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Theater

Time Out New York / Mar 25, 2009

New York's best

The best New York theater directors

1. [Jay Scheib](#)
Mixing multimedia with deadpan-cool (and very sexy) actors, Scheib is forging new ways of seeing drama.
2. [Ken Rus Schmoll](#)
Schmoll takes on more difficult playwrights, teasing out the ambiguity and menace in their words.
3. [Elizabeth LeCompte](#)
As chief engineer of the Wooster Group's postmodern tech spectacles, she has influenced a generation of experimenters.
4. [Anne Kauffman](#)
She helmed two of our favorite shows in years: *The Thugs* and *God's Ear*. Sensitive to thorny language, she makes the murky crystal clear.
5. [Joe Mantello](#)
Sure, he helmed the blockbuster *Wicked*, but the former actor is most at home working on tough drama on an intimate level.
6. [Richard Foreman](#)
They don't call him the king of the avant-garde for nothing; Foreman is the auteur's auteur: He writes, designs, directs and even operates the sound.
7. [Robert Woodruff](#)
It's criminal how little he works in the city, but when he does, we're transfixed by the elegant brutality of his cool tableaux.
8. [Stephen Daldry](#)
Without this bold British director (of stage and screen), *Billy Elliot* wouldn't have been nearly so magical.
9. [Julie Taymor](#)
We're waiting for a follow-up as impressive as *The Lion King*, but until then, we'll still get weepy over "Circle of Life."
10. [Bartlett Sher](#)
This guy can do everything: old-fashioned musicals like *South Pacific* and great drama like *Awake and Sing!* He's a treasure.



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