

RESPONSES TO “THE DAUGHTERS OF HYPATIA,” Feb. 2012

"Girls growing up in our society are under tremendous social pressure to avoid math because they hear that math isn't something girls do. But if girls cut their math education short, they severely limit their career choices, and cripple our economy. One of the best ways to change the social stigma around girls and math is to celebrate female math heroes. Throughout history women have always been part of the mathematical world, but none of their names are well known. The *Daughters of Hypatia* is a highly entertaining and informative show that cleverly grabs the traditional image of women gracefully dancing in a circle and turns it into a symbol of mathematical power and collegial support. Not only do we hear the personal stories of dozens of women mathematicians, we see them acted out by skilled female dancers, who themselves embody the idea that mathematics is women's work, completely intertwined with the arts and women's lives. I can't think of a better way to introduce children and adults to the history of women in mathematics."

- Scott Kim, Mathematician, Puzzle and Game Designer.

"Karl Schaffer is brilliant at combining exciting dance movement with information. *Daughters of Hypatia* is a tremendously important celebration of the many women who have not only triumphed in the mathematical field, but whose work has changed the course of mathematical understanding. In today's culture where girl's t-shirts proclaim, "allergic to algebra" or "Girls can't do Math" - we all need to be reminded of the extraordinary contributions females have made to this field. *Daughters of Hypatia* exceeds all expectations to create a fast paced and exceptional program of entertainment and vital information." - Ann Simonton, Coordinator and Founder of Media Watch

"I thought this beautiful, ingenious, and world-class show made use of all kinds of fun and interesting patterns, sequences, and symmetries -- as well as important and inspiring (as well as disturbing and eye-opening) historical stories and facts." - Joe Jordan, Dept. of Meteorology and Climate Science and Dept. of Mathematics, San Jose State Univ.

"*DAUGHTERS OF HYPATIA* is more than a beautifully danced and choreographed dance experience. For me, it is a fascinating breakthrough in dance performance theater which speaks of history of women in mathematics, demonstrates basic rhythmic values, and the joy of playing with dance movement and words Interweaving visual projections and story line spoken and danced by four highly trained women dancers, Karl has created an unforgettable evening for all age groups. I applaud and congratulate him on his achievement." - Roberta Bristol, Emeritus Dance Department Chairman, Cabrillo College, Aptos, Calif

"Karl Schaffer's evening length multi-media concert, *Daughters of Hypatia: Circles of Mathematical Women*, is both an eye opener and a pure delight. This many layered experience is-all-of -a-piece, a true achievement. It challenges the viewer while being beautiful and lots of fun to watch. The four female dancers engage the audience in stories about women over the past three centuries who have, despite many obstacles, succeeded in becoming groundbreaking mathematicians. The dancers also engage us in experiences of pattern and rhythm that are very clever and are lots of fun to participate in and/or to just watch. The projected tessellations that result from the dancers interfacing with a computer program, is unique and fascinating to watch. Kudos Karl!!" - Marcia Heath, Retired dancer and Professor of Dance at University of Connecticut, Temple University, and Eastern Connecticut State University.

"Thank you, thank you! *The Daughters of Hypatia* was splendid! Informative and beautifully danced. This should be seen in all schools. A tribute to the communicative power of dance as well as the aspirations of Women. Bravo!" - Helen Jackson Jones, Cabrillo College Dance Faculty

"The piece is a warm invitation to reconsider the roles of math in our lives, as well as the roles of women in the history of mathematics. Its use of a multimedia approach, as well as its lightness of spirit (balanced by more serious social issues) makes it a good choice for high school audiences and math-interested adults. The piece sparked lively discussion on the night I saw it." - Meg S.

"*The Daughters of Hypatia: Circles of Mathematical Women*," is a dance concert celebrating the lives and struggles of women mathematicians throughout the ages, and the contributions they have made to better the world. This exceptional dance performance was creative, innovative, educational, informative, entertaining, funny and very well researched. The concert generated many discussions following the show and touched many women deeply because they could so deeply relate to it. The applause from the packed house seemed to go on forever and even men could be heard shouting "world class". I learned quite a lot from the performance and am so glad I was able to experience it. - Caroleena Epstein, Santa Cruz