>Stacey Gawrylash</b>	<b>Afshan Golriz</b>	<b>Fran Kohi</b>
<b>Guida Man</b>	<b>Izyan Mellyna</b>	<b>Mandeep Kaur Mucina</b>
<b>Rica Night</b>	<b>Jennifer Phillips</b>	<b>Sheena Resplandor</b>
<b>Ali Richardson</b>	<b>Tamon Scarlett</b>	<b>Anne Shepherd</b>
<b>Sheila Stewart</b>	<b>Michelle Sutherland</b>	<b>Irma Villafuerte</b>
	<b>Chiamaka Ugwu</b>	<b>Candi Zell</b>

**Production/Stage Manager: Ima Barbosa**

**Additional Costumes by: Frederick Lee**



# THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES by Eve Ensler

A 360 PRODUCTION

Come March 8, 2011, 360 Productions brings you the year's sexiest play- ***The Vagina Monologues***. This multiple-award winning play by Eve Ensler is given a fresh new twist by award-winning and provocative Singaporean director Dr Loretta Chen (***251, What the Butler Saw*** and ***Victor/Victoria***) who has been invited to present her version of this iconic play in Toronto, Canada.

Boasting a stellar cast of diverse and dynamic Canadian women including Singapore's very own rising starlet, Izyan Mellyna, ***The Vagina Monologues*** is a powerful collection of anecdotes celebrating all things feminine- part therapy, part informative, wholly electrifying! This powerful version of ***The Vagina Monologues*** is in fact NOT even a monologue anymore but a visual, aural, sensory feast of curves, flesh and finesse accompanied by lush art installations and evocative soundscapes!

So leave all your inhibitions at the door as you laugh with the women recollecting their first love, virgin sexual encounter and horror stories of their first period! Or weep and be livid with them as they share painful childhood experiences, traumas of abuse and stories of sexual violation. Finally, revel with us in awe and wonder as we pay tribute to our mothers- the single most important woman in our lives.

Mother, Madonna, Prima-donna or Lolita. There is indeed someone for everyone!

And who says the men don't get it? For all of you men who have always wondered what truly goes on in the female locker room and what those long girl-bonding sessions are really about, ***The Vagina Monologues*** is going to be your uber guide to understanding the female of the species! Did we also



mention girls galore, sensational sex scenes and some seriously sexy striptease? We will make sure you come groveling back for more...

Whether you are a Man from Mars or Woman from Venus, join us in this earth shattering, no holds barred theatrical experience! So don't hesitate, make this your mandatory night out as we celebrate all things wild, wonderful and women!

**Vent. Venture. Adventure.**



A Subsidiary Of Phillips Creative Management

## FAST FACTS ON THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Presented by	:	University of Toronto, Centre for Women's Studies and Education (CWSE)
Title of Production	:	THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
Written by	:	Eve Ensler
Staged by	:	360 Productions
Executive Producer	:	Jennifer Phillips
Creative Director/Production Designer	:	Dr Loretta Chen
Music Composer	:	Iskandar Ismail
Multi Media Designer	:	Chia-Meng Koo
Additional Costumes By	:	Frederick Lee
Graphic Designer	:	Nickie Lee
Cast	:	as above
Performance Dates	:	8 March 2011
Performance Times	:	7:00pm
Venue	:	OISE Auditorium, 252 Bloor St W, Toronto
Website	:	<a href="http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/cwse/">http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/cwse/</a>

**Other Information** : **This performance is in aid of International Women's Day and all ticket proceeds will go towards Nellie's, shelter for women and their kids since 1973**

**For interviews and any PR enquiry, please contact:**

- **Executive Producer**  
Ms Jennifer Phillips at (65) 96265942, (1) 916-838-8196 or [jennkicks@aol.com](mailto:jennkicks@aol.com)
- **Creative Director**  
Dr Loretta Chen at (65) 91188745, 916 8388 196 or [loretta@loretta-chen.com](mailto:loretta@loretta-chen.com)
- **Producer/Coordinator**  
Jamie Ryckman at (1) 416-978-2080 or [cwse@utoronto.ca](mailto:cwse@utoronto.ca)

## BIOGRAPHIES – CREATIVE TEAM



**Jennifer Phillips Executive Producer/Cast**

Jennifer Phillips is a Telly Award winning entertainer. Her diversity in the entertainment field has allowed her to flourish in the motion picture industry, television and other forms of productions. Her impressive stage and on screen presence, along with her versatility to adapt to fast changing environments have allowed her to develop as a key player in the entertainment industry.

Under the banner of J Phillips Creative Management, her distinctive action choreography style and ability to think outside of the box has brought her a long list of achievements in film, television, live stage shows, and print. Her team and her have been involved in productions such as ***Thor, Salt, The Twilight Saga - Eclipse, Kung Fu Panda, X Men Wolverine, Charlie's Angels*** and ***Pirates of the Caribbean*** amongst many others.

She has been on several major TV network news programmes like NBC affiliate KCRA Channel 3's morning news, Good Morning Sacramento, Good Day Sacramento, Fox News Channel 40, CBS affiliate Channel 10, UPN Channel 31 and other TV programmes in the United States. In addition to her stint on US news programmes, and the documentary series, "On the Road", she has served as host to major industry events including US Open live action shows in Disneyland, Florida which has been broadcast on ESPN2, and Project Action's Annual Celebrity Auction. She was also host and Executive Producer for the documentary, ***Sponsorship: Financial Burdens of Competing Professionally***.

Phillips' achievements have garnered her several commendations and awards from the likes of the Governor of California, a Resolution from the US Senate and even a Presidential Sports award from President Bill Clinton. She has been recognized for her tireless work with "at-risk youth" by various United States governmental agencies and community leaders, making her the first and only woman to receive Project Action Foundation's "Anne Rynne award".



**Dr Loretta Chen      Creative Director/Production Designer/Cast**

Harper's Bazaar describes Dr Loretta Chen as "a force of nature", The Straits Times labels her "a Rebel with a Twist" and a "Wild Thing" whilst The Peak calls her a "critical arts entrepreneur".

Be it "wild thing", "rebel" or "entrepreneur", Loretta cuts a prominent figure in both the hallowed halls of academia and in the entertainment arena. This multi-talented scholar-turned-creative director topped her Masters' cohort at the prestigious Royal Holloway College, University of London and is the first doctoral scholar in Theatre Studies from UCLA-NUS. She is an Associate Lecturer at NUS, LASALLE, NAFA and NTU. Academia aside, Loretta directs various high-profile theatrical and large scale commissioned events.

Her directorial credits in London include Caryl Churchill's ***A Mouthful of Birds***, Harold Pinter's ***One for the Road*** and 15<sup>th</sup> century morality play, ***Everyman*** amongst others. As one of the few bilingual directors in Singapore, she has directed several Mandarin productions including ***13 Shaolin*** (a Singapore-China collaboration), ***24 Pieties***, ***Lot No. 8*** and ***Ten Brothers*** which garnered 4 nominations at the Life Theatre Awards including Best Director. Her other directing credits include the internationally acclaimed ***251***, a "fresh, inspired and victorious" production of ***The Vagina Monologues*** (2006, 2008), two sold-out seasons of ***The Swimming Instructor***, ***Postcards from Rosa***, ***MAGICBOX*** and the "ingenious" ***What the Butler Saw***. She also directed the Asian Premiere of the Broadway classic, ***Victor/Victoria*** (nominated for 2 Life Theatre Awards) starring international jazz sensation Laura Fygi and Grammy-nominated trumpeter, Ron King.

Loretta is also often commissioned by government bodies, statutory boards and corporations to helm their various campaigns and initiatives. These include the annual ***Career Fair*** organized by the Ministry of Manpower, ***Service Excellence Day*** for the Singapore Police Force, official launch of the ***Festive Crime Prevention*** campaign by the National Crime Prevention Council, SMRT's ***Eco Challenge*** and ***Go Green*** events, Singtel ***I Media*** launch, People's Association's ***It's All About YOUth!*** and the inaugural ***President's Design Awards***.

Loretta also directs specially commissioned musicals for corporations. Examples of these are ***Fly Me to the Moon***, Singapore's longest running musical for the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, ***What's Cash?***, a musical commissioned by NETS, ***Pages of Singapore*** for Singapore Press Holdings, ***The Suspect*** for the National Crime Prevention Council and ***No More Cocoa*** for Pfizer. Loretta's illustrious and satisfied clients include Capitaland, People's Association, Sony, Philips, Far East Organization, amongst many others.

A much sought after emcee and host, Loretta's list of corporate clients include F1, Sony, Sony Ericsson, Philips, UBS, POSB, Kaplan, Nucleus Connect, NUS, Singapore Environment Council, SMRT and Singapore Press Holdings.

In 2009, Loretta received the Martell Rising Personalities Award and was nominated as a Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP). Loretta is one of the faces in Hermes' ***P.S. I Silk You***





campaign, Evian's **Live Young** programme and joins the ranks of Naomi Campbell and Robert Pattinson in The Body Shop's **Stop Sex Trafficking** project. She remains actively involved in various social campaigns and charity outreach projects. She is Creative Director of 360 which has offices in and consults at various creative agencies including Reed, VM&SD, Star Mission and Spinn, a leading creative production house with headquarters in Dubai, Tokyo and Singapore.

She is currently directing a short film, **Tapestry** (working title) commissioned by the People's Association as part of a nationwide campaign and was recently voted "100 Most Inspiring Women".



**Iskandar Ismail      Music Composer**

Well-known for his musical compositions and arrangements for Singapore's National Day Parades for a good 14 times and counting, Iskandar Ismail needs no introduction to the locals. With an illustrious record of music masterpieces, this accomplished and much sought-after composer, producer, music arranger, music director, conductor and orchestrator has to date worked with many local and foreign artistes, including Dick Lee, Jimmy Ye, Jacintha Abishegenaden, Aaron Kwok, Andy Lau, Chang Hui Mei and Sandy Lam. He has also served as the Music Director/Composer on the 1st World Trade Organisation Show in 1996. Iskandar's theatre credits include creating orchestral arrangements for a number of Singapore musicals such as **Chang and Eng, Hot Pants, Kampong Amber, Sing to The Dawn** and **Twist Of Fate**. He has also arranged and orchestrated the music for the much acclaimed Dick Lee's/Jackie Cheung's musical **Snow.Wolf.Lake** in Hong Kong (1997), **Admiral's Odyssey, Man of Letters** and most recently, **MAGICBOX**.



**Koo Chia Meng**

**Multi Media Designer**

Chia Meng has several short films under his belt -- *Empty Heart* (2007), *Man in a Snow Globe* (2009) and *HOT!* (2010), his thesis film for his BA in Fine Arts in Digital Filmmaking at Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

*Man in a Snow Globe* premiered at the Vancouver Singapore Film Festival 2009 while *HOT!* premiered at the 6th Singapore Short Film Festival this year.

He has also produced multimedia designs for theatre, including Nelson Chia's *LIV* as part of the Singapore Arts Festival 2009, *Bondage* (2009) by Drama Box, *The Lower Depths* (2010) by Theatrestrays and *White Soliloquy* (2010) by Toy Factory.

Chia Meng also took part in *NDP 2010*, producing the video segment for Stand Up For Singapore. Most recently, he completed a music video as part of Noise Singapore 2010, promoting local arts and music during the inaugural Youth Olympics.

He is currently exploring video workshops for youths, dance films and possibly, a new narrative short film in 2011.

Chia Meng is excited to be collaborating with Loretta who was previously his professor in NTU.

**Izyan Mellyna****Cast**

Izyan began performing as a young actress, singer and dancer on the widely popular Malay children's television programme in the 1990s. Off-screen, Izyan continued to pursue her passion in the arts by performing for school plays and concerts in both her primary and secondary schools.

Izyan has performed for numerous school productions in Nanyang Polytechnic, where she completed her Diploma in Nursing and even had the honour of performing for Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the National Youth Achievement Awards 2007. Izyan was one of the key singers/performers for Nanyang Polytechnic, making her mark singing for graduation and the school's open house events.

Izyan has also worked with Fly Entertainment and scored a lead role in ***Riots and Roses*** opposite well-known actor Chua Enlai. She also performed in ***Living in Toa Payoh-- the Musical*** (2007) amongst other corporate musicals.

In 2010, Izyan starred in the Christmas musical, ***LOVE: In Stores Now*** as the flamboyant Rihanna alongside renowned actress Amy Cheng and Cynthia Lee Macquarrie. The musical was directed by acclaimed director Loretta Chen and producer Jennifer Phillips.

Izyan is happy to be part of this Toronto run of ***The Vagina Monologues***.



PART **E**

# Life!

THE STRAITS TIMES  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 2008

## Jay Talking

An overly polite theory of rudeness

E6



## Old school charms

Architectural heritage award winners

E10-13



## Class of its own

New Audi TTS overtakes Porsches

E7



life!

THE STRAITS TIMES SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 2008 PAGE E20

## Joy and tears of being women

From first menstrual cramps to love and sex, this feminist play is fun-filled and thoughtful

Review/Arts

### THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Zebra Crossing  
Drama Centre Theatre @ National Library  
Wed 7pm/8pm

Sara Tan

This is Don Sam. Dollars-meets-Oproh!

stories about love, family and sex doused with tears and showered with laughter.

Eve Ensler's landmark play, *The Vagina Monologues*, played here by nine women, is a series of vignettes that grapple with female issues from domestic abuse to the first menstrual cramp.

Directed by Loretta Chen, this play had no quotas about its anti-men slant. Father figures or male lovers are largely absent in this play.

Powerful feminist statements were made, such as chastising a certain derogatory word that rhymes with 'man' to reclaim it as a word of worth.

Although the pacing in the first half was janky, it hit a home run with Coco Lee Piu's monologue, *Because He Loved*



In one vignette, real-life model Bernice Chan confronts her femininity with a mirror. PHOTO: ZEBRA CROSSING

To See E. Playing an elderly woman coming to terms with her vagina, a word she can't even bring herself to say, Lee's deadpan humour - delivered with impeccable comic timing - was a lethal combination.

Another very funny scene was between a lesbian sex worker (played by Sabrina Chong) and a geeky girl on the cusp of sexual discovery (Elaine Ng) with their inventory of organic contraceptives.

In another scene, transsexual Elina's brutally honest telling of the trials and tribulations she endures was heart-breaking. The inclusion of this monologue, taken from another of Ensler's plays, added a significant dimension to this work.

Elizabeth Tan's young girl who goes through childhood sexual abuse but finds salvation with an older woman in *The Coochie Sconches That Could Give Me Mixed Feelings*, however.

Presented as a Dear Diary monologue, the text was hard-hitting but Tan seemed joyfully detached from her past. Having said that, the actress later put in an emotional turn in the role of an abused wife.

However, the series of short monologues sometimes felt too abrupt, with its transitions staid and incoherent. The music was also often overly sentimental.

It did not seem as hard-hitting as previous versions staged in Singapore. For instance, the scene dealing with genital mutilation was played out with a video on butchery and accompanied with statistics, in Li Xia's *The Vagynologue* in 2003, which was based on the same play, Li carved and sewed up a hunk of raw meat on stage, a visceral image that is seared in my memory still.

Kudos to Chen for letting her nine performers' individual personalities shine through. Most women would be able to identify facets of themselves in them.

Also, intriguing directorial decisions gave this piece an added edge. Like how wealthy socialites laughingly exchanged stories of spousal abuse at a lush party.

*The Vagina Monologues* is an enjoyable, fun and thoughtful production, a should-see for women and their men. [tanatan@sgt.com.sg](mailto:tanatan@sgt.com.sg)

WATCH

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES  
R18 (Adult Content & Strong Language)

Who: Zebra Crossing  
When: Fri Oct 12, 8pm (no shows on Monday)  
Set & Set restaurant at Sun  
Tickets: \$27 to \$57 from Scribe (log on to [www.scribe.com.sg](http://www.scribe.com.sg) or call 6346-5255)

## NOT THAT BAD

Drogba back  
within 'weeks,  
not months'

SPORTS 56



afternoon edition  
**TODAY**

Friday October 3, 2008 [www.todayonline.com](http://www.todayonline.com) we set you thinking

PLUS 46 FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, 2008 TODAY

A lively, comedic take  
on a quiet classic

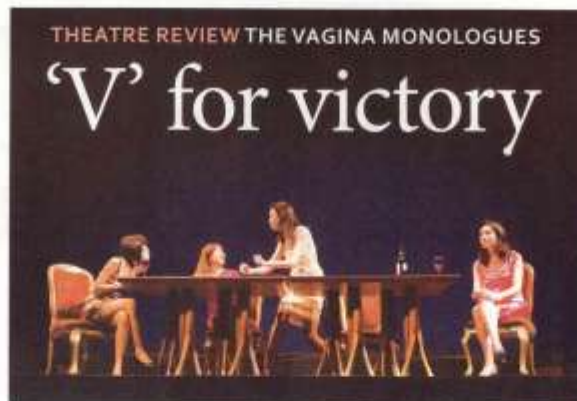
MAYO MARTIN  
[mayo@mediacorp.com.sg](mailto:mayo@mediacorp.com.sg)

YOU'VE seen one, you've seen them all, the saying goes. Not so with this version of *The Vagina Monologues* (TVM).

Despite this reviewer's initial doubts on the wisdom of choosing an arguably over-exposed piece as an inaugural production for new theatre company Zebra Crossing, director Loretta Chen has admirably eschewed conventions for a unique take on TVM (which is not an easy thing considering how notoriously hands-on the playwright Eve Ensler is).

Instead of three performers, there are nine. Sombre and minimalist? No, thank you, we're having fun.

Hence, monologues are shuffled around, public service announcements flashed onscreen along with video interviews of three prominent theatre personalities on motherhood, a clinical "vagina workshop" is re-imagined as an army boot-camp led by a hyperactive drill sergeant



with a French accent, shrill "schoolgirls" descend on the audience waving their (unused) sanitary napkins, and, seemingly out of nowhere, someone actually does a sexy pole dance. Naughty, naughty ...

Barring uneven scene transitions, (opening night jitters, most likely) TVM

was without a doubt a lively theatrical ride. There was a conscious effort to localise the experience, with phrases in Tamil, Malay and Chinese dialects thrown around.

That said, the flashy approach tends to occasionally distract, diffusing some of the more intimate, disturbing moments

of what is by nature a confessional piece of text.

Despite a few over-the-top moments, new talent Elaine Ng showed a flair for the comedic with her scene depicting the various ways of moaning.

Soul singer Asha Edmund's own spiels on, er, hair "down there" and how to pronounced "c\*\*t" were tight and snappy. Transsexual Elmina recounting a transformative experience was a bit too dramatic but intense, nevertheless.

My favourite was veteran actress Loke Loo Pin deadpanning her way through a monologue as a dignified old lady recounting her first sexual awakening. Too shy to even say the word "vagina", she flashes a "V" sign instead — which could very well stand for the word "victory", too.

While Chen's approach was a little too much for a play whose power lies in the intimacy that monologues offer, we're inclined to give it a "V" sign for being fun and, more important, fresh.

*The Vagina Monologues* runs until Oct 12, 8pm, at Drama Centre Theatre, National Library. With 3pm matinees. Tickets from \$17 to \$27 at Sistic. Rating: B+.

## ABOUT OISE



Photo by: Mary MacDonell

Located in Toronto, Ontario, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto is an international leader in the research, teaching and study of issues that matter in education.

The community of scholars at OISE has the breadth, the depth and the resources to make a huge difference to a world where education will be at the centre of Canada's ability to compete economically, to create social cohesion and to provide the opportunities students need to make a difference.

For more than a century, OISE has truly transformed education in Ontario through the teaching of teachers, research, graduate studies, and through their leadership in educational policy and its impact on practice around the world.

## Programs at OISE

OISE offers an extensive Graduate Studies program leading to master's and doctoral degrees, one of the largest and most innovative Teacher Education programs in Canada, and Ontario's leading Continuing Education programs for teachers, educators and administrators.

## ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Established in 1827, the University of Toronto is Canada's largest university, recognized as a global leader in research and teaching. U of T's distinguished faculty, institutional record of groundbreaking scholarship and wealth of innovative academic opportunities continually attract outstanding students and academics from around the world. U of T is committed to providing a learning experience that benefits from both a scale almost unparalleled in North



America and from the close-knit learning communities made possible through its college system and academic divisions. Located in and around Toronto, one of the world's most diverse regions, U of T's vibrant academic life is defined by a unique degree of cultural diversity in its learning community. The University is sustained environmentally by three green campuses, where renowned heritage buildings stand beside award-winning innovations in architectural design.



## **ABOUT NELLIE'S: Supporting all women and their children since 1973.**

### **Shelter**

Nellie's provides emergency shelter and protection for all women and children. The ultimate goal is to secure long-term, independent and affordable housing.

### **Education**

Nellie's provides essential programs to inform all women and children about their rights and responsibilities, and the services to which they are entitled.

### **Advocacy**

Nellie's provides the resources for all women and children to have their voices heard. We are committed to effecting change, including removing barriers and improving the conditions that affect women's lives.

## **ABOUT 360 PRODUCTIONS**

At **360**, we recognize your need for **constant innovation, customized concepts, powerful communication and integrated solutions**. We are your one-stop shop for all your creative needs. Most of all, we do this all with **passion, integrity, dedication**, a healthy dose of **humor** and a big **smile**. This is the essence, philosophy and winning formula of **360**.

Formed in the USA under the banner of **J Phillips Creative Management**, we are an **internationally recognized** company that provides **artistic expertise** to major Hollywood studios, production houses and independent film companies. We also provide **creative consultancy** and lend our talents to "live" stage shows at **renowned** entertainment centers. Our expansion into Asia marks our **commitment to continued excellence**. We **curate; debate and innovate** so we can constantly produce **sophisticated, provocative and relevant solutions** that will appeal to **all sensibilities, occasions and budgets**.

**360** promises to deliver. No divas and no attitudes. Just our commitment to great service with a smile and innovative solutions that go the extra mile.

**After all, at 360, we believe what goes around comes around.**