

## **Richard Foreman**

**Category : Who's Who: In American Theatre**

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Who is Richard Foreman? A pioneering theatre artist of our times:

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RICHARD FOREMAN, Founder Director, Ontological-Hysteric Theater..

Richard Foreman (born in New York on 10 June 1937) is a playwright and avant-garde theater pioneer; he is the founder of the Ontological-Hysteric Theater.

RICHARD FOREMAN, Founder Director, Ontological-Hysteric Theater, has written, directed and designed over fifty of his own plays both in New York City and abroad. Five of his plays have received "OBIE" awards as best play of the year—and he has received five other "OBIE'S" for directing and for 'sustained achievement'. He has received the annual Literature award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, a "Lifetime Achievement in the Theater" award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the PEN Club Master American Dramatist Award, a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, and in 2004 was elected officer of the Order of Arts and Letters of France. His archives and work materials have recently been acquired by the Bobst Library at NYU.

Foreman is the founder and artistic director of the non-profit Ontological-Hysteric Theater (1968-present). Since the early seventies his work and company have been funded by the NEA, NYSCA, as well as many other foundations and private individuals. In the early 1980s a branch of the theater was established in Paris and funded by the French government. The theater is currently located in the historic St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery in New York City's East Village neighborhood, and serves as a home to Foreman's annual productions as well as to other local and international artists.

Foreman's plays have been co-produced by such organizations as **The New York Shakespeare Festival, La Mama, The Wooster Group** and the **Festival d'Autumn in Paris** and the Vienna Festival. He has collaborated (as librettist and stage director) with composer Stanley Silverman on 8 music theater pieces produced by The Music **Theater Group & The New York City Opera**. He wrote and directed the feature film, *Strong Medicine*. He has also directed and designed many classical productions with major theaters around the world including, *Three Penny Opera*, *The Golem* and plays by **Havel, Botho Strauss, and Susan Laurie Parks** for The New York Shakespeare Festival, *Die Fledermaus* at the Paris opera, *Don Giovanni* at the Opera de Lille, Philip Glass's *Fall of the House of Usher* at the **American Repertory Theater** and **The Maggio Musicale** in Florence, **Woyzeck** at Hartford Stage Company, *Don Juan* at the Guthrie Theater and The New York Shakespeare Festival, Kathy Acker's *Birth of the Poet* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the RO theater in Rotterdam, Gertrude Stein's **Dr. Faustus** *Lights the Lights* at the Autumn Festivals in Berlin and Paris.

Seven collections of his plays have already been published, and books studying his work have been published in New York, Paris, Berlin and Tokyo

He describes his works as a "Theatre of Coincidence". The goal of his performances is a "Disorientation Massage", in contrast to Aristotle's goal of catharsis.

-this is a general bio with some stuff added in. Be sure to check the website for up to date info"

Ontological-Hysteric Theatre.

[www.ontological.com](http://www.ontological.com)