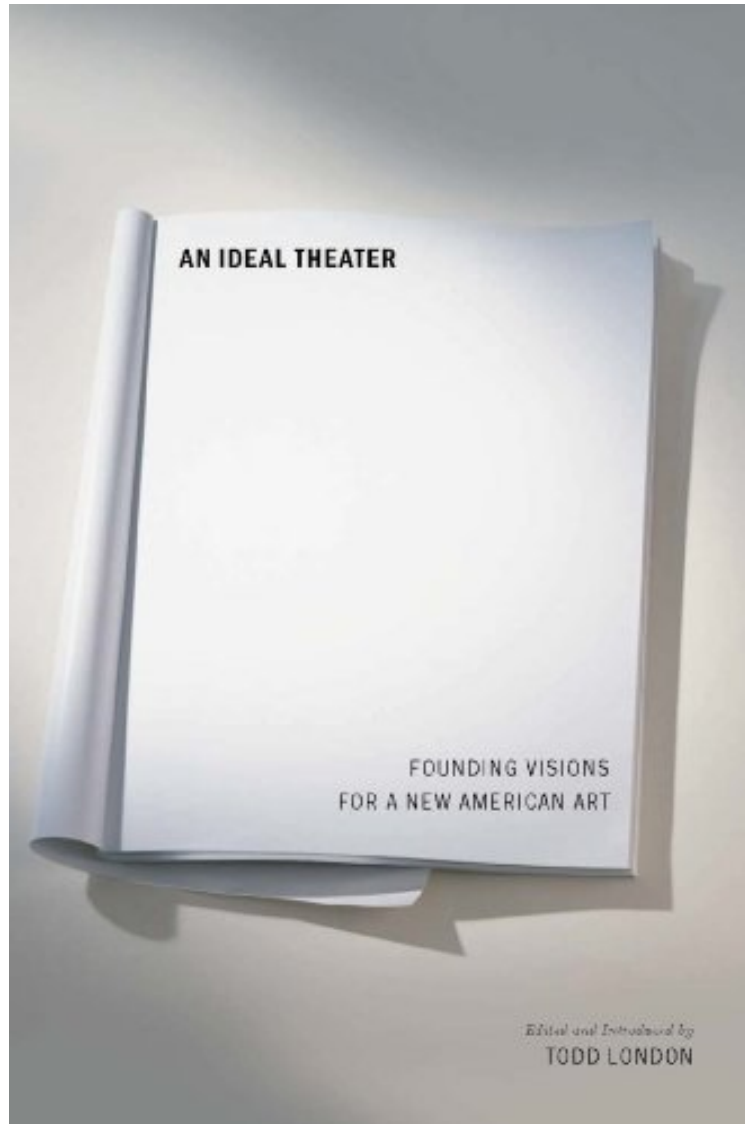


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# An Ideal Theater: Founding Visions for a New American Art

*Todd London*

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**Todd London : An Ideal Theater: Founding Visions for a New American Art** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Ideal Theater: Founding Visions for a New American Art:

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a single sentence before the book started falling apart, even though it's brand new. Very disappointing. I recommend an electronic version. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The founding essays and manifestos compiled here are beautiful, inspiring and fascinating. By Big fan This is an enthralling read. It is also an essential resource for any theater student, teacher, artist or administrator. The founding essays and manifestos compiled here are beautiful, inspiring and fascinating. And the editor's introduction do a brilliant job of putting each piece in context. Taken all together, this is the most thorough, insightful, and original history of the American theater movement I have ever encountered -- and it's all the more valuable because it's in the words of the field's leaders and pioneers. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who has forged, is forging, or hopes to forge a life in the American theater. You will return to it over and over, as I plan to do. Also, I found the paperback to be of very high quality. I read the book cover-to-cover and had no issues with it falling apart.

*An Ideal Theater* is a wide-ranging, inspiring documentary history of the American theatre movement as told by the visionaries who goaded it into being. This anthology collects over forty essays, manifestos, letters and speeches that are each introduced and placed in historical context by the noted writer and arts commentator, Todd London, who spent nearly a decade assembling this collection. This celebration of the artists who came before is an exhilarating look backward, as well as toward the future, and includes contributions from: Jane Addams William Ball Julian Beck Herbert Blau Angus Bowmer Bernard Bragg Maurice Browne Robert Brustein Alison Carey Joseph Chaikin Harold Clurman Dudley Cocks Alice Lewisohn Crowley Gordon Davidson R. G. Davis Doris Derby W. E. B. Du Bois Zelda Fichandler Hallie Flanagan Eva Le Gallienne Robert E. Gard Susan Glaspell Andreacut; Gregory Tyrone Guthrie John Houseman Jules Irving Margo Jones Frederick H. Koch Lawrence Langner W. McNeil Lowry Charles Ludlam Judith Malina Theodore Mann Gilbert Moses Michaela Orsquo;Harra John Orsquo;Neal Joseph Papp Robert Porterfield Joseacut; Quintero Bill Rauch Bernard Sahlins Richard Schechner Peter Schumann Maurice Schwartz Gary Sinise Ellen Stewart Lee Strasberg Luis Miguel Valdez Nina Vance Douglas Turner Ward As well as the founding visions of theatres from across the country: The Actors Studio The Actor's Workshop Alley Theatre American Conservatory Theater American Repertory Theater Arena Stage Barter Theatre Bread and Puppet Theater The Carolina Playmakers The Chicago Little Theater Circle in the Square Theatre The Civic Repertory Theatre Cornerstone Theater Company The Federal Theatre Project Ford Foundation Program in Humanities and the Arts The Free Southern Theater The Group Theatre The Hull-House Dramatic Association KRIGWA Players The Living Theatre La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club The Mark Taper Forum The Mercury Theatre Minnesota Theater Company (Guthrie Theater) The National Theatre of the Deaf The Negro Ensemble Company The Negro Theatre Project, Federal Theatre Project The Neighborhood Playhouse New Dramatists The New York Shakespeare Festival The Open Theater Oregon Shakespeare Festival The Performance Group The Provincetown Players The Repertory Theater of Lincoln Center The Ridiculous Theatrical Company Roadside Theater The San Francisco Mime Troupe The Second City Steppenwolf Theatre Company El Teatro Campesino Theater '47 The Theatre Guild The Theatre of the Living Arts The Washington Square Players The Wisconsin Idea Theater Yale Repertory Theatre The Yiddish Art Theatre Todd London is in his 18th season as artistic director of New Dramatists, the nation's oldest center for the creative and professional development of American playwrights. In 2009 Todd became the first recipient of Theatre Communications Group's (TCG) Visionary Leadership Award for an individual who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to advance the theater field as a whole, nationally and/or internationally. He's the author of *The Importance of Staying Earnest: Writings from Inside the American Theatre, 1988-2013* (NoPassport Press), *Outrageous Fortune: The Life and Times of the New American Play* (with Ben Pesner, Theatre Development Fund), *The Artistic Home* (TCG), and *The World's Room*, a novel (Steerforth Press), among others. His column, *A Lover's Guide to American Playwrights*, tributes to contemporary

**About the Author** Todd London is in his 18th season as artistic director of New Dramatists, the nation's oldest center for the creative and professional development of American playwrights. In 2009 Todd became the first recipient of Theatre Communications Group's (TCG) Visionary Leadership Award for an individual who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to advance the theater field as a whole, nationally and/or internationally. He's the author of *The Importance of Staying Earnest: Writings from Inside the American Theatre, 1988-2013* (NoPassport Press), *Outrageous Fortune: The Life and Times of the New American Play* (with Ben Pesner, Theatre Development Fund), *The Artistic Home* (TCG), and *The World's Room*, a novel (Steerforth Press), among others. His column, *A Lover's Guide to American Playwrights*, tributes to contemporary playwrights, appears on howlround.com. He has won the prestigious George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism for his essays in *American Theatre* and a Milestone Award for his novel. Under his leadership, New Dramatists received a special Tonyreg; Honor and the Obiersquo; Ross Wetzsteon Award. Todd currently serves on the faculty of Yale School of Drama.